

Unleash The Power Of The Female Brain

Cara Ng Ka Wai

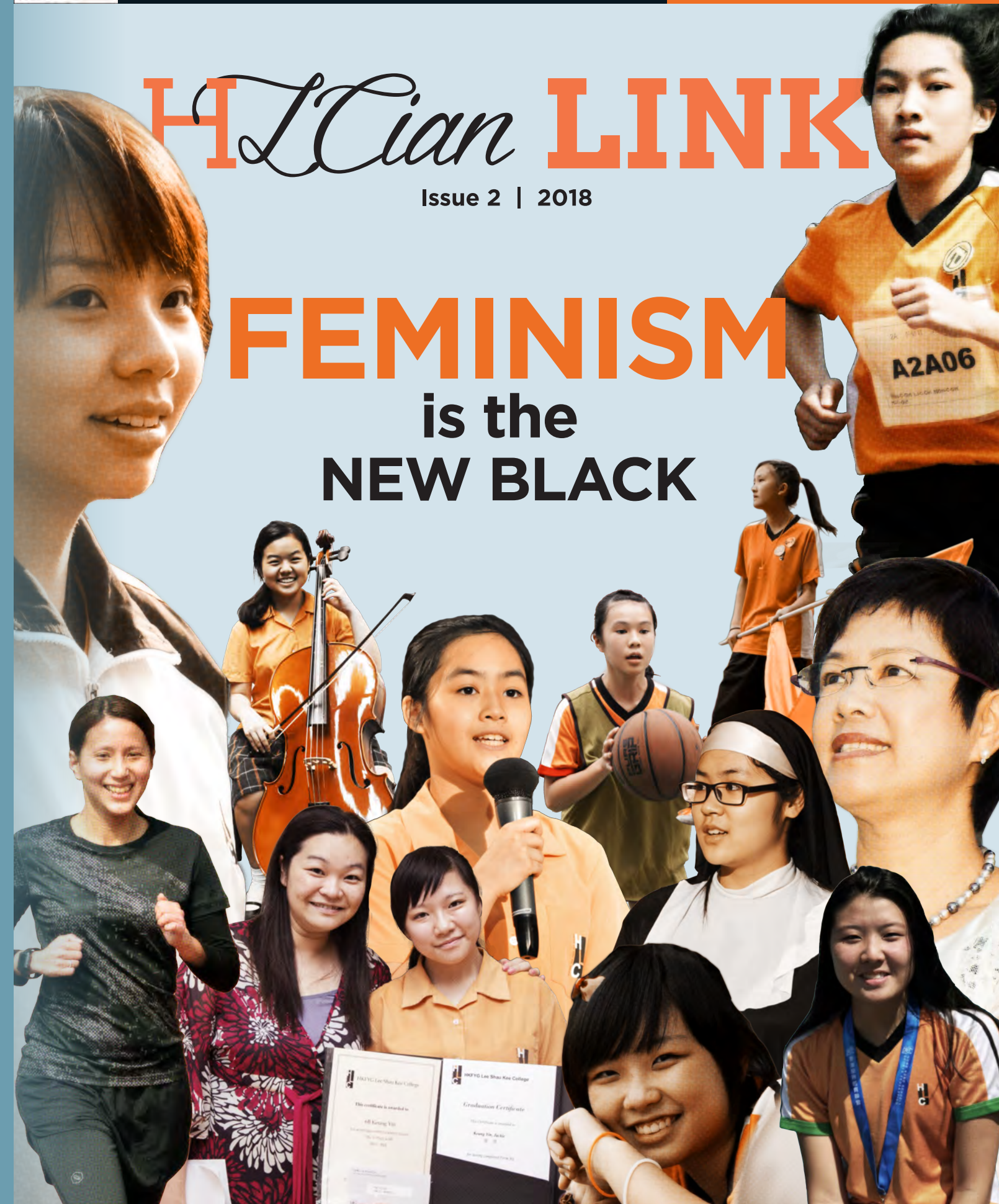
Believe in
yourself a
little more!!

Vickie Lau

HLian LINK

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FEMINISM is the NEW BLACK



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary defines feminism as 'the theory of the political, economic, and social equality of the sexes'. Women now have the right to vote and enter the professions and higher education in most countries, yet there are still huge challenges facing women. In Hong Kong, the traditional Chinese upbringing still holds sway over many and genders are stereotyped. Equality of respect and equality of opportunity can only be achieved if both young girls and young boys are liberated from these constraints. Young boys can be caring and attentive and become stay at home dads whilst young girls can be outspoken and assertive.

To me feminists do not seek to replace patriarchy with matriarchy but desire to facilitate a world in which women are safe at work and at home to enjoy the freedom to pursue their dreams and optimize their potential as men have always been able to do. When this is achieved not only will women benefit for, as the African Proverb says, 'If you educate a man you educate an individual but if you educate a woman you educate a nation.'

As a female leader, I often reflected upon my progression from English panel chair to vice-principal and principal. Throughout my service at schools for more than 30 years, I was pleased to see that more and more female counterparts have taken up important posts such as principals and school supervisors. Better still, in daily operation, I see both men and women colleagues complement each other in different roles, big and small. Times have certainly changed, in Hong Kong, and all over the world.

Meghan Markle commented recently 'women don't need to find a voice, they have a voice, they need to feel empowered to use it and people need to be encouraged to listen.' It has been my goal to realise this 'feminist' agenda and ensure that students and staff alike regardless of gender have equality of opportunity and equal respect in HLC.

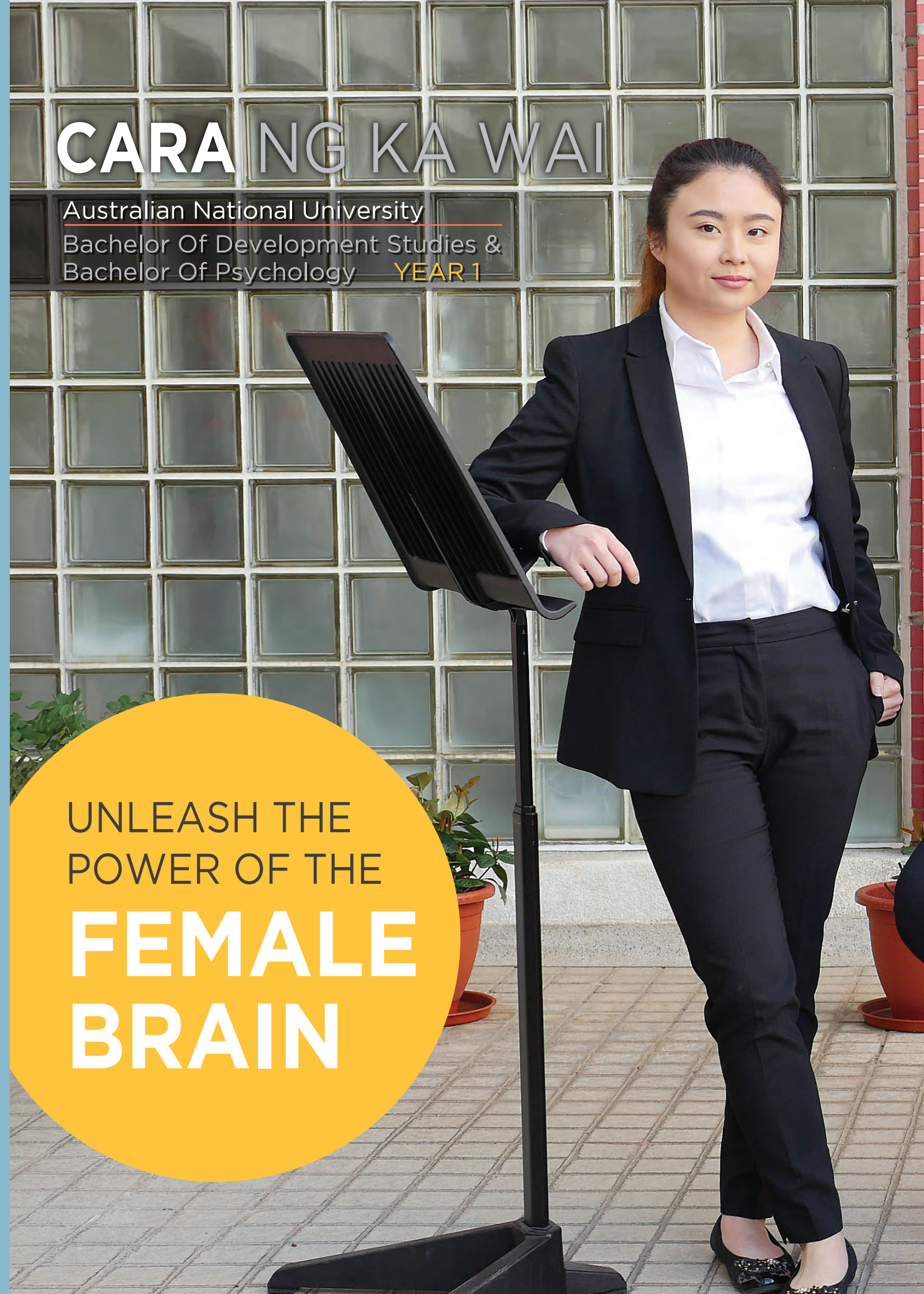
So to young people in HLC and everywhere I adapt the words of Michelle Obama 'No "school" can ever truly flourish if it stifles the potential of its women and deprives itself of the contributions of half of its "students".' Girls should not stand behind boys but stand alongside.

Principal **Lee Pak-lan**

CARA NG KA WAI

Australian National University
Bachelor Of Development Studies &
Bachelor Of Psychology **YEAR 1**

UNLEASH THE
POWER OF THE
**FEMALE
BRAIN**



A gleam of sunlight spun from the glass windows in a perfectly fine morning welcomed this old friend of our school. Hassling with her handful of luggage, she laughed when I mouthed ‘So much’ as if she expected me to understand how ready she always was. Cara prepared a few blazers, skirts and pants of various colours to perfect the photoshoot. As prepared, as always.

One year ago, unlike other students who indulged in the serene summer breeze, Cara took a different path, starting her journey in pursuing her dream in Australia.

“Having studied in HLC has allowed me to dream big in Australia”

“My initial goal when I first went there was to study the most challenging subject, Bachelor of Law, because of two reasons: One-I was confident my school in Hong Kong has prepared me enough academically. Two-I knew that would open more doors for me in the future. Thanks to my studies at HLC, when I was attending my foundation year, I didn’t have to worry about my school work and had the opportunity to make friends with students from all around the globe, from America to Singapore, from Iran to Sri Lanka. Such encounter allowed me to listen to voices from all around the world and found interest in how the same issues could be portrayed drastically differently through national media. What inspired me most was being a lawyer, I may be able to help different individuals, but my current degree, development studies and psychology, allows me to understand the development of third world countries and how I can assist in the establishment of their health schemes. My dream is big. I don’t only want to help a person or two. I know I will become an entrepreneur, taking charge in the future. I dream to help a nation or even the world with my own power.”

One of the many whom Cara looks up to is Amal Alamuddin Clooney, a world renowned and respected human rights lawyer. She fled to Buckinghamshire during the Lebanese Civil War at its fiercest. Earning a scholarship to Oxford where she attained her law degree, she has represented various individuals from former Ukrainian Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko to the country of Armenia in its fight for recognition of the Armenian Genocide. When asked if Amal is a female figure to her, Cara explained, “It’s never about the gender. I admire her simply because of the work that she has achieved. She has shown the world how much a woman can achieve these days and I whole-heartedly believe in gender equality. Only if women’s voice is better addressed can we promote sustainable development and reduce poverty.”

“HLC – a level playing field for all”

“To be honest, I never expected to come to HLC until some of the alumni recommended it to me. It was the smooth transition of the English learning environment and the very student-centered opportunities that I enjoyed most, sports secretary, cross-country team, swimming team, and many more. This honeymoon period lasted until S3 when I had the urge to extend my understanding to a social level” Luckily through various opportunities, like Debating Team, Cara received the opportunity to branch out more to meet those who are even more aware of our society than students in this school. “We, female students in HLC, should not think any less of ourselves when we are confronted by challenges. We must have faith in what our school has equipped us with even when we face competitions against more prestigious schools in other districts. In school, we have already been provided with a fair battle ground with other boys, be it in class competitions or trainings. Girls in HLC should make good use of such opportunities, which may not be easily granted in other countries, to break the ceiling of the social norms. Like what Emma Watson’s said: we [should] all see gender as a spectrum instead of two sets of opposing ideals.”



“A place to nurture stronger women”

In a way, Cara feels that students in Hong Kong are bound by rules and social norms. The traditional authoritative rapport between school and students is taking a heavy toll on the growth of future woman leaders. “Generally speaking, female students are not aggressive enough to fight for their dreams. They often take it as what it is. Studying in an authoritative vernacular and a campus full of rules makes students feel beaten down. Gradually, students lose the sense of autonomy and the sense of risk management. To shape future woman leaders, schools must learn to accept rebelliousness as part of an inevitable part of growing up and the question is how to guide the young to think for themselves. Schools must trust that they have educated their children right. Instead of setting numerous boundaries for students, students and school should be in collaboration to make our campus a better place. The HLC annual consultation, allowing students to voice the opinions and the school reflecting on their development, is the mutually trusted first step in the right direction. The question is how to further empower young women to voice their opinion in this school to build an even more harmonious campus of both boys and girls.”

August 2018



our alumnae our powHER

2012

Hui Po Lam
Yip Wing Kwan
Kam Yuen Yi
Wong Ka Tsz
Tse Suet Ying
Lee Hin Ting
Tam See Long

Bachelor of Pharmacy (University of Sydney)
Bachelor of Arts (University at Albany)
Bachelor of Pharmacy (CUHK)
Bachelor of Science (HKU)
Bachelor of Arts (HKU)
Hotel Management (PolyU)
Bachelor of Social Sciences (Hons) in Media and Social Communication (HKBU)
Bachelor of Science (CityU)

Leung Pui Fong

2014

Yim Tin Wai

Bachelor of English Language Studies (Hons)
(University of New South Wales)

Tsang Wai Sin

Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in International Relations
(The University of Sussex)

Lau Choy Yin

Bachelor of Commerce (Hons)
(Australia National University)

Chung Wing Sum
Yeung Yan Hang

Bachelor of Social Science in Psychology (CUHK)
Integrated Bachelor of Business
Administration Programme (CUHK)

Lai Yuen Kiu
Chan Ka Hei
Keung Yin

BSc (Hons) in Tourism Management (PolyU)
Bachelor of Arts in Fashion and Textiles (PolyU)
Bachelor of Arts/Bachelor of Social Sciences
(HKBU)

2016

Lam Ching Hei
Chan Hoi Tung
Lee Ho Suet
Wong Ka Hei
Fung Cheuk Kei
Lee Pui Yan

Medicine (MBChB) Programme (CUHK)
Japanese Studies (CUHK)
Bachelor of Business Administration (HKU)
Bachelor of Nursing (HKU)
Bachelor of Science (HKU)
Business and Management
(The University of Sussex)

Wong Hei Chi

Media and Design
(University of Arts London)

Li Hoi Yan

Bachelor of Arts in Media and Communication
(Swansea University)

2013

Leung Chi Ying
Wong Ka Wai
Chan Tsz Yan
Tse Sharon
Ho Yin Ki
Fung Yu Qin
Lam Lo Ching
Leung Ji Ying

Master of Arts in Psychology (CUHK)
Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (HKU)
Bachelor of Nursing (HKU)
Bachelor of Medical Science (HKU)
Bachelor of Arts (HKU)
Bachelor of Social Work (HKU)
Bachelor of Engineering (HKUST)
Bachelor of Science (HKUST)

2015

Lam Chun Li

Bachelor of Hotel Management
(Swiss Hotel Management School)

Lee On Yee
Tsang Hoi Yi
Wong Lok Ching
Wong Hoi Ching
Lui Pui Lok
Lo Ching Nga
Chung Yee Ching

Bachelor of Nursing (CUHK)
Bachelor of Science (CUHK)
English Language Education (CUHK)
Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing (PolyU)
Bachelor of Arts (HKBU)
Sociology (HKBU)
Bachelor of Science (Department of Biology and Chemistry)
(CityU)

2017

Wu Hoi Ching

Bachelor of Business Administration (Law) and
Bachelor of Laws (Double degree) (HKU)

Yam Ning Yi

Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Sciences
(HKU)

Yam On Yi

Bachelor of Science in Speech and Hearing Sciences
(HKU)

Lam Yu Hei
Wong Tse Yan
Tang Ho Yan

Bachelor of Arts (HKU)
Bachelor of Arts (CUHK)
Bachelor of Science (Psychology)
(The University of Leicester)

Man Hoi Ching
Chow Ying Hei

Philosophy (The University of Edinburgh)
Bachelor of Media and Film International
(The University of Sussex)

BELIEVE IN
YOURSELF

A LITTLE
MORE!!

Vickie Lau is one of our exemplary HLCians in her final year of a double degree LLB programme at the University of Hong Kong. She is planning to further her studies at the University College of London in Social Development and Policy this year. She feels that studying abroad will not only give her more exposure to different cultures, it will also give her a chance to become more independent as she has never experienced living away from her family. I recently interviewed Vickie to find out more about her journey so far!

“HLC equipped me well academically and has played a vital role in my personal development”

‘I joined HLC because my parents wanted me to study in HLC, one of the best EMI schools in Tin Shui Wai District. I thank my parents for making the decision to enroll me in HLC, where I was equipped very well academically. It has also played a vital role in my personal development. I was very quiet but active in sports and music. Apart from receiving lots of awards in sports competitions, I was good at fencing, basketball and playing flute. I also led the library team and played school hymn during the Friday assembly. I was everywhere in HLC.’

VICKIE LAU

The University of Hong Kong
Bachelor of Arts in Literary Studies &
Bachelor of Laws **YEAR 5**

Vickie shared her experience when she joined the volunteering project about helping elderly and ethnic minorities in Secondary 4. ‘The volunteer project inspired me immensely and made me realise that I should do something for the community in any possible capacity. Since then, I have done a lot of part time volunteer work even in university. I enjoy my university life a lot as it has given me freedom and flexibility to try and do whatever I want to do. I like to learn more about different cultures and therefore I travel whenever I get the opportunity to serve as a volunteer. I am a solo traveler and I like to travel alone. Travelling for volunteer work has given me more exposure to develop a global vision’.

“Challenge your limit, never miss an opportunity”

‘I can recall those days at HLC when it was a norm for boys to actively take part in leading the morning assembly and sharing as most girls were shy, inactive or had no confidence. To date, I still regret turning down the opportunity to join the school prefect team. Had I taken the chance, it would have been a great boost for my overall self-confidence and my communication and leadership skills. I believe opportunities are constantly knocking on your door. One simply needs to seize these opportunities as and when they arise. I was the kind of student who would quietly attend class and leave. My university friends told me that the first day when they saw me sitting quietly in the lecture, they had an impression of me as either being an unfriendly or an arrogant person. This is when I decided to change myself and be more confident and active again like when I was in HLC. I now actively take part in class and extra-curricular activities’.

Vickie feels gender expectations are the reason why girls are not as confident and outspoken at school as boys. ‘I remember once my mother told me “Vickie you have to learn to cook as you have to get married and take care of your family”. Parents expect girls to speak softly and to be more disciplined. Girls are also expected to strictly follow school rules, teachers’ instructions and learn to be quieter and more obedient. Good communication skills and self-confidence are certainly very important as these were the biggest obstacles for me at university. I would advise girls at HLC to be more proactive and speak up for themselves because if they are not expressive to showcase their abilities and remain passive and conservative, they will have to face lots of obstacles later at university. It is not about having an accent or fluency but showcasing your abilities with confidence and to make others understand you.’

“Gender equality is not about rules but more about values”

‘For me, feminism exists to help all women have the same rights as men, not for helping women become or live as men. Feminism is 100% about gender equality and how equally opportunities are distributed between the genders. In addition, gender equality is not about setting rules but rather about cultivating values where both men and women are seen as equals. I remember once a very senior barrister told me “Vickie, you should not be a barrister because when clients come to you, they will often not trust you as a female. Although we do not want to admit this, we cannot change the mindset of the majority of the society because they think male lawyers and barristers are more capable.” I do not agree with this advice.’

Some people really think that feminism is bad because priority and power have to be given to females but actually female empowerment started a long time ago. Feminism has now gained a much greater voice in our society because of the massive gender imbalance in our history and in order to raise gender equality, females have to be empowered in some sense. It does not mean that the male has to sacrifice their rights and be subordinated. It is certainly not to put down any sex. Vickie believes that most people nowadays do recognize the importance of gender equality but there is still a lot that needs to be done. Having said that, without the increasing support from males for gender equality in the past few decades, little progress would have been made both legally (such as the foundation of Equal Opportunities Commission and the legislations made) and socially. When we are talking about feminist discourse, the male voices should never be omitted and mutual respect must be emphasized.

“Follow your dreams with passion”

‘I strongly believe one is never able to make great strides in any field without passion. Take Terry as an example, a student from HLC who had clear goals and was passionate to be a doctor. He finally achieved his goals through dedication and hard work. I think especially female students should be encouraged to choose something they feel they are good at. Of course, we must set our dreams realistically, taking into consideration both ability and passion. Follow your dreams and leave no stone unturned in pursuing them.’

June 2018

ALUMNI MESSAGES



KARINA LI | Hong Kong Baptist University Bachelor of Communications YEAR 2

Girls with Visions

Nowadays there are still many people in the workplace who stereotype men as being more intelligent and professional than women. Though obviously untrue, many people wonder is this because girls receive different high school education from boys or is it because girls receive fewer opportunities or less encouragement to seize those opportunities?

When I reflect upon my days in HLC, I appreciate that this was not so, for lots of chances were provided for both girls and boys to join different competitions and club activities. Taking myself as an example, by staying in Drama Club for 5 years I experienced being an actress, stagehand and student director. There were different casts and crew for each annual production and so I learnt to communicate with teammates with different

personalities and characteristics. Then I discovered that communication, not gender, is the key factor in successful interpersonal relationships. In fact it was because of my interest in and ability to develop successful relationships that I chose to study Communications in University.

HLC gave me the opportunities and encouragement to pursue my dreams and develop myself and for that I am very grateful. Therefore, I am going to further challenge myself by completing an internship in a cross cultural environment in Singapore this summer.

All in all, aspirations, ambitions and visions of the female identity should not be suppressed. As female HLCians, we should discover our own passion and pursue our dreams.



KELLY MARGARETH LEE

American Musical and Dramatic
Academy

Graduate of Bachelor of Arts in
Performing Arts Musical Theatre

Build a better, stronger and wiser YOU!

Shout out to all the beautiful, confident, hard-working girls around the world! We are coming into an age where women are unapologetically learning to be more comfortable in their own skin. Embracing, loving and accepting who we are and growing into the majestic creatures that we are meant to be! I feel the true meaning of feminism is equality and most of all, respect. Putting aside our differences to come together as one.

I have always been very vocal about feminism, and as an artist, I am given a platform to speak and hopefully inspire as many as I can. It is one of the reasons why I have chosen Performing Arts as my career. Apart from my deep passion for the stage, it is an absolute joy to know that somehow my art might just be able to make a difference in someone's life. Isn't it great to know that YOU can do the same? The littlest thing can create the biggest impact. Whatever you decide to pursue in life, do it with passion, love and good intention. Transform negative experiences into valuable lessons and continue to build a better, stronger and wiser YOU. Remember, you can do ANYTHING you put your mind to. Ladies, stay fabulous!

Journey to success

I always remind myself that feminism refers to giving women equal opportunities and rights that men have, instead of raising the status of women by putting men down.

My high school provides equal learning opportunities for both male and female students. As a student, it motivated me to utilize all the opportunities provided to enhance my learning experience. Inherited the mentality from HLC that women deserve equality, I plucked up my courage and opted for Asian Business Studies since the course aims at cultivating well-educated Asia-adept business professionals with global perspectives.

The next chapter of my life will be in the fields of technology and entrepreneurship so hopefully I would make an impact to the society by doing what I love after graduation.

To create a successful journey, I urge HLCians to embrace the opportunities provided in school to better their learning experience.

YANNIE YEUNG

The Chinese University of Hong Kong
Integrated Bachelor of Business
Administration Programme in Asian
Business Studies and Marketing
Minor in Translation YEAR 4

