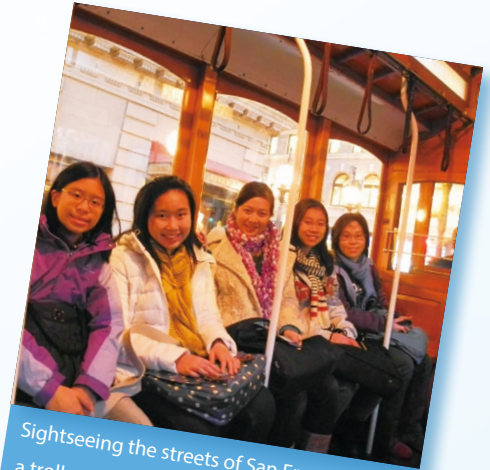


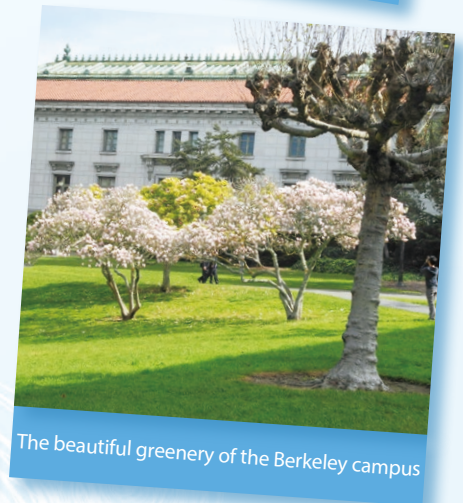
It's a Small World: The UC Berkeley Model United Nations Conference



Outside the Sather Gate, UC Berkeley



Sightseeing the streets of San Francisco on a trolley



The beautiful greenery of the Berkeley campus

Overseas visits form part of the DGS education for many. Exposure to foreign culture and views enable girls to interact with their peers from diverse backgrounds. In turn, girls are able to forge connections and ties and so develop their skills of diplomacy and independence. It also helps them form a well-balanced view of the global world. To this end, girls who participate in the MUN were particularly elated to learn that this year's overseas MUN conference would be held at the University of California, Berkeley. It is likely the most large-scale MUN conference that DGS delegates have ever had the honour of attending, for it involved some 1800 students from high schools across the United States and all over the world.

Alongside the DGS delegation were overseas delegates from Pakistan, Turkey and Guatemala. Accompanied by their MUN teacher-in-charge Miss Vivian Tang, eight DGS delegates caught the flight to San Francisco and arrived in time for the Conference held from 8th to 10th March 2013. DGS delegates represented Georgia on topical issues such as infanticide and the digital divide. Because of the huge number of delegates, there were no less than 21 councils in total,

ranging from a historical crisis cabinet that dealt with the Boxers' Uprising in China in 1900 to the modern day Asia Pacific Economic Conference (APEC) where Hong Kong was granted representation. The biggest council of the conference, the Social, Cultural and Humanitarian Council (SOCHUM) proved particularly impressive with over 320 delegates representing 160 countries. Despite its large size, delegates were able to present their ideas productively. It was particularly humbling to note the sincerity displayed by delegates as they listened to each other's opinions on various issues. Equally inspiring was how they were able to come up with practical, effective solutions to the problems posited within the course of an afternoon. In the end, one member of the DGS delegation was awarded the Best Research Award for her work on female infanticide.

Besides attending the conference, the DGS contingent also had the opportunity to tour the Berkeley campus and visit a few sights in San Francisco, travelling by cable car as well as the Bart (the Bay Area mass transit system). All in all the UC Berkeley MUN conference was a rewarding academic experience for our girls. They learned a lot from it, not least the fact that by bringing problems and conflicts to the table and discussing them openly, conflicts can be resolved peacefully and diplomatically.



Opening Ceremony of Berkeley MUN LXI (61st session)



Two delegates taking a break between conferences



The delegates inside the grounds of UC Berkeley



MUN at work

DGS Hosts the Sixth Humanities Research Symposium for Youth



Ribbon-cutting ceremony to declare Sixth HRSFY open

The hosting of the Sixth Humanities Research Symposium for Youth was a very proud moment for our school. The 7-day regional conference aimed to promote academic research in the Humanities and Social Sciences among youths and encouraged dialogue and discussion among them. Three secondary schools from different areas of the Asia Pacific region, namely Hwa Chong Institution, Singapore, Citipointe Christian College, Brisbane and Diocesan Girls' School, Hong Kong were involved. DGS served again as host for the event, which ran from 5th to 11th July 2013. Professor Joseph Sung, Vice Chancellor and President of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Professor Johannes Chan, Dean of the Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong and Mrs. Eva Cheng, former Secretary for Transport and Housing were invited as keynote speakers for the symposium, and they gave insightful sharing in their respective fields. The City University of Hong Kong generously provided accommodation for the delegates, as well as a fitting venue for the closing ceremony dinner on the last day of the event.

The theme for the Symposium was 'Crisis and Opportunity'. The theme was closely aligned with the many difficulties that are encountered in society today, in terms of the environment, the economy, politics and the arts. Topics discussed were diverse, ranging from pertinent issues such as the water crisis at the Three Gorges Dam and an analysis of Israel in the Israeli/Iranian conflict to ethical issues such as the morality of lies and the practice of commercial surrogacy. Apart from tabling academic research papers and debates, there was also time for cultural exchange, for example through visits to venues which examine Hong Kong's socio-economic status, such as Crossroads and an excursion to Tai O to revisit traces of Hong Kong's past.



Motions are drawn



Delegates expressed their joy

All in all, the delegates concluded that this symposium was a resounding success. They praised the high academic rigour of the symposium and reveled in the sense of fun that permeated the event. In the end, each delegate came to realize how truly similar they all are rather than different, despite their differing cultural upbringing. By the end of the last day, all left feeling better-informed, better-connected and better-equipped to impact the world in a positive way.



Professor Sung Vice-chancellor of CUHK delivers his inspiring talk



Ms Eva Cheng, Former Secretary for Transport and Housing, receives a token of appreciation



Questions, questions, questions



Humanities Symposium - a three-school collaboration

DGS Quest Thank You For Your Unfailing Support



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