



June Kwan

June Kwan grew up in Hong Kong. Born into a family with six siblings, the economic situation was a challenge for her father, a tailor in Mongkok. June's mother worked for the Silesian mission in that area, and managed to send June to Indiana State University sponsored by a family affiliated with the mission. June graduated with a BA degree in Communications.

An entrepreneur at heart, June returned to Hong Kong and set up a business teaching Cantonese to executives. June was assigned to teach me and my husband, Michael, Cantonese through then Chase Manhattan Bank, later J.P.Morgan. This was the beginning of a more than 20 year association and friendship! Later, she established Kinswood Learning Center in the Western District of Hong Kong. Here, young learners could come after school to complete their homework and study English with a native speaker, often it was me!

June later went on to be a popular teacher of Cantonese at Hong Kong University, Chinese University of Hong Kong and Hong Kong Polytechnic University. In recent years, she developed an exhaustive textbook for Cantonese intermediate and advanced learners under the mentorship of an esteemed linguist and friend at Hong Kong University. Unfortunately, June passed away in December 2012 before the project could be completed.

Affectionately known as "Junie-pie" by her large circle of dear friends, June Kwan was known for her charming smile, her buoyant sense of humor in both English and Chinese, her love of literature, music (Chinese opera) and language, and her commitment to education. These now stand as her enviable legacy to the people of Hong Kong.