

WOLLONGONG!

THE DAY THAT CREATED A NEW CHAPTER FOR CCCU

Being the Master of Ceremony and the eyewitness of the momentous event

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Won't you feel touched and amazed when you witnessed the change in history of your own school? I was blissfully given the opportunity to be one of two students who shared the duties of Masters of Ceremony for the Wollongong! event on November 18th, 2017, and witnessed the historical moment of our school, the Community College of City University, changing its logo and status to become part of the University of Wollongong Australia network. Making the event even more memorable and enjoyable for all, the Community College of City University (CCCU), now also recognized as the UOW College Hong Kong (UOWCHK), filled its Kowloon Bay Telford Annex Campus with an array of booths, talks and performances to celebrate this big day, pouring joy and laughter in every corner of the campus.

Having to speak to a large audience, it was no surprise that my partner Daniel and I wanted to be exactly right in every decision when composing our scripts, to ensure that we would not embarrass either the performers or ourselves. There were times that we could not agree but through compromise and negotiations, they were resolved. The ability to get our hands dirty with meetings and discussions has shaped me into being open to ideas from multiple perspectives and recognized the value of teamwork.

To be frank, even though the whole experience did give me a rush of adrenaline, never had I been so frightened, my mind went totally blank once I am on stage, and a handful of mistakes were made in the beginning. But thanks to the support from teachers and classmates and, of course, the cooperation of my partner, I slowly got into the rhythm and became more confident. Although the journey to get out of my comfort zone and overcome my stage fright was not easy, I just knew it was worth it.

After having the experience of being an emcee for the first time, not to mention in such a big event, I finally understood the adage of “Never mock a pain you have never endured or judge a situation you have never been in”. Throughout the whole process, I realized that being emcee was not as easy as I thought. I finally understand that hosting an event is not only about making announcements and introducing performers, but also about engaging with the audience and keeping the event agenda flow smoothly. Above all it’s about both responsiveness and getting well-prepared beforehand. With the help from our teacher and my partner, along with their tolerance of my mistakes, we successfully ran the whole event, and were on the receiving end of thunderous applause. Taking up this role gave me the invaluable opportunity to understand the importance of planning, the need to assume the unpredicted, and to have backup plans to provide for all contingencies with possible remedies.

It was my honour that I was given the opportunity to take part in the Wollongong! event on November 18th, 2017, which allowed me to unleash my ability and to learn beyond the classroom. Most importantly, through joining these events and trying out some more down-to-earth practices offered by my programme, Associate of Arts in Communication and Public Relations, I get to make good use of the skills and concepts I learned in class and make my endeavor performing in these events.