

夢想的種子

Seeds of Dream

校友專訪
Alumni Feature

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「現在我會放膽天馬行空去設計，
如何推廣我未來的咖啡店。」

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走進Jack現時工作的咖啡室，見他熟練地沖出一杯又一杯香濃的特色咖啡，加上他娓娓道來每杯咖啡的由來：由國家天氣到咖啡豆味道、由咖啡豆到烘焙技術、再到如何推廣咖啡，真的令筆者驚訝一位年輕的咖啡師竟然如此專業。「烘焙程度是指咖啡豆的顏色差距……」當筆者一頭霧水之際，他即用「煎牛扒」作比喻，「情況跟煎扒時，確認其生熟程度相似，牛扒開始熟時外面先開始變深色，但裏面仍然是粉紅色，牛扒裏面愈粉紅代表愈生，咖啡豆的烘焙程度跟這類似，顏色的深淺是其中一項判斷。」看著Jack對咖啡的熱忱與盼望，彷彿每顆咖啡豆就是讓他夢想飛翔的好種子。

Jack was making cups of coffee, one after another, when I visited the café. Then, he started to talk: "Roasting is described by the colour of roasted beans" I looked puzzled. He then illustrated this concept with the example of cooking a steak. "Colour is one of the factors symbolizing the degree of roast, which is similar to how a steak is cooked. When a steak starts turning brown, it remains pink inside. We then decide the degree of how the steak is cooked by recognizing the pink colour inside." Jack is passionate towards coffee. It seems that each coffee bean has been transformed into a seed for Jack to pursue his dream.

互動課程 更認識自我

「長大後，我才發現自己也可以做與眾不同的事。」Jack說。

Jack現在會敢說自己喜歡創作，因為他在咖啡拉花比賽中拿過好幾個獎項，其中更包括在紐約舉辦的拉花比賽，面對世界各地的參賽者，他獲得亞軍的殊榮。

「HKUE的課程跟澳洲的教學模式一樣著重互動、創意，跟其他學院不同。讀酒店管理的時候，我最喜歡上Cocktail及咖啡實習堂。老師好鼓勵我們在餐飲創意上多作發揮，加上我的咖啡科分數較高，兩年內我逐漸認識及確認自己：原來我是一個具有創意的人！」互動的課程讓Jack發現了自己的專長：創意。傳統教學模式多集中發掘同學學術上的天份，過去的Jack，也許還沒有確定將來要走的道路，在HKUE卻發現自己對具創意的雞尾酒及咖啡課程產生濃厚興趣，終成就今天的事業及理想。

實用的課程 成追尋夢想的助力

「學校的課程很多元化，也十分實用，當時學校需要同學修讀Marketing、Finance等科目，曾有疑問為何要讀不相關的科目，現在才知道真的能學以致用。」HKUE課程不只限於紙上談兵，所學的能配合實際需要，「當年所學的知識，令我更有能力去為未來打算。我希望將來開一所Coffee Shop，讓大眾更認識咖啡。以前的Marketing堂，讓我明白宣傳的重要。我現在會於Instagram、Facebook、YouTube等渠道推廣自己及咖啡文化。」

要追尋夢想，先要擁有不同的知識、技能，Jack一早已經裝備妥當。機會，是留給有準備的人。

沒有「Model Answer」

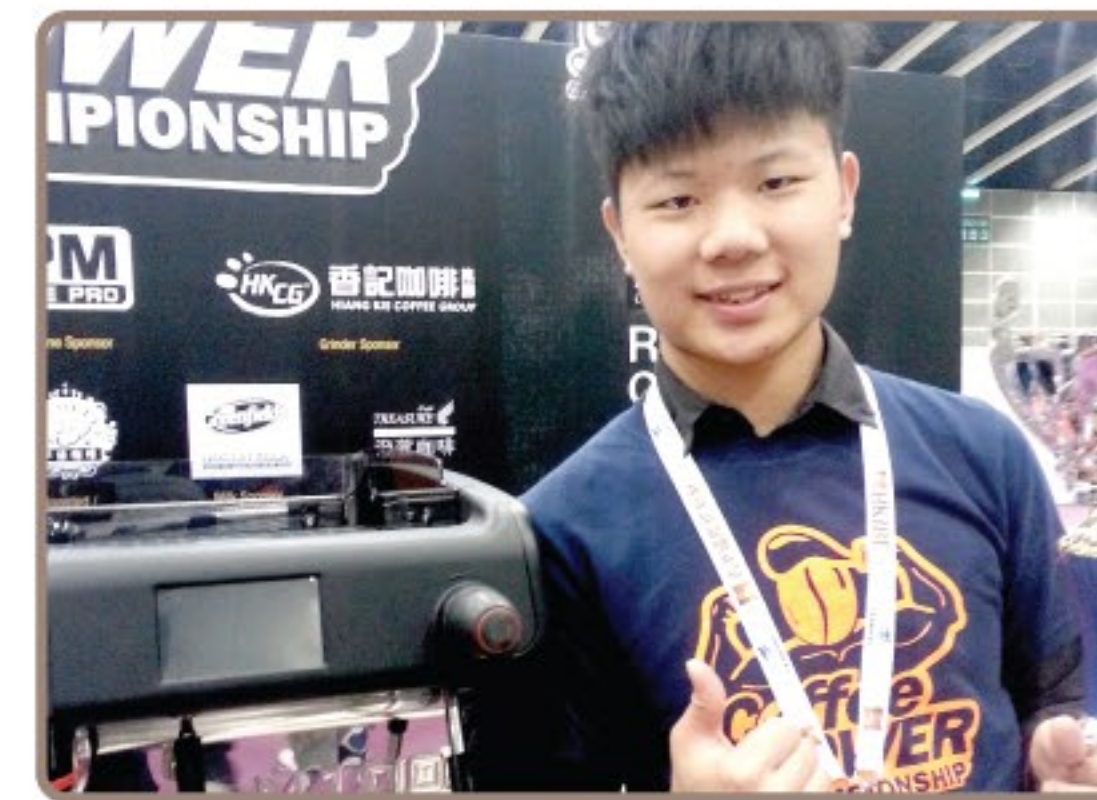
「HKUE常鼓勵我們有自己的獨立思考，不會有Model Answer。現在我會放膽天馬行空去設計，如何推廣我未來的咖啡店。」

「我花名叫『Black Jack』，如果有幸我希望將來在我自己的Coffee Shop內，可以同客人一邊玩魔術，一邊品嚐咖啡，把魔術帶進咖啡的世界。」年紀輕輕的Jack，再次讓筆者驚訝，社會不是責怪80、90後的青年人輕浮？何以眼前的年輕人如此不一樣？筆者在此祝願Jack早日夢想成真，把「Black Jack」帶進香港咖啡文化。



Jack(右中)深明「Work Hard, Play Hard」的道理，所以讀書時期的他也很投入學校的課外活動，不會只埋頭苦讀。

Jack (Right middle) understands so well that he has to "Work Hard and Play Hard" in order to live a balanced life. Thus, he participated actively in HKUE's extra-curricular activities when he was a student.



Jack於2014年參加了Coffee Power Latte Art Championship 拉花比賽，更勇奪冠軍。

Jack won the champion in the Coffee Power Latte Art Championship.

Understanding Oneself Through Interactive Courses

"I can't imagine I can do something special." said Jack.

Today Jack knows clearly that he likes to create. He has won several competitions, including a first-runner up prize in an international Latte Art competition held in New York.

"HKUE has adopted the Australian teaching style, which puts a lot of emphasis on interactivity and creativity of students. This teaching style is different from that of other colleges or universities in Hong Kong. At school, I liked coffee and cocktail lessons the most. Teachers always encouraged us to make creative drinks or Latte Art patterns, and I gained higher marks in coffee compared to other subjects. I started to realize and assert myself that I am a creative person within these two years!"

This interactive platform has helped Jack to discover his talent- Creativity, which is easily neglected in the traditional education system. Jack might not be able to confirm his career path in the past, but he recognized that he was interested in coffee and cocktail at HKUE, which have led him to become a successful barista today.

Practical Courses Prepared Students to Pursue for Dreams

"The programme includes classes other than coffee and cocktail, such as marketing and finance, which seem to be irrelevant. But today I understand that those lessons are important to my career too." Putting theory into practice is what the teaching staff members of HKUE concern.

"What I have learnt at HKUE enhances my confidence in planning for my future. I want to start my own coffee shop and promote good coffees to the public. The marketing lessons made me understand the importance of promotion. Hence, I am now using different online channels, such as Instagram, Facebook and YouTube, to promote my coffee."

We need to equip ourselves with a diverse range of skills in order to pursue dreams. Jack is already well-equipped, and he is able to grasp any opportunities ahead. Opportunities are always given to those who are well-prepared.

Unrestraint Teaching Environment Helps Enhancing Students' Critical Thinking Ability

"Teachers won't limit our thinking by giving us model answers. They encourage independent thinking. Today, when thinking about how to promote my own coffee shop, I always like to think out of the box too."

"Black Jack" is my nickname. So I want to bring magic to the world of coffee, and customers can enjoy coffee while playing magic at my café. I was amazed by Jack again. He is so different from the immature post 80s and 90s generations that we keep blaming for nowadays. Here, I would like to give my best wishes to Jack and hope that he can soon open his coffee shop and bring "Black Jack" to the Hong Kong's coffee market.