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WAH YAN COLLEGE HONG KONG
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28th August 2013

Announcement of Principal Appointment to the School Community of WYHK

On behalf of the Jesuit Education Board and the School Management Committee of Wah Yan College, Hong Kong, I have the immense pleasure to announce to the members of our school community the appointment of **Dr. Ying-lun So (蘇英麟博士)** to the office of Principal succeeding Mr. George Tam with EDB's approval.

Dr. So is an alumnus of our school, a graduate of the 1977 cohort. He was also a teacher of our school from 1982-1988 and 1994-1995. Dr. So received his BSocSc, CertEd, AdvDipEd as well as PhD from The University of Hong Kong and his MBA from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He is also a member of the American Institute of CPAs and the Hong Kong Institute of CPAs. His current appointments are Deputy Director and Principal Lecturer of Hong Kong Community College (HKCC), The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU). He also heads the Division of Business of HKCC. Besides being one of ours, Dr. So is also a well recognized outstanding educator and administrator. To make allowance for smooth transition in his current positions, Dr. So will report to duty on 18th October 2013. Until then, Mr. Martin Ho will be our Acting Principal.

We are most grateful for Dr. So's generous acceptance to serve as the Principal of our school, his alma mater. We look forward to working with Dr. So to bring Wah Yan College, Hong Kong to the next level of excellence with the vision of Jesuit education. Please find from the attached a brief self-introduction of Dr. So.

Stephen Chow, S.J.

Fr. Stephen Chow, S.J.
Supervisor and Chairman of the School Management Committee

Self-Introduction by Dr Ying-lun SO

If I were asked to name an event that has the most profound impact on my life, it would be my admission to WYHK in 1972. My family was living in a housing estate in Tsz Wan Shan and my father was critically ill. The news of my admission lifted his spirits. Though he passed away in that autumn, I am sure that he was not too worried about me, knowing that I would be in the good hands of Jesuit Fathers and teachers of WYHK (in addition to my loving brothers and sisters).

He was right not to worry. The Fathers and teachers not only opened me up to the wonders of a wide range of human knowledge through what they taught. They also shaped my character through who they were: dedicated, wise, liberal, imaginative, compassionate, balanced, thorough, reflective, and humorous. “Ten years from now, what people care about is not your exam grades, but the kind of person you are,” Fr Barrett reminded me and fellow graduates of 1977 during our graduation dinner. I felt so inspired by what he said that I have shared it with over 10,000 freshmen of the Hong Kong Community College of PolyU in the past ten years during their orientations. I was not trying to tell students that their studies were not important (because they were). Rather, I wanted them to see their academic achievements as part of a bigger picture – that of development of the whole person – which is fundamental and long lasting.

I was an active student at WYHK. Besides being a student councilor, prefect, librarian, school choir and English debating team member, I also chaired the Science Society and participated in activities organized by the Bridge Club, Cine Club and History Club. I liked playing football (I especially liked the teamwork involved) but I was not good at it: I was only qualified to play in the irregular shape “small football court” (“細場”)! The rich campus life was memorable and educational, and many schoolmates who went through this experience with me have become my friends for life.

After graduating from university in 1982, I had the good fortune of being offered a post to teach Economics and Mathematics in WYHK for six years. Those were happy days and I particularly enjoyed being a Form Master (F.2, F.6). However, I had the feeling that I had not seen the “real” world – the world that our students would eventually enter after their graduation. I left WYHK in 1988 and worked in the business sector, first in publishing and later in professional financial services. (In between, I returned to WYHK and taught for one more year in 1994/95.) The experience in the business sector enabled me to look at education from a different angle which highlights aspects such as professionalism, practical problem solving skills, teamwork with associates having diverse backgrounds and interests, and competition in an ever changing market environment. This experience led me to ponder on how we could equip our students to survive, contribute and excel in such a competitive environment on the one hand AND not to “lose themselves” while being immersed in the daily “struggles” on the other.

After working in the business sector for about ten years, I joined PolyU when it launched its first self-financed sub-degree programme and its community college (HKCC) in

2001/02. I was put in charge of Learning and Teaching (from 2002 to 2006) and Student Development (since 2003). I also led the Division of Business since its establishment in 2006. Through collaboration of a team of dedicated colleagues, HKCC grew from a college offering just one programme for 240 students in 2001 into a key player in the tertiary sector with two campuses, offering 35 programmes for about 8,000 students in 2013. Articulation rate averaged nearly 80% over the years. It was a very satisfying experience to witness the transformation both of the college and of the students whose futures we helped advance.

Forty-one years have passed since I first set foot on Mount Parish and I am deeply grateful and honoured to be able to return and serve WYHK again. This is not just a chance for me to repay a tiny portion of the huge debt I owe my *alma mater*. It is also an opportunity for me to work hand in hand with colleagues, students, parents and alumni to help further the vision of Jesuit Education, a vision that has worked miracles to the lives of many among whom I am one.



YL SO

28th August, 2013