

The Most Outstanding PolyU Student 2018 Outstanding Student, School of Design 2018

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It is a great honour to receive the Most Outstanding PolyU Student Award this year. I want to thank PolyU, School of Design and everyone who has been part of my fruitful learning journey, and my family and friends who shaped me into who I am today.

It is such a blessing to have the valuable opportunity to study at PolyU. Throughout the years, I am much inspired by our alma mater and my mentors that we should apply our knowledge to contribute to our society. I hope all PolyU student can carry the spirit of PolyU with them and make positive social impact on the society after graduation.

Although I have always been dreaming about making the world a better place, there is still much for me to learn before I can realise this dream. However, I believe my years at PolyU have equipped me to become a realistic dreamer and I would like to take this opportunity to share with you what I have learnt.

The experience of launching initiatives during my university life has taught me to never give up. During the development process, I faced many challenges and failures. Say for example, together with my schoolmates, we started a student group called School of Design Open Ideas (SDOI) during my freshmen year. SDOI aimed at creating a platform for cross-disciplinary collaboration on social innovation projects. The group have created projects like Make4All, a project which was about promoting a sharing economy through community upcycling production. SDOI attracted attention from many students and rapidly snowballed into a group sized at a total of 90+ members at peak. Interpersonal conflicts somehow emerged, and I had to make a hard decision to leave this initiative which I saw as my brainchild. However, I have never given up on starting up a new initiative after the obstacles I faced. I tried to apply what I have learnt from the lesson and started my second initiative called Deep Food. Deep Food is a food design team that works on experimental narrative food experience aiming at promoting and exploring an Asian cultural identity. I am very thankful that my teachers and peers are very supportive of this new project and this has become my motivation for keep moving forward and never give up.

Regardless of success or failure, the experience I had from carrying out my initiatives and the consistent encouragements from tutors have inspired me to create social impact for our future. SDOI's Make4All project later intergrated into a service-learning project as a STEAM education programme at Catholic Ming Yuen Secondary School, of which we impacted more than 60 secondary students.





As one of the first batch of The D. H. Chen Foundation Scholars, I am much inspired by the service opportunities provided by the Foundation. The exclusive opportunity to participate in a strategic consulting project for NGOs like School of Everyday Life allowed me to apply my skills in social service. I feel grateful that through the experience of working with NGOs, I got a better picture on what I can do to serve our community and make positive impact in the future.

During my four years of studies, I also had many opportunities to push myself out of my comfort zone, and that broadened my horizon exceeding the domain of design and kept myself to be open-minded. In my penultimate year, I participated in the Economics Summer Programme at Girton College of the University of Cambridge. During the summer exchange, I was the very few students who have no prior academic knowledge of economics and the only design student in class. I was fortunate to meet a group of classmates who were very supportive and friendly; they helped me out during my struggle in catching up in the class. The experience has thrown me out of my comfort zone as a design student and extended my interest from design to humanity.

Looking back the four years in PolyU, it has been an incredible experience. I am so blessed to have learned and grown with my peers. I hope I can become an individual whom my teachers and family will be proud of. Moreover, I hope the same for every PolyU schoolmates.

