



# student of the year

## Nine gracious winners took the stage on Saturday, offering words of wisdom to their peers, writes Heidi Yeung

**U**nder the sparkling chandeliers of the stately Kowloon Shangri-la Hotel ballroom, the air was buzzing with anticipation and excitement. After months of fierce competition, and countless discussions between the judges, the 2015 Student of the Year winners were soon to be crowned.

The audience was full of peers and fellow competitors, family, teachers, judges and honoured guests, which included Financial Secretary John Tsang Chun-wah, Winfried Engelbrecht-Bresges of The Hong Kong Jockey Club, and local businessman and Ocean Park Honorary Adviser Allan Zeman.

Tsang said of all the nominees: "You have made a difference for yourselves, for your families and for your schools. And I am looking forward to the day that you bring positive enhancements to our society as well."

Meanwhile, Zeman, a great supporter of the competition, urged youngsters to "strike a balance in your life. Continue to make Hong Kong great, because it is a great city".

The nominees were all so talented, it was extremely difficult to decide on the winners. The three performing artist finalists and a nominee for sportsperson treated the audience to great performances, which left everyone wondering how the winners could have been chosen.

It wasn't any easier in the grand prize category, but Dorothy Cheng Wai-chung of Diocesan Girls' School outshone the other candidates with her maturity, ambition and smile, to win the title.

After the awards were handed out, many of the winners offered pearls of wisdom, gained from their experiences in the competition:

**Grand Prize, Dorothy Cheng Wai-chung, Diocesan Girls' School**  
"Especially with so many suicides now, I want to tell people about my experience of overcoming [autism and my mother's tragic miscarriage]. Maybe, I hope, some people will remember what I have done and overcome, so when they face their

own hardships they will be able to overcome them as well."

• "One person can never be the best at everything, you need to collaborate with other people."

• "It's very important to sleep and recharge. You have a lot of pressure, and if you keep pushing yourself to the limit without allowing yourself to rest, there will be a day when you'll break. If there's one thing I want to tell other students, it's to make time for yourself; whether for doing something you want, or to sleep. Don't keep yourself busy 24/7."

**Community Contributor, Charmaine Wong Tsz-ching, Pui Ching Middle School**  
"Nowadays, we have so many different opinions, but I think it's important to be humble and to listen to others. This way you'll gain more, and make the world better."

**Linguist (English), Annette Ng Si-ki, St Mary's Canossian College**

"The best way [to improve your English] is to expose yourself to the language, and speak it more. Read more, or watch more English movies - it's a very interesting and relaxing way to help yourself."

**Performing Artist, Elise Liu Chi-man, Diocesan Girls' School**  
"When things go wrong, just smile and continue. What's important isn't only the [notes], but the mood and the message. The audience probably won't notice my mistake anyway."

**Visual Artist, Raymond Wong Yiu-nam, STFA Yung Yau College**  
"Our society is pretty diversified and people have different opinions. I think it's good to have different opinions, but we have to contribute to society."

# Award-winning advice

Check out photos from the SOTY finals on the following pages!



(Front, from left) Visual Artist Raymond Wong; SOTY Dorothy Cheng; Linguist (Putonghua) Wang He-an; (back, from left) Linguist (Cantonese) Grace Lam; Linguist (English) Annette Ng; Community Contributor Charmaine Wong; Scientist & Mathematician Jaime Tsang; Performing Artist Elise Liu; Sportsperson Lam Cho-yu. Photo: Edward Wong



# STUDENT OF THE YEAR

The Student of the Year Awards recognise and reward the achievements of senior-level students in seven categories.

This year it comes back with expanded spectrum of awards and even more prizes to honour the students with outstanding academic performances and contribution to society.

For more information, please visit [studentoftheyear.hk](http://studentoftheyear.hk)

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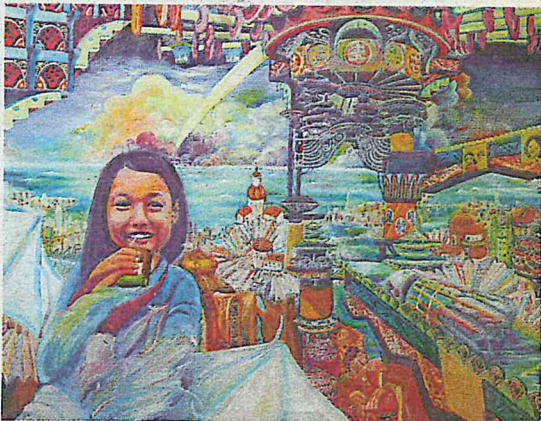
## our favourite moments

# Scenes from the winners' circle

The Student of the Year 2015 award ceremony was a colourful event, filled with laughter, song and dance, as nominees took their chance to make an impact



**THE WOMAN OF THE HOUR** Grand Prize winner Dorothy Cheng overcame adversity to win the year's top award. Photos: Edward Wong



**ALL THE COLOURS OF THE WIND** Kelly Wan Lok-yiu gave judges a glimpse of her colourful inner world in the Visual Artist category

**N**ine outstanding students received one of Hong Kong's most coveted awards on Saturday. The Student of the Year 2015 awards, jointly presented by *South China Morning Post* and the Hong Kong Jockey Club, recognised young people who excel in a range of subjects.

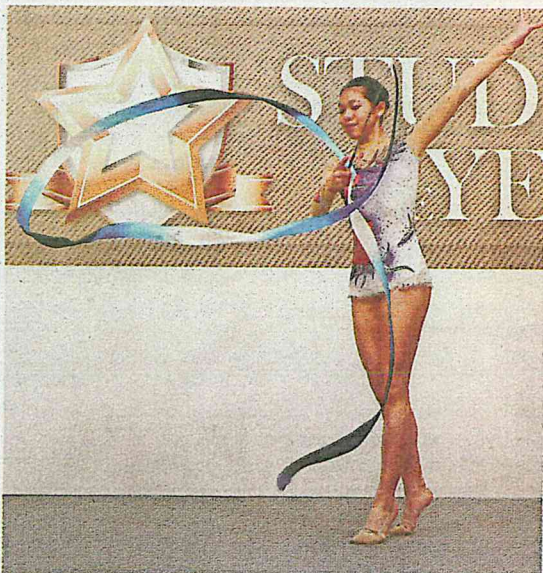
As well as the excitement of finding out who would receive the prestigious awards, nominees and finalists were treated to a mini art exhibition of the Visual Artist contenders' work.

There was also a rhythmic gymnastic performance by one of the finalists in the Sportsperson category, and music and dance by the three Performing Artist finalists.

Luckily for all those who weren't at the ceremony, we've got photos of some of the highlights. Enjoy!



**VISUAL ARTIST OF THE YEAR** Raymond Wong was the winner



**RHYTHM IS A DANCER** Ivy Liu Hoi-yan was graceful in the rhythmic gymnastics routine she performed for the Sportsperson Category



**NIMBLE ON THE MARIMBA** Performing Artist winner Elise Liu Chi-man had her hands full when she performed for the judges – and a cheering audience – during the awards presentation ceremony