



# **Inspiration**

**Careers Team  
Issue 2  
2011/12**

**Homantin Government  
Secondary School**

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## Words from the Principal

**Mrs HO AU Pui-kuen**

It gives me great pleasure, once again, to welcome you to this excellent magazine. This highly innovative project was initiated by our Careers Education Mistress, Miss Leung Ka-man, last year. This issue includes a range of informative and fascinating articles which I am sure will be of interest to everyone who reads the magazine.

Students have again been busy over their summer holidays interviewing members of our alumni to find out about the careers that they have chosen. Those students who have voluntarily given of their own time are able to report back through this magazine interesting details about the jobs that members of our alumni are now doing. Reports include interviews with professionals such as a physiotherapist, an assistant stage manager, a financial planner and a nurse. Thanks go to those members of the alumni who gave their time for the benefit of the current students of Homantin Government Secondary School.

This edition of the magazine also includes “What is your job?” written by some of our S1 students. It is never too early to explore ideas about what you would like to do.

I am delighted to note that students in S1 and S2 have also joined the editorial team of the magazine. Well done to them! The whole project is a credit to the school. Thanks must go to all concerned with the production of this excellent magazine.

# Words From The Chief Editors

Having a good job is a dream of many students, but, what is the definition of a “good job”? Many students may answer that a high-salary or a meaningful one, like being a doctor or police-officer. However, most of them do not know the routine work of different jobs, so they could not make a good plan for their future career. The aim of “Inspiration” is to provide information about different jobs, so as to help students plan their future.

This time we are honored to have invited some of our alumni to share their valuable experience in various professions, such as financial planner, physiotherapist, assistant stage manager, dancer etc. Also, the Career Expo 2011 also gave all schoolmates a chance to listen to the sharing by the alumni.



Ms Carmen Leung and the Editorial Team



**Our S.1 Junior Reporters**

Apart from the sharing of our alumni, there are also some new elements in issue 2 of "Inspiration". Self-understanding is important for a person when finding a suitable job. Therefore, we add an aptitude test for checking

your personality and try to help finding which type of job is suitable for you. Moreover, another new part is "My dream job". Goal setting is a crucial part in career planning, so I have invited some S.1 students to share their dream careers in this part.

We cannot help our fellow schoolmates to plan their future but we can give them guidance or inspiration through those successful experiences or self-understanding. We hope our fellow schoolmates could have a clear career plan and could reach their goal in the future.



**Our Senior Reporters**



**Chan Chung Tin, 7A  
Law Ching Lam, 7A**

# Careers Expo 2011

“Opportunity knocks but once,” as an old saying goes. Yet, how could we grab the precious opportunity to develop our careers when the opportunity is right in front of us? The answer to this question is: **GOOD PREPARATION.**

With a view to helping the junior forms in knowing more about different fields and having a better understanding of our own interests, abilities and personalities, Careers Expo 2011 was held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011, with the active participation of parents, alumni, teachers and schoolmates.

*Careers Expo 2011* started with our Principal, Mrs Ho Au Pui-kuen, giving a speech to thank all the participating alumni and parents. In her speech, she encouraged schoolmates to learn pro-actively in the sharing sessions that followed. After the principal’s speech was the photo-taking session in which student representatives presented souvenirs and cards to all the alumni and parents as a token of thanks. Since students from the past and present had a precious chance to stand on the stage and take photographs together, all of us could feel, under the warm atmosphere, the strong sense of togetherness and belonging to our mother school. The next parts of the Careers Expo were a talk for Form 1 schoolmates and different sharing sessions for Form 2 and Form 3 schoolmates who were divided into fifteen groups according to the professions they were interested in. We invited various professionals, such as an accountant, social worker, nurse, policeman, etc.



During the sharing sessions, schoolmates learnt a lot from the alumni. In fact, what the alumni had shared was extremely useful to us, and we also asked questions actively during the sessions. After the expo, I interviewed some schoolmates who had joined the sharing session of a solicitor. They said they had learnt that ***upgrading one’s competitiveness was extremely essen-***

*tial* if one wanted to become a lawyer in the future, as the legal market in Hong Kong was getting more and more competitive. Lawyers thus needed to improve themselves continuously in order to enhance their competitiveness in the field. After the sharing session, they understood that, in order to survive in the competitive working world, one really needed to improve himself continuously, not only at school but also at work. Besides, I also interviewed another group of schoolmates who had joined the sharing session of a social worker. The social worker said that one could find great satisfaction in helping others and this makes being a social worker a very meaningful career. The group of schoolmates also added that they would study harder in order to study in the university and become a qualified social worker. In fact, I believe *Careers Expo 2011* has helped schoolmates become more motivated in learning and pursuing their own career paths.



While the Form 2 and 3 schoolmates were having the sharing sessions with the alumni, the Form 1 schoolmates attended a talk in the hall called *“Working World”* given by our alumni Mr Ng and Mr Wong. They taught us how to well prepare ourselves for our future careers, such as cultivating proper working attitudes and problem-solving skills. They also taught schoolmates how to boost their confidence. At the end of the talk, some Form 1 schoolmates were able to talk boldly and confidently in front of the whole form in the hall! Indeed, this was certainly a significant stride students had made after the talk!!

As students, we are all very grateful to the efforts that teachers, alumni and parents have made to organize *Careers Expo 2011*, since this function has provided us with a precious chance to think of our future career path. After the expo, we have understood the proverb, *“Opportunity is only for those who are well-prepared”*. I hope all of our schoolmates can bear in mind what we have learnt in *Careers Expo 2011* and make good use of what we have learned to create our bright future.

*Chief Editor: Law Ching Lam, 7A*

# **Saving Money For A Rainy Day : The Successful Story of an Independent Financial Adviser**

Chan Chung Tin, Law Ching Lam (7A) and junior reporters

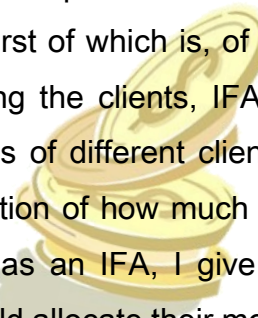
As people in Hong Kong are becoming wealthier in recent decades, how people could spend and invest their money wisely has become one of the major concerns of many Hong Kongers. Some people choose to entrust their finance to professionals: IFA, Individual Financial Planner. We are extremely honored to have invited our alumnus, Mr. Wong Lam, a very experienced and successful IFA, to share with us his career.



**Interview with Mr. Wong Lam**

## **Mission of an IFA . . . . .**

Lam points out that the job of an IFA involves several aspects, the first of which is, of course, to find the potential clients. After getting the clients, IFAs have to identify the individual financial needs of different clients. “People may seldom think about the question of how much savings they need before they can retire. Yet, as an IFA, I give clients professional advice on how they should allocate their money properly, so that they can retire at the time they want,” Lam explains.

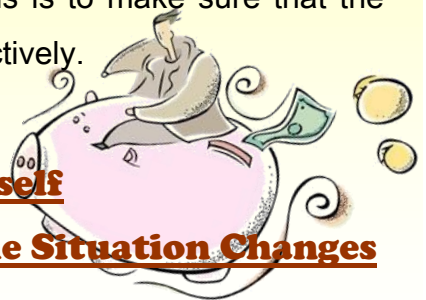




“Another example is the financial planning of parents, who may need a large sum of money when their children enter the university or study abroad. Therefore, our mission is to find out the different financial needs of different clients and then formulate tailor-made financial plans for them. Indeed, only in this way can they have adequate money for their future plans.” After a financial plan is drafted, an IFA needs to review the progress of the plan from time to time with the client. This is to make sure that the financial plan is being carried out effectively.

**Be Prepared To Change Yourself**

**When The Situation Changes**

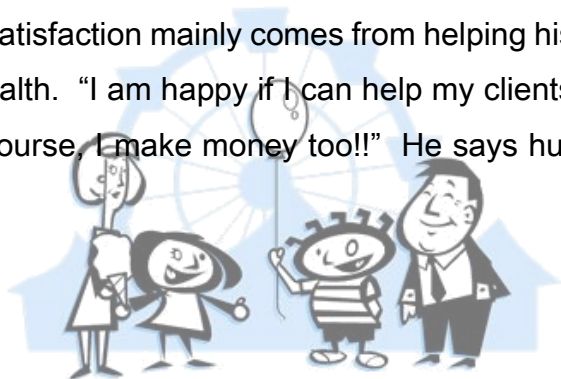


When being asked whether there are great difficulties an IFA may encounter, Lam believes that difficulties do exist in some stages in the career path of an IFA. “For fresh IFAs, the first thing they need to do is to develop their client-base. They may at first target their friends and relatives as clients. Yet, if they cannot further expand their client-base, their career as an IFA probably cannot last for more than two months,” Lam says. “As for more experienced IFAs, we also need to deal with the instability of the industry, since this field is highly susceptible to the atmosphere of the economy. For instance, in 2003, my partners and I wanted to set up a large-scale company. We used to work in a 3000-foot office with 3 big conference rooms.

However, during the financial tsunami, we had to move to a smaller office and change our plan for our company's development. Now, we are working in a 800- foot office, which is already bigger than our last office," Lam recalls. "But as long as you adapt yourself to the difficult situation, as well as adjust your operating strategy to suit the changing situation, the difficulties will finally be overcome."

## An Enjoyable Job With Great Satisfaction

Although it is not easy for one to become a successful IFA, the monetary reward and satisfaction gained from the job is very attractive. "For one thing, the income of an IFA is quite stable, because when clients entrust their IFAs with their money, they need to pay the consulting fees regularly for this service," explains Lam. "For another, the working hour is rather flexible, as you can arrange the meeting time with your clients freely. For instance, now I choose not to arrange meetings with clients on Saturdays and Sundays, so that I can spend more time with my family," he adds. Above all, Lam's satisfaction mainly comes from helping his clients to accumulate wealth. "I am happy if I can help my clients make more money. Of course, I make money too!!" He says humorously.



## To Become An IFA: What qualifications do you need?

To be an IFA, one needs to meet the professional qualifications and have a certain innate personality. While having Form 5 standard is the minimum academic requirement, one also needs to pass some professional examinations in order to obtain licenses related to the financial products. They are IIQE (Insurance Intermediaries Qualifying Examination), examinations set by Hong Kong Securities Institute and the CFP Certificate Examination set by the Institute of Financial Planners of Hong Kong (a more advanced examination). All in all, if you would like to become a qualified IFA, you need to work very hard in order to pass all these professional examinations.

As for your personality, one has to be very reliable and able to gain trust from others easily. “In fact, an IFA is like a “financial doctor”: we need to know many “secrets” of the clients, such as their salary, assets, family background etc, in order to accurately

“diagnose” their financial needs. In this case, being able to gain client’s trust is very essential,” he says. “Being dedicated and proactive in the field can also help an IFA gain clients’ trust,”

Lam adds at the end of the interview.





**The S.1 junior reporters listened attentively**

# The Show is On: Stage Manager

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Michelle Mok, 6A

Have you  ever thought of earning credit on the stage from the spectators with a round of applause? If yes, you are born to be a Stage Manager!! Our alumnus, Ms Yentl Ho, is an Assistant Stage Manager. She said cheerfully, ‘Don’t hesitate if you are fanatic about drama! It is great fun!’ , she said excitingly. 

## What is the job of a Stage Manager?

“Not only is a good cast a vital element for producing a successful drama, a host of professional Stage Managers, who are accountable for all the preparation work behind the scenes, are also a crucial element,” Ms Ho said. “What they have to do is, first of all, to look for a most feasible date when every artist is free, and then weave a schedule for rehearsals and training workshops.”

Under the Stage Manager, there is a team of Assistant Stage Managers (ASM) and also the Deputy Stage Managers (DSM). The ASMs are those who set the backcloth, change the scenes and help move the furniture before and during the show; whereas the DSMs are those who coordinate the lightings and sound effects with the light and sound designers.

This is to make sure that all the effects are in line with the organized plan. After all, the job of the Stage Manager is to guarantee everything is on the right track and handle emergencies, so as to make the show run smoothly every evening.

### What Obstacles may a Stage Manager encounter?

“Being a Stage Manager seems full of fun, yet, it is no easy job. In fact, this career is full of challenges, such as encountering the difficulties of looking for assistants to share the heavy workload. Unlike actors or actresses, Stage Managers could hardly gain any fame despite the significance of their role,” Ms Ho said. “As a matter of fact, there are only very few drama enthusiasts who would like to work backstage. Stage Managers have to endure an extremely heavy workload, which requires them to devote most of their time, day and night, to get immersed in the drama field. They have no time for their families,” Ms Ho explained.

### A precious and priceless experience

Ms Ho said in the interview that ***working as a team is totally different from working as an individual.*** “In a team, a strong team spirit could only be built when everyone in the team has the same target and shares the same value.” The prerequisite to success is not only the effort you, an individual, has put in, but also ***how well you can cooperate with your teammates.***

Starting from the very beginning, from choosing the script to organizing the rehearsal plans, reaching a compromise unanimously is strenuous. However, Ms Ho frankly told us that the satisfaction and excitement often transcend all the difficulties when the drama is going to be on stage.

## What is the Monetary Reward?

It is commonly known that the salary of the people working in the backstage of the drama industry is rather unstable and low. Yet, Ms Ho said that one could still gain a more stable income if he/she has a better connection with some drama directors or companies. “Being a Stage Manager is considered to be a freelance job, so unless you are an enthusiast in drama and like working backstage, you really need to think carefully before working as a full-time Stage Manager.” Ms Ho reminded us.



**Ms Yentl Ho is on show!**

## What makes a successful Stage Manager?

In essence, there is no definite requirement for being a Stage Manager, as qualifications are not regarded as the only yardstick for one's success in this career. Nevertheless, according to Ms Ho, ***conscientiousness is the***



***key***. Apart from this, she said excellent communication skills and minute observation ability are also a must, as a Stage Manager has to concentrate and be meticulous all the time. Therefore, if you possess these skills and are really interested in this industry, you could start your dream by studying in APA, The Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, or working as an ASM in the field.

“If you are not satisfied with your sedate and serene life, be a Stage Manager and overcome the hurdles you encounter!! The work experience you obtain will be priceless! It is really worthwhile to give it a try and make your dream come true!” Ms Ho told us at the end of this interview.



# Follow The Rhythm Of Your Heart And Dance!



Tracy Cheung, 6B

Are you a fan of dancing? Many of our students enjoy watching dance shows and some of them even participate in dance performances. However, have you ever considered to become a professional dancer in the future? “The Inspiration” is honoured to have our former student, Alice Ma Sze Nga, to tell us more about her job as a professional freelance dancer.

## Performing, Choreographing and Teaching

Being a freelance dancer like Alice, your job does not only consist of dancing. With certain dancing knowledge and experience, you can have a taste of choreography, designing a routine of various dance movements and creating your own show. You can also become a dance teacher in dance centers and school dance clubs. Alice is currently looking after these three duties as a dancer, choreographer and teacher at the same time. “I try my best to share the joy of dancing with my audience, colleagues and students,” she added with a satisfied smile on her face.

## A Dancing Background?

The common perception is that being a dancer requires a solid dancing skill foundation and dancing lessons started at a young age. Nevertheless, Alice’s experience breaks this perception. “Ballet and Chinese Dance are more about techniques and accuracy, while Contemporary Dance puts the emphasis on dancing freely, breaking the rules and expressing yourself,” says Alice, who started dancing in Form 2 and majored in Contemporary Dance in her degree. Dancing skills are important, but as long as you have the enthusiasm for dancing, it is never too late for you to start learning it.



## What You Need To Do

To fulfill your aim to be a professional dancer, you can start by joining the dance club at school or taking dance classes at dance studios. If these are what you have already been doing, remember to spend some time watching dance shows. By observing the professionals performing, you can learn from them and at the same time, know the standard of professional dancers. Taking part in various dancing events also helps, as you can meet other dancers, widen your horizons and familiarize yourself with the industry. You can also apply for the degree programme provided by the Hong Kong Academy of Performing Arts (HKAPA) to equip yourself for your aim.

Apart from the above, you should never feel shy to dance in front of your audience. Being humble and receptive to accept others' opinion is also a must. ***Bear in mind that punctuality and diligence are essential to becoming a good dancer.*** Last but not least, attitude is critical in the dancing field. A dancer with a positive attitude always has a promising future.



## Making Up Your Mind

It is essential for you to soon realize if dancing is a career you would pursue. You must first make sure your passion in dancing is not temporary, but long-lasting and firm. You also have to understand what level of skills you need and how much effort it takes to become a professional dancer. Working in the performing arts industry in Hong Kong is not easy, but if you have made up your mind, a heart of determination will surely guide your way in the journey of taking dancing as the career of your life.

You may find it difficult to strike a balance between your interests and the job perspectives when deciding which career path you prefer, as fusing your interests into your career seems impossible. But if you love dancing, treat dancing as something more than a spare time activity, and are willing to face the challenges ahead, please don't hesitate to turn dancing into your career!



**Ms Ma chatted happily with our reporters**

# An Interview with a Physiotherapist

## Introduction

Cool Lee, 6B

Have you ever received a physiotherapy treatment? Nowadays in Hong Kong, many people ignore the importance of having correct posture. Hence, it is easy for them to get injured. Most importantly, if these injuries are not treated, they may bring about many adverse effects on our bodies. Today, we are most honored to have one of our alumni, Mr Luk Chi Hung, to talk about the meaningful work of a physiotherapist.

## Some Misunderstandings about Physiotherapists

Most people cannot distinguish the differences in the job nature between a Physiotherapist (PT) and an Occupational Therapist (OT).

Some people may have a misunderstanding that a Physiotherapist only treats general injuries, whereas an Occupational Therapist helps patients especially when they are injured in their own working environments, like a cleaner who has injured his backbone when sweeping the floor in his daily work. However, according to Mr. Luk, this is not the only difference.



“ Well, to a certain extent it may be true. Yet, besides curing physical injuries and reducing the patients’ pain, a physiotherapist also emphasizes helping patients in their rehabilitation process, after unfortunately getting certain diseases or traumas, such as a fracture and stroke. On the other hand, an Occupational Therapist mainly helps patients improve their physical postures at work and assists them in handling the daily tasks in a correct way in their physical working environment. Take the example we have mentioned before: an Occupational Therapist will focus on teaching the cleaner the correct posture in cleaning the floor.”

However, Mr. Luk said there are indeed some overlapping areas in the job responsibilities of these two professions, such as promoting the concept of Job Safety. “Outsiders may not be able to see the differences in the job nature of a Physiotherapist and an Occupational Therapist. They just think we belong to the same profession!” Mr. Luk said.

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### *What Qualifications do I need if I want to be a Physiotherapist in the future?*

If you would like to be a Physiotherapist, you need to get a *Degree in Physiotherapy*. Locally, the degree is only offered by the *Hong Kong Polytechnic University*. “Of course, if your family can support you studying overseas, you can also study physiotherapy in many overseas universities,” Mr. Luk said.

Furthermore, Mr. Luk stressed that it is crucial for a successful physiotherapist to have *good communication skills*. This is because communicating with patients is the most direct way to understand their injuries or suffering. It is essential for a physiotherapist to give a comprehensive assessment before tailor-making a treatment plan for a patient. However, if the communication between the physiotherapist and the patient is inadequate, a lot of misunderstandings may arise and these misunderstandings would adversely affect the effectiveness of the treatment plan. “Well, you should be benevolent and patient to the patients as well, as you are the only person who can help them!” added Mr. Luk.



**Mr. Luk thinks he can help a lot of patients.**



**Mr. Luk and our reporters**

## *What is the Career Path?*

“According to a recent survey, in Hong Kong, there is a great demand on physiotherapists now.” In fact, according to Mr. Luk, in recent years, the graduates have been employed either by the local government or some NGOs (non-government organizations) immediately after their graduation. Mr. Luk said that generally, most graduates will choose to work in public hospitals for a few years, so as to gain some work experience first.

Once you are employed by the Hospital Authority right after your graduation, your grade is a PT II (Physiotherapist Grade II). You need to study a Master Degree if you want to be promoted to a PT Ib (Physiotherapist Grade Ib). After a few years’ working experience, some physiotherapists may choose to work in homes for the elderly, private clinics or even open their own therapy centers. However, Mr. Luk ex-

plained that, after completing the required Master Degree, the person will be a Physiotherapist Ib. If you want to open your own therapy centre, you still need to upgrade your registration to Physiotherapist Ia. *We realize that life-*

*long studies is really very important in this profes-*

*sion.* Mr. Luk also added that, apart from working indoors, a physiotherapist needs to work outdoors sometimes. For instance, they

may be employed freelance to work in some larger-sized competitions, such as during a marathon.

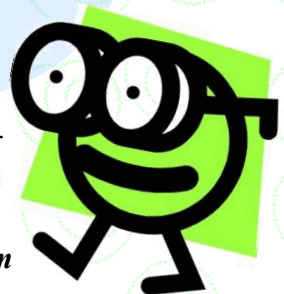


**Mr. Luk, Ms Leung and Cool Lee**

### ***How about the Monetary Reward?***

A Physiotherapist Grade II can get a salary of about \$22,000 monthly. After you have gained work experience for a few years, you may have the chance to be promoted to Physiotherapist Grade Ib. In this grade, you can earn more than \$30,000 per month. When getting more work experience, you can have the opportunity to be promoted to a Senior Physiotherapist as well. Your salary may be up to about \$75,000 per month!!! “Yet, the job satisfaction is not just from one’s high salary but the chance to help others!” Mr. Luk said happily at the end of the interview.

In this interview, we have learned a lot about this career. If you are also interested in this profession, you need to work hard to enter the Hong Kong Polytechnic University! ***Work hard and your dream will come true one day!***



# “ What is your job? ”

**Chief Editor: Chan Chung Tin, 7A**

*As our team would like to let the junior forms know more about the jobs in different fields, I have assigned three S1 students to talk to their parents/ relatives. This is what they have done.*

## BOSS

**Junior Reporter: Celeste Ho, 1T**

Danny is my father. He is the boss of a trading company. Today, I had an interview with him to talk about his job.

**C: Celeste (me)      D: Danny, my father**

**C: Hi ,dad. Today, I would like to ask you some questions about your job.**

**D: Sure, no problem.**

**C: What do you need to do every day?**

**D: I need to go out to have meetings with businessmen and then I need to prepare some proposals.**



**C:** Do you always feel very tired after work ?

**D:** *I feel exhausted sometimes, but I enjoy my job very much!!! I am very devoted to my career.*

**C:** Why do you like your career?

**D:** *It is because this career can let me know friends in different fields and I can also widen my horizons !!!*

**C:** Have you ever encountered any difficulties in your career?

**D:** *Of course I have! Sometimes I have big arguments with some business partners. We then need to make compromises in a way that every party will be happy.*

**C:** Oh, making compromises is not that easy !

**D:** *Well, Celeste, this is exactly what we have to learn when we start working in society.*

**C:** When do you usually finish your work daily?

**D:** *At around 7pm in the evening. Sometimes I feel exhausted after a whole day's work!*

**C:** Oh, I know you work very hard for the family. You are really a good daddy. Thank you for having this interview with me.

**D:** *Sure, you are welcome.*



# A C C O U N T A N T

**Junior Reporter: Germaine Kwok, 1T**

**I had an interview with my aunt May, who is an accountant.**

**G: Germaine (me)     M: May, my aunt**

**G: I'm so happy that you can have this interview with me.**

**M: You are welcome!**

**G: First of all, I would like to ask what your job is.**

**M: I 'm an accountant.**

**G: Wow! How many years have you been in the accounting field?**

**M: I have been in the field for more than ten years.**

**G: Ten years ! That's not a short period of time! What does an accountant do in his/ her daily work?**

**M: We need to deal with everything related to the company's accounts, such as the "account payable" and "account receivable", data entries and all types of monthly allowances.**



**Germaine is interviewing her aunt.**

**G:** Oh, you need to deal with so many accounts.

You must be very busy at work, right?

**M:** Yes, we're always very busy.

**G:** Being an accountant, are you busier especially when it is near the end of the month?

**M:** Yes, you are right! We are busier when it is near the end of each month. This is because we need to check all the accounts and enter all the related data into the computer. Then we need to release the salary to all employees at the end of the month. Usually, we need to work overtime every day when it is near the end of the month.

**G:** Do you need to take any accounting courses so as to upgrade your knowledge in your field?

**M:** Yes, we need to do so, as *we need to learn the new knowledge!*

**G:** Then are you taking any accounting courses right now?

**M:** No, because I need to allocate more time to my family at this moment. I need to take care of my little son. *Striking a balance of time allocation between work and family is also essential too.*

**G:** Oh, yes, your son needs your care as he is just a little kid! All right, that's all for the interview. Thank you for your precious time!



# ENGINEER

**Junior Reporter: Kelsey So, 1T**

**Today I had an interview with one of my relatives. He is an engineer. I have known more about the daily work of an engineer after this interview.**

**M: Kelsey (me)**

**K: Kris, an engineer**

**M: What is your job?**

**K: I 'm an engineer.**

**M: Do you like your job?**

**K: Yes, I like my job very much.**

**M: How do you feel about your job?**

**K: I think my job is very challenging because I always need to handle different types of projects. I need to help solve different kinds of problems.**

**M: What is your routine work?**

**K: I need to do a lot of calculations daily. For instance, I have to calculate when a building will fall down and then think of what kind of materials we have to use in constructing the building.**



**Kelsey is interviewing for "Inspiration" .**



**Kris is devoted to his career.**

**M:** When do you finish your work every day?

**K:** It is always different.  
We work overtime always.

**M:** May I know generally how much the monthly salary of an engineer could have?

**K:** Around \$15,000.

**M:** Do you enjoy your job?

**K:** Yes, I enjoy my job as I am really interested in this field. You know, *passion is very important when you are working.*

**M:** Do you think you can have a good prospect in this field?

**K:** I think I can have a great future if I can *keep upgrading my knowledge in this field and work hard.*

**M:** Are you satisfied with your present salary and working conditions?

**K:** Frankly speaking, I think the salary is a bit low, but it's ok for me, as salary is not everything. To me, job satisfaction is more important.

**M:** Thanks for being interviewed !

**K:** You're welcome.

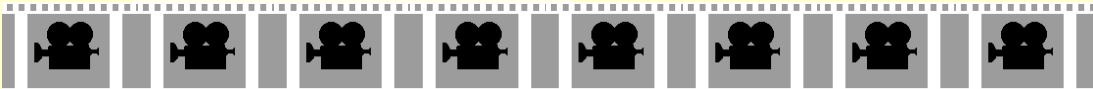


# *The Road To Shooting a Movie*

**Kathy Chan, 6H**

Are you interested in watching movies or TV programs? If your answer is yes, do you know how a movie or TV program is made? Maybe most of us have not thought about it before, but you can consider becoming a film maker if you are passionate in the career. Today we have the honour of listening to the sharing session of Mr. Chan, an alumnus working in the film industry.

Mr. Chan said that it is not easy to be successful in the movie industry. First of all, you need to be interested in the industry. You need to have the talent and be willing to learn. Also, you must learn the knowledge about movies. Also, the suitable person probably needs to have the financial support from the family. This is because you may not get jobs very often when you enter the industry in the first few years. He reminded us that when working in this industry, one may not have a stable monthly income, which means he/she may not be able to provide stable financial support to his/her family.

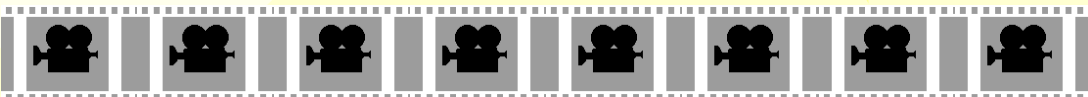
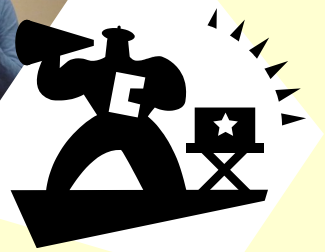


Besides, Mr. Chan shared with us that the most important requirement is that you need to be very pro-active in the field so as to grasp all the golden opportunities. Yet, even if you are a shy person but you have the strong passion in the field, it is always not impossible for you to adapt to the new environment and the environment itself can also change your character when time passes.

According to Mr. Chan, if you think you are suitable to work in the industry, you have to decide which position you would like to work in before you enter the field. For instance, you can work as a Production Assistant (PA). However, never think of staying in the same position for a long time as you may also want to do freelance jobs which require different skills. In the sharing session, Mr. Chan also reminded us humorously that we needed to think twice before we decided to tell others our nick names as this is the first impression we present ourselves to others. If your nick name is easily recalled, people could think of you easily. Then you may have more chances to get a job!



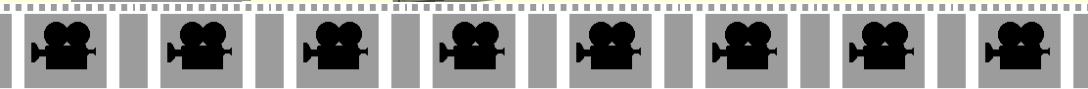
**Mr. Chan is sharing his exciting experiences in shooting films.**



From Mr. Chan's sharing, we can see that he is very passionate in his career. He told us that he has had a lot of unforgettable experiences ! He said he felt excited when he saw his name in the movies. He could even shoot movies in Africa!

Mr. Chan gave us a tip if we really wanted to be a part of this industry. He said that we **must be humble**. He told us that directors preferred to employ students who have graduated from VTC (Vocational Training Centre) as they are more humble and would follow instructions closely. He also said that participating in competitions could also help one to enter the field.

Mr. Chan said that there are also a lot of opportunities in Mainland China. He reminded us that there are always the dark side and the bright side in every industry. He encouraged us at the end of the sharing session that we should not hesitate if we want to see our names on the screen of movies. In fact, after the sharing session, I realized that opportunities are only there for those who are well-prepared.





# Do you want to become a **NURSE**

**Yolanda Yeung, 6H**

Nowadays, many people want to be a nurse in order to earn the high income. After attending the career talk by one of the alumni, Ms Cheng, however, I know that being a nurse is not easy.

In fact, many people mistakenly believe that nurses are not as important as doctors. Yet, nurses are vitally important in hospitals as they are the ones who always stay in the wards and take care of the patients. When they meet urgent situations, they have to make the correct decisions immediately. This is not an easy task to do.



Schoolmates listened to Ms Cheng's sharing.



Ms Cheng, a nurse



Added to the above, according to Miss Cheng, nurses also need to improve their professionalism through attending different courses. Miss Cheng said that she had just finished a master degree. She said it was really hard for nurses to finish a degree part time as nurses had an extremely heavy workload in hospitals. She said that to become a nurse, ***persistence and determination were of number one importance.***

Maybe many of you are just attracted by the high salary of becoming a nurse. Yes, the salary is high. It is around HKD \$12,365 to \$37,465! Really very attractive, right? However, please do not only look at the income, but also seriously consider to see if you are really suitable to work as a nurse! As Miss Cheng mentioned in her sharing session that, being a nurse, you need to bear heavy working pressure and it is not easy to handle.



**Ms Cheng has prepared a lot for the sharing session.**



Fish Yu, 6H

Dressed in casual wear, our alumnus who works in a local newspaper shared his work experience with us in a sharing session of the 2011 Careers Expo. Being quite different from others, his relaxing tone and the way he talked really engrossed us.

In fact, I have long believed that working in magazines or newspapers is quite an interesting job since reporters can sometimes write on some surprising or interesting topics. However, after listening to the sharing session, I soon realize that working as a reporter is definitely not a piece of cake since a reporter is always under great stress. Not only does he have to complete the tasks given before the deadline, he also needs to rush to the scenes where the urgent news comes out and conduct some interviews with the people involved. Mr. Siu said all these create uneasiness for the reporters.



Mr. Siu, a reporter

Nonetheless, Mr. Siu chose to persist with his job and try his best to surmount the difficulties ahead. I really think his work attitude deserves our praise and applause.

I am greatly inspired after this sharing session. Mr. Siu said he had never received any tertiary education. Yet, we could realize his diligence and passion. " If you work hard and have a passion in your career, then you can manage to get a foothold in the workplace and in our society." he said with a twinkle in his eye at the end of the session.



**Many of us are interested in knowing more about the job of a reporter.**



Do you know what



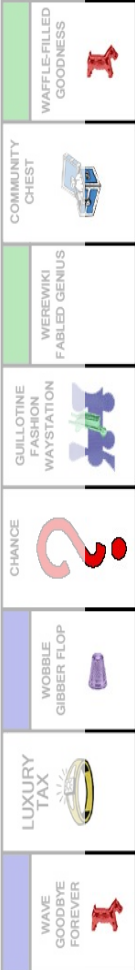
is?

# Property Management

Kammy Kam, 7B

What is Property Management? Are people working in this field only security guards patrolling around the buildings? Actually, Property Management is a kind of control being done on behalf of the owner. Property Management includes security guards, cleaning services and maintaining of facilities or equipment such as central air conditioning system, elevators, plumbing, and all the security systems.

Mr. Ho, one of our alumni, is the Managing Director of a property management company. He told us that we needed to be patient to solve all of the customers' problems. He said in the sharing session that a Property Manager must ensure that the three aspects: communication, organization and control are maintained throughout the management process.





**If you would like to become a Property Manager, there are some relevant courses in Hong Kong that you can take. For instance, you can take the Bachelor of Science in Property Management in The Hong Kong Polytechnic University or an Advanced Certificate in Property Management in HKU SPACE. These two courses are professional programs with a global and practical perspective. Graduates are all-rounders who can understand and work with the interplay among social, economic, political, legal, technological and commercial issues and problems. After you have graduated from the program and become a Property Manager, you also need to join some part time courses from time to time in order to improve your knowledge in the field.**

**Mr. Ho also shared with us at the end of the session that there is going to be sustainable growth in the demand for Property Management services in the foreseeable future. Therefore, there is a great demand for property managers in housing estates and in retail and commercial buildings in Hong Kong and the Mainland China. He said that many employers prefer employing staff with a degree or professional diploma in this field. So if you are interested in this field, you can apply for these courses in JUPAS! You will have good prospects in the field.**



# Ceaseless Career – Beautician

**Kathy Leung, 7B**

Have you ever been surprised by the power of cosmetics, which can “change” an ordinary woman into a glamorous beauty? Have you ever considered becoming a beautician in the Beauty and Cosmetic industry in the future? Our alumnus Miss Zara Chiu provided us with a clear introduction to the five main industries in the beauty field in her sharing session. Let me review what she has told us:



**Ms Chiu**

## The five main industries

- 1. Cosmetics, Perfumery & Toiletries:** These three kinds of products are commonly used by the public and they are the origin of the beauty product industry. Cosmetics and perfumery are used to enhance the appearance and odor of the human body. Toiletries are mainly used for beautification and personal hygiene. The manufacture of these products is currently dominated by a small number of multinational companies but the sale of beauty products is spread among a wide range of different businesses.
- 2. Natural Health:** This is a special industry which has a connection between beauty treatment and medical treatment. This industry relies on natural products, supplements and therapy. For example, Aromatherapy is known as an alternative medicine that uses essential oils. Nutritional Therapy applies nutritional science to help individuals reach their health potential.

**3. Hair Salon:** The general services are hair cutting, hair colouring and hair perming. Most of the male beauticians prefer to be a hair designer. If you want to open a hair salon or a beauty salon, you should take the set-up cost, the market, staff and the sales of beauty products into account. It is in fact not that easy to open a business.

**4. Beauty Salon:** There is a distinction between a beauty salon and a hair salon. Beauty salons usually provide more general services such as facial aesthetic, skin health, foot care, and even hair removal, mud baths, and numerous other services.

**5. Packaging & Original Equipment Manufacturer (OME):** OME are products that are purchased by a company under that purchasing company's brand name. There are many different large or small scale brand companies being established every year and this trend causes the rapid increase of the cosmetics' price.

The Beauty and Cosmetic Industries such as hair salons, cosmetics products, retail and bulk sales, plastic surgery etc have been developing rapidly over the past few decades and they stay successful in the competitive market. At the end of the sharing session, Miss Chiu concluded that a person is suitable for this field if he/she has the passion and cares about the customers. He/ She needs to be very willing to learn and improve. If you are also interested in establishing

your career in this field, look for more information and see how you can join the field! You will be able to find your satisfaction in this field.



Ms Chiu and Kathy



# Interview Skills

## Why are they interviewing you?

- ※ ... to get to know you
- ※ ... to decide if you are suitable for their course
- ※ ... to choose between you and someone else

## What do they already know about you?

- ※ Your academic results
- ※ Your schooling background
- ※ Anything you've written in your application

## What don't they know about you?

- ※ Your personality/ character
- ※ Physical appearance
- ※ Your hobbies and interests
- ※ Your dreams and hopes for the future
- ※ Your spoken English ability





## Interview Do's and Don'ts

- ※ Two sample interviews
- ※ What is good/not good in each?
- ※ Think about: words, behaviour, attitude, body language ...

## Types of Interview Questions

- ※ Academic background/achievements
- ※ Work habits/diligence
- ※ Your future plans
- ※ Your personality/character
- ※ Knowledge of their department/school/faculty



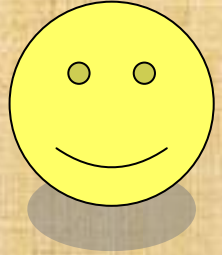
## Which kind of question is each of these?

[Academic, Personality, Work Habits, Future Plans, Knowledge of the Department]

- ※ What do you know about this department?
- ※ Why do you want to study in this area?
- ※ What subjects did you enjoy at school? Why?
- ※ What are your academic strengths and weaknesses?
- ※ How do you manage your time?
- ※ How do you cope with stress?
- ※ What are your hobbies and interests outside of study?
- ※ Do you play sport?
- ※ What would your teachers say is your best quality?
- ※ Tell me about your family.
- ※ Why do you want to do this course?
- ※ What other courses have you considered applying for?
- ※ What would be your ideal or dream job?

## Tips

- ※ 'First Impressions Count' – SMILE!
- ※ Appearance – hair and clothes
- ※ Body Language – confident manner (fake it till you make it)
- ※ Attitude – listen and respond
- ※ Don't talk too much or too little!
- ※ Don't be late!
- ※ Don't eat or chew gum!



## Polite ways to ask for clarification

- ※ I'm sorry, what do you mean by .....?
  - ※ I'm sorry, I don't understand your question.
  - ※ Could you say that another way please?
  - ※ What do you mean by .....?
  - ※ Do you mean .....? [rephrasing]
- [Remember, if you say 'Please repeat' , you will hear the same again. Is this what you want?!]

## YOUR TURN: Interview each other

- ※ Why do you want to study in this area?
- ※ Why do you want to do this course?
- ※ What subjects did you enjoy at school? Why?
- ※ What are your academic strengths and weaknesses?
- ※ What are your hobbies and interests outside of study?
- ※ Do you play sport?
- ※ Tell me about your family.
- ※ How do you manage your time?
- ※ How do you cope with stress?
- ※ What would your teachers say is your best quality?
- ※ What other courses have you considered applying for?
- ※ What would be your ideal or dream job?
- ※ What would you like to be doing in ten years' time?

