

# TEACHING & LEARNING

## Newsletter for EF Students, Alumni, Teachers, and Friends

Department of Economics and Finance (EF), City University of Hong Kong

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### TABLE OF CONTENTS

#### Section A Further Study

- |  |                     |     |
|--|---------------------|-----|
| 1. My Life in Columbia                           | Gao Luyan           | p.2 |
| 2. Enjoying Student Life at Lancaster University | Yanny Chang Hoi Yan | p.4 |
| 3. Being Part of Imperial Community              | Iris Zhu Jiamin     | p.5 |
| 4. You Only Live Once – My Study Journey in UCL  | Jenny Ng Wai Wa     | p.8 |

#### Section B Internship and Exchange Program

- |                                |                     |      |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|------|
| 1. My Exchange Life in Belgium | Lin Zhuoying        | p.11 |
| 2. My Internship in Adidas     | Felix Chan Tsz Hong | p.12 |

#### Section C Study Tour

- |  |   |      |
|--|---|------|
| Singapore Study Tour -- Adventure to FinTech Development | Sun Dezhen, Ling Yue, Ji Weijie, Dr. Yip Choi Yee | p.15 |
|--|---|------|

#### Section D Learning Experience

- |  |  |      |
|--|--|------|
| Presentation in International Conference | Chan Chin Wing, Fang Zhejing, Chen Hsin Sheng, Ahmed Aamir, Yao Mingjun, Hsieh Hoo Sum Christopher | p.18 |
|--|--|------|

#### Section E Competition and Scholarship

- |   |      |
|---|------|
| 1. Hong Kong Undergraduate Financial Planners of the Year Award 2018                                | p.19 |
| 2. The Joint Bachelor's Degree Program between City University of Hong Kong and Columbia University | p.20 |
| 3. Joseph Lau Internship Awards 2018  | p.20 |

#### Section F Co-curricular Learning Activities

p.21

# SECTION A: FURTHER STUDY

## 1. *My Life in Columbia*

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I am not sure which came first - the keen interest I developed in Mathematics, or the fact that I outperformed my classmates in this subject since primary school. Yet, the truth is I have been loving Math for all these years. After choosing Quantitative Finance and Risk Management as my major, I took a minor in Mathematics without any hesitation. To further combine them together, I decided to pursue M.A. in Mathematics of Finance (MAFN) at Columbia University after graduating from CityU.

Hong Kong is the financial center of Asia, and New York is the financial center of the world. Here, in New York City, I see more opportunities with much more challenges. Life is hard at Columbia University, but it is meaningful and colorful.

Pressure comes from everywhere - courses, job-hunting, and fellow classmates. At CityU, I took six courses each semester, and it was not hard to get good grades as long as you did what you were supposed to do as a college student - attending lectures and tutorials, finishing homework on time, studying for the tests, etc. In Fall 2017, I took four courses at Columbia and I thought it would not be difficult to handle. Unfortunately, I was totally wrong. Three of the four courses had weekly dues, and I literally spent most of my time doing homework. It was far from simple calculation or concept checking. At



Gao Luyan in the Brooklyn Bridge, New York

Columbia, professors assumed all students in MAFN are equipped with a sharp sense of the financial market, a solid mathematics background, and essential programming skills. If you don't, then you need to learn it by yourself and try to catch up as soon as possible. Before doing homework, I spent much time on the course materials and extended readings. Gradually, I got used to the life of staying in the library from noon to midnight, discussing the problem sets and debugging with my classmates. The process

was indeed torturous. I learned Python from scratch and picked up R. Not only did I have to keep an eye on what happens in the market every day, but also quickly get the key points with my own opinions. However, when I look back on what I experienced last semester, I am proud to say that it is rewarding.



First snow I experienced in NYC

Everyone wants a good internship and a good job, though we define “good” differently. Some people aim for high-pay jobs, while others go for jobs that help them realize their values. At Columbia, most of us are the latter. We figure out our passion, and then pay efforts. A who wants to be a Quant at Wall Street takes several highly quantitative elective courses and works very hard to sharpen his coding skills. B who is determined to be a trader challenges himself by taking Machine Learning and AI courses, as he thinks these shining technologies will definitely change how it works on the trading floors. There are many As and Bs alike in the program. We discuss problems in and out of classrooms, do projects in teams, and push each other forward. It is not easy to get your dream offer, but through the information sessions, networking events and rounds of rounds of interviews, you see yourself more clearly and take the initiative to improve. Gradually, you get closer to where you would like to be.

Cultural diversity, gender equality, and freedom - these are the common things that I see and hear in New York City. People

fight for what they want. Studying abroad provides us with great opportunities to explore the world while developing critical thinking and independent judging abilities. Surrounded by outstanding professors in academia, professionals from the industries, and top students with high intelligence and excellent interpersonal skills, I am motivated to better myself.



Hot Pot in China Town with friends

New York is a great city to explore. You may start with a cruise trip to the Statue of Liberty, and then take a selfie with the Charging Bull in Wall Street. After that, enjoy a Broadway Show, and end your day with a panoramic view of the city from the top of

Rockefeller Center. World-class museums, parks, and foods... the city never disappoints you.

The things I observe and the people I meet help me define a city. I feel more than grateful for the chance to study at Columbia and live in NYC. Spend some time here, I am sure you will fall in love with this charming place.

*Gao Luyan, BBA Finance Graduate in 2017*



## 2. Enjoying Student Life at Lancaster University

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I am studying a master's degree in Management Science and Marketing Analytics at Lancaster University now. Although we have a small class, I have plenty of opportunities to meet new friends as there are many activities on and off campus. There are regular day trips



Day Trip to York

organized by the school, which take me to nearby cities at attractive prices. For example, I went to Blackpool to see the famous illuminations. I also went to Alnwick Castle, where the famous movie, Harry Potter, was made. If you fancy shopping, there are trips to York and Chester, where there are Christmas market stalls and outlets. I have joined many of the trips, and they were all amazing. Usually, they will take you to two different places in a single trip, and you can do whatever you want in those places, for about three hours. Therefore, there is much flexibility and you can even bring your own friends. I enjoyed the trips a lot and they were good ways to reduce my study pressure.

In addition, there is a free “buddy programme” offered by the university. An experienced and well-trained buddy is allocated to each new student and there are

regular events for us to join together and experience the British culture. For instance, during Halloween, I joined a pumpkin carving event and carved my own pumpkin. In November, there was a cheese and chutney event. Chutney is similar to jam, and it's always served with cheese and oatcakes in the UK. In the event, I tried different types of cheese and chutney, and even mulled wine (a famous Christmas

drink) completely free of charge!

Apart from these attractive offerings, I enjoyed the society life a lot. I have joined two societies, Chess Society and Ballroom and Latin Dance Society. I have the opportunity to learn Chess in the weekly gathering. Although I am just a beginner and can be beaten easily, I found it really interesting and challenging. The members are helpful and willing to teach me different

techniques. For the Ballroom and Latin Dance Society, although it is a bit pricey, it's totally worth it! Apart from the weekly professional lessons, there are off-beat dances and performance classes, which I can learn something different. Furthermore, I get to take part in different competitions and

showcases. There is an annual charity showcase in February and performance in Blackpool in March. There are also regular competitions in Leicester, Manchester, and Durham. We are free to join any of these or



Cheese and Chutney Event in Buddy Programme



Ballroom and Latin Dance Competition in Leicester

all of these. Even beginners can join competitions specially designed for them. I don't get a lot of opportunities to compete in Hong Kong, or learn social dancing at affordable prices. However, I can do that and enjoy as much as I wish here, in Lancaster. There are even social gatherings once a fortnight, when we will go to clubs, play some games in a house or have a great meal in a fancy restaurant.

The student life here is much more diversified and relaxed than in Hong Kong. There are many bars on campus, where we can meet with friends and have some drinks together. They organize special events regularly as well, like the k-pop night and 80s night. Also, there are many winter balls here, and you will find that they are so different from those in Hong Kong! Therefore, it is not only about studying here, but also about experiencing the British culture and enjoying student life!

*Yanny Chang Hoi Yan, BBA Business Economics Graduate in 2017*



Graduate College Winter Ball 2017

### *3. Being Part of Imperial Community*

When I was in my final year of undergraduate study, I decided to further my specialization in finance especially the quantitative finance stream by further study and that is why I chose MSc Risk Management and Financial Engineering, a highly quantitative postgraduate program at Imperial College Business School. With the end of my master's course only several months away, I started to look back at what I have experienced and gained from this program. I realized that this unique experience is not just a master's degree but a lifelong relationship with this school.

This intensive program has further enhanced my quantitative abilities as well as my financial knowledge. The curriculum has broad topics covering not only the



Zhu Jiamin on the campus of Imperial Business School



mathematical and statistical side of finance, but also in-depth analysis involved in quantitative financial modelling. Apart from taking highly specialized finance modules such as Financial Engineering, Empirical Finance and Financial Statistics, we were required to acquire various programming languages including Python, MATLAB and C++ through compulsory coding modules. Besides, there were a variety of optional workshops that we could register based on our interests. For example, I attended a trading workshop in which I learned how to react quickly and trade stocks from playing simulated trading games. This also gave me insight into the sales and trading business in investment banks and developed my commercial awareness.



I attended Women in Finance webinar with student leaders from other programs.

Outside the academics, career development is also a highly important part for postgraduate students. The career workshops and career events gave me deeper understanding on the key qualities that employers look for. Apart from strong academic abilities, excellent networking skills can also make you stand out among thousands of applicants. It can be demonstrated by some interesting and proper questions raised during career events, active connection with alumni, or a sincere thank-you note after interviews.

As a student without full-time working experience, sometimes I feel overwhelmed and confused about my career direction. But the atmosphere at the business school pushed me to figure out what really drives me. Being surrounded by motivated and brilliant people who are actively striving for job opportunities or a distinction award make me feel like I am not fighting alone.

The positive energy people around me showed also forced me to search my soul and establish my own directions.

While enjoying what this program has offered me, I tried to grasp the chance to contribute to it. I have taken up the role of Academic Representative in Student-Staff-

Committee at Imperial Business School. Here I am responsible for communicating students' feedbacks to the program team to improve my fellow students' learning experiences. From this leadership experience I sensed that all people involved in this MSc program are building up an actively interactive community. Every time my classmates approached me and raised their concerns,

such as misunderstandings of module assessment, I would try to resolve their problems by conveying feedbacks to professors and staff on behalf of them. On the other hand, when I was in regular meetings with the program team, I could feel that the whole team was taking every issue concerning students' academic experience seriously and we made efforts to find student-centric solutions together. All these experiences made me feel I am part of the business school and the university and I am making some contributions to this special community.

By taking this role, I also had opportunities to network with other student leaders. For instance, I attended Student Leadership Day, which is a networking event where I could share ideas and collaborate with other student leaders to figure out how we could work together to make an impact on the MSc programs. As one of the student leaders in my program, I was once invited to attend Women in Finance webinar organized by

Imperial Business School to share my study life in Imperial and previous experience of preparing master's program application with female prospective students. Those experiences were not only about making friends with fellow students outside my program, but also learning from these outstanding people.

Outside the school, I took opportunities to explore the splendid culture and great natural beauty of this country during weekends and holidays. I enjoy every trip,

from visiting different museums in London to conquering the snowy mountains in Scotland. But I think what makes my overseas experience unique is the interaction with people around me even though they are from different cultural backgrounds. I feel myself a part of Imperial College community and thus I am not only enjoying the benefits and happy moments this experience brings me but also accepting all the challenges here.

*Zhu Jiamin, BBA Finance Graduate in 2017*



I participated in the event, "A night at the Museum", organized by Imperial Business School and made friends with students from other programs.



## 4. *You Only Live Once – My Study Journey in UCL*

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Time flies! In the blink of an eye, two terms have already gone by quietly, which meant only one more term left for my one-year postgraduate study in the University College London (UCL). I still remember the day I received the offer from UCL. I was so excited that I nearly screamed at the office. I cannot believe that my master's programme will end in a few months. Although I majored in Finance

for my undergraduate programme, I chose to study Master of Science in International Public Policy at UCL. The programme offered me a golden opportunity to expand my knowledge vis-à-vis international relations and public policy by taking courses in International Organizations, Public Policy Economics and Analysis, Global Public Policy, Political Economy of Development and etc. Thanks to my undergraduate study in the City University of Hong Kong, I built a solid foundation in Econometrics and Economics, which pave my postgraduate way outside Economics and Finance.

Life in London is unexpectedly amazing. All of my classmates came from different parts of the world, like Mauritius, Thailand, Brunei, Brazil, Maldives and some countries that I have never heard of before. The international study environment at UCL provides me a platform for open discussion with classmates who have various cultural background. Through different discussions, presentations and forums, I learnt a lot from my classmates. Those knowledge are hard to find inside the syllabus. Every Thursday, my



Jenny Ng

department invites different key persons in politics to give us a talk to enrich our views in international affairs. Apart from attending talks in my school, I also well-utilize my time after school to participate in other talks in LSE and SOAS. The schedule in term one and two are nearly fully-packed with academic work. There are tonnes of required readings before lecture. Active participation in seminar and sharing your own experience and comments on the readings are a treasure for training my logical thinking.

In my undergraduate study, I was lucky to be chosen as one of the participants of CityU's exchange programme to Rotterdam, the Netherlands. Initially I thought the exchange is similar to my postgraduate study. Be that as it may, I



Christmas Decoration in renowned Regent Street, London





Snowy day outside the University College London campus

can tell you that it is definitely not the truth. As the postgraduate study only lasts for one year, the syllabus of teaching is well organised and it's hard to find any time for travelling, or even enjoy a full English Breakfast during limited sun-drenched days (as sunny days in London are quite rare). I spend most of my days at the university library. On Saturdays and Sundays, it is hard to find a seat for studying if you arrive a little bit late at the library. Every day, I am surrounded by numerous versatile and talented classmates. My classmates fully demonstrate the spirit of "play hard and study harder". The academic atmosphere inside the long-established school since 1826 is inspiring.

Even though studying is my major activity in London, sometimes I hang out with my hall mates. My hall mates always give me helping hands when I am in need. The hall life in London makes me feel warm, especially when my parents are not staying with me. When I am tired of British food and miss my home food, my hall mates from Hong Kong and China will cook a Chinese meal together.

There are more than 100 societies and various kinds of voluntary work. I join some of the societies, including Korean Society and Pole Fitness Society. With classmates who have the same interests as you, it is easier for me to expand the social network, especially when I was new to the school. Some of my classmates even join the school's gym. We believe that sports can help us keep our bodies healthy all the time. Without good health, it's hard to complete the assignments on time and to enjoy every moment in London. A well-balanced study life is a puzzle comprised of different pieces including well-maintained social network, well-organized time management and healthy lifestyle.

In my last term, those pieces will get along with me for my dissertation work. Dr. Thomas Gift, who was a postdoctoral fellow in Harvard Kennedy School, is assigned as my dissertation supervisor. I believe that the coming few months will be definitely a challenge for me as dissertation requires student to work independently. Nevertheless, I look forward to working with my dissertation supervisor on my thesis.

I cherish every moment in my school and also in London. "YOLO – You Only Live once", which is a renowned slang phrase, always reminds me to treasure every second I have. We cannot buy time, but we can plan our time wisely to seize every moment. I am



Gathering with my classmates from MSc of International Public Policy

proud to be a graduate of the City University of Hong Kong, which is a fantastic place that gave me thousands of opportunities and resources in my undergraduate study, paved way for my future career and academic study. Special thanks to CityU's professional navigators - Dr. Ho To Ming, Dr. Michael

CS Wong and Dr. Fan Stephanie Winnie, who advised me and helped me in my remarkable postgraduate study journey.

*Miss Jenny Ng Wai Wa, BBA Finance Graduate in 2014*



Sunday tea time with my hall mates in China Town



## SECTION B: INTERNSHIP AND EXCHANGE

### *1. My Exchange Life in Belgium*

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I am Zhuoying Lin, a year-3 student in Business Economics major. In February 2018, I went to Belgium and started my five-month exchange study in campus Brussels of Katholieke Universiteit Leuven (KU Leuven). Belgium is located in the

centre of continental Europe and is a multicultural society embracing people from different backgrounds.

The three official languages in Belgium are French, Dutch and German. In Brussels, almost all the signs on the streets and menus in restaurants are written only in French and



Lin Zhuoying with a friend and teammate from Ethiopia.

Dutch, thanks to which I have learned many useful French words in daily life. But I have done more than that. In the semester, I took a French course offered by the university. It was quite intensive and challenging for me, with dozens of vocabularies to remember and new grammar to learn

every week. Despite the efforts exerted, it gave me a great sense of achievement when I successfully ordered a meal in a French cafe for the first time. Acquiring of a foreign language is my best gain in such an exchange experience to a non-English speaking country.

KU Leuven is a university with long history and enjoys high reputation in Europe. There, I attended courses in fields of economics, management and law. Professors in economics classes constantly link theories to daily events and news of Europe and the rest of world, so that a deeper and more vivid understanding of knowledge could be obtained. As far as I am concerned, they also delivered an attitude of academic study that highly emphasise on practical issues. Among the courses I took, Introduction to Law impressed me as I have learned a lot in the class about the history and culture of Belgium. They are strong characters of the community reflected in the development of Belgian law system and juridical principles. Also, in the exam, we were asked to make comparisons from various aspects between the law system of Belgium and the one of our home country. I was inspired to know much more about both societies and the reasons behind their differences as well as similarities.



A photo of me taken in front of the Atomium, a landmark of Brussels.

I have a hobby of visiting museums and galleries in my leisure time, and Brussels is just the right place for me. Museums in Brussels feature a wide variety of themes, including classic arts and national history that are commonly seen subjects, and special ones such as comic strips, chocolate and lace. Some of the museums are large, like the Royal Museum of Fine Arts, while others are small



A day trip to Bruges, a beautiful canal-based city in northern Belgium.

and situated at streets that are not easy to find. My favourite is the Magritte Museum, in which collections of works by Belgium Surrealist artist René Magritte are presented, stimulating audiences' imagination. It is worth mentioned that the first Sundays of each month are free museum days of Brussels, and generous discounts in admission fee for youth or students are

widely applied all the time, encouraging citizens of all ages to visit museums that are informative and educational.

During my stay in Belgium, I not only travelled to neighbour countries like France and Netherland, but also went on trips to cities and towns other than Brussels in the country. On my journeys, I appreciated breathtaking views and built up

bonds with friends from different places. Thanks to the exchange programme, I was given the opportunity to lead a life in a foreign society, to sharpen my language skills, and to gain valuable cultural experience. They are all treasures to me.

*Lin Zhuoying, BBA Business Economics, Cohort 2015*

## 2. My Internship in Adidas

Last August, I joined Adidas Group as an intern. It is a 6-month internship program with the FOB forecasting team in the Finance Department. Adidas is a global sportswear company. It may sound a little strange for a finance student to intern in a non-finance company. In fact, there are many financial roles in a retail company, for example, accounting, finance control, costing, pricing,



Felix Chan

taxation, risk management, investor relations, forecasting and so on.

My team was divided into 4 parts: Macroeconomics, Machinery & Materials Commitment, FOB Forecasting and Purchase Price Analysis. There were 4 managerial positions who report to one team leader. I was mainly

responsible for the macroeconomic business intelligence report, FOB forecasting and PPV analysis. My first task was a quarterly





Team photo

macroeconomic report on 16 key sourcing countries. The content included an executive summary, sections on macroeconomic trend, product indicator and wage, exchange rate, and inflation comparison. I was responsible for the entire report, including content research, data mining and report writing. The report provides an insightful analysis for senior management on decision making globally. It is a rare experience to write a report independently and I learned to give my points of view on an economy and made sure that the content and data are accurate.

I was also responsible for FOB forecasting, which predicted the impact of various key cost components such as material, labor, and exchange rate. Some people may think that forecast is very difficult or hard to do. Before I took up the internship, I thought so too. But after completing this internship, I realized

that a strong statistics background was not necessary. Having a clear mind with a smooth and logical story flow will make your forecast convincing and acceptable.

The third part of my job was to support the preparation of forecasts and month-end reports for purchase price analysis. To facilitate the preparation, I helped the manager create excel models to store the data and calculate the figures. During the process, I had the opportunity to learn to use VBA and PowerPivot to handle big data.

After finishing my internship, I was promoted to Temporary Junior Analyst and continued to assist the team in my free time during my study. I got positive feedback from my manager and it was an excellent working experience.



Sport day



Team building activities



Factory visit

I highly recommend people to join Adidas, which strongly emphasizes work-life balance and employee motivation. It runs an employee recreation club which holds different activities during the working hours, for example, sports day, factory visit, sample sale, World Cup Launch, ice cream day, team building activities... And what I like the most about the company is its flexible

working hours and the casual dress code. It creates a very comfortable atmosphere. I felt free to share my views and had a strong sense of belonging.

*Felix Chan Tsz Hong, BBA Finance, Cohort 2015*



Felix Chan and his colleagues



## SECTION C: STUDY TOUR

### *Singapore Study Tour -- Adventure to FinTech Development*

FinTech can be broadly described as the adoption of technological innovation in financial services industry. The FinTech investment worldwide has reached almost US\$ 40 billion in 2017, and it has been rapidly gaining momentum, with over US\$ 42 billion in the first half of 2018 alone.



Bill Sun, Crystal Ling and Charles Ji

In order to grasp a big picture of the latest FinTech development, three MSc students in EF Department -- Charles Ji, Bill Sun and Crystal Ling -- participated in a study tour to Singapore, led

by Dr. Amy Yip. During the tour, the group have attended the 2018 FinTech Innovation Forum, where senior executives in the banking and insurance sectors, start-ups, legislators and regulators in the region gathered together to share their views on the upcoming FinTech trends and developments.



2018 FinTech Innovation

by Dr. Amy Yip. During the tour, the group have attended the 2018 FinTech Innovation Forum, where senior executives in the banking and insurance sectors, start-ups, legislators and regulators in the region gathered together to share their views on the upcoming FinTech trends and developments.

This industry forum is an eye-opening opportunity for our students. They are most excited to hear from distinguished speakers some showcases of how leading companies

are kickstarting various projects on Blockchain, Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data, API, etc. At the same time, they learn to see beyond technology of how corporate culture and agile structure could play such a determinant role

in FinTech project implementation. Charles commented, "Nowadays, technological advancement brings a lot of changes to our daily life. Traditional financial industry is facing huge challenge.



Discussion in 2018 FinTech Innovation Forum

When we talk about financial services, normally the first thing comes to our mind is commercial banks. But these days we witness so many companies building upon data-oriented business model. With the information and technological advantage, are FinTech start-ups and tech giants eating the banks' lunch? The threat brought by tech companies and start-ups to traditional banks cannot be undermined".



Photo with CEO and senior executives of Bento

Through the interaction with industry, students get a vivid picture of the complexity and real dynamics in the FinTech development. A number of governments and policy makers around the world are very keen to facilitate financial innovation, yet it is undeniable that the existing regulations and licensing system are creating major hindrance to the development. The rosy growth of FinTech sector also brings together concerns over cybersecurity, digital financial crimes, etc.

Another highlight in the study tour is the visit to two FinTech innovation centres in Singapore, SG-Innovate and DBS Asia A. SG-Innovate is the venture capital unit established by the Singapore Government to nurture technology start-ups through equity-based investment and talent development. Students learn about the successful stores of using business analytics to enhance customer services in this digital age.

DBS, one of the leading banks in Singapore, has been taking a pioneering position in digital transformation. It sets up DBS Asia X to foster collaboration between the bank and FinTech start-ups. The group met with Alvin Chia, Vice President - Innovation & Experience Design in DBS Innovation Group, and had in-depth discussion on the bank's FinTech strategy and initiatives.

"During the visit, we learn that DBS is highly committed to revitalizing corporate culture and encouraging its

staff to innovate. It also welcomes FinTech start-ups to collaborate with them on joint projects. DBS Asia X provides very cozy and stylish co-working spaces for innovative projects, and it is really interesting to see how business ideas can be converted to new products or services in the real world. What an interesting experience must one have when brainstorming new ideas in their journey rooms and project pods at DBS Asia X", Bill shared.



Visit to SG-Innovate

On the last day of the study tour, the group visited a FinTech start-up, Bento in the city centre. Bento is a digital wealth solution provider specializing in robo-advisory. Based on its algorithm-powered investment engine, Bento help clients develop and manage customized investment portfolios. Mr Lim Beng Eu, Head of Institutional



Tour to DBS Asia X



Client Engagement in Bento, shared with the group the investment philosophy underneath the robo algorithm and the market landscape of asset management industry in the region. The group is much impressed by the demo of Bento's one-stop-shop investment platform:

"Bento system incorporates customers' input such as investment objectives and risk



Visit to National University of Singapore

appetite to develop tailor-made asset allocation plan. I have completed several internship in asset management companies and fund houses before, and would like to start my career as an investment analyst. Bento's algorithm and services are superb, and this triggers me to reflect on the competitiveness of human advisors against

the low-cost and highly efficient robo-advisors, ten years down the road", Crystal remarked.

This study tour to Singapore -- the leading FinTech hub in Asia -- is a very fruitful adventure to all participants. It is indeed an invaluable opportunity for them to develop a multi-faceted perspective on the



Visit to Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)

development of the thriving FinTech sector, and understand the interplay of various parties in the FinTech ecosystem.

Sun Dezhen, MSc Finance, Ling Yue MSc Finance, Ji Weijie, MSc Financial Engineering, Dr. Yip Choi Yee

## SECTION D: LEARNING EXPERIENCE

### *Presentation in International Conference*

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Last May, we presented an academic paper at an international conference at Edinburgh Napier University in the capital city of Scotland, UK. We are a group of undergraduate students of EF who came from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Mainland China. We were initially assembled by Dr. Michael Wong through College of Business's recruitment to become interns that conduct research for the sustainability of Hong Kong.

The presentation was an extremely valuable learning process for all of us, especially when we had little experience. We had no idea about the standard of the international conference, or the quality needed in order to be seen as competent. At first we were frustrated when we were criticized, but we kept our hearts humble and open for suggestions.

We later on sought help from AC department's Professor Phyllis Mo and Dr. Stephen Li. As soon as we realized that there was room to improve for our paper, we contacted those prestigious sources of information and people who have experience in attending academic conferences. They did not hesitate to share with us their expertise in the field, as well as their presentation and discussion skills.

For us, the most important outcome of the whole learning process was the teamwork. Within the group, we shared similar

persistence and understanding on things we do, even though we were different in our strengths and weaknesses. Since we were good at different things, we took up different parts of the job, then reassembled the parts to complete the paper.

A very insightful experience was that we had actually learned a lot from the scholars who have presented in international conferences. We are grateful for their suggestions and advice, as well as their expertise. They are very knowledgeable in different fields and we all learned humbly from them. Our vision had come clear and we were certain that this trip to Scotland is our first step towards an academic life.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Dr. Stephen Li and Professor Phyllis Mo.

We would also like to acknowledge the financial support from the EF Department. Our trip to Scotland would not have been possible without EF's support.

*Chan Chin Wing, BBA Finance (Cohort 2016), Fang Zhejing, BBA Finance (Cohort 2015), Chen Hsin Sheng, Economic & Finance (Cohort 2017), Ahmed Aamir, BBA Finance (Cohort 2017), Yao Mingjun, BBA Finance (Cohort 2014), Hsieh Hoo Sum Christopher, BBA Finance (Cohort 2012)*



## SECTION E: COMPETITION AND SCHOLARSHIP

### *1. Hong Kong Undergraduate Financial Planners of the Year Award 2018*

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A group of EF students that formed a team called “Luminous” got awards in the Hong Kong Undergraduate Financial Planners of the Year Award 2018, which was organized by the Society of Registered Financial Planners. The team was named 3rd Runner up in the final round. There are other three teams from the Department of Economics and Finance, Department of Management, Department of Management Sciences, and College of Business were granted “Certificate of Excellent” in Round 2.

The annual competition attracted more than 70 teams of students from local universities this year. There are three rounds of competition. The final round required student teams to give a presentation on their strategies for financial planners to capture the opportunities of both insurance-linked securities (ILS) and Fintech.



(From left to right) Chan Wing Him, Bosco (Finance), Lam Chin Hei, Rain (Finance), Lau Wing Man, Carmen (Finance), Wu Ka Chun, Henry (Finance) and Dr. Wong Chak Sham Michael

## *2. The Joint Bachelor's Degree Program between City University of Hong Kong and Columbia University 2018-19*

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- The following students have successfully admitted to the joint Bachelor's Degree Program between City University of Hong Kong and Columbia University 2018-19. They receive the Chow Sang Sang Group Scholarships for CityU-Columbia U Joint Bachelor's Degree Program - Level II with an amount of \$40,000 HKD per year to subsidize their tuition and expenses during the program.

Name	Cohort	Major
COLLINS Liam Alistair	2016	Business Economics
LEE Dabin	2016	Business Economics
BAO Zhujun	2016	Business Economics
DENG Yuqian	2016	Business Economics

## *3. Joseph Lau Non-local Internship Awards 2018*

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- The following students from EF department have applied successfully for funding support from the Joseph Lau Non-local Internship Awards 2018 (JL awards):

Student Name	Student Name (in Chi)	Cohort	Major
CHAN Ka Hei	陳詠洙	2017	Undeclared
CHAN Sung Lap	陳崇立	2017	Undeclared
CHAN Sze Nga	陳詩雅	2015	Finance
CHOI Eunjin	崔銀辰	2017	Undeclared
CHOW Kwun Hei	周冠熹	2016	Finance
FENG Yuan	馮源	2014	Finance
HEGDE Ishwara Manjunath		2015	Business Economics
HO Tsai Ying	何采穎	2014	Finance
KAUR Pavendeep		2015	Finance
TANG Yan Yan	鄧欣茵	2016	Finance
ZHANG Yiyang	張逸洋	2015	Business Economics



# SECTION F: CO-CURRICULAR LEARNING ACTIVITIES

## Recent Teaching and Learning Activities

### **Orientation:**

- EF Orientation, 30 August 2018

### **Learning Support:**

- Staff-Student Consultative Meetings on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2018
- Student Exchange Programme 2017/2018
- Peer-Assisted Learning Scheme (PALS) (CB2400 and CB2402, Semester A, 2017/18; and CB2402, Semester B, 2017/18)
- Undergraduate Mentoring Programme 2017/2018

### **Professional Support:**

- Executive Mentoring Programme 2017/2018
  - Business Elites Seminar Talk (BEST) 2018
1. Topic: “Credit Rating: China Sovereign and China Corporates”, by Dr. Stan Ho, 20 January, 2018
  2. Topic: “Global Financial Crisis: Why did it Happen? What have been Done? And Where are we Heading?”, by Mr. DENG Benjamin Bin, 20 January, 2018
  3. Topic: “RMB internationalization: Can China challenge the US dollar dominance?”, by Mr. Paolo Danese, 27 January, 2018
  4. Topic: “The Myth behind High Home Prices in Hong Kong”, by Mr. Xavier Wong, 27 January, 2018
  5. Topic: “How to Start A Hedge Fund Business – Introduction and Overview”, by Dr. Frank Wang, 3 February, 2018
  6. Topic: “What Is Banking Business All About?”, by Mr. Frederick Au, 3 February, 2018
  7. Topic: “International Oil Geopolitics”, by Prof. Albert Kwong, 10 February, 2018
  8. Topic: “Leadership Fundamentals”, by Mr. Werner Steinmueller, 10 February, 2018
  9. Topic: “Global Infrastructure Market Overview”, by Mr. Eric WU, 24 February, 2018
  10. Topic: “Introduction to Prudent Principles of Commercial Lending: A Regulator's Perspective”, by Dr. D H Fung, 24 February, 2018
  11. Topic: “Belt and Road, Big Bay Area and Hong Kong”, by Mr. Nicholas Kwan, 3 March, 2018
  12. Topic: “Global Financial Crisis and the Fed’s Role in the Years After”, by Mr. Benjamin Deng, 3 March, 2018
  13. Topic: “How Banks in Hong Kong Capitalise Opportunities in A Changing World? ”, by Ms. Ivy Au-Yeung, 10 March, 2018
  14. Topic: “Computer System Security Compliance”, by Mr. Michael Chung, 17 March, 2018
  15. Topic: “The Role of Interest Rate in Banking Business”, by Mr. Alan Lee, 17 March, 2018
  16. Topic: “Future Outlook of Hong Kong Aviation Industry”, by Dr. Angus Cheung, 24 March, 2018
  17. Topic: “Green Finance Opportunities in Hong Kong”, by Mr David Ng, 24 March, 2018
  18. Topic: “Investment Bank – What is Electronic, Algo and High Frequency Trading”, by Mr. Jeff Chan, 7 April, 2018

19. Topic: “Corporate Finance and Capital Markets: A Market Practitioner’s Perspective”, by Mr. Ringo Hui, 14 April, 2018
20. Topic: “Cryptocurrencies and the Token Economy”, by Mr C J Fong, 21 April, 2018
21. Topic: “Career in Banking – Your Professional Future”, by Dr WH Yeung, 28 April, 2018
22. Topic: “Credit Rating: China Sovereign and China Corporates”, by Dr. Stan Ho, 8 September, 2018
23. Topic: “Starting a Career as a Research Economist”, by Shuo Cao, 8 September, 2018
24. Topic: “Fintech and Small and Medium Enterprises financing”, by Mr. Alan Lee, 15 September, 2018
25. Topic: “Retail payment Systems and Money Laundering” , by Dr. Lam Yat-fai, 15 September, 2018
26. Topic: “Financial Stability and Banking Supervision”, by DH Fung, 22 September, 2018
27. Topic: “Veteran Banking and Finance Professional”, by Mr. Stanley Chan, 22 September, 2018
28. Topic: “Evolution of the Hong Kong trading market - and what you need to know”, by Ms. Irene WONG, 29 September, 2018
29. Topic: “Housing and Land Problems in Hong Kong”, by Mr. Macro Wu, 29 September, 2018
30. Topic: “Synthetic Funding/Liquidity for Business”, by Mr Carles Fan, 6 October, 2018
31. Topic: “Bond Issuance in Practice”, by Mr. Ho Hung-wei, 20 October, 2018
32. Topic: “Monitoring Chinese Vulnerability Sentiment in real time with big data”, by Xia Le, 20 October, 2018
33. Topic: “Hong Kong’s Linked Exchange Rate System”, by Dr. Cho-hoi HUI, 27 October, 2018
34. Topic: “Project Finance: Run-of River Hydropower and Sustainable Energy Development”, by Mr Reynaldo Espineli, 27 October, 2018
35. Topic: “Ageing Asia: Challenges and Opportunities for the Coming Decades”, by Mr Tariq Dennison, 3 November, 2018
36. Topic: “This History and Development of Private Banking Industry”, by Mr Matthew So, 10 November, 2018
37. Topic: “Cross-border Investment Opportunities from and into China: two-way product access and investor perspectives”, by Mr Eddie Lau, 17 November, 2018
38. Topic: “Electronic and High Frequency Trading”, by Mr Jeff Chan, 24 November, 2018
39. Topic: “Business, Finance and Niche Strategies”, by Mr. Steven Petersohn, 1 December, 2018

### **Career Preparation:**

#### **Career Seminars, Workshops & other events 2017/18**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity/Event</b>	<b>Organized by</b>
20-November-2017	Career Preparation Workshop By Dr. Stephanie Fan	EF
4-December-2017	Career Preparation Workshop By Dr. Stephanie Fan	EF
9-February-2018	Career Preparation Workshop By Dr. Stephanie Fan	EF



2-March-2018	Fuji Xerox (Hong Kong) Limited/HKMA Leadership and Management Seminar Series 2018	The Hong Kong Management Association
9-April-2018	Career Preparation Workshop By Dr. Stephanie Fan	EF
21-April-2018	HCMS Scholarship Presentation Seminar	The Hong Kong Management Association
4-May-2018	Career Preparation Workshop By Dr. Stephanie Fan	EF
25-June-2018	Career Preparation Workshop By Dr. Stephanie Fan	EF
23-November-2018	HKMA - The Way to Become a Top Trainer	The Hong Kong Management Association

#### Departmental Internship Programme 2017/18

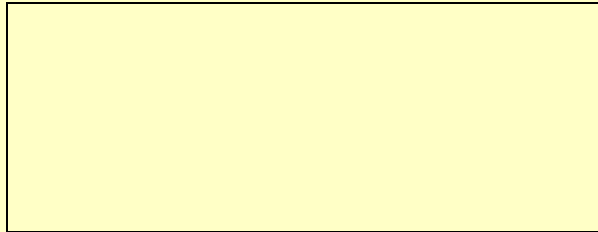
- The Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking
  - Hong Kong Monetary Authority
  - Hang Seng Bank
  - The Bank of East Asia
  - SEED Advisory Hong Kong
  - Ernst & Young Advisory Services
  - Ipsos Business Consulting
  - Yue Xiu Securities Holdings
  - KPMG Advisory (Hong Kong)
  - Natixis Hong Kong Branch
  - The Hongkong Electric
  - Fongs Lawyers (Fongs Consultancy Services Limited)
  - Walker Andersen, Australia
  - China Citic Bank International
  - Alibaba Group - Ant Financial
  - Standard Chartered Bank (Hong Kong)
  - National Australia Bank
  - Addias
  - Fitzgerald Jenkins
  - Conpak CPA
  - Shanghai Pudong Development Bank
  - Ipsos Market Research
  - Auto Italia (Hong Kong)
  - Raymond Y.K. Tse & Co. CPA Ltd.
  - Dah Sing Bank
  - Beijing MTR Corporation
  - Leighton Contractors (Asia)
  - Laxmi Bank
  - PricewaterhouseCoopers China Holding
  - Internship Programmes organized by College of Business (CB3800) and Career and Leadership Center
- Cross-border Study Tour for Post-secondary Financial Talents 2018
  - Internship Programmes organized by College of Business (CB3800) and Career and Leadership Center

### **External Competition**

- Hong Kong Undergraduate Financial Planners of the Year Award 2018 (HKRFP)
- Rotman International Trading Competition 2018
- SCMP/IFPHK Financial Planner Awards 17/18
- The CFA Institute Investment Research Challenge

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