



Warwick Graduates' Association Hong Kong (Ltd.)

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Warwick Monthly Happy Hour Gatherings



In view of the success of the UK monthly happy hour gatherings at All Bar One, WGAHK started the Hong Kong version from June 2001. After 3 months' trial on the date and venue, it is now confirmed that a Warwick Monthly Happy Hour Gathering is held on the first Thursday of every month from 6:30-8:00pm at Madison's Bar & Restaurant, 3/F Pacific Place.

This is a casual gathering that provides one with an opportunity to meet up with other Warwick graduates in a warm atmosphere that resembles the time hanging out with friends as a Warwick student.

There is a designated area at Madison's for Warwick. So don't hold back, come to one of the gatherings. Even if you are on your way to somewhere else, pop in for a drink - you never know whom you might meet with! But I am sure it is exciting and full of fun.



Profile: Prof. C W K Lam (Warwick graduate 1970)

It was my pleasure attending the happy-hour gathering of Hong Kong Warwickers for the first time on 1st November 2001. The subsequent request from Nancy to write an article for the Newsletter was a challenging task having to recall events of my studying at The University of Warwick 31 years ago from September 1969 to August 1970. The following contents and their sequence are as prescribed by Eastman. I hope they will touch your heart by bringing back fond memories of your own at our alma mater.

In the late 1960s, most science graduates in Hong Kong aspired to pursue postgraduate studies overseas and they were generally successful. In July 1969 I had completed a short course of French in Hong Kong ready for my postgraduate study in Canada. A late admission to the MSc programme in Molecular Enzymology at the Warwick School of Molecular Sciences changed my mind on a rationale which seemed relevant at that time: there had been more Nobel laureates in the UK and US than in Canada.

I reached London on 16th August 1969 after a three-day journey on a propeller plane that had to stop in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Bombay and Dubai. Upon arrival on 23rd August my first impression of the Warwick campus was its isolation and loneliness, but Rootes Hall and the Library were gratifyingly heated and sufficiently warm. I can vividly remember all the Chinese students at this young university: a small lady (Ms Lam) from the University of Malaya pursuing a PhD degree in Pure Mathematics; an assistant lecturer from Hong Kong (Ms Ho) for a MPhil in English literature; a PhD student in Physics (Mr Hung) with a double-first class BSc (Hons) from Aston University; two engineering graduates, one from Malaysia (Mr Teoh) and the other from Singapore (Mr Neoh), both completing a MSc programme in operation research. My next-room neighbour in the M Block of Rootes Hall was a young civil servant from the Thai government (Mr Sukom) reading an MSc degree in Finance.

Like most postgraduate students from Asia, we spent most of time studying. The "unforgettable experience" that Eastman has asked me to recount might be derived from our cooking for ourselves an important undertaking that we initially had no experience but soon mastered. In a recent interview by the local university Up-Beat Magazine published this month, Ms Regina Ip, SAR Secretary for Security, recalled that she constantly felt hungry during her period of studying at the University of



Glasgow in 1973. This symptom had to be satisfactorily treated for our well-being and maintenance of concentration in our studies. Before we became adjusted to the western diet, cooking for ourselves demonstrated the flare of different cultures. Teoh and Neoh would sprinkle spicy powders of different colours into their boiling stew till yellow and red smokes of pungent odors filled the Rootes Hall corridor. Such tear gas was very effective in getting other students out of the kitchen. Sukom was a gentleman, who used cow's milk (coconut milk was unavailable) for taming his powerful curry that could otherwise rip off any stomach mucosa. He became really upset after the cleaning lady mistook his much-treasured fish sauce as rotten food and threw it away. Another unique event on campus that year was Warwick students organized successfully a sit-in occupying the office of the University Vice-Chancellor for the first time in British history, for a dispute that everyone has now forgotten.

I enjoyed an intellectually stimulating time at Warwick and experienced the first snowfall in my life. I had learned half of the course syllabus in Hong Kong and the other half was excellently taught by Warwick professors as well as many visiting

professors from the University of Oxford. I can remember all my teachers' names. All of them were really nice to our class of 12 MSc students mostly from the UK, and regularly drove us to attend conferences in nearby universities such as Birmingham and Oxford (London had to be by train), where I saw and listened to many Nobel laureates in Physiology & Medicine whom I read about. At 1969-70, the University was neonatal (established 1965) but already very famous for its School of Biological Sciences and Engineering Faculty. I learned subsequently that it became exceedingly reputable in financial and management sciences. Of course it was particularly exciting for me to note last year that a new medical school had been established at Warwick and started to admit students.



I did very well academically at Warwick but the MSc course also alerted me of my limitation. I decided not to be a perpetual student and after many other attempts, gained employment from October 1970 as a Clinical Biochemist at the Southampton General Hospital, which provided me with the opportunity of completing a part-time PhD degree in Immunology in February 1974. During this period I also served as a sub-warden in a hall of residence at the University of Southampton, and found time to meet and subsequently marry my present wife at an overnight party in Croyden, Surrey in January 1972. Between New York and Singapore I opted for an appointment at the Singapore General Hospital, where my first son was born in 1976.

Since 1983 I have been senior lecturer and subsequently professor in chemical pathology at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. My current appointment is Professor, Chairman and Honorary Chief of Service of the Department of Chemical Pathology, and Director of the Clinical Immunology Unit, at the 1,400-bed Prince of Wales Hospital, the teaching hospital of the Chinese University Medical School. My colleagues and I fulfill a

tripartite function of teaching medical students, providing a 24-hour laboratory diagnostic service, and conducting research. We claim to be very competitive and should be doing better than many of our international counterparts.

I arrive at work between 6.30 – 7.00 am and leave round 6.15 pm before returning to my hospital office in most evenings, when about 30 e-mails from Europe will be delivered. I also work leisurely during all weekends when I am in Hong Kong, a habit that I have developed in UK. Since several years ago I have given up my hobby of hiking the green hills of Hong Kong because of my (1) increasingly painful old-age knees, and (2) additional work and travels from the following international services:

- Visiting Professor of Laboratory Medicine, Chongqing University of Medical Sciences, Chongqing, China

- Visiting Professor of Clinical Biochemistry, People's Liberation Army General Hospital & Postgraduate Medical School, Beijing, China

- President of the Asian Pacific Federation of Clinical Biochemistry (APFCB) comprising 12 member associations in our Asian Pacific region from Australasia to Japan

- Executive Committee member of the International federation of Clinical Chemistry (IFCC) comprising 79 national associations world wide

- Roman Traveling Lecturer 2002 to the Australasian Association of Clinical Biochemists – this appointment will involve delivering a plenary lecture in each of the Australasian state capitals: Adelaide, Auckland, Brisbane, Hobart, Melbourne, Perth, and Sydney.

Objectively, the above story would have been very boring if it has not borne a Warwick label containing names and places that are reminiscent of times of your own. Coinciding with my new exposure to studying abroad, my 12 months at The University of Warwick conferred very substantial experience with far-reaching influence to my subsequent career development. I suppose the tides of life are hyper-variable and will not recur once they have passed. How should we respond?? I believe the attitude is to live positively and follow the simple motto of my professor and mentor in the UK: it is important that the effort is made.

To each and every Warwicker in Hong Kong, I send you my best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Prosperous 2002!

Unforgettable Encounter: Warwick Graduate from Finland

Back in June 2001 WGAHK received an unusual e-mail:

Hi,
My name is Inkeri Mellanen and I graduated from Warwick last summer (BA Politics & International Studies). At the moment I am writing my Masters thesis at the University of Helsinki in Finland. My thesis is concerned with an EU-ASEAN co-operation project on public participation in environmental decision-making, and I will be looking at its applicability in China. I will be traveling to Beijing and Hong Kong to interview government officials and academics for my research purposes.

I contacted you, because I was hoping I could stay with a Hong Kong alumni member while visiting there to cut down on accommodation costs (not to mention gaining the opportunity to get a glimpse of how the local people live).

I don't know my exact travel details yet, but I will stay in Hong Kong only for about one week sometime around the 6.9. and 16.9.2001. It would be brilliant if someone living within good connection to city centre would be ready to offer accommodation with them for at least some of the nights.

Thanks for you trouble!
Inkeri Mellanen

After verifying with the university to confirm Inkeri is a genuine graduate, the Executive Committee was not at all optimistic in finding a volunteering host for Inkeri. Where can we find someone:

- Who has a spare guest room (which is not an average feature in HK flats!)
- Who has a supportive family that will be equally happy to receive a complete stranger to the house (the host concept is so unheard of in Hong Kong)
- Who will have the extra time & efforts in busy Hong Kong to act as a host & demonstrate hospitality.

Johnny Li & his family have proved our worries unfounded and made us feel real proud.



Inkeri Mellanen (4th from left) having Chinese dinner with WGAHK executive committee

Here's the article we received from Inkeri describing her trip in China and Hong Kong.

My travels in China

Currently a Masters student in Finland at the University of Helsinki Department of Politics it was a great pleasure for me to visit the Warwick alumni in Hong Kong. I am writing my thesis on public participation in environmental policy in China and gained a travel grant from my university to conduct research in China and Hong Kong. My travels took me via Warwick library to Beijing from where I continued by train to Chengdu in Sichuan Province and onwards to Hong Kong. During my visit to Beijing, I was able to meet many representatives of Chinese and international non-governmental organizations as well as a Chinese government official and a Peking University lecturer. There was also plenty of time to see the sights and linger in the sun at the Behei Park.

Before coming to Hong Kong I entered on an adventure on a horse back climbing high up on the Himalayas near the village of SongPan. With the brilliant people of Shun Jiang Horse Treks Co. as my guides I got to admire the true beauty of Chinese countryside and its indigenous peoples. Arriving in Hong Kong tired, tanned, and covered in muck I first met my host, always so energetic and hospitable Johnny Li. After a beautiful dinner cooked by Johnny, I was given a guided tour of Victoria Peak and Hong Kong Island sights. During my week in Hong Kong I visited three universities, met with professors and gained many new insights into my topic. On a Thursday evening the WGAHK committee members offered me a dinner and I finally got to meet wonderful Nancy Chui who I only knew through e-mail and who had helped to organize my visit. I will be forever grateful to the Hong Kong alumni and especially to my host Johnny Li and his wife for saving me from the infamous Chungking Mansions and making my visit a real pleasure. Unfortunately, I had to finally return to Finland and to my studies but the memories of my travels in China will remain with me forever.

**Inkeri Mellanen, BA
(Hons) Politics and
International Studies
2000**

Latest Confirmation of Warwick Business School's World-Class Position

According to the influential Financial Times Business School ranking, Warwick Business School is among the top 40 of the 2 500 business schools worldwide based on the results from a survey of Full Time MBA participants. Furthermore, on 22nd Oct 2001, the FT produced a ranking of Executive MBAs in which Warwick Business School achieved the 14th in the world.

The Vice-Chancellor in Hong Kong

Prof. David VandeLine, Warwick's new Vice-Chancellor from August 2001, stopped over overnight in Hong Kong on the 3rd November 2001 after visiting Beijing.

Despite his busy schedule, the VC managed to have a dinner with the WGAHK executive committee. The meeting was superb with lots of ideas exchanged about the welfare for Warwick graduates in Hong Kong, thanks to the VC's open and listening attitude. Although the VC is unable to join our 2002 annual dinner, we are confident that we will welcome Prof. VandeLinde to Hong Kong again before long!



Prof. David VandeLinde with the WGAHK executive committee

DLMBA 2001 Degree Congregation

After years of commitment and hard work, 27 proud DLMBA graduates received their degree award on 27th July 2001 at Sheraton Hotel. Two Guests of Honour from the Warwick Business School (WBS) Prof. David Wilson and Dr. Sue Bridgewater conferred the degree, while workshop leaders who are DLMBA past graduates themselves including Johnny Li, Albert Yip and John Wong, together with the WGAHK representatives Virginia Pak and Nancy Chui were present at the ceremony to share the graduates' happy moments.



At DLMBA graduation ceremony:
From left: John Wong, Virginia Pak, Prof. David Wilson, Dr. Sue Bridgewater, Johnny Li, Nancy Chui and Albert Yip.

There are good reasons for the graduates to feel proud. The Times Good University Guide has ranked for the past eight years WBS among the top three UK universities for teaching business and management. In addition, the Higher Education Funding Council for England has awarded WBS the highly-prized 5A rating for international and national excellence in research and rated teaching at WBS as "excellent"-- the highest level given in the assessment.

Relax and Travel

Endless job, increasing work pressure and fully occupied weekend are typical parts of the life of people in Hong Kong. Have you thought about staying away from all these? Switzerland is an excellent choice of holiday that you can enjoy its breath-taking snowy Alpine Mountain, crystal clear lakes and rivers, comfortable and spectacular transport system. With a holiday package from Swissair, you can plan and go for your own vacation: Riding the Rhone Express from Geneva to Zermatt, cable-carting to Klein Matterhorn, enjoying the famous Swiss beauty and body care at St. Moritz, to name a few.

I, together with several friends, have spent about 10 days in Switzerland, letting our souls roam free and taking a wealth of rich memories back home.

Becky Mak



Congratulations

The Executive Committee likes to congratulate Johnny Li on the birth of his lovely girl (Wing Ting **) on the 24th October 2001. Johnny, nicknamed Li Lo Ban, is one of our vice-chairmen and the boss of an accounting firm.



Announcements

Missing NETWORK?

Are you receiving the quarterly WGA magazine Warwick Network? If not, it's likely that your address at the University is outdated. Please e-mail Nancy Chui for a copy of the latest issue and arranging updates of your postal address in the WGA records.

A Letter From the Editor

You may have noticed that our new name of the newsletter is Warwickers @ Hong Kong. This change reflects in accordance with the change in the name of the alumni from Warwick Student's Association to Warwick Graduates Association Hong Kong (WGAHK). In this issue, we are glad that Prof. K C Lam, Ms Inekri Mellan and Ms Becky Mak for their contributing articles. If you would like to publish your articles, your idea about the WGAHK and Warwickers in Hong Kong, please send it to us through .