

December 25, 2011

Roy Y. Chan—2011 Year of Review: Newsletter



Mr. Roy Chan stands next with Professor Lap-chee Tsui, Vice-Chancellor and President of The University of Hong Kong (HKU)



A Brief Welcome Message by Roy Chan, M.Ed.—December 25, 2011

Dear friends & family:

Greetings and welcome to my sixth volume of my newsletter! It is my distinct pleasure to present you this latest edition to reflect upon my cross-cultural experiences I have had in China and Germany.

These last twelve months have been quite the blend of fun and challenges, eagerness and hesitation, busyness and leisure, and seriousness and laughter. It has also been an incredible year of spiritual growth, in which God has allowed me to meet so many new students at the University of Hong Kong (HKU) while serving through my home church at

"Watermark Community Church of Hong Kong". He has also shown me His goodness and provision in ways that I would not have believed even if I had been told. He not only provided all the funds I needed to study and travel around East Asia, but even more: I was able to co-lead a couple of International Christian Fellowship (ICF) events, organize a few academic and social events through the HKU Postgraduate Student Association (PGSA), as well as complete a huge 20k race while finishing within the top 50 among thousands of racers during the "18th Annual Green Power Hike on January 29, 2011.

In short, God has truly turned my life around in China, revealing Himself and His promises to me this year. God is doing incredible works in my own heart. As the New Year closely approaches, may I wish you and your family many joy, success and contentment this holiday season. I pray the Lord will shower you with happiness and love this coming year.

Merry Christmas and Happy 2012!!! :)

Yours faithfully,

Roy Chan, M.Ed.
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"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise." Ps. 51:17

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Spring 2011—School Recap and Photo Highlights

The spring 2011 at HKU has been one of those “busy” semesters, in which I had to spend several days and hours writing my master’s degree dissertation at The University of Hong Kong and Shanghai Jiao Tong University. My research began on February 1, 201 when I was invited by the Graduate School of Education to conduct a research study on Chinese higher education as a part of my M.Ed. thesis within the Center for World-class Universities. The experience was

truly rewarding, as I had the opportunity to expand upon my analytical and critical thinking skills as a researcher/academic. Moreover, I had the opportunity to conduct a short questionnaire entitled “2011 HKU/SJTU Student Experience Survey” that allowed me to meet several outstanding Chinese students to examine their learning and living experience at HKU/SJTU. The survey revealed several findings: a) college environment (academic, campus, and inter-

personal) affect students’ learning and living experience, and b) student involvement (academic and social) affect students’ learning and living experience. At the end, several graphs and charts displayed Chinese students’ professional and social growth while studying at a world-class institution in China. The dissertation received high praise and distinction, that later led to a published book entitled *“Students’ Experience at World-class Universities in China”*.



At a dress rehearsal with the “HKU English Drama Society” for the production *Through Looking Glasses*.

“I will honor Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year.” ~ Charles Dickens



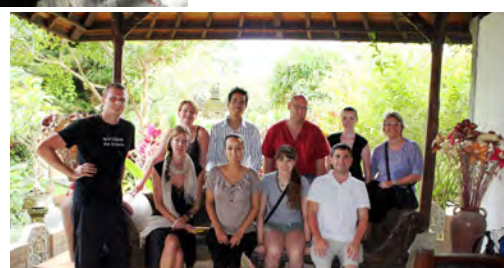
Celebrating HKU 100th birthday of Service, Heritage, and Knowledge on January 16, 2011



The launch of the HKU PGSA Buddy Club



Celebrating Maik’s and Katie’s wedding

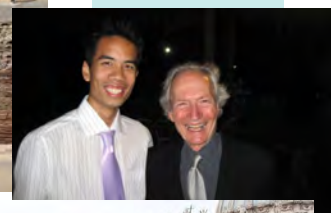


Traveling to Bali, Indonesia over Chinese New Year on February 13, 2011



With the HKU Tinkling Dance Team to support the HKU Museum Society





Summer 2011—School Recap and Highlights

This past summer in July 2011, I had an incredible opportunity to travel to two different countries in Europe: Rome, Italy and Utrecht, Netherlands. In Rome, I had participated in the LUC 5th annual Higher Education program hosted by the John Felice Rome Center (JFRC) at Loyola University Chicago. During the two weeks, I had opportunity to further enhance my knowledge and appreciation of U.S. students studying abroad and their impact from their cross-cultural experiences whether short-term or long-term. I also had the chance to visit different cultural,

educational, and governmental sites to engage in various conversations with major stakeholders in the higher education profession. At the end, I was fascinated by the beauty of the Italian culture that made me reflect upon my own cultural immersion experiences in both Europe and Asia, and how they have prepared me to become an educator in the field of international education. A few places that I enjoyed visiting was the Roman coffee bar, the open-air food markets, a church-based center for homeless refugees and immigrants, the Italian opera, the Italian cinema, and the 1960 Olympic Stadium.

Aside from Italy, my one week experience studying and traveling to the Netherlands was hosted by the Utrecht Summer School program at Nyenrode Business University. While at Utrecht, I had enrolled and participated in a business graduate course on CSR and Sustainability. Some of the topics covered helped me to understand what large corporate organizations seek from future employees, specifically the idea to incorporate CSR into the workplace environment. Overall, the course expanded upon my business ethics skills of which I hope to apply in the field of higher education.



Standing behind a beautiful ocean in Capri, Italy on July 15, 2011

Phi Delta Kappa Education—Germany and Austria

In November 2011, I had the extraordinary opportunity to travel to Germany and Austria to explore teacher education in Europe through a scholarship from Phi Delta Kappa Education International. The PDK scholarship allowed me the chance to explore the European education system with particular emphasis on primary and secondary students. The experience also had greatly instilled my love for teaching as well as teachers who would spend numerous

hours outside the classroom to invest in the younger students. Outside of the classroom, I had the opportunity to travel to different castles, museums, and other historic sites in Germany with particular focus on the Nazi party, Hitler, and the Berlin concentration campus in Europe. Overall, my traveling experience to Germany was very encouraging and worthwhile. I hope to visit Germany once again in the near future. Maybe I should visit during the 2012 Oktoberfest.



Standing on a bridge in Prague, Austria



***“Like snowflakes,
my Christmas
memories gather
and dance – each
beautiful, unique
and too soon
gone.” ~ Deborah
Whipp***

Meeting the students in a classroom at Berlin, Germany.



PDK Group Photo!! :)



Standing next to a guard in Berlin,





Standing next to scholar Bill McKibben at "2011 AASHE Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education" in Pittsburgh



With relatives in Macau, China.



My Halloween costume at "PGSA Halloween Party"



Fall 2011—Final School Year and Photo Highlights

My Fall 2011 term was a semester filled with congratulations and conclusions, of which I had completed my Master of Education (M.Ed.) - Higher Education degree from The University of Hong Kong. It was also a year of applications, of which I had to submit various documents for Ph.D. programs in Higher Education back in the United States.

Outside of graduate applications, I had the opportunity to participate as delegate at several international conferences within my field, specifically the "4th SJTU Conference on World-

Class Universities" in Shanghai, the "7th-QS APPLE" in Manila, Philippines, the "AASHE Conference on Sustainability in Higher Education" in Pittsburgh, and the "5th Conference on International Teacher Quality" in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. These large-scale international conferences allowed me the opportunity to network with several academics within my field of International and Comparative Education, as well as traveling to various countries across the world. Aside from these conferences, I had co-organized several aca-

demical and social events on-campus that allowed HKU students to meet new postgraduates as Senior Advisor and IT Officer for the Postgraduate Student Association (PGSA). I also had the opportunity to assist incoming undergraduate students with their transition to study life in Hong Kong as a Student Induction Instructor (SII) through HKU CEDARS. Overall, these experiences I have had challenged me to love all kinds of people in China, and will truly miss all my friends in HK/China as I transition to life back in U.S.



"Christmas isn't a season. It's a feeling". ~ Edna Ferber



Standing next to new undergraduate students at HKU



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Special Shout Outs and Congratulations—Year of 2011

Congratulations **Hannah Y.** on your recent engagement. I hope your wedding goes well this February 2012.

Thanks **Anatoly O.** and **Qi W.** for being an awesome academic supervisors these past few months at HKU and SJTU Really cherish the opportunity to work with you two this past Spring 2011.

Thanks **Maik F.** and **Katie F.** for a wonderful year at HKU International Christian Fellowship and Watermark Community Church of Hong Kong.

Thanks **Zhang Y., Claire Z., Jack Z.,** and **Andrew Z.** for being an awesome teammate this Fall 2011 through the Postgraduate Student Association at HKU. Wishing you guys the best this Spring 2012.

Thanks **Bruce M.** for helping me publish my first article through the *Studies in Higher Education* at the United Kingdom.

Thanks **Michael Q. N.** for organizing a wonderful Christmas Holiday Party.

Thanks **Terry W.** and **Janis F.** for hosting a terrific Higher Education course in Rome, Italy. Wishing the program many success this upcoming year.

Congratulations **Michael L.** for completing your Master of Education—Higher Education degree from The University of Hong Kong.

Thanks **Edison Z.** for dinner during my visit to Hengyang, China early Dec.

Thanks **Diane L.** for inviting me to join the Leadership Council at UCI Chancellor's Club. Keep up the great work! Look forward in seeing you soon.

Congratulations **Heather G.** and **Daniel K.** on your recent engagement!!



MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!!! :)

