

It was the day before my first year of Medicine; a Sunday at the end of February, 1959. I had arrived from Hong Kong, and I went to the St Lucia campus with two of my friends to familiarise ourselves with our new surroundings.

The architecture both impressed and delighted us; the modern and yet ancient style, the many sandstone columns with grotesques, motifs and the crests of universities and colleges from around the world. It was most unexpected, given we were in Queensland, Australia, and at the time the University had not even turned 50.

Most of my first year was spent at St Lucia, constantly moving amongst the blend of modern and ancient architecture, from one lecture hall to another, learning about various different subjects. By the end of each day I was exhausted.

Adding to the physical and mental exhaustion was the complexity of the Australian idiom. The language barrier was quite an obstacle, and I must confess, I spent a great deal of time merely copying my English-speaking friends' notes with little comprehension of what I was writing.

But after six years of studying at UQ and working in hospitals as part of my medicine program, I was able to meet many locals, and great friendships were formed. Although, to this day there are still some Australian sayings that I just do not understand.

It wasn't all study, and the University and the Brisbane community gave me the opportunity to continue my lifelong passion for both kung fu and the Arts - this to some is an interesting combination. I was also the founding President of the Hong Kong Overseas Students Association of the University of Queensland, and we organised many social functions, and fund-raising activities for various charities.

My relationship with the University has continued well after my graduation. I still have many friends from my study days, and I am now the Patron of the Hong Kong UQ Alumni Association.

I am proud to say I am a graduate of UQ, and congratulate the University on its 100 year milestone. I wish the staff and students all the very best for the next 100 years.

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