CityU has environmental protection in the bag

“Do you need a plastic bag?” You may often be asked this question when paying the shopping bill these days. It may sound like an innocuous question but it serves to remind us to seriously consider whether we really need to use plastic bags.

According to statistics, we use as many as 1,700 plastic bags per person each year. More than 1,000 metric tonnes of plastic bags are dumped in landfill sites every day. This highlights the serious issue of plastic bags and the damage it causes to the environment. Plastic bags are by products of petroleum and are not biodegradable, even after hundreds of years. If processed inappropriately, plastic bags can even release chemicals that may cause air pollution or cancer.

Answering the call for greater environment responsibility, the University has joined hands with Greeners Action (formerly known as Green Students Association), a charitable organisation focusing on environmental issues in Hong Kong. Together they host the “Weekly No Plastic Bag Day” campaign every Tuesday, running from 15 January to 13 May.

Stores on campus will discourage use of plastic bags on these days. The participating outlets include Student Canteen, City Chinese Restaurant, City Top, Garden Cafe, the Coffee Car, Homey Kitchen in the Student Residence Hall, the Book Shop and SU Cut Price Shop. Such action is aimed at encouraging all students and staff to bring their own shopping bags. If plastic bags are needed, they can make a donation of 50 cents for each bag. All donations will go to Greeners Action to be used for environmental education.

Dr Ellen Ko Law Yin-lun, Vice-President (Administration) is responsible for coordinating the campaign. “We hope this activity can help everyone on campus look seriously into the issue of misuse of plastic bags. And gradually, we can develop the habit of carrying our own shopping bags and use fewer plastic bags for a better environment,” she says, adding that the campaign has received a very positive response.

In addition, some restaurants have begun offering incentives to customers bringing their own lunch boxes for take-away food. Garden Cafe and the Coffee Car, for example, reimburse 50 cents to customers if they bring their own cups for buying drinks. You may check with individual restaurants for their promotional offers.

Besides holding “No Plastic Bag” days, the University also encourages staff to support the recycling campaign. At many locations on campus and in the Student Residence Halls, recycling boxes have been set up to collect reusable items such as paper, aluminium cans and plastic bottles. To further promote the recycling culture, there are also boxes to collect Styrofoam, plastic materials, rechargeable batteries, CDs and printer cartridges.

Let us today start making an effort to support these activities and contribute to environmental protection.

By Ellen Chan

Use fewer plastic bags and bring your own lunch boxes for take-away food.
Finance and economics are hot topics nowadays, but Dr Charles Leung Kay-yol, Associate Professor at the Department of Economics and Finance, only became interested in this discipline when he changed his major from Mathematics to Economics in his second year of undergraduate study. After graduating from the University of Rochester in 1996, he returned to Hong Kong and embarked upon his teaching career.

The over-heated property market in Hong Kong at the time of his return stimulated his interest in the relationship between macro economics and the real estate market. “Even though my salary was higher than the average income, I still couldn’t save enough money for a down payment on a flat,” he said. Then he witnessed the sharp plunge in property prices in Hong Kong, which further fuelled his interest in the study of real estate.

Through participation in international conferences and studying books related to real estate, Dr Leung has gained a deep insight into economics. His interest is now focused on the mortgage market and currency policies, and the relationship between the property market, currency policies and macro economics.

Joining CityU in 2006, Dr Leung teaches property economics. He says he very much enjoys the work and study environment of the Department of Economics and Finance at CityU, and the friendly atmosphere among colleagues.

In addition to academic studies, Dr Leung is also interested in practical housing issues and has published many articles on “the wall effect” that concerns many Hong Kong people. He points out that views and airflow are public assets, which have only been abused by the lack of appropriate policies and measures. The problem, he says, stems not from the height of high-rises but their design. A simple solution is to preserve an air passage between buildings, allowing people to enjoy the breeze while maximising the use of space.

Of professional interest, Dr Leung will study in detail property development in any city he visits on his travels. An example of urban development is listening sound heritage preservation principles that impresses him is Chengdu of Sichuan Province. Another model city is Tokyo. Although densely populated, Tokyo surpasses other cities in its city planning, transport infrastructure and hygiene management, he says.

Dr Leung has a very busy work schedule but is sure to set aside some time to enjoy walking and his wife. As an academic studying economics, I can easily get myself thinking about how to solve the problems when watching a film about social issues. Therefore, I like watching science fiction films so I can really find some relief in an imaginary world,” he says.

By York Law
連繫校友的橋樑
Forging ties with alumni

馬拉松
Marathon

榮獲認可
Accreditation

城大校友會於1996年成立，以建立與維護現任及退任校友的關係為宗旨。校友會每年舉辦數十場活動，包括新生入學迎新會、校友返校日、校友聚會、校友論壇、校園導覽、體育活動等，為校友們提供了互動交流的平臺。校友們可以通過這些活動重溫在校時的美好時光，建立深厚的友情和紐帶。校友會也積極推廣城大的學術成就和建設，為校友們提供現有的資源和支援，幫助他們在各自的職業和個人生活中取得成功。校友會還與學校的其他組織保持密切的溝通和合作，共同為城大的發展貢獻力量。
Sensory sensations welcome Year of the Rat

A group of famous American performers used to be known as the rat pack. With the much-anticipated return of karaoke, the Year of the Rat New Year Party for University staff may have started a Hong Kong-style rat pack revival.

The vocal element was a welcome addition to the usual sensory delights at this year’s celebration, held on 15 February. Staff could enjoy a generous buffet lunch, complete with lion dance and WuShu performance. They could also visit Chinese arts and crafts stalls lining the University Circle and try to solve the traditional riddles.

The celebration then moved to the Chan Tak Ho Multi-purpose Hall, kicked off by an extravagant and rousing show by the lion dance troupe to bring good luck and prosperity to the University.

Professor Richard Ho Yan-ki, Acting President, wished colleagues good health and happiness in the new year. He hoped that while the quality of the students was improving, staff would give more quality time to students as well as their families, and care for those in need in the community.

Prosperity and good luck certainly came the way of the numerous winners of the lucky draws, as well as the recipients of the red packets that were distributed. The lucky draw grand award went to Ms Eva Kwan Chun-ching, Supervisory Officer of the Human Resources Office, who was the master of ceremonies of the event.

An excited Ms Kwan said she had been the master of ceremonies for six years, and this was the first time she received a prize, adding that it could be her daughter who brought her the luck.

Winning a lucky draw only added to the joy of the celebration, which was felt by all. As Ms Chan Wai-fan, Clinical Officer of the Department of Applied Social Studies, said, “These activities help foster a closer relationship among colleagues.”

By Craig Francis, Karen Cheng

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