**CCCA Student Commission April Meeting Minutes**

*General Information*

Location: Westlake Village Civic Center in the Large Community Room (31200 Oak Crest Drive, Westlake Village, CA 91361)

Date: Saturday, 4/23/2016

Time: 3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Attendees:

· Wen Chien, Wencheng Li, Lana Shiu, Mr. Ye, Mrs. Zhou, Mrs. Zhang

· Guest Speakers: Alice Lin, Hélène Vincent, Carolyn Vincent, Jason Loose

· Guest Students: Victor Zhou, Katelin Zhou, Matthew, Jane Zhang

· Student Commissioners: Benjamin Yang, Tian Ye, Michelle Chen, Kyle Lee, Vikkie Jiang

Absentees: Andrew Yang, Connie Ye, Alyssa Li, Andy Jin

Minutes Recorder: Vikkie Jiang

*Agenda*

Future dates/plans- Benjamin Yang

· Next Meetings: May 21, June 18

· Mother’s Day Liaison – Vikkie

· Camping Planning- Tian

Guest Speakers (4)

· General Introduction- Wen

· Alice Lin and Hélène Vincent introduction- Kyle

- Successful individuals who have traveled the world

- Their words of advice- follow your own passion, get mentors, develop networking skills, be humble, and listen to others

· Alice Lin- Strategic Workforce Planning manager at Liberty Mutual

- Studied psychology at University of Pennsylvania

- Worked at Ernst Young as an actuary after PENN and Deloitte Management Consulting Firm as a senior consultant after Dartmouth MBA(TUCK) , but did not feel fulfilled and was not passionate about her jobs

- Jobs offered stability but no enjoyment

- Transitioned to energy consulting after being an actuary, but still had a great interest in psychology

-In 2015, found a talent management job at Liberty Mutual, which allowed her to work with business and psychology

- Emphasis on listening to inner-self and passions

· Follow-up Discussion

- Changing paths is not a waste of time but gaining a variety of experiences

- How did you transfer to business from psychology?

· Passed exams to be an actuary because her major at PENN was broad

- Current job in talent management has good team, right fit

- How did you market yourself to businesses?

· Reached out to friends, looked for open roles using network, which is better than online

- Builds network/relationships everyday through interactions

- How to make deadlines?

· External consulting- a lot of traveling, so use shortcuts, prioritize tasks,

manage limited time; unfortunately, less sleep

· Hélène Vincent- director of Sales at Education First

- In high school/college, wanted to work in international relations, development work

- College internships in nonprofit work- rebuild communities

- Spoke to an old man on a plane- offered internship, finance- she rejected because she did not like finance

- Couldn't go to Liberia for internship due to violence in the area, went back to the old man, took internship

- Felt nonprofit work went to slow, but enjoyed for-profit work

- Goal: change community to be more accepting, not view differences as

scary/bad

- Started language immersion program, enjoyed being the boss after going to

Europe for new product development

- Discovered she wanted to be CEO- needed experience in sales

- Currently managing a big sales team

· Follow-up Discussion

- As boss, can empower people on team, give help, support, coaching/experience

- How to gain trust from management after graduating for only 2 yrs?

· Need confidence to get trust from bosses, figure out weaknesses, be yourself

- How to start discovering yourself and your passions

· Think a lot, analyze, there is no bad experience, only more lessons, talk to others, write down thoughts

- Are college opportunities easy to find?

· A lot of opportunities, many clubs, do a little of everything in freshman year, figure out general interests, do work you enjoy, work hard

* How did you find your passion?

· need to brainstorm, search for times you feel delighted, analyze: when are you most happy?

-How to balance humble and confidence?

· “humble & confidence” : take risks, do not be afraid of failure, the worst is not that bad, if you fail, you learn, so take the risk

· Humility- no one gets anywhere on their own, ask others about their opinions, you are really not that important, lift others up and help others—helps you be successful boss

· Carolyn Vincent Introduction- Vikkie

- Graduated from Brown University, a current boat captain

- Studied international relations in college, was interested in education, wanted to do something related to teaching

-did sailboat work during college, which led to discovery of passion regarding boats

- Faced opposition but did not falter

- With the support of a few mentors, succeeded in following her passions

- Works with high school students to teach them how to run a boat, combines both sailing and teaching

· Carolyn Vincent

- 2nd child, unsure about what path to take, wanted to follow traditional mold

- took time to find confidence

- Randomly started sailboat job because needed a job during the summer

- Got non-boating related internship, but did not enjoy

- Advice- talk to everyone, there are so many jobs that are unknown

- Had notebook to write down information when talking to others- keep contacts for future reference

- Needed a license for sailing but did not have any connection to the sailing world, - Talked to a lot of people for guidance

- To find passion- find moments where you are excited, talking a lot about something

- Found sailing to be thrilling, exciting

- Don’t be afraid to stray from traditional paths

· Follow-up Discussion

- How did you face prejudices?

· Help from mentors, be polite even to those who are discouraging

· Many wanted her to pursue a more traditional female role (waitress, stewardess), but she wanted to be captain

- Don't be discouraged even if something is deemed “not possible”

- Present yourself with confidence

- Stand with confidence when speaking with others/potential mentors, persistence, find people who do support you- they are always there

-Remember to thank supporters/mentors

-In the sailing world- learn to develop skills to interact with people because you live together for long periods of time

-How to form connections?

· Internet, research people, find small things in common, don't underestimate experiences, connect on a human /personal level

- Possible to combine passions in one job?

· of course, there are many jobs, can combine two things in one—talk to people, research to find more options

- Jobs are not school related- but, at university, learned to manage others, time management, skills to interact with people, practice presenting yourself, so current job is connected in some way to past experiences

· Special Guest Speaker- Jason Loose

- A Caucasian who speaks Mandarin fluently

- TO Chinese teacher (and math), Chinese New Year MC

- When young, interested by American born Chinese friends in school, learned some phrases and culture

- Enjoyed learning language and culture

- Chinese—appealed because it is widely spoken, spent 4 years in college to learn

- 4 yrs in a program working to improve use of mandarin in different fields of knowledge

- Nanjing- internships, clothing factory (with vertical integration), taught him humility because there are so many experiences that are different than his own, seeing how others live humbled himself

- Learned to not compare self to others- what do you have to offer, be the best you can be

- Chinese teaching- interaction with the students, exciting to see students learning

- Advice on learning language- be in community /be with people who you can practice the language with, find a partner

- Chinese Demonstration! – hopes to get more students in classes

-Ultimate goal in teaching is to get students to connect with culture as well as language

CCCA Website -Tian

· <http://www.ccca-tocs.org/>

· Get involved tab- applications for future student commissioners

-Logo contest- gain publicity at Chinese School

· move position of logo contest poster so it is more viewable

· Michelle- talk to art teacher at Chinese School about sending in entries

· Need another way of direct feedback?

- provide Ben’s email on website for direct contact

· Still need updates, fix small issues

Fundraiser- Benjamin Yang

· Need about $500 for both budget and to give back (to community, guest speakers, souvenirs for graduating seniors)

· Support more activities

· Ideas

- Jason

· Sell used AP prep books (go to high schools)

· Moderate success

· May be too late to start this year because AP tests are soon

- Hélène

· Raffles, get prizes from local business donations

· Trivia night

· Bet pledges early, before event

· Be bold, encourage people to support

- Event involving Chinese school, get support for Student Commission program

· Tian- need to thank donors in some way

* Should do more than publicize donor names on website

Guest Students

·Matthew

-Agoura High School, 10th grade

- Running for Student Commissioner position

- Has been part of CCCA for about 5 years

- Enjoyed the guest speakers very much

· Jane Zhang

-Westlake High School, 9th grade

- Wants to join because she has been part of Chinese School/ Chinese community for so long

- Liked the speakers

- Impressed with how professional the meeting was

·Victor Zhou

-Agoura High School, 10th grade

- TA at Chinese school

- Volunteered during 8th grade summer at a concert in local park

- Has applied to be sc

·Katelin Zhou

-Westlake High School, 9th grade

- After experiencing the meeting, wants to be sc, will apply

- Proud of being Chinese, wants to contribute back

· after hearing Jason, wants to try even harder at learning Chinese

-Speakers were very inspirational

Closing Comments

·Ben

- Currently 3 open sc spots

- All students can stay as guest sc, but maintain 12 official members

- Vikkie- Mother’s Day Event (May 8th)

- ticket selling

-Tian- camping

·Victor’s mom

-year-end party: June 4

- need volunteers (booths)

·Lana- bring in successful speakers that are non- ivy league graduates to learn more about different paths to success

·Jane’s mom

-WeChat group to connect with successful individuals

- ex: person who studied art

·Lana

- Took tortuous path, disliked University of Maryland because of Chinese conglomerations

- Received a scholarship from Vanderbilt, worked two jobs, biomedical engineering major

- Double major with electrical engineering

- Took more semesters to find out what to do

- Need financing, military offered to pay

- FDA work

- Lacking in clinical knowledge, so took military offer and went to George Washington University

· Wen

- Thank all guest speakers

- **Next meeting : May 21, 2016** (with a very special guest speaker)

- Last meeting: June 18, 2016