



Kang Tsi Kit has been living abroad primarily in Hong Kong and Australia for 26 years.

By **WONG LI ZA**
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ONE of the things Kang Tsi Kit may most be remembered for by staff and students at Hong Kong University (HKU) was getting William Hung of *American Idol* fame to come for a dialogue.

The year was 2005, when Hung was at his peak of popularity, and the event received a good turnout of over 200 students.

"I was running a leadership programme and felt that William Hung had something most students did not have – a passion to do what one likes without being self-conscious.

"I then invited Hung as a (form of) leadership challenge. The event went well and it was all over the news," remembered Kang, 52.

A clinical psychologist, Kang graduated from the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, Britain, in 1982 with an honours degree in psychology.

He was initially offered a job by Singapore's Ministry of Defence but decided Hong Kong was a better way to advance his career.

"There was also my other important goal of continuing my relationship with my then girlfriend, who's now my wife, whom I got to know in Britain (she was a fellow student).

"I took a chance and it was a real-life adventure into the unknown," related Kang.

He went on to pursue a Master in Clinical Psychology degree from HKU, completing it in 1985. After teaching there for a year, he left to work as a clinical psychologist at the MacLehose Medical Rehabilitation Centre in Hong Kong, run by a non-governmental organisation (NGO).

Kang and his wife relocated to Australia in 1995, staying for two years.

"We decided that it was time for a change and to see if Australia could serve as a neutral place as my wife and I are from different countries.

"As my son was growing up in Hong Kong, I was also pretty tired of the local education system as it did not allow creative learning and there was a lot of homework. So the decision to go to Australia was easy," he said.

There, he freelanced for two medical rehabilitation institutions – the Victorian

A nurturing heart

"Basically, we hope to serve this region by providing psychological, educational and human-related services with my strong belief in building world-class human services by combining hearts, technology and creativity."

Currently, Kang is pursuing his Doctor of Education from Hong Kong University part time.

"It may take a few more years since I am taking it very seriously so that my work will be original, with major breakthroughs.

"I am investigating a new way of life, a culture needing deep insights with a topic that is puzzling to the older generation: the use of the Internet to develop one's identity and personal development of young people," said Kang, whose 23-year-old son is pursuing his clinical studies in medicine.

In the long run, Kang has plans to share his expertise back in his hometown of Malacca.

"I love Malacca and if circumstances allow me, I would like to do some creative start-ups there that can help the individual, families, institutions and society."

To take his mind off work, Kang likes to strum his guitar

Fact File

NAME: Kang Tsi Kit

AGE: 52

HOMETOWN: Malacca

EDUCATION: Bandar Hilir English Primary School, Malacca; Malacca High School; Taylor's College; University of Newcastle Upon Tyne, Britain;

Hong Kong University

OCCUPATION: Clinical psychologist

CURRENT BASE: Hong Kong

YEARS ABROAD: 26

and listen to his favourite singer John Denver. He enjoys staying in Hong Kong for the compact nature of the Special Administrative Region.

"You can do a lot in a day. The free enterprise spirit is also here. Hong Kong Boleh!"



Clinical psychologist Kang Tsi Kit (right) with William Hung of *American Idol* fame in 2005.

Rehabilitation Centre and the Hampton Rehabilitation Hospital Australia. His wife, a social worker, decided to pursue a Master of Social Work.

However, two years later, the Kangs decided to move back to Hong Kong.

"We realised we could do more with our careers back in Hong Kong. We enrolled our son in an international school and I started a new job working in personal development and counselling of university students at HKU," he said.

Kang also began to venture into his other passions – education, technology and children – which coincided with a vision he has fostered for some time.

"Every nine years or so, there will be new challenges in my career and this time round it allowed me to act on a vision that was in my mind for a long time.

"My wife and I are passionate about the importance of education in nurturing the future generation.

"I have a very supportive wife who is my opposite in terms of personality but we share a heart for humanity," said Kang, whose wife is currently assistant director of operations with an NGO that provides social services.

"We've had the name TyNE in mind for 15 years and felt it was time to work on it."

TyNE, first registered in 1990, is the acronym for his company The Nurturing Education, an education and psychological services company specialising in personal development.

"There is a lack of professional psychological and educational services for the very young to the old," said Kang.