



從邊緣少年到大學畢業生 FROM MARGINALISED YOUTH TO UNIVERSITY GRADUATE

Lingnan graduate Danny Kwok's story teaches us that life should be judged by one's gallops, not by one's stumbles. Once a marginalised youth, he recently received the "Top 10 Outstanding Youth in Hong Kong - Star of the Stars (Open Category)" award in the Outstanding Youth Commendation Scheme jointly organised by the Home Affairs Bureau and the Commission on Youth.

Born in a single-parent family, young Danny was bullied by his peers due to his chubby appearance. At lower secondary, he became acquainted with some underachieving schoolmates, turning into a bully himself. "I was naive and the only way for me to avoid bullying was to stay with the powerful gang," said Danny. Life went downhill when he was under peer pressure to smoke, drink alcohol, skip school, wander in video arcades and even take drugs.

Muddling along with no purpose for over four years, seeing his classmates battle for the Hong Kong Certificate of Education Examination (HKCEE), Danny questioned the meaning of life and seemed to get a wake-up call. Three months before the HKCEE, he picked up his studies but only got seven marks in the exam. It was not until his second attempt at the Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary Education (HKDSE) that he received 25 marks in the best five subjects and won a place at Lingnan University. As a psychology major, he did not only graduate with first class honours but also actively participated in Service-Learning programmes.

"Service-Learning at Lingnan transformed my life. I was given the opportunity to travel to the US for the first time in my life, as a student delegate, and to study at Stanford University in a summer exchange programme. Having benefited from Service-Learning, I established the Service-Learning Student Association, launched a project to serve disabled children and orphans in China, and launched the first LU Service-Day at Lingnan," said Danny. Exposed to other civic engagement models in the US, Danny reflected upon the meaning of service and set up the Student Take Initiative Rally (STIR) with students from other universities, hoping to promote volunteer responsibility and improve project efficiency.

"My language proficiency and communication skills were not good when I first entered Lingnan. The professors I met and the opportunities I received helped me develop into a confident person who can articulate his views, set his goals in life and, most importantly, contribute to society," said Danny. Once a flunking student, Danny is now working as a full-time Research Assistant at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University as well as being a part-time Research Assistant and Hostel Tutor at Lingnan.

嶺大應屆畢業生郭文煒的故事，讓我們明白到，去判斷一個人，不是看他跌倒過多少次，而是看他如何跨越重重困難的能力。曾經是一名邊緣少年的文煒，剛獲得民政事務局及青年事務委員會合辦的「優秀青年嘉許計劃」頒發「香港十大優秀青年一星中之星（公開組）」獎項。

文煒出身自一個單親家庭，年少時由於身形肥胖，常被同輩欺負。就讀初中時，他與一些成績差的同學結成朋黨，結果自己成為了一個欺凌者。他說：「當時年少無知，為了避免被欺負，便與壞同學結伴。」當時他深受朋輩影響，嘗試吸煙、飲酒、逃學、流連在遊戲機舖，甚至接觸毒品，令他的人生走下坡。

渾渾噩噩的過了四年，看見其他同學為中學會考努力奮鬥，文煒不禁思考生命的意義，好像突然警覺覺悟起來。會考前三個月，他開始溫習，但結果只考獲七分的成績。之後他重考中學文憑試，結果以最佳五科成績拿得25分，入讀嶺大，主修心理學。他不單成績優異，以一級榮譽畢業，而且熱心參與服務研習計劃。

文煒分享說：「參與嶺大的服務研習改變了我的人生。我有機會以學生代表身份首次到美國交流，又修讀了史丹福大學一個暑期交流課程。受到服務研習的影響，我亦創立了服務研習學生組織、發起到內地服務殘疾兒童及孤兒的計劃，並發起推廣嶺大服務日。」他在美國的時候，有機會接觸其他公民參與模式，反思服務的意義；並與其他大學生一起成立了「STIR搞作學生自主公益平台」，希望推廣年輕人的義工責任及改善服務成效。

文煒說：「當我進入嶺大時，語言能力和溝通技巧都欠佳。我遇到的教授，以及所獲得的機會，幫助我建立自信，讓我學懂表達自己的觀點，為人生定下目標；最重要的是，對社會作出貢獻。」曾經是成績差劣的學生，今天的他在香港理工大學任職全職研究助理，並在嶺大擔任兼職研究助理及宿舍導師。