New Student Orientation 2015: A Brand New Start

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Aug. 28, 2015

26 August 2015 witnessed another batch of new students coming into the gate of CityU School of Law. The first-year LLB and JD students attended the orientation sessions during the daytime, while the LLM, LLMArbDR, and JSD new students joined the evening session.

At the beginning of the Law School Welcoming Ceremony held in the morning, Professor Geraint Howells, Dean of the Law School, greeted all the budding future lawyers. Looking back to his days as a freshman, Professor Howells recalled how legal education had transformed his life. He welcomed the new students to join our “dynamic, exciting, and caring legal community” and then introduced the School’s enthusiasm in law education and research, the global projects (G-LEAP and dual programmes), the legal placement programme as well as the mooting achievements. “Make lasting friendships. Develop your skills, soft networking skills included. Keep your options open. Broaden your horizon. Enjoy your study, and reflect on your own values.” Professor Howells made his sensible suggestions. He hoped the students could use the law for the good of humanity and benefit those who acquire their skills.

After Dean’s introduction of the programme leaders and administrative staff, the programme leaders also shared their thoughts with the new students. Professor Alexander Loke, the Programme Leader of the LLB programme, encouraged the new comers to know the law (not just know “about” the law), to go beyond the grades, and to make friends. The JD Programme Leader and Associate Programme Leader, Dr Charles Qu and Dr Eugene Lim summarized the programme’s features and advised the new JD candidates to have a clear sense of direction in their studies. Then followed Ms Alisa Kwan, the LLB Associate Programme Leader, who wished
the students get all the nice things from law. The Acting Programme Leader of the PCLL programme Mr Peter Chan encouraged the new students to study hard; he also looked forward to seeing all the faces in his PCLL classes (which is very competitive) in the years to come!

The afternoon session started with the humourous demonstration about international mooting and advocacy by the Director of Mooting Dr Mark Kielsgard together with alumni Brian and Andrew. Dr Kielsgard pointed out that mooting was the best training for both solicitors and barristers alike. Brian and Andrew shared their experiences of earning mooting championships for CityU Law School.

Mr Tim Birkett and Ms Sara Tsui gave brief introductions of the services of the university’s English Learning Centre and the Professional Career Services of School of Law (PCSSL) respectively.

The School invited Ms Bonita Chan to do an alumni sharing with her fellow school mates. Ms Chan is the Chairlady of the Alumni Association of CityU School of Law. She reminded the students to make efforts on certain courses ranging from Legal Methods to Contract Law and balance work and play. “You’ll be good law students, uphold the rule of law, and contribute to the society.”

The orientation for the LLM, LLMArbDR and JSD students was held in the evening. The Dean, Professor Geraint Howells elaborated the history of the programmes, the success of the LLM for Chinese Judges programme, as well as our collaboration with the University of Vienna and University Paris 1. LLM Programme Leader Dr Ding Chunyan, Associate Programme Leader Dr Xing Lijuan illustrated the features, resources, facilities, and student activities of the programme. The faculty also gave a brief overview of the LLM Maritime and Transportation Law Stream afterwards.

During the orientations, the students actively participated in the Q&A and chit-chat sessions with the faculty and alumni. They gained insights that would be of value for them to navigate the unfolding new page of their lives.