Photo by Tugo Cheng 鄭振揚
(Architecture alumnus)

Circles (Coastal Geometries Series)
(2016 International Discovery of the Year - Grand Prize, International Photographer of the Year Photo Contest)

Forming part of the Seascape series “Coastal Geometries”, the picture narrates the story of fishermen at work as they steer their way through abstract geometries formed by bamboo rods erected for multiple aquaculture purposes along the coast of Fujian, China.
Rhythm in Landscapes

Tugo Cheng 鄭振揚
(BA(ArchStud) 2005; MArch 2008; MSc(ConstProjectMan) 2010; LLM(Arb&DR) 2012)

Tugo Cheng is a professional architect and a fine art photographer. He has received multiple international photography awards including National Geographic Photo Contest, Sony World Photography Awards and International Photographer of the Year. Influenced by his architectural background, he pays special attention to the order and rhythm in landscapes and the visual impact of photography.

With intent to raise awareness for conservation, he has focused on the unique yet volatile landscapes of China in the past decade, and published the book “Discovering China” which covers some of his award-winning pictures. His works have been exhibited in his solo exhibitions and art fairs in Hong Kong and Europe and were featured by major media worldwide. www.tugocheng.com

Farming the Sea
(2016 Sony World Photography Awards – National Award – Hong Kong – Third Place)

On a cloudy and drizzly afternoon, a fisherman rows between grids of bamboo rods planted in the seabed for aquaculture. In the absence of intense sunlight, the picture is flattened to two dimensions with pure lines and shapes, like a minimalist Chinese ink drawing.

Dreamscape
(2015 National Geographic International Photo Contest – Taiwan Region – Nature – First Prize)

This river has carved out a canyon in Tianshan (Heavenly Mountains), exposing the colours and textures of sedimentary rock layers. The picture was captured right after sunset. Without shadows and direct sunlight, the elements appear flat and the image resembles a surreal oil painting.
A Watch for the Blind, and Everyone

Nick Gu 顧力恒 (BA(ArchStud) 2009)

If there is anyone who can demonstrate how the education of an architect extends well beyond architecture, it's Nick Gu, co-founder of Eone Timepieces. Nick graduated with a bachelor’s degree in architecture from HKU and went on to complete a master's degree in architecture at the Harvard Graduate School of Design.

It was during his studies that Nick began thinking about how to design a device that could help the blind tell time. When he began speaking to members of the blind community, though, they told him they didn't want anything that drew special attention to their condition. That's when he hit on the idea that led him to start his own company. Instead of designing a watch for the blind, he would design a fashionable timepiece that could be used by all – hence the company’s name, Eone, which stands for “everyone”.

Using design and technical skills he learned during his architectural studies, Nick created the Bradley, a sleek wristwatch made of solid titanium that runs of a Swiss quartz movement. Two ball bearings indicate time, rather than watch hands – one for minutes, another for hours. The ball bearings are connected by magnets to the watch movement beneath the face of the timepiece. If the ball bearings are knocked out of position when they are touched, the magnets pull them back into place.

To finance his vision, Nick launched a crowdfunding campaign with a goal of US$40,000. He ended up raising nearly $600,000 from 3,861 backers. Named after former US Navy lieutenant Brad Snyder, who was blinded by an explosion in Afghanistan and later became a gold-medal-winning Paralympic athlete, the Bradley Timepiece was launched in 2013. It was collected by the British Museum in 2014 and chosen for a Red Dot Design Award in 2015. Nick now runs Eone Timepieces from Hong Kong.

Text and Photo: http://www.arch.hku.hk/gallery/arch/eone-timepieces
“We save whoever in danger, no matter he or she is a civilian or injured militant.” Jason Yip, once worked in global investment bank, was the only person from Hong Kong who served as a delegate at the forefront of battlefields, such as, Palestine, Afghanistan, Jordan and Syria, for the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in the past five years.

On the battlefield, guns and weapons may be “the solution”, but Jason believes that communications is the ultimate key to peace. “There are many solutions to one problem. So, why not dialogue? The problem will never be solved if only one side responds to the question.” Not only would Jason negotiate with and seek compromise with government officials in the warzone on certain humanitarian issues, he would also play volleyball with civilians, or even militants in his pastimes. “Social skill is important, especially in warzones where you have to build trust with all parties to make things happen.”

Indeed, his humanitarian journey started when he chose to take part in a livelihood development programme in Kenya for an HKU exchange programme, instead of working as an intern in an accounting firm in South Africa. Despite his plan to work at the United Nations, he worked in a global investment bank right after his graduation with a BBA degree. However, Jason finds his work in banking has trained him to be able to work under extreme pressure and to handle emergencies, which has helped him to survive in the warzone.

To work in such a hectic and stressful environment, what would Jason regret the most? “If you ask me five years ago, I would say my regret is joining the ICRC too late. But now, my answer is I regret so much that I didn’t spend much time with my parents. You may find it cliché, but every time I come back from my warzone trip, my mother gets older and older.”

Unlike World Wars I and II, Jason is aware that wars in modern days seem to be never ending. Currently, Jason is the Programme Manager of Government Affairs and Donor Relations Division at ICRC in Geneva. He would like to devote more of his time to raise public awareness and how the public can offer support to those who are working or suffering in the warzones.
生活和工作都處於槍林彈雨之地，在那裏，最大的敵人是什麼？

「自己。」葉維昌幾乎不假思索地答：「首先要面對的是個人的恐懼。當你面對着一臉嚴肅的政府軍人或者連政府都管不到的武裝組織時，那個考驗就是，你有沒有膽量說『你真的做錯了』或者『開槍其實都有規矩』。」（按：根據《日內瓦公約》，非戰鬥人員尤其是人道組織，受到條例保護。）

葉維昌駐守緬甸時，曾經為幾個原本住在山區的在囚人士送信給家人，他們已經七年沒有聯絡。山區沒有網絡，沒有電話，沒有車輛可以到達，要從山路走過去，之後還要乘搭小艇。落船時葉維昌不慎被木板擦傷了，因為物資太重，當時沒有攜帶急救包。三個小時後，他回到總部，發現整條小腿的血管呈紫色，傷口已經受到細菌感染。總部連忙把他送到仰光一間醫院，接受了十四日抗生素治療。

為了一封信，值得嗎？

「當我見到被囚人士家人的第一滴眼淚，我就知道，這一切都是值得的。」

他們急切地問葉維昌，是否親自見過他們的兒子。他給了正面的答覆。葉維昌接着又為他們拍照，準備送給他們在監獄中的親人。

取自 2017.02.10《明周》雜誌、明周文化FB及mpweekly.com
《從投資銀行走向烽火大地：八十後的國際人》

1 Palestine is where Jason was first stationed after joining the ICRC.
2 Jason at Afghanistan in 2014
3 Jason at Myanmar in 2015
4 & 5 Jason took part in an exchange tour to Kenya when he was a Year 2 student. The experience was life-changing for him.
International Business and Global Management graduate Yuxin Hou has a career that truly involves global management and not only that, it challenges the norm. He is the Manager of China Business at The Global Institute For Tomorrow (GIFT), a Hong Kong-based independent think tank, and the Project Manager of “The Other Hundred” – an international photography competition and photobook project that showcases 100 worldwide photo-stories, each moving beyond stereotypes and introducing readers to the vast majority of people and cultures overlooked by the mainstream media.

“The best 100 of this, the top 20 of that... there are so many lists about success and material wealth in the world... why don’t we make our own list that turns the overlooked into another hundred?”

Yuxin and the project team started by first inviting photojournalists from around the globe to submit photo-stories, and later formed a world-class judging panel to select 100 photo-stories that were able to “move beyond the stereotypes and clichés that fill so much of the world’s media to explore the lives of people whose aspirations and achievements are at least as noteworthy as any member of the world’s richest 1,000”. In 2013, “The Other Hundred – 100 Faces, Places and Stories” was published. Subsequently, “The Other Hundred” with the themes “Entrepreneurs” and “Educators”, were published in 2015 and 2017 respectively.

“The Other Hundred” is an initiative of GIFT. Yuxin’s first encounter with GIFT was when he was studying at HKU. “I was lucky enough to receive the sponsorship to participate in the Global Leadership Programme (GLP) organised by GIFT, which mainly targets executives!” Through GLP, Yuxin spent two weeks in India in 2009.
“When on exchange to Paris, I was fortunate to be twice invited to meetings organised by the French Ministers of Culture and Education as a representative of international students in France. I had conversations with the Ministers and was shocked that their impression of China came only from the stereotypical, and often distorted images in the Western media.” Since then, Yuxin has endeavoured to explore and reveal the “true faces” of the world that are excluded from the mainstream media; and that of China to the rest of the world.

The second edition of “The Other Hundred” with the theme of Entrepreneurs captures the reality of small and medium-sized businesses in not-so-developed regions that provide the majority of the world’s jobs. On a trip to Argentina, Yuxin visited a small shop selling handmade leather shoes, which was one of the winning stories in the Entrepreneurs edition. “When I showed the book to the shop owners, they were over the moon! They didn’t expect their story would appear in a book that has global circulation.” Yuxin still wears the pair of shoes he bought from the shop years ago. “They still look pretty.”

The third edition, themed Educators, unveils the contribution of the uncelebrated educators who have pioneered unique ways of teaching and transferring knowledge. “The world is far more diverse and a lot more interesting than what is portrayed on the news and in magazines. Photojournalists support the mission of ‘The Other Hundred’ as many of them have actually been looking for such a platform to express themselves, rather than conforming to the criteria set by the news agencies.”

As one of 11 GIFT staff members, Yuxin has been exposed to various projects that are both economically and socially beneficial in developing countries, including Mainland China, his birthplace. The upcoming project is about scaling up quality food production in Shaanxi amidst shifting social dynamics in China.

Looking back, Yuxin said it was HKU that brought him to this interesting journey. “The IBGM programme is one of the best programmes at HKU. It is designed to have lots of sharing and deep discussions with guest speakers from around the world. All these have helped me develop my vision. I have to thank Professor Patrick Chau, Director of the School of Business and Professor Bennett Yim, Associate Director of Contemporary Marketing Centre, both of whom had the confidence in me and encouraged me to explore the paths less travelled; and Dr Derek Man, Associate Director of BBA programmes, who introduced GIFT’s GLP to me; and everyone who has given me opportunities to explore and experience, and to work with the wonderful people of the world.”
“What’s your first impression of Beijing? The Forbidden City, the Great Wall, Hutong, smog, the capital of China… And, what about inter-governmental organisations?

I took a rather unconventional path when I completed my undergraduate studies. Instead of finding a job with a media agency, I headed to Beijing as a communications intern at the United Nations Development Programme (“UNDP”) China office.

Colleagues at the UNDP China come from diverse backgrounds, and all bring with them a variety of skills, experiences and passions. Our team includes advocates for humanitarianism, gender equality, environmentalism as well as protectors of minority workers. We all come together to work towards the common goals of championing the rights of the poor and disadvantaged in today’s complex world. For instance, a colleague from Yi zu 彝族, an ethnic minority group in Yunan province, has witnessed the traditional prejudices and plight faced by Yi women. She volunteered at UNDP with a mission to improve the livelihoods of this vulnerable community by promoting their traditional embroidery products and, at the same time, driving women’s entrepreneurship and societal inclusion.

As a journalism graduate, I provided communications support and worked on different advocacy campaigns with government agencies, civil society and private sector to build, promote and achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals. I was fortunate to gain hands-on experience, which has led me to have a stronger and holistic understanding of the many opportunities and challenges facing China, e.g. economic development and the growth of civil society, the unprecedented pace of urbanisation and poverty eradication, and China’s role in global development and UN peacekeeping missions.

Daily observations and dialogues with local people also helped me to discover more about the cultural differences whilst discerning some commonalities as well. I was also intrigued by the diversity of the Chinese provinces. For example, people from Northern China are more straight-forward and free-spirited while those from Southern China are more tactful and indirect. Chengdu people are known to be more carefree and Shandong people tend to be more outspoken and hospitable. Comprehending Northern accents and local slang was certainly a learning experience.

I am grateful to have worked with many inquisitive and passionate minds and learned to perceive everything from a broader perspective without prejudice.

To quote from the then UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson: “The future is your vision and the horizon you have for your life, but the future is also the steps you take tomorrow to reach that vision”. The world is out there. Let’s explore and rise to the challenges in the vast array of opportunities.
Flying to a Higher Future

Max Leung 梁博 (BEng(CivE) Year 4)  
Edna Lee 李妍慧 (BA Year 4)

This past summer, Max and Edna were amongst the 80 students from local and overseas tertiary education institutions for six-to-eight-week internships in different departments of the Airport Authority (AA).

Max said he once took a transportation infrastructure engineering course in university which gave him the chance to visit the airport where he learnt about the 3RS project for the first time.

“I know that it’s a difficult project, but when I get an up-close look, its scale and complexity are beyond my imagination,” he said. By participating in several internal and external meetings, Max said the real difficulty lies not in the humongous technical difficulties of the project, but in the seamless communication with the multiple stakeholders involved.

Working in the world of passenger retail

Edna was a perfect fit for the AA’s Retail and Advertising Department where she spent her internship. As an integral part of her role, Edna conducted market research on promotional strategies of local malls such as seasonal and festive offers of customer loyalty programmes to help fine tune the airport’s own promotional activities.

“After gathering all the facts, I needed to compile and present them in a more systematic and persuasive way to help other people formulate strategies and make decisions,” she said.

Edna was particularly excited to have had the chance to talk to the airport’s tenants and customers, probably the two most important stakeholders when it comes to designing marketing initiatives. “My internship experience has made me appreciate the importance of communication and critical thinking in managing customers’ expectations, especially when our customers are from all over the world.”

“The internship at Hong Kong International Airport (HKIA) is really an eye-opening experience,” Max said. Initially, he didn’t expect that the internship would be anything more than filing, data processing or other types of nitty-gritty jobs as many people experienced in other companies. However, the airport is a unique working environment and it turned out to be a pleasant surprise and something that might change his life.

Assigned to the Reclamation Team of the Third Runway Division of AA, he was amazed to have the opportunity to participate in one of the largest infrastructure projects in the history of Hong Kong.

“This could probably be a dream project for any engineer. I am very proud to be a member of the team, and I believe I have a clearer vision of my future,” Max said.

Learning the large-scale airport project ropes

During his time with the AA, Max relished the chance to participate in meetings reviewing the progress and operations of the three-runway system (3RS) project, contingency planning, and typhoon evacuation debriefing sessions with parties including marine consultants and reclamation contractors. He also gained first-hand experience on learning about the safe and proper operation of construction vessels, particularly the Deep Cement Mixing (DCM) barges.
There is an African proverb, “If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.”

Adam Wong, Billy Choi and Argo Yeung began their triathlon adventures less than two years ago. They enjoy every triathlon race, not because they want to beat their competitors but because, as a team, they get to push their limits even further than they can alone. “There is no win or lose doing a triathlon; together we complete it or we don’t,” said Adam.

While Argo and Adam met when they were at secondary school together, Billy knows Adam from their time at HKU. Their brotherhood strengthened during a month-long trip to Tibet before the Qinghai-Tibet Railway was built. “We still joke about our overnight experience on the basic bus to Tibet from Qinghai. It seemed the guy sleeping next to us had never taken a shower in his life. We felt like we couldn’t breathe and we used up the oxygen pillows we had with us originally bought for altitude sickness.” Billy recalled.

Noticing his suits were getting tighter, Adam knew he wanted to take up exercise and chose to do the triathlon as the training requires greater discipline than other sports. A few months after starting triathlon training he persuaded Billy and Argo to join him and train to be triathletes too.

Triathlon involves swimming, cycling and running in immediate succession over various distances: Junior Triathlon, Sprint Distance, Olympic Distance, Long Course and Ironman, ranging from 100m to 3.8 km for the swimming section, 4km to 180km for the cycling section and 0.8km to 42.195km for the running section (more details here).

Working to a disciplined training schedule means Adam, Billy and Argo wake up at 5.30am during weekdays, do triathlon training for 45 minutes, and Adam is then ready to check the news at 7:00am for his work. At weekends, they manage fit in two to three hours of training. “Every day, we share our training records with each other via an app. There’s nowhere to hide,” said Billy, who was a lacrosse player while resident at Ricci Hall. By participating in the triathlon journey together, they have found their individual drive to keep up with their daily training is strengthened.

The Triathlon Trio

Adam Wong 黃子賢
(BEcon&Fin 2006)

Billy Choi 蔡英泰
(BEcon&Fin 2005)

Argo Yeung 楊文友
(MSc(EnvMan) 2015)
Although Argo, the newest triathlete of the three, remarked that in the past he “was just a guy who ran a few times a month” and “only knew how to swim breaststroke”, after daily training for almost a year he has become addicted to the adrenaline rush the triathlon brings. He, Adam and Billy completed a triathlon race in Taiwan in March 2017. “During the swimming section, I was so behind that my results had me in the bottom 10%. But I kept going and I made it to be in the top 20% in the final triathlon results!”

Anything can happen during training and the actual triathlon. Billy tumbled down a slope during cycling training. “I yelled for help and luckily caught the attention of the coach who was the last to pass by.” Adam was accidentally punched by another swimmer and lost a contact lens during the swimming component of a triathlon: “I lost my direction in the open water because of my blurred vision.” Water got into Argo’s goggles during one swim, which he had to try to clear, “It’s just so difficult to take a break out there.”

Despite all the possible yet unforeseeable risks involved, the triathlon still fascinates the trio as they get to experience how it pushes them to their physical limits while simultaneously strengthening their brotherhood. Billy has even done his swimming and cycling training with an injury, and when he raced in the Taipei Marathon last December, the pain in his leg caused him to lag behind. “But you know what? These two guys just slowed their pace down and waited for me so that we could cross the finishing line TOGETHER.”

Along with the triathlon training has come a changed mindset and the triathlon trio believe they are capable of so much more than they once thought they were. They feel others could benefit from the training too. “You might discover you are stronger than you thought after meeting incredible challenges,” Argo and Billy explained.

Adam echoed that the triathlon encourages them to eat a healthier diet, opting for more natural foods and less meat and less alcohol, even though his work often requires him to dine out with clients. “We are just more disciplined, determined, and efficient, with unlimited stamina.”

### 50 Things You Need on Race Day

**Swim Kit**
- Cap
- Goggles
- Spare goggles
- Wetsuit
- Tri-suit
- Skin lubricant
- Pre-race energy gel or drink
- Old flip flops / shoes if cold
- Waterproof suntan lotion
- GPS watch

**Bike Kit**
- Race number belt
- Bike (including both wheels)
- Transition bag
- Track pump
- Spare inner tubes
- Tyre levers
- Allen keys
- Mini pump or CO2 quick-fills
- Energy drink powder
- Water bottles
- Energy gels / chews
- Cycling shoes
- Gloves
- Cycle computer
- Heart rate monitor chest strap
- Helmet
- Glasses
- Salt tablets

**Run Kit**
- Running shoes
- Socks
- Cap / visor
- Glasses
- Lubricant
- Energy gels

**Pre-race Kit**
- Directions / maps
- Race envelope / details
- Photo ID

**Post-race Kit**
- Dry clothes
- Towel
- Shower gel
- Money & phone
- Suntan lotion

**Miscellaneous**
- Prescription medication
- Toilet roll
- Ear plugs (for sleeping)
- Eye mask (for sleeping)
- Your favourite pillow
- Phone charger
- Spare food and drink for after
Cycling unites Riccians

By Raymond Chow 周學文 (Riccian; BSocSc 1987)

“When Riccians get together, we always dare ourselves to do as much as we are able.”

Nineteen Riccians, mostly in their 50s, reached the summit of Mount Hehuan – Wuling at 3,275 metres (10,745 feet) on bicycles. Mount Hehuan is Taiwan’s tallest mountain that is accessible by road, and Wuling is generally heralded as the hallmark of cycling, the “Mecca” of cyclists.

On May 1, they started before dawn and finished this 55km-long, 2800m-elevation climb in central Taiwan in nine hours. Some of the gradients exceeded 10% toward the summit. The fastest Riccian, Hong Chung-yin 康仲賢 (BEng(EEE) 1996), reached the top within five hours. These 19 amateur cyclists, graduates from the 80s and 90s, sang the hall anthem “Ricci Cheer” at the top, after overcoming cramps, fatigue and the thin air. The emotion felt upon completing this mountain climb was clearly written on the face of every rider. “It was as much a mind game as a physical challenge,” said Chan Hoi-to 陳海濤 (BDS 1989), leader of the group. “When Riccians get together, we always dare ourselves to do as much as we are able.”

This group of Riccians won many championships when they competed for the Malayan Cup during their university days. Even after graduation, this winning mindset continues in their work and family lives.

Simon Fung馮偉賢 (BA 1987; MBuddhStud 2007), an award-winning advertising expert, said, “It’s amazing that this bond has lasted 30-odd years and counting. It is a treasure to all of us.” Another accomplished Riccian, dentist Francis Chan 陳和芝 (BDS 1988; PDipDS 1995; MSc(ImplantDent) 2009) said, “Our brotherhood is not just a social connection. It is trust and support that unites us together.”

In addition to cycling, Riccians play football, softball, hockey and other sports together. For Simon, Hoi-to, Francis, and all other Riccians, the Ricci spirit is all that matters.
From a Cheerer to a Full Marathoner

Miranda Wong 黃好儀 (BSocSc 2004)

The Full Marathon medal is just beautiful, as beautiful as the persistence, perseverance, patience and passion behind. No words can better describe the excitement of reaching the “signature” turning point at Tsing Ma Bridge, the 21.1Km point at Ting Kau Bridge and passing all the milestones after 32Km, 41Km…and finally reaching the finish line at Victoria Park.

Inspired by the slogan “HKUnited We Run”, Miranda joined the HKU Marathon Team, which she would like to “do something” for the HKU family. “My first encounter with marathon was cheering for the HKU Marathon Team when it was formed in 2006. Together with other HKU cheering members. I cheered for HKUers at the starting point on Nathan Road at 4am. Though I was not a runner, I shared their excitement, sweat and tears, and the pride of being an HKU member,” said Miranda.

A year later, Miranda took the plunge and registered for 10Km race. She kept achieving her “personal best” in the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon in the following three consecutive years (an individual’s best performance in a given sporting discipline). Next, she beat the “10Km bottleneck” by turning herself into a Half Marathoner. “Unlike the 10km race, Half Marathon is the starting point of long-distance running that requires not only passion but also discipline, intensive training and strategies.” “As I used to be a cheering team member, I understand how cheering can “ignite the engine” of the runners while they are burnt out.” Miranda stayed behind and joined the HKU cheerers after she had finished her race.

What motivates Miranda to keep on running is not to impress or to compete with others. “There’s nothing more rewarding than accomplishing the goals that I have set for myself,” said Miranda. The “can-do” spirit further drives Miranda to join the Full Marathon (42.195Km) in 2017.

“I can’t thank Pauline more. When I was shivered down my spine and encountered difficulties during my Full Marathon training, Pauline always reminded me that the most important thing is to perform my best and run to the finishing point.” Pauline Tse 謝麗僑 (MSc(ECom&IComp) 2002) who is an award-winning marathon runner and one of the founders of the HKU Marathon Team.

“Completing a marathon is a combination of individual accomplishment and familial support. Without HKU, I would not have been able to be a marathon runner.”
Trek into Oasis

Teddy Law 罗荣辉 (MSc(EnvMan) 2008)

“Hong Kong is such a beautiful place with hundreds of hiking routes, from easy walks and difficult climbs, all give you pleasure when you wander in this concrete city.” Master of Science in Environmental Management alumnus Teddy Law, founder of the hiking website Oasistrek 綠洲 and writer of the publication《咫尺山林：香港郊野的思緒漫遊》said Hong Kong is not as “concrete” as we think, and it is no less beautiful than other travel regions and countries popular among Hong Kong people.

Teddy established the website Oasistrek in 2004 with the aim of creating the best hiking website in Hong Kong. However, after witnessing how people interact with nature, such as leaving rubbish strewn about the countryside, picking flowers and plants, and even catching butterflies, Teddy now wants the website to be a platform for environmental protection.

“I want the website to serve as a starting point for visitors to rethink the relationship between individuals and nature, as well as that between urban development and environmental conservation.” Apart from offering detailed information of hiking routes and special botanical features, the Oasistrek website offers articles of Teddy’s personal thoughts, some of which towards misbehaviours of people who go on hiking, which hope to provoke readers’ thinking on the attitude towards our nature. In a recent article,

Teddy expressed his frustration with the graffiti on the rocks and mountains along hiking routes.

During his studies, Teddy conducted a research study on the impact of different hiking trail surfaces, with particular focus on natural trails covered with concrete. “This was in fact one of the reasons I first established Oasistrek. The experiences I had conducting the project and the guidance from my then supervisors laid the foundation for me to further protect the natural trails in future.”

Having accumulated over three million pageviews on the Oasistrek website, Teddy took the next step to deepen his involvement in environment protection. He quit his full-time government job and published a book on his hiking journey, along with his thoughts and advice, hoping to inspire more people to fall in love with hiking and nature, and become involved in environmental protection.
Mysterious “lovers”

Ray So 蘇樂軒 (BSc 2011)

“I just love them because they are beautiful yet mysterious. Most of them are active only at night.” Ray’s eyes sparkle whenever he talks about his passion – amphibians and reptiles.

Although he has been interested in animals in general since childhood, Ray’s love affair with amphibians and reptiles began while studying at HKU. “My Ecology & Biodiversity major introduced me to the colourful world of nature and wildlife. In particular, my supervisor Dr Nancy Karraker, Assistant Professor of Environmental Science, a passionate frog researcher, taught me a lot about the ecology of amphibians and reptiles, and how to study and conserve them.”

As most of his favourite creatures are active at night, Ray finds it fascinating whenever he walks into the darkness of night to look for them. “Once I was assisting a postgraduate student who was doing radio-tracking of snakes in the field. We knew there was at least one snake in the field, but we could only locate a radio-transmitter with snake droppings beside it. When we were thinking what we should do next, we realised that the snake was eaten by another snake with the transmitter passing through its gut unharmed!”

For eight years, Ray has been out in the field exploring all across Hong Kong to capture and record different creatures by camera. So far, around 100 species have been collected and details on most of them were published in a book 《香港兩棲爬行類眾生相》 in 2015. “I hope the book manages to portray Hong Kong as not only a financial hub, but also as a good habitat for various interesting amphibians and reptiles. I will keep looking for more species of amphibians and reptiles in the field, even outside Hong Kong, and will organise excursions to the wild so people can get to appreciate not just fluffy birds and elegant butterflies, but also frogs with their moist skins and turtles with their hard shells.”
“In 1970, I was head-hunted and appointed by Professor Brian Lofts to be an Assistant Lecturer at the University of Hong Kong, with the stated task of commencing the teaching of marine biology here. And, before I knew it, I had students, I was in love with the place, the people and the University.”

Professor Brian Morton is a world-renowned scholar specialising in marine biology, marine ecology and malacology. He spent almost 34 years working at HKU, virtually his entire academic career, retiring in 2003 as Emeritus Professor of Marine Ecology in the School of Biological Sciences. He was the Founding Director of the Swire Institute of Marine Science (SWIMS) of HKU.

Professor Morton carried out pioneering investigations that revealed the life history and ecology of Hong Kong’s local marine fauna and flora, and published extensively on the marine biology and ecology of Hong Kong, Mainland China, the Azores and the Gulf of Mexico. His well-known book, “The Sea Shore Ecology of Hong Kong”, is a must-read for those who would like to learn more about Hong Kong’s local marine organisms and their ecology in different coastal habitats.

During his tenure at HKU, Professor Morton supervised 39 PhD candidates, 23 MPhil students, and 14 MSc students in the field of marine ecology and biodiversity conservation; many of them now are distinguished scholars and researchers, including the current Director of Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department, Dr Leung Siu-fai (BSc 1986; PhD 1992), the current Director of the Simon F.S. Li Marine Science Laboratory of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Professor Joe Lee (BSc 1982; MPhil 1985; PhD 1989), and the former Director of School of Biological Sciences of HKU, Professor Rudolf Wu (BSc(Sp) 1972; MPhil 1974). He also first proposed and was instrumental in helping to establish marine conservation in Hong Kong, including the creation of various Sites of Special Scientific Interest, Mai Po Nature Reserve, the Cape d’ Aguilar Marine Reserve and Hoi Ha Marine Life Centre, as well as The Swire Marine Laboratory opened in 1990 and renamed to SWIMS in 1994.
In 1997, Professor Morton was made a Knight (Ridder) in the Most Excellent Order of the Golden Ark (The Netherlands) for contributions to environmental education; in 1999 awarded an Order of the British Empire (OBE) for contributing to marine ecology in southern China and in 2004, the sole recipient of the Duke of Edinburgh Conservation Gold Medal. He was awarded Honorary Life Memberships of the Malacological Society of London in 1992, the Pacific Science Association in 1993 and the Marine Biological Association of Hong Kong in 2002 for his contributions to Malacology, Pacific Marine Science and Marine Biology in Hong Kong, respectively, and in 1989 elected to the Global 500 Roll of Honour by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

“...I have been very lucky to be a grand-student of Professor Morton (as I was an MPhil student of Professor Rudolf Wu) and his colleague at HKU a year before his retirement. He has been my inspiring role model in pursuing science with great passion in marine conservation. He is one of the most hard-working and productive professors I have ever met. He taught me his golden rule of becoming a successful scientist, he said, ‘A good scientist shall write up his research at least two pages per day (or draw a scientific diagram daily)’. He continues this practice even after retirement.

I really enjoy reading his autobiography, from which I learn a lot of his untold stories, including his real family name (via his genealogy) and his first love as well as the colourful journey of his life before retirement. May I wish him good health and more blessings to come. I look forward to seeing him at HKU or his house in Littlehampton in the UK again in the near future.”

Professor Kenneth Leung
The Swire Institute of Marine Science
School of Biological Sciences