CUHK Mentorship Programme 2019

We are delighted to share the wonderful moments from the CUMP mentees in 2019! This year, 166 mentors from different industries provide 327 student mentees with valuable guidance and career tips! In the past two quarters, they have engaged in various activities including dining, home gathering, company visit, job shadowing, outdoor activities and volunteer work.

Through the summer news updates, we are happy to share these memorable moments. We would like to express our sincere gratitude for your active participation and passion. We look forward to hearing more encouraging news and stories from you. Enjoy!

Events/Activities

Mentor: Ms Elsie HUI
Mentee: Simone CHARLET (Global Studies)

Elsie invited me to go on a trip to Tai-O on Lantau Island. We visited several attractions and enjoyed lunch together. Apart from outing, I attended her Career Coaching session and joined a workshop conducted by an NGO she has been engaged in. She shared a lot of useful information about her profession and working life with me and also helped me to conduct a career-goal assessment. The result showed that ‘client-communication’ may suit me best when it comes to my career choice. Furthermore, she gave me advice on my cover letter and resume for internships, This helped me to get two internship offers in this summer. At the workshop, I learned how to do a self-reflection effectively which helped to identify my aspirations and current life situation. I was encouraged to further explore my strength and interests. Last but not least, my mentor also shared tips with me on networking and presentation skills.

Mentor: Mr ZHANG Shu David
Mentee: LI Ruxuan (Engineering)

Over the last quarter, I have kept close contact with my mentor. In January, my mentor invited me to attend several events such as a gala dinner at Hong Kong Jockey Club and a sharing session in an Information Engineering class about entrepreneurship. All are eye-opening experiences to me. Apart from these events, I have been very lucky to be involved in my mentor’s startup company to help manage some internal projects and collaborate with other company members, which provided me precious work experience and exposure to entrepreneurship and innovative ideas.

During the weekly online chats with my mentor, I also received many advice and support on both my life and work, which inspired me to have more self-reflection on my strengths and weaknesses. To sum up, I truly appreciate my mentor for the sharing and opportunities he offered, and I have learnt a lot from him over the last quarter.
It was my pleasure to be invited by my mentor to participate in the Annual Dinner of Knowledge Management Development Centre. My mentor, Ir Eric Chan, is the Chairman of KMDC, a non-profit organization committed to sharing good knowledge management practices. The highlight of the event was the sharing from Dr Edmund Lee, the CEO of The Hong Kong Design Center, on Design Thinking. It was an inspiring presentation and I learnt how other countries/regions utilize design thinking to beautify the environment and create new values. Dr Lee also quoted a project in Hong Kong as an example. Park Deco, which is located in Kowloon Tong and managed by the HKSAR government, is a project of the Hong Kong Design Center. Unlike other government parks, Park Deco adopted some lively and innovative elements and was refurnished with unconventional style but in the meantime retained the children playground which fulfils government’s specifications. This Annual Dinner was also a networking event where I met leaders from various industries. I am grateful to have the opportunity to attend this event.

Mr Lee invited us to attend a dinner reception of Charter Night organised by the Rotary Club of Greater Bay Area. We met some of his mentees from other universities and honourable members from the Rotary Club. It was a fabulous evening. I learned a lot about charity work and the opportunities in the Greater Bay Area. For example, a financial scheme was established to encourage teenagers to start their own business. Mr Lee also asked us about our opinion on the current issues in HK (e.g. protests of the extradition bill) and shared his insight. His sharing was inspiring!
Andy is always passionate and willing to share his work experience and philosophy of success with us throughout the mentorship program. As head of a world-class aviation company, he invited us to visit his working place. We were deeply impressed by the complexity and simultaneous flexibility of his office and the work system. We have never imagined that a simple pastry that we have on flight involved numerous working procedures and efforts beforehand. We are impressed by Cathay Pacific Catering’s focus on details which is the key to success. After the visit, Andy treated us with first-class flight meals. During the meal, Andy had a very enlightening conversation with us. I had a lot of new perspectives afterwards. Andy is our model and I will keep striving for excellence and kindness!

Our mentor Mr Andy Wong invited us to visit the office of Cathay Pacific Catering Services and its production line. It was a wonderful and eye-opening experience as we could observe the working procedures in different sectors including the food preparation room, the kitchen and the automatic food packaging system. We realized that hygiene is very important in a food production house. When it comes to aviation, hygiene also means safety, which is the priority of everything.

Andy treated us with the first-class flight meal for lunch and we learnt a lot through the discussion. One of the most memorable parts was that I asked Andy how he as a CEO could manage the production and administration process when there are numerous issues to understand and handle. Andy’s answer was inspiring. He said the key was not about managing the process, instead, it was about managing people who managed the process. As I also took up the role of a leader in a group or committee, I always recalled his words. Furthermore, he reminded me to be mindful on interpersonal skills when I start my career. At last, we chatted about our school and internship life in which he gave a lot of useful advice.

We were honoured to visit Principal Lau’s secondary school. During the tour, I was amazed to see the school facilities such as solar power boards, greenery rooftop and several pools. Such innovation made the school environment more comfortable. After the visit, I got the chance to observe an S4 English lesson. I learnt a lot from the teacher, for example, classroom management and schooling skills. This brought me back to my years of secondary school as I have already graduated for several years. After the class observation, we had lunch together and engaged in a wonderful chatting and sharing on different issues. The gathering was fruitful and rewarding!
My mentor is Mr Wilson Lee, the Director of Kerry Logistics Limited. I am most grateful to his guidance. We have kept close contact with Mr. Lee throughout the past quarters. My fellow mentee and I participated in various events including the firm visit of warehouses of Kerry Logistics, Hackathon of drone as well as Annual Business Match. The Annual Business Match has long been a massive and paramount event held at Hong Kong Science Park. In addition, we had chance to talk to Mr Lee’s colleagues and understood the irreplaceable role of Kerry Logistics in local and external logistics.

I also learnt that the operation of logistics and found that it is not only limited to transportation but also trading and port management. It deepened my understanding of the logistics industry. I enjoyed talking to Mr Lee and understood more about the utmost importance of logistics development of Hong Kong. More vitally, I was able to observe the latest achievements of technology in warehouses via firm visit. I am most delighted and proud to be the mentee of such an outstanding mentor who always eagers to pursue high achievement in his profession. I look forward to meeting Mr Lee again and learning more from his experiences.”
A visit to Conrad Hong Kong had deepened my knowledge in hotel management. I enjoyed exchanging ideas with my mentor Ms Ada Wong and fellow mentees when we had dinner at one of the restaurants at Conrad. Although I am not studying in hotel management, the conversation allowed me to understand the structure, employment and business strategy of the hotel from the perspectives of professionals. It was also inspiring when our mentor shared her story in the hospitality industry which stimulated me to think about my future career path.

During our visit, the Asia Contemporary Art Show, an international art exhibition, was held at the guestrooms. Watching an oil painting in the bathroom was definitely an interesting experience. Not only did we admire the painting, sculptures and photography, but we also engaged in the dialogue with the artists from Asia-Pacific.

The exhibition provided me with a new perspective on the value of a hotel. I had never thought that the guestrooms could be converted into the exhibition areas in the daytime while they remained as the accommodation for artists at night. I learnt that resources were not confined to serve solely for their original purpose. Instead, effective management and creativity allowed us to explore multiple functions of the resources, enhancing the profit and vitality of the hotel.

I had an afternoon tea with Agnes and her former mentees at the football club. It was a very valuable experience for me because I could have the chance to meet and talk with the seniors of different backgrounds and listen to their sharing of their work experience. Some of them have been working in banks for years while others in project management firm and hospital. I felt very lucky that I can listen to the sharing of such diverse work experiences at one time. Their sharing helped me to understand more about the working world and inspired me on my career planning. Besides, we also had some interesting discussion on various topics ranging from wine tasting to fair trade. This lunch meet up provided me with a platform to learn new things. It was eye-opening. I enjoyed this kind of mentoring in which mentees in different disciplines can learn from each other.
I had my first gathering with my mentor Ms Margaret So in March. Ms So is the former Director of the Recruitment and Resourcing, Human Resources Department of KPMG. During our gathering, we discussed a lot of things from travelling to career planning. KPMG has always been a company that I am very interested in working for. However, I do not quite understand about the functions of the three major business sectors of KPMG: advisory, taxation, and auditing.

I particularly wish to know about the role of the advisory sector. Therefore, at the beginning of the gathering, I grasped this golden opportunity to ask Ms So about the difference between the three major business sectors of KPMG. She told me that the advisory sector of KPMG is similar to the consulting business. However, employees working in that sector must have very solid skills in both taxation and auditing so that they can give appropriate advice to their clients. I was told that the advisory sector was less likely to consider external candidates.

Moreover, Ms So emphasized the importance of developing good interpersonal and communication skills. These two skills were equally essential to secure a successful career. At the end of our gathering, Ms So asked me whether I have participated in any extracurricular activities. She told me the importance of participating in extracurricular activities and community services as it demonstrates good time management skill and shows my care to the society.

It was indeed a fruitful gathering. I can’t wait for our next meet up!

Mr Chiu is a CUHK alumnus majoring in Biochemistry. During his school days, Mr Chiu read newspapers every day and this habit was built since he was in high school. This sounds surprising as we cannot understand the purpose of reading newspaper and it seemed very time-consuming. He stressed that reading newspapers helps him to gain knowledge of the world and learn the experience of successful people. As a chief relationship manager, he told us “Enhancing your knowledge in different industries enables you to build up interpersonal relationship. For instance, if you have a solid grasp on technology and engineering, you will find it easier to talk with engineers. Therefore, as we accumulate and expand our knowledge, we can also develop close ties with people in different backgrounds.”

Apart from school life, we were curious about how Mr Chiu started his career. He said he embarked his career on the financial field as he found that the booming financial industry was interesting. From a trainee in a bank to the chief relationship manager at Bank of Communications, his career is a journey of self-improvement. While we asked Mr Chiu how he developed the skills needed in his role of a Chief Manager, he advised us to learn from reading and apply the theories in real life. He also stressed that we should not let go of any practising opportunities in order to improve our skills.

In terms of life advice, he suggested us to do the things we enjoy. When encountering problems, we should not let those problems become our obstacle but find solutions to solve it. Another advice that he shared is to “think like a rich guy”. He said that, from his experience, he found that the rich have different mindset from the others. As you think like a rich guy, you will see the world in different aspects and devote different actions. To conclude, Mr Jackie Chiu advised us on university life, career prospect and moral values. The gathering was very meaningful.
I have taken the initiative in organizing a dinner gathering with my fellow mentees and mentor. We dined out at a restaurant in Tsim Sha Tsui. At the gathering, I learnt to be more outgoing and active in approaching my fellow teammates and mentor. Since I am the only one who study psychology in the group, I seldom meet other mentees during school days. Therefore, I found that I should be more sociable and proactive in order to build up a new friendship.

In addition, I learnt more about the opportunities that Ernst and Young are giving to university students. Peter suggested us to form a team for business real-case competition. I was inspired by him and considered participating in it in the following semester in order to gain some hands-on experience in business field. Peter is a very talkative mentor and willing to share a lot of meaningful information and his school life with us.

We visited Dr Chung’s home to have a dinner gathering. She prepared several dishes for us. As we knew that her birthday is approaching, we brought a birthday cake and presented a birthday card to Dr Chung. During the dinner, she shared her experience with us, including her personal experience to fight with her illness, her medical centre and her family. She told us about the reasons for choosing her career path and the future direction. She also told us a few stories about her patients which were very impressive and amazing. She gave us different advice and asked about our lives. She was very nice and very supportive of us. I hope that in the future, I can also help others in my job. Although I am not the frontline medical staff, I wish I could help the patients in other ways, for example, by proposing better medical policy or program.
Happy moments of CUMP 2019

Thank you mentors for your valuable guidance and grooming! We look forward to receiving more fruitful sharing from our students! Please continue to support us!