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FEELING THE HEAT

Can Hong Kong
cope with urbanization?

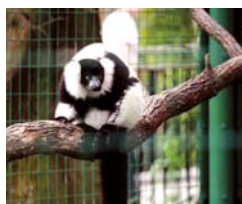
CARVED IN STONE

Foundation stone
laid for the 2012
Centennial Campus



MYSTERY LAID TO REST

Madagascar's
menagerie
floated from Africa



HKU

THE UNIVERSITY
OF HONG KONG
香 港 大 學

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Cover photo: A view of King's Park

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CARVED IN STONE
Centennial Campus to be completed in 2012


One hundred years ago, on March 16, 1910, the Foundation Stone-laying Ceremony for the University of Hong Kong was held, an event made possible by the generous donation of Sir H.N. Mody, who stepped forward to finance the project when it was on the brink of being abandoned. Fittingly, on that same day in 2010, a similar ceremony marked the University's most significant physical expansion in a century, attended by Sir H.N. Mody's great-great-grandson, Professor Chris Mody.

The Centennial Campus Foundation Stone-laying Ceremony was, like its predecessor, held before distinguished members of Hong Kong's business, government and academic elite.



Hong Kong's Chief Executive and HKU Chancellor Dr the Honourable Donald Tsang led the event, supported by such guests as Mr Li Gang, Deputy Director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the HKSAR, businessmen Dr Lee Shau-kee and Dr Cheng Yu-tung, and Hong Kong's former Chief Justice and the former Pro-Chancellor and Council Chairman of HKU, Sir T.L. Yang.

Also in attendance were four previous Vice-Chancellors, Dr Rayson Huang, Professor Wang Gungwu, Professor Cheng Yiu-chung, and Professor Ian Davies.



Dr Tsang addressed the audience of more than 800 guests and students and praised the values and achievements of HKU, which is ranked 24th in the world in the *Times Higher Education – Quacquarelli Symonds World University Rankings*.

"Throughout the years, the University of Hong Kong has remained an institution that embodies freedom, diversity and integrity; has embraced interaction with the world; and has instilled in different generations of students a sense of mission and a willingness to accommodate new ideas, face new challenges and undertake new ventures," he said.

"As we lay the foundation stone for a new campus, we are also cementing in place our high hopes for the future of this university."

The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, said the new campus would be an important building block in the University's plans for expanded research, student learning, development and community outreach.

"The campus, due to be completed in early 2012, will help us address the challenges of the 21st century in research and education, so that scholars and leaders, generation after generation, will continue to come forth. The campus will also be a springboard to our building of a University Town. It is therefore dedicated also to the people of Hong Kong," he said.

The ceremony culminated with Professor Mody presenting a trowel to Dr Tsang for laying the first stone of the new campus – a replica of the trowel that his great-great-grandfather presented 100 years ago to then-Governor Sir Frederick Lugard. ■



HKU CAN HELP NATION
SAYS STATE COUNCILLOR LIU YANDONG



Liu Yandong greeted by HKU students.



The chair presented to Madam Liu.



Liu Yandong presented HKU with Yongle Dadian 《永樂大典》.

Madam Liu Yandong, Member of the State Council, visited the University last December. HKU Chairman of Council Dr the Honourable Leong Che-hung, together with Vice-Chancellor Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, and the Dean of Medicine Professor Lee Sum-ping, welcomed Madam Liu on her visit to the University.

During her visit, Madam Liu toured the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine Campus, and was briefed on the history, achievements and development plans of the University by the Vice-Chancellor. She also visited the State Key Laboratory of Emerging Infectious Diseases and the Genome Research Centre.

Madam Liu described HKU as the oldest university in the territory, with an immense legacy of outstanding achievements to its name. She said the University, with its wealth of experience in grooming talent and developing pioneering research, is well placed to support the nation's endeavour of improving education standards and incorporating advanced international education concepts. She also expressed her wish to see closer cooperation in higher education between the Mainland and Hong Kong, to raise the quality of education nationally.

As a souvenir of the visit, the University presented to Madam Liu a chair, crafted in the style of Ming Dynasty furniture and engraved with the University's

motto '*Sapientia et Virtus*'. The chair is an exclusive gift for supporters of the University's research endeavours and was on this occasion a token of thanks to Madam Liu for her support to higher education and HKU. Madam Liu presented a precious set of the *Yongle Dadian* – a Chinese encyclopedia dating back to the Ming Dynasty – to the Libraries of HKU.

HKU has closely collaborated with Mainland organizations in many areas, including joint programmes and the operation of two State Key Laboratories. The number of Mainland students joining HKU has also been on the rise in recent years and the University continues admitting very high quality students from the Mainland. ■

PROFESSOR ROLAND CHIN NAMED
DEPUTY VICE-CHANCELLOR AND PROVOST

The Council of HKU announced in January the appointment of Professor Roland Chin Tai-hong, a renowned academic leader with outstanding university development and management experience, as Deputy Vice-Chancellor/Provost.

He will succeed Professor Richard Wong Yue-chim for a five-year term as the chief aide to the Vice-Chancellor, providing leadership to the management of the University.

Making the announcement, HKU Council Chairman Dr the Honourable Leong Che-hung said: "As the University moves into its second century, there will be big challenges ahead. I believe the Vice-Chancellor and Professor Chin, together with all other members of the University Senior Management, will work as a team to successfully fulfill the strategic goals of the University".

HKU Vice-Chancellor Professor Lap-Chee Tsui welcomed the appointment: "As the

University continues to reach out and engage the world, Professor Roland Chin's distinguished academic achievements, and rich experience in administration and public service made him a most suitable candidate."

Professor Chin is pleased to accept the appointment: "I am very honoured that the Council, the Vice-Chancellor, the staff and the students have entrusted me with their confidence in joining the University Senior Management to take HKU to even greater heights of excellence. I am looking forward to working with the students and the staff to help HKU become one of the premier world-class universities."

He was born in Macau, grew up in Hong Kong, and studied electrical engineering at the University of Missouri, Columbia. He subsequently worked at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Centre in Maryland for two years before joining the Faculty of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Wisconsin, Madison from 1981 to 1995.

He has served on numerous public bodies and is currently a member of the University Grants Committee (UGC), the Steering Committee on Innovation and Technology and the Commission on Strategic Development. Since 2005, he has been the Chairman of the Research Grants Council. ■



Shaking on it (left to right): Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, Professor Roland Chin Tai-hong and Dr the Honourable Leong Che-hung.

KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE – BUILDING AN EVEN
STRONGER TOWN AND GOWN RELATIONSHIP

Universities are knowledge organizations. In the continuous pursuit of excellence in research, the University strives to ensure that our innovations and the new knowledge we create can be shared with our society. Knowledge that is shared is the power that holds the promise of a better future for our society.

Knowledge Exchange (KE) is certainly not new to HKU. Our faculty members have

long been engaged in a wide range of KE activities, including, *inter alia* applied research, technology transfer, contract research, professional and continuing education courses, public lectures, arts appreciation programmes, policy advice to the Government, expertise sharing through the media, and community services.

What may be considered new is that KE has been made an explicit part of the HKU

Strategic Plan 2009–2014. "The University is committed to enhance KE development not because of the UGC's request, but because we want to maximize the value of our research to society," said Professor Paul Tam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research). "It is nevertheless encouraging that the UGC has recognized the importance of knowledge transfer by providing some funding support to institutions."

Professor John Malpas, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Infrastructure), said: "The University uses the term KE rather than Knowledge Transfer, as used by the University Grants

Committee, to emphasize the two-way flow of knowledge between the University and non-academic sectors of society for mutual benefit."

"HKU's KE strategy not only includes technology transfer but also encompasses all disciplines, including the arts and humanities and the social sciences. Knowledge Exchange is a vital part of the University's activities, and in future KE will be assessed and included as a measure of a Faculty's success in the budgetary process," he added.

The University has defined the internal structure that will support the KE strategy. At the management level, the Executive Group – comprising PVC Tam, PVC Malpas, Professor John Bacon-Shone and Professor Paul Cheung – will oversee strategic developments in KE. The KE Working Group, with Faculty representation, has also been formed to coordinate the implementation of KE initiatives. On the administration side, there is a small Knowledge Exchange Office set up under PVC Tam.

Looking ahead, Professor Tam said: "There is a lot of good KE work done by our Faculty members. Building on that, we will further enhance an institutional culture that is conducive to knowledge sharing through a continuous process of staff engagement. We will strive not only to strengthen technology transfer, but also to foster the development of high-impact KE initiatives in all disciplines." ■

BRING YOUR OWN VISION FOR A BETTER ENVIRONMENT

The second Hong Kong Shenzhen bi-city Biennale of Architecture/Urbanism tapped in to the trend for greening by encouraging Hong Kongers to express their aspirations for a better environment.

Launched in December, and running through to the end of January under the banner of 'City Mobilization', the event invited artists, designers, students and members of the public to essentially create their own



biennale, encouraging them to raise their expectations about their living conditions and assume the role of collaborators in their own environment.

Organizers – the Institute of Architects, the Institute of Planners and the Design Association – selected Marisa Yiu and Eric Schuldenfrei, both Assistant Professors in the Department of Architecture, to help curate the event.

They threw their energies into their vision for a biennale with strong public participation. "We wondered how we could get the public involved, and we thought it might work through a partnership with younger media, so we engaged youth magazines as a partner and worked very closely with the Federation of Youth," says Yiu.

They also invited celebrity artists and architects to install thought-provoking exhibitions and express their own take on Hong Kong's urban lifestyle. In one striking

project artist Kacey Wong built his own seafaring 'apartment' strapped to plastic barrels. Entitled, *Paddling Home* it explored the 'search for a better place,' and was launched into Victoria Harbour in January.

On the same day Stanley Wong's *Heaven on Earth* – a boat planted with a single tree – was also launched.

In keeping with the theme of sustainability and public engagement, 150 children were invited to a massive eco-farm in west Kowloon, designed specifically for the biennale by a team of architects. The youngsters indulged in planting and harvesting winter vegetables. A rare occasion to get their hands dirty in Hong Kong. Others were kept busy planting trees.

Yiu said, "We set out to raise issues and encourage engagement, to establish a volunteering mindset and it's been very effective." ■

GEORGE SOROS ADVOCATES PEACE FOR PROSPERITY

Billionaire financier and philanthropist George Soros called for greater understanding between nations and a 'doctrine of harmonious development' in China, in a recent talk at HKU.

Speaking at a packed Loke Yew Hall in February he emphasized the need for a more open China and an improvement in US-Sino relations.

That openness, and greater understanding, he said could only be achieved through a process of critical thinking, a necessary element for future prosperity.

China, he conceded that has already developed a very efficient critical process, but it is confined to within government. "One of the strengths of China today is that the leadership is very self-critical and very anxious about doing the right thing, but I think it's very important to allow outside criticism as well.

"That, I think, is one very important reason for China to move towards an open society. In some respects it's not very far removed because there is this internal physical process which I think is very efficient, but another very important point is that China has emerged as a leading power in the world and has become very influential, and therefore for China to continue to rise, it has to pay increasing attention to how the rest of the world views it."

This he said was the doctrine of harmonious development "which is well-accepted in China."

The event, jointly organized by the Journalism and Media Studies Centre and the School of Economics and Finance attracted over a thousand participants including almost a hundred journalists, and featured a panel discussion, followed by a Q and A.

Soros responded to queries on several subjects including the impossibility of predicting the point at which market bubbles will burst; his controversial view on the global regulation of financial markets; and worsening US-Sino relations which, he feared, would adversely affect global prosperity. ■



WITH A NEW NAME, NURSING SCHOOL LOOKS FORWARD TO FUTURE



As it celebrates its 15th anniversary, the Department of Nursing Studies has been renamed as the School of Nursing of the University of Hong Kong.

Established in 1995, the Department has grown into a large, complex academic unit that provides vital undergraduate and postgraduate education. Since its inception, the School has nurtured and trained a total of 1,373 graduates – with 110 at the Masters and PhD level. It is becoming increasingly research intensive, has a strong history and presence in community service, and also keeps pace with the global trend of strengthening the professionalization and independent scholarship of the discipline.

Sophia Chan Siu-chee, Professor and Head of the School of Nursing said, "We are absolutely thrilled that this dream has become a reality and believe that this name change reflects our growing status and reputation. It would not have been possible without our incredibly hard-working and dedicated staff, and the support of the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine and the University."

Reflecting on the future plans for the School, she added, "Since the development of a clearly defined focus for our research, we have made considerable progress and will continue to build upon this. Currently, we are preparing for the introduction of the four-year curriculum, as we believe it will bring huge advantages to our students and will ensure that they can take a more mature approach to their studies. This will be imperative for preparing them for the challenges they will face as practitioners in the future. Planning for new programmes to meet community needs is also underway." ■

HKU ACADEMICS SNAP UP LION'S SHARE OF THE CROUCHER AWARDS

Three outstanding academics of the University were awarded the prestigious Senior Research Fellowship by the Croucher Foundation on March 26, 2010 in recognition of their scientific achievements and contributions to the international scientific community.

Professor Chan Kwong-yu and Professor Sun Hongzhe of the Department of Chemistry, and Professor Shen Shunqing of the Department of Physics, all from the Faculty of Science, took three of the four Senior Research Fellowship Awards this year. The awards were presented by the Honourable John Tsang Chun-wah, JP, Financial Secretary of the HKSAR Government.

Professor Chan Kwong-yu's research focuses on multi-scale structured materials for electrochemical technologies such as fuel cells, batteries, super-capacitors, and ozone generation. These technologies are important for clean energy and environment. The bottlenecks in energy conversion can be widened with fundamental understanding and optimization of various transport limited processes in the materials.

Professor Sun Hongzhe's research interests lie at the frontier of inorganic chemistry and biology/medicine. He has recently focused

on structural biology of metallo-proteins, and metallomics and metalloproteomics. He is an international leading expert in the latter. By using chemical biology and metallomic approaches, he has identified several key metallo-drug binding proteins and characterized selected metallo-transport and storage proteins in microorganisms which provide a basis for mechanism-based drug design.

Professor Shen Shunqing is an expert in the field of condensed matter physics. He is recognized for his research on spintronics of semiconductors, quantum magnetism and orbital physics in transition metal oxides, and novel quantum states of condensed matters. He has proposed a theory of topological Anderson insulator, spin transverse force, resonant spin Hall effect, and a theory of phase separation and antiferromagnetism. He has also proved the existence of antiferromagnetic and off-diagonal long-range order in itinerant electron systems.

They will each receive a fellowship of about US\$100,000 that will enable them to devote more time and effort to research work, by allowing the University to recruit replacement teachers to take over their teaching and administrative duties for one year. They will also receive a grant of \$60,000 for research expenses. ■



From left: Professor Chan Kwong-yu, Professor Sun Hongzhe and Professor Shen Shunqing.



OUR CITY IS heating up

our air pollution is worsening and, if UN projections are correct, our population will hit nine million by 2050. HKU scholars from a wide range of disciplines are at the forefront of tracking the changes and finding solutions to the more pressing problems.

“Overnight it was up to six degrees warmer in the city than in rural Ta Kwu Ling.”



Summers in this city are hot, sticky and not for the faint hearted, but Hong Kong's topography, its overcrowding, tall buildings and narrow streets only add to the stress of our hottest months.

In the Department of Geography, Assistant Professor Melissa Hart has been investigating our urban climate and looking at ways to mitigate the problems caused by the city's urban heat islands.

Hong Kong, she says, is unique in terms of urban climate. “The building and population density are unlike any other city and, from a climatological perspective, it's quite complicated, because you have the topography as well as the surrounding water.”

In the very act of building a city we destroy the natural environment, removing surface vegetation, constructing buildings, adding roads people and cars. All these factors combine to alter the energy balance of a city.

We also tend to use materials that are very good at trapping heat. “Simple things like concrete buildings and asphalt roads which absorb more solar radiation from the sun and retain this heat much longer, particularly overnight” says Dr Hart. “If any heat tries to escape overnight, it's trapped because we have these tall narrow street canyons.”

Furthermore, by removing vegetation we lose its inherent cooling effect. Add to this anthropogenic heat – that released by human activity, like air conditioning, traffic, industry and people – and we have cities that are far hotter than the surrounding countryside.”

Health and heat waves

The fact that cities are hotter than the countryside comes as no surprise to most but should we be concerned about this heating effect? According to Dr Hart yes we should, and there are a number of reasons why. The most important, perhaps, is human health. Ample evidence links hot weather to increased mortality, particularly in the elderly, or those suffering heart disease. “In 2003 tens of thousands of people died in the European heat wave due to those very heat conditions,” says Dr Hart. “We have a warming climate to start with, and if you add a bit of extra temperature on top then there's an added burden. General comfort levels are another factor. Current climate projections suggest we are going to have more hot weather, so this adds to the burden of urban heat.” Air pollution is another issue that can be severely affected by air flow throughout a city, as tall buildings tend to trap pollutants.

Dr Hart's research has highlighted a number of urban heat islands in high density areas like Mong Kok, Sheung Wan, Central and parts of Causeway Bay. During the summer of 2008 her team, in collaboration with the Hong Kong Observatory, fixed fast response temperature and humidity sensors to vehicles and drove them through the city, measuring temperature, humidity and location every five seconds.

“We linked our data to GIS information on land use, and land surface characteristics, to see which characteristics are associated with the hottest parts of the city,” she says. What she found was that during the daytime, temperatures were 1.3 to 3 degrees higher in urban areas. Overnight it was up to six degrees warmer in the city than in rural Ta Kwu Ling.

Further research revealed that building height was the most important factor associated with the hottest regions. “Height to width canyon is also important,” she says. “I did a similar analysis for Portland, Oregon in the US, which is a very different city to Hong Kong both climate-wise and in urban morphology and, in Portland, what it came down to was trees. Anywhere there were

“You can reduce the surface temperature on a building by 10 to 15 degrees just by changing its surface characteristics.”

trees it was much cooler. So, in Portland, the urban heat factor is much easier to mitigate, you just plant more trees.”

Reducing city heat

“In Hong Kong one of the ways we can mitigate the problem is by retrofitting buildings and changing construction materials, adopting green roofs and vertical greening, using lighter building materials so they do not absorb so much heat, and taking into account the surrounding environment when you build.

“More efficient buildings do not release so much waste heat. By changing what we call the albedo of the surface of a building, that is, the amount of radiation from the sun that is reflected back out, we can make a big



difference. Something as simple as painting a rooftop white, or using lighter colour building materials can have a drastic cooling effect. You can reduce the surface temperature on a building by 10 to 15 degrees just by changing its surface characteristics. And, if you have cooler buildings you don't need so much energy to cool them down, so you have lower heat emissions.”

Dr Hart is currently working on another project investigating the relationship between building energy consumption and climate change. Using computer models she can alter a building's energy consumption by changing its orientation, the construction materials, windows and insulation.

“But in order to do that you need to know what the weather is like outside. Normally researchers use past meteorological data but our project is trying to come up with data files under future climate scenarios, so that buildings can be designed for a future climate not for past weather conditions. ■

AIRING OUT the problem



Creating open spaces at ground level, such as that in the HSBC Building, also increases a city's ventilation rate by two to five times.

Professor Li Yuguo of the Department of Mechanical Engineering is similarly concerned with urban heat and pollution, but from the perspective of dispersal. By improving the movement of air through the city, it may be possible to reduce localized heat and pollution, he says.

"Scientists, when they look at cities, don't talk about ventilation or air cleaning, they talk about emissions. But historically, all the bad air pollution episodes are not due to a sudden increase in emissions, they are due to the reduced ability of ventilation," he says.

Cities, like buildings, need regular injections of fresh air to flush out heat and pollutants. Professor Li estimates Hong Kong itself is ventilated at 500-1,500 litres per person per second – only 20 per cent of that in Helsinki.

He has constructed computer simulation models for ventilation and hopes to get funding to test them in field experiments in smaller environments, such as around HKU or Mong Kok.

Knowing the ideal ventilation rate is one thing, though. How to ventilate is another. Smoothing the way for natural air flows could make a difference. Preliminary work by Professor Li's team shows air travels up buildings and mountain slopes during the day and down at night, bringing fresh air to street level.

Urban design could take advantage of this process. Alternating buildings of different heights can create more turbulent air flow at the top and increase the movement of air to the lower levels. Creating open spaces

at ground level, such as that in the HSBC Building, also increases a city's ventilation rate by two to five times.

"These may not always be realistic but you can find tricks to improve ventilation. Certainly you could remove some of the signs hanging over the streets. Everybody can see the names on them but the wind is blocked at street level," he says.

Ultimately, he thinks sorting out ventilation could help in Hong Kong's development. "High-rise compact cities have the potential to be the most energy efficient places. Hong Kong is doing well, but it could do better. What we learn here could apply to other cities in Mainland China, India and so on, where most of the future growth in the world's cities will happen." ■

THE ECONOMIC VALUE OF green landscapes



"Research shows that a natural view adds value to a property."

"People like to be close to nature, they like to hear birdsong and to experience the wildlife that parks attract. Scientific evidence shows that natural landscapes are very beneficial to human mental health and also to physical recovery in hospital patients."

"For a city to be successful long term it needs to attract creative types, and evidence shows that creative people choose green, clean environments. Unless Hong Kong makes more of an effort to improve air quality and increase green spaces it may lose its creative workforce over the long term."

Open, natural landscapes also help alleviate urban heating. But, says Dr Chen, there is still a gap between the research and the application in Hong Kong.

"I know that the government is trying to develop more green areas, with roof gardens and vertical greening, which are good options in such a dense city, but the economic index is still widely applicable here. Also, developers are not entirely open to greening because land here is very very expensive." ■

If greening is good for our health, it's also good for our pockets. Research shows that a natural view – ocean, park or mountain – adds value to a property because homebuyers place it high on their list of desires.

Dr Wendy Chen, a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Geography, has been exploring the financial advantage of ocean views in comparison with mountain views and neighbourhood parks.

"We try to use some econometric methods to separate the value of different natural landscapes so we can inform residential developers," she says. "Then they can assess the value of including a nature landscape in their residential developments."

What she's found is that homebuyers attach greater value to ocean or harbour views, but that any natural landscape is desirable.

In high density urban areas, where a natural view has already been built out, developers can add value to their properties, and attract potential buyers, by incorporating green elements, like a garden or a pond.

"This sort of research is useful to developers," she explains, "but also to the government, because we need to evaluate the quality of urban life. In addition to education and income, green accounting is a very important element to evaluate the quality of urban life. Green places are good, not just because of the views they provide, but also because of their effect on air quality. In addition they allow room for recreational activities that can enhance the cohesion of a community. We need to encourage the development of more neighbourhood parks, which are important not only to improve the quality of urban life in Hong Kong, but also offer other benefits that people can enjoy."

GOING underground

One radical solution to Hong Kong's land problem is to rethink the way we use it.



Mr Cheung Kwok-pun

As Hong Kong's love affair with the high rise begins to wane and population projections warn of more overcrowding, one scholar has devised a plan for an underground city that will see shopping malls, recreational facilities and streets tucked out of sight, allowing space above for a huge network of parks linked by green corridors.

Cheung Kwok-pun, Associate Professor in the Department of Architecture, was prompted to devise the plan by UN and government census reports suggesting Hong Kong's population will reach nine million by 2050. "There appears to be no plan for dealing with this," he says. "The issue is space, we don't have enough of it. The government has proposed new towns, like Kwu Tung in the New Territories, to be extended to take up some of the population, but that will not be enough to address the problem."

His solution is the Pearl for the World project, spawned under the auspices of HKU's Initiative on Clean Energy and Environment – a focal point for multi- and inter-disciplinary research on clean energy and environment. The project aims to utilize reclaimed land for an underground development similar to those common throughout Japan, North America and Europe. It will incorporate underground commercial outlets, a traffic network and parking facilities on reclaimed land along the harbour covering over 500 hectares in West Kowloon, Kai Tak, Quarry Bay, Central and Wan Chai.

"Underground cities are financially viable for West Kowloon and Kai Tak," he says. "If the government does not do it, Hong Kong will have no other way to meet its commercial needs in the coming 40 years – there is simply nowhere to put up all these buildings."

"What I'm saying is to build good parks in West Kowloon and Kai Tak and the northern part of Hong Kong, and build the commercial centres in West Kowloon, elevated over the park similar to HSBC Building in the Central. There is no more room on Hong Kong island for Grade A office buildings."

His plan allows for open spaces above where golf ranges, schools and luxury hotels can be incorporated into a clean and green environment. "This addresses the air pollution problem," he says. "An increased population in Hong Kong does not necessarily mean the proportional increase in roads."

"We can reduce the number of vehicles by using electric transportation above and underground. People can drive to the green belt, park their car and join an electrical loop which will take them to the rail stations. Several traffic hubs and electric bus and rail systems will link up with existing rail and MTR systems."

Too good to be true?

It may sound too good to be true, but Mr Cheung insists that the plan is both technically and financially feasible. He singles out reclaimed land specifically because it is

the cheaper option. "The construction costs are very inexpensive compared to inland, as there are no rocks, cables or pipelines. You can do open excavation, making it very fast and inexpensive. Our reclaimed land is part of Hong Kong's treasure. It's a gold mine for future generations if utilized properly."

Having consulted engineers and chartered quantity surveyors he has developed a financial model that assumes a public-private partnership with the underground space provided at no cost by the government. He estimates that an underground development incorporating 150 hectares under West Kowloon, extending from Lai Chi Kok to the new arts hub would cost about \$350 billion, to be developed in phases over the next 30 to 40 years with financial recovery periods of five years, with an annual rental income of \$68 billion generated from the underground commercial areas alone.

Additional revenue generated from the land above will be higher thanks to its green and open landscape. A marine park for sailing and water sports, along the harbour front will be included as an added attraction.

And in answer to critics who insist underground cities soak up more energy for lighting and ventilation Mr Cheung says, "Thanks to the micro-light-emitting-diodes, developed by Mr Anthony Choi in our Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, there will be very little difference between lighting above or under ground. Furthermore, residential units within the

parks will have solar tracking and reflecting systems for solar control, true cross ventilation on three sides, the use of internal pitch glass roofs, green roofs, rain water collection, use of recycled waste water, and electric heat pumps, all of which will bring about an energy-efficient community that will set an example for sustainable living in Hong Kong."

The proposal, the only generic holistic sustainable development plan for the HKSAR over the coming 50 years, was submitted to Chief Executive Donald Tsang and the Development Bureau, in February.

Mr Cheung says he was prompted to develop the project because "I am eager to provide an alternative environment for Hong Kong people and for future generations. At the moment we have no answer to population growth. We talk about urban greening but no-one is doing it in a thoughtful and holistic manner."

"People are becoming more environmentally aware, they are putting more emphasis on quality of life and air quality, but Hong Kong is going to lose out if the government does not change its attitude to greening."

He calls on the government to start 'greening' the economy by reshaping and refocusing policies, investments and spending towards a more sustainable future.

"There are three necessary factors for successful sustainability, the first is environmental, the second is societal and the third is economic. If we don't have a holistic, sustainable plan for Hong Kong's future how are we going to deal with the burgeoning population and all the problems that entails?" ■



CLEANER sailing

Renewable energy applied.

Hong Kong's first 'green junk', developed by HKU.

appliances for a couple of hours each day. A heat pump was adapted to capture hot air pumped out by air-conditioners for heating water. Energy efficient appliances and lighting were also installed.

Biodiesel was also added to the ship's fuel to reduce polluting emissions, as one of three research projects associated with the junk. The other two looked at improving scrubbers to remove pollutants from the engine emissions, and improving the design of micro wind turbines. All told, the project cost an affordable \$1.2 million including installations and research costs.

"The major benefit of this project is the promotion of renewable energy," Dr Michael Leung said. "With a boat, people can see physically how renewable energy can be applied. I know other companies are interested in a green boat after this project."

The launch last year was covered widely in local media and also attracted attention from Aviva's overseas offices. ■

Hong Kong's air pollution is usually blamed on vehicles and power stations, but marine vessels can pollute the air, too. Hong Kong's first 'green junk', developed by HKU engineering academics, reduces some of the impacts and serves as a showcase to others.

The boat was commissioned by Aviva, a multinational insurance company that wanted to promote environmental protection here. They called on Professor Dennis Leung and Dr Michael Leung of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, who already had experience working with a private firm to develop micro wind turbines.

The two academics fitted out the 60-foot-long boat with solar photovoltaics and micro wind turbines that could run the boat's

BUILDING an urban jungle

More greenery in the city could reduce the effects of heat and pollution.

Greening can be an effective and visually pleasing antidote to urban heating, as Professor Jim Chi-yung of Department of Geography has shown.

Professor Jim has been conducting extensive research on green roofs and, more recently, green walls in Hong Kong. His focus is on identifying key plants that can withstand Hong Kong's high summer heat while offering insulation effects.

"Green walls and roofs shield buildings from solar heat gain and therefore the indoor heat transmitted from outside is significantly reduced," he said.

Green roofs coverage can reduce surface temperatures generally by up to 20 degrees Celsius and protect the building fabric, especially the waterproofing membrane, from the effects of solar heat and wet/dry, heating/cooling changes. The environmental impacts can be even greater depending on the species chosen.

Professor Jim's research has shown the perennial peanut plant has great potential for thermal insulation because it has a dense network of stems that act like an air blanket. Temperatures on a hot summer day at the

surface of a roof covered with the plant could be 18 degrees Celsius cooler than a barren roof surface. He is also testing other species at green roof and green wall research stations that he has set up on the roofs of the library and Runme Shaw buildings.

Professor Jim has applied some of his findings in the field, for instance at the Tai Po railway station, the rooftop of a CLP Power substation where he planted a woodland and an upcoming project to green sewage treatment tanks in Sha Tin. And he will soon apply them at HKU.

The Estates Office has agreed to let him establish green walls on the Knowles Building and the Main Library, using climbers because they are much cheaper than mounting soil vertically. He wants to see how high they will grow, something that has not been tested before.

"It's important that my research will be able to provide some clear guidelines with a scientific basis for people to choose and nurture species for greening building facades and walls and roofs in this climate," he said. ■



OUR GOAL: a sustainable campus

HKU has been a leader in adopting measures to reduce our impact on the environment.

"Educational institutions can play a leading role in adopting greener measures and sending clear messages about what we can all do to achieve greater sustainability."

HKU is the 'green lung' in a densely-populated urban neighbourhood and it is acutely aware of its own impacts and vulnerability in the face of environmental problems. As Hong Kong's leading university, it is also conscious of its potential to be part of the solution.

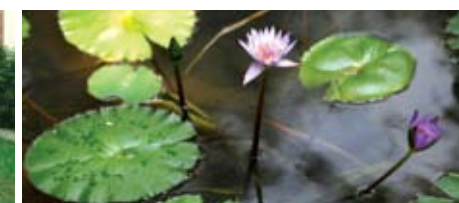
"Our position is that even given the constraints in which we work in Hong Kong, where there is a lack of renewable energy sources and the recycling culture is not very strong, we will try and demonstrate our concept of sustainability. We will do this not just through our curriculum, not just through our research, not just through our philosophy, but also through our own practice," Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor John Malpas, said.

The University has been addressing sustainability issues for well over a decade and managed to reduce its *per capita* energy consumption even as student and staff numbers and activities increased (see panel). It is also making the new Centennial Campus a showcase for environmental and sustainability features, and identifying

further measures to reduce consumption of resources and make existing buildings more energy efficient.

These efforts augment our academic efforts to find solutions and raise awareness. The environment is one of HKU's five Strategic Research Themes, and sustainability features in course offered by many of our faculties. Moreover, students are also setting an example to others.

The group Climate Chance, for example, sent a six-member delegation to UN Climate Change Conference in Copenhagen in December with the message that climate change is part of the bigger problem related to development. The group aims to get people to think more critically about how problems arise, and is also developing networks among Hong Kong secondary schools and universities to promote greener lifestyles. A live Skype talk with polar explorer and environmentalist Robert Swan was organized by the group in March, and they also plan an Eco-house exhibition at HKU in the autumn to showcase green technology. ■



Making progress

The University has been addressing energy and sustainability measures on campus for well over a decade. Here are some examples of our achievements:

- Energy efficiency practices reduced per capita electricity consumption over the past 10 years, saving more than 70,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide (as of 2008), despite increases in activities and staff and student numbers.
- HKU was the first Hong Kong university to appoint a Sustainability Officer (2008) and to publish a Sustainability Report (from 2002) and Sustainability Goals and Policy (in 2005).
- Existing buildings are being retrofitted to make them more energy efficient.
- Recycling has been brought to desk-sides and expanded around campus.
- A consultant has been appointed to collect data on energy, water and waste consumption, which will form the basis of targets for reduction.
- The new Centennial Campus has been designed with many features to reduce environmental impacts and showcase green technologies, such as solar and wind energy generators, maximized use of natural light, green roofs and walls, heat exchange pumps to capture hot air from air-conditioners, grey-water recycling, food-waste compactors, and lifts that generate power on their descent.
- Monitors are planned to be set up around campus to show energy consumption in each zone or building.
- HKU played a central organizing role the new Hong Kong Campus Sustainability Consortium, which held its first meeting in January. HKU is also drafting a Hong Kong declaration on sustainable higher education for local universities to sign.

A NEW APPLICATION for an old drug

A drug commonly used to treat osteoporosis is showing potential in the fight against flu.



The threat of a new influenza pandemic has emerged as one of the leading health concerns of the 21st century. But while pharmaceutical companies race to develop a successful vaccine, scholars at HKU are employing a distinctly Chinese approach to the problem.

The cross-disciplinary team, led by Chair Professor Lau Yu-lung, Doris Zimmern Professor in Community Child Health, and Dr Tu Wenwei of the Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine and Chair Professor Malik Peiris, Tam Wah-ching Professor in Medical Science, is researching ways to enhance the body's own immune response to influenza.

Rather than attacking the virus directly, as most conventional drugs like Tamiflu do, their research is focusing on boosting the body's innate immune system to effectively kill the virus. "There are two levels of immunity," explains Professor Lau. "The first level we call innate immunity, which means you're born with it, the second level is specific immunity, which means you have to learn from experiencing the infection and mounting a specific immune response.

"We thought that if we could somehow boost a patient's innate immunity, then we might turn a nasty illness into a less severe one, we might turn a patient who could die from influenza into a patient who just has a mild infection and makes a full recovery. That is the whole premise of our research."

One of the many arms of innate immunity is the gamma delta T-cell. These cells exist naturally in the blood and are known to fight viruses, like seasonal flu and its more deadly cousins H1N1, H9N2 and H5N1.

"So we thought that if we could somehow boost the level and function of gamma delta T-cells to a more active level then we might be able to fight the influenza virus better," says Professor Lau.

This would also overcome the drawback inherent in antiviral drugs. As Type A flu viruses mutate continually antivirals have to be updated to keep pace with circulating virus strains. Additionally, novel antivirals can take years of trial and error in the laboratory before they come to market – not the most satisfying scenario in the event of a pandemic. Existing anti-flu drugs work mainly by targeting specific viral proteins, thereby blocking the replication and spread of the virus.

Fortuitously, a drug in common use for the treatment of osteoporosis is known to enhance the function and number of gamma delta T-cells in the body and should, in theory, be able to boost the body's own immune response to flu through destroying the flu-infected cells, thereby limiting the viral production.

Phosphoantigens have been successfully used for decades to treat osteoporosis and have the potential to offer a ready-made and cost-effective solution to viral infections.

In a paper published in the *Journal of Infectious Diseases*, Professor Lau and his team showed that the application works *in vitro*. Early tests in mouse models are also showing promise.

"By activating the patient's own immune system, the gamma delta T-cells destroy the cells infected by the virus and in doing so they are destroying the factory that produces the virus. So there will be no issue of the virus becoming resistant to the drug and the drug will not lose its potency because what it's doing is trying to actually stop the virus from being produced.

"In a way, this is a uniquely Chinese approach – we are trying to boost the immune system rather than act directly against it.



Professor Lau Yu-lung

"If the treatment is successful in the mouse model the third step will be designing a clinical study – that is if our hypothesis is accepted by the medical community, and if it is considered to be of some use."

But what of the side effects? Reports that Tamiflu can cause nausea, insomnia and even psychiatric disorders in young people has left some patients understandably jittery about its potential benefits.

"In terms of the side effects of phosphoantigens, I think it's a question of the risk-to-benefit ratio. All medicines have some risk but the beauty of using an old drug for a new use is that people are comfortable that it has been tested, although for a different indication, at length, in great detail for short and long term toxicity. If it has been used for a long time in a large number of humans then you are even able to document the very rare kind of side effects. These are the qualities that have encouraged us to go on and do these experiments." ■

MADAGASCAR'S menagerie floated from africa

One of the greatest unresolved mysteries of natural history has been finally laid to rest.

Madagascar is home to a 'bizarre' repository of creatures, many found nowhere else on Earth. But how they arrived on the island has baffled scientists for centuries. Now, new research by Jason Ali, Associate Professor in HKU's Department of Earth Sciences, and Matthew Huber of the Earth and Atmospheric Sciences Department at Purdue University, seems to confirm the theory that they rafted there.

By modelling ancient ocean currents they discovered that favourable conditions for rafting off the coast of Africa, and across the Mozambique Channel, coincided with the arrival of mammals on Madagascar.

The study, published in *Nature*, shows that ocean currents periodically flowing between Africa and Madagascar, 60 to 20 million years ago, would have made the trip not only possible, but likely too, given that the currents were unusually fast.

The rafting hypothesis is not new. It was first mooted in 1915, but it was the palaeontologist and evolution theorist, George Simpson, who expanded the theory in a 1940 paper.

"Simpson explored the theory of land bridges," says Professor Ali. "And came up with a set of rules. When he applied them to Madagascar he noted that the creatures that got across were very unusual, because they're of a particular body type – small, with a low metabolic rate, and often with an ability to go into a type of torpor. You can basically turn them off. So things like rodents and small primates could probably have got across."

Simpson introduced the 'sweepstake process' to explain the island's unique biodiversity. If the animals had travelled to Madagascar along a land bridge, he said, large mammals such as elephants and giraffes would also have made the journey. And, as a geologist, Professor Ali agrees that the land bridge theory is "simply untenable."

In his previous research, on modelling past tectonic plate movements, in particular the India-Asia collision, Professor Ali kept running across the land bridge hypothesis used by biologists to explain how creatures from one continent arrived on another. "They

were taking the plate tectonic model which is very very robust, and shuffling it around willy nilly. But there are some very tight rules, and I kept thinking these guys were wrong but, because no geologists were reviewing their papers, they were getting away with it.

"Each of the four groups of animals – tenrecs (insect-eating mammals), lemurs, carnivorans and rodents – arrived in four single events between 60 and 20 million years ago," he says. Not in a continuous flow as one might expect across a bridge.

But the rafting hypothesis has also thrown up problems; the present-day currents and prevailing winds between Madagascar and Africa flow south and southwest, away from the island, so creatures or debris washed off Africa's coast would be swept south, not east.

A background in oceanography made him think the currents may have changed over millennia. So he contacted Huber, a paleoclimatologist who reconstructs the Earth's ancient ocean currents using a supercomputer, and asked him to model conditions 40 million years ago. Huber was able to show that Simpson's 'sweepstakes' theory could have worked; the currents at the time were favourable for a crossing that would have taken 25–30 days, short enough to get small animals, with low metabolic rates, across the Mozambique Channel. He also showed that the area was a hotspot for powerful cyclones capable of washing trees, i.e. potential rafts, into the oceans.

"What he found in a 100 year pattern is extreme events, with fairly fast flows," says

Professor Ali. "What is very unlikely on a short time scale becomes, on a geological timescale, more and more probable." About 20 million years ago the arrivals stopped.

Crucially, at the same time the flow between Africa and Madagascar was disrupted by the move northwards of Madagascar which punched through into the ocean circulation system, altering the currents. This means the flow between the two continents gradually weakened, closing off the 'sweepstakes process'.

"The key thing is the stopping," says Professor Ali. "It's not just the act of creatures arriving during this period, but that you switch off the process [of arrival]. That's an extra piece of information that you can use in the puzzle."

"Madagascar is home to a bizarre series of animals, its reptiles are practically totally endemic, its amphibians are 99 per cent endemic, and the terrestrial animals are certainly 100 per cent. They are all really weird shapes. Once they arrive this whole experiment with life takes off, and you end up with this incredible variety and sometimes in strange forms."

The island's unique biodiversity has made it a living laboratory for evolutionary scientists but the puzzle has always been, how did they get there?

"This study is important," says Professor Ali, "because it shows the process of colonization. We've answered a question that biologists have pondered for a very long time." ■



Professor Jason Ali

THE MANY FACES OF arthur conan doyle

The prolific writer's impact on British culture and identity is providing rich pickings for one HKU scholar.

Basil Rathbone plays Sherlock Holmes in 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' produced by Twentieth Century Fox in 1939.

As Sherlock Holmes stalks the big screen once more, we are reminded of the brilliant detective's enduring popularity. Since his first outing, in *Beeton's Christmas Annual* in 1887, the super sleuth has been regularly adapted for stage and screen and is listed, in the *Guinness Book of Records*, as the world's 'most portrayed movie character', with 75 actors playing the part in over 211 films.

But if Holmes and his trusty sidekick, Dr Watson, continue to capture the imagination then so too does their creator, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Biographies of the doctor-turned-author run into their dozens. Now, his life and works are undergoing a fresh, and more scholarly, examination by Professor Douglas Kerr, in the School of English.

He's researching a book on Conan Doyle in relation to the culture of his day, and "how his writing interprets and makes that culture,

very much from the middle of it. He is middle brow, middle class, a respectable, bourgeois figure," explains Professor Kerr. "I am looking at a number of cultural themes, science is one, sports is another, and also spiritualism."

During his lifetime Conan Doyle was as enthusiastic a sportsman as he was a writer. He played cricket for the MCC (Marylebone Cricket Club), football, as goalie, for Portsmouth Football Club, of which he was a founder, he was a gifted amateur boxer, a cyclist, golfer and hot air balloonist. He also helped to popularize recreational skiing which, says Professor Kerr, was "in a way one of the most influential things he did."

"He was very physically fit, and this is an important theme in his work because sport, of course, is very ideological, it can express ideas of national character and of masculinity and femininity, it's related to the physical but also to the moral health of nations and communities. It also has to do with questions of fairness and justice, which matter a lot in the Sherlock Holmes tales. Holmes is a kind of artist, but also a sportsman – a boxer – who shows a sporting sense of fair play."

A ferocious letter writer and commentator on political, social, judicial issues, Conan Doyle created, says Professor Kerr, "a sense of what certain things mean, what nation, justice, enjoyment mean. So in all of these ways he is very much a central representative figure."

"Conan Doyle's popularity made him a national writer. When you think of Britishness of a certain time he's your man, and he played up to that in a way. He did think of himself as representative of a national character but he played a part in forming that idea of Britishness too."

However, towards the end of his life his growing interest in spiritualism lost him much of the respect he had earned.

"He was widely admired and loved but as he began to write more about spiritualism and fairies, he became much more a figure of fun. He was incredibly reckless in the things that he said, the most famous instance being when he went on record as believing in the authenticity of photographs of fairies manufactured by two bored teenage girls."

The "Cottingley Fairies" are a series of five photographs, taken by two young cousins depicting themselves in various activities with supposed fairies. Conan Doyle was subjected to derision when he wrote an article, published in *The Strand* magazine in 1920, entitled, 'Fairies photographed – an epoch making event'.

"But, if you take this seriously for a moment it shows that all his life Conan Doyle set his face against materialism," Professor Kerr says. "In late Victorian Britain there was a great masculine worship of money and possessions, and I think this stuff about fairies and spiritualism shows a rather desperate need to believe there was more to the national life than just lucre, power and success."

Conan Doyle still matters, Professor Kerr argues, "because he wrote things people wanted to read, and we're still interested in him and in Sherlock Holmes, in particular. There is no other modern fictional character that has such a vigorous hold on the imagination. There's something about that myth of Holmes and Watson which is very powerful."

In February, Professor Kerr delivered a talk on 'Arthur Conan Doyle and the Consumption Cure', detailing the moment at which he turned away from the medical profession and began writing in earnest. This, and another talk delivered last August on *The Lost World* will form chapters in his upcoming book. ■



Arthur Conan Doyle

THE UNIVERSITY'S premier tribute

The University's honorary degree is the highest accolade it can bestow on an individual, and is awarded in recognition of distinguished service and commitment to the University, the community, and to academia. It is also awarded to those who have made valuable intellectual, social and cultural contributions to society.



Professor Roger Tsien Yonchien

At the 181st Congregation on December 8, 2009, Dr the Honourable David Li Kwok-po, Pro-Chancellor of the University, conferred an honorary degree upon Nobel Laureate in Chemistry Professor Roger Tsien Yonchien in recognition of his contributions to the fields of cell biology and neurobiology.

Professor Tsien sees universities as offering students a similarly safe and stimulating environment to experiment and discover.

"Universities provide a sheltering arena where students can try out different courses, areas of study, and career options, so that everyone can find out where his or her true interests and talents lie," he said.

Professor Tsien is steeped in the values of scholarly learning. His father was part of the 'scholar-gentry' class in Hangzhou and his uncles were professors at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Professor Tsien, who is also the 34th generational grandson of King Qian Liu of Wuyue in China, attended Harvard and Cambridge.

He was named co-recipient of the 2008 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for his work in developing green fluorescent protein, which enables scientists to identify where proteins are produced and monitor how they move within the body. Professor Tsien is based at the University of California, San Diego, and has expanded his colour palette to include blue, yellow, orange and red.



The University's Chancellor, Dr the Honourable Donald Tsang Yam-kuen (centre), conferred honorary degrees upon five outstanding individuals at the 182nd Congregation in March 2010.



Professor Lawrence Chan Chin-bong

Professor Lawrence Chan Chin-bong is one of the most distinguished alumni of HKU's Medical Faculty. He is currently Professor of Medicine, Molecular and Cellular Biology, and Biochemistry, as well as Betty Rutherford Chair for Diabetes Research at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas.

He has received numerous North American awards for his groundbreaking contributions to the areas of lipoprotein/lipid/carbohydrate metabolism and diabetes, and for his long dedication to research in the field of endocrinology. Chief among these is the Edwin B. Astwood Award, presented in 2007, and regarded as one of the most prestigious awards in the field of endocrinology and

metabolism. In the same year he was also recognized as Asian Physician of the Year by Indiana University.

Professor Chan is Director of the National Institutes of Health (NIH)-Diabetes and Endocrinology Research Centre (DERC) and Chief of the Division of Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism in the Department of Medicine.

He has remained loyal to his *alma mater*, returning repeatedly to deliver plenary lectures, and contributing to joint research projects and mentoring our postgraduate students.

In recognition of his contributions to medicine and academia, Professor Lawrence Chan Chin-bong was conferred the degree of Doctor of Science *honoris causa*.

Mr Lawrence Fung Siu-por

Mr Lawrence Fung Siu-por is an exceptional business leader and social advocate who has devoted himself to enhancing the interests of both Hong Kong and Mainland China.

In 1988, he launched the *Hong Kong Economic Times* (HKET), one of the city's leading business dailies. He is currently the Chairman and Founder of Hong Kong Economic Times Holdings Limited which, under his leadership, has diversified to include printed media, a financial news agency, information and solutions, recruitment advertising and training.

Mr Fung is a HKU alumnus and former President of the Students' Union. After

graduating with a Bachelor of Social Sciences degree in 1972, he gained a Master of Arts in Economics from the University of Manchester.

In 2006, he and his wife established the Azalea (1972) Endowment Fund to provide funding for HKU designated projects that benefit the local community. He was a founding member of the HKU Graduates Association Education Foundation and is an Honorary Patron of the HKU Foundation. In 2003 he was awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star.

In recognition of his contributions to academia and Hong Kong, Mr Lawrence Fung Siu-por was conferred the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.



The Venerable Master Hsing Yun

The Venerable Master Hsing Yun is a world-renowned religious leader, author, educator, humanitarian and philanthropist. Born in 1927 into a poor family in rural Jiangsu Province, his father left home when he was still young and never returned. During his early years Master Yun was influenced by his pious mother and grandmother and first entered a monastery at the age of 12.

He went on to found the Fo Guang Shan Buddhist order and the affiliated Buddha's Light International Association, one of the world's largest Buddhist organizations.

Master Yun has become known for his 'Humanistic Buddhism' philosophy, which focuses on facing current worldly issues, and he is credited with reforming Buddhism by opening monasteries, universities and schools worldwide, and engaging in dialogue with other Buddhist sects and religious orders.

HKU has also benefitted from Master Hsing Yun's outreach philosophy. In 2003 he attended the opening ceremony of the Centre of Buddhist Studies Library, and has regularly returned to deliver lectures and public talks.

In recognition of his contributions to humanitarian and philanthropic causes the Venerable Master Hsing Yun was conferred the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.



Dr Serena Yang Hsueh-chi

Dr Serena Yang Hsueh-chi is a shining example of learning as a lifelong adventure. Chinese by ancestry, she grew up in Japan and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts from Kwansei Gakuin University, in Japan, in 1955.

At the age of sixty-two, she joined HKU as a visiting student and developed a passionate interest in the history of psychoanalysis in Japan. Since then she has written several papers on the subject, and presented her work internationally. She also helped establish the Yang Hsueh Chi Staff Research Fund in 1996 and the Yang Hsueh Chi Education Fund in 2003 for research in the Department of Psychology.

Many HKU endeavours have benefitted from Dr Yang's support. These include student scholarships, and the Oxford-HKU Psychology student exchange programme.

The Serena Yang Library and Prizes were established in honour of her contributions to the Department of Surgery. She helped establish the Global Lounge, in 2005, and has supported the Faculty of Social Sciences' Social Exposure Programme.

She is currently an Honorary Senior Research Associate of the Department of Psychology and was a founding member of the HKU Foundation.

In recognition of her contributions to academia and Hong Kong, Dr Serena Yang Hsueh-chi was conferred the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*.

Professor Richard Yu Yue-hong

Professor Richard Yu Yue-hong comes from a family of illustrious alumni of this University. He graduated with an MBBS degree in 1958, after which he completed his clinical training at Queen Mary Hospital and gained his PhD from the University College Hospital, London, where he was awarded a PhD in 1966.

On his return to HKU, he completed his MD degree and entered private practice, specializing in nephrology, where he made enormous improvements to patient care and medical treatment. One of his greatest contributions has been in public service to the medical profession. He was a founding member of the Hong Kong College of Physicians.

He also continued to teach at HKU's Department of Medicine as Honorary Clinical Lecturer and is currently an Honorary Professor in the Department. He holds the same position at the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics at the Chinese University and is also an Honorary Consultant Physician at the Ruttonjee and Princess Margaret Hospitals.

At present he holds the illustrious position of Chairman of the Higher Physician Training Committee.

In recognition of his contributions to medicine and the community, Professor Richard Yu Yue-hong was conferred the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences *honoris causa*. ■



Award Presentation Ceremony for Excellence in Teaching & Research 2009

The University of Hong Kong's outstanding teachers and researchers were honoured at an Award Presentation Ceremony on January 28, 2010 in the Rayson Huang Theatre.

Awards were presented to 22 individuals in recognition of excellence in teaching and research. A further 10 prizes were given for outstanding research output.

Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, Vice-Chancellor and President, welcomed the full-house audience to this ninth annual award ceremony, which he said provides the opportunity to "give due recognition to these accomplished individuals" and "to thank them for their significant contribution to HKU and beyond".

"Their exemplary performance is an inspiration for all members of our University community," Professor Tsui said.

During the ceremony, video clips and citations gave the audience an insight into the winners' accomplishments and approaches to teaching and research. Their motivation, dedication and inspiration to others were apparent from these presentations.

In his speech as guest of honour, Dr the Honourable David Li Kwok-po, the University's Pro-Chancellor, added his congratulations to the winners and thanked them for their exceptional work.

"They have excelled through devotion to teaching and research, through forging new directions and overcoming boundaries, through their academic excellence, curiosity and creativity, and through their contributions to improving the lives of others," Dr Li said.

Dr Li also took the opportunity to celebrate Professor Lap-Chee Tsui's election to the Chinese Academy of Sciences as a foreign member in November 2009 in recognition of his scientific achievements and his important contributions to promoting the development of science and technology in China.

In closing, Dr Li said that it is through the efforts and achievements of all members of the University that HKU "is now widely recognized as the leading centre of academic achievement in Asia".

An overview of the award winners is given here. More photos from the event and the video presentations can be seen at www.hku.hk/award/.



UNIVERSITY DISTINGUISHED TEACHING AWARD

For almost a decade the University has saluted excellence in teaching. This year we launched the University Distinguished Teaching Award for teachers who have demonstrated an outstanding commitment to excellence in pedagogy.



Professor Chan Lung-sang

Professor Chan Lung-sang
Department of Earth Sciences

Professor Chan's PhD supervisor would be proud. His former student has become an inspiring, highly-regarded teacher at HKU, instilling in his students a passion for learning, especially experiential learning, and taking that passion into the community to share with secondary school teachers and students. And he has done all this by following the supervisor's advice.

Professor Chan completed his PhD at the University of California, Berkeley, where his supervisor treated students as family and encouraged both their learning and

personal growth. One day on a field trip to Italy Professor Chan asked him how he could repay him, and the supervisor replied, "Just treat your own students in the future the way I have treated you."

The advice was taken to heart. Professor Chan regards his relationship with students as a learning and working partnership, an approach that has earned their deep respect. In 2004 he was awarded the University Teaching Fellowship in recognition of his teaching excellence. His students said he was "inspiring", "humorous" and that he "encourages us to think critically". They still seek his advice many years after they graduate and, echoing his own experiences as a student, they regard Professor Chan as family. "I'm invited to a lot of weddings!" he said.

His personal warmth has been matched by high standards and a commitment to evolving and improving the curriculum, both at the Faculty and University-wide level.

Professor Chan arrived at the University in 1995, when the Department of Earth Sciences had just been set up as the only department of its kind in Hong Kong (which it still is). He came from the US,

where he taught at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire and dreamt of being able to help his home city produce its own Earth Sciences specialists rather than relying on outside consultants. He found it immensely satisfying to be involved in the Department from its early days, and he has ploughed his enthusiasm into educational development elsewhere in the University.

Professor Chan was involved in re-designing the Science Faculty's admission policy and restructuring its curriculum to foster a holistic learning experience for undergraduate students. Moreover, he is a member of the Steering Committee of the University's four-year Undergraduate Curriculum Reform. This has involved him in overseeing the planning and implementation of the new curriculum, and facilitating inter-Faculty and inter-disciplinary collaboration. He has also taken a leadership role in the Scientific and Technological Literacy Area of Inquiry in the Common Core Curriculum.

Professor Chan's teaching excellence, his commitment to the whole-person development of his students, and his dedication and impact on the University's core mission of teaching and learning, mark him out as a teacher of rare exception.



Mr Richard Anthony Glofcheski

Mr Richard Anthony Glofcheski
Department of Law

Rick Glofcheski, Associate Professor of Law in the Law Faculty, is a familiar face at this annual Teaching Awards Ceremony. In 2004 he scooped a University Teaching Fellowship and in 2008 he received the Outstanding Teaching Award. He is an equally familiar face around campus, having taught at HKU for twenty years.

He is described by his students as one of the most sought-after teachers in the Faculty, and is regarded as a teacher, mentor, counsellor, and friend – someone committed to encouraging them to perform to the best of their abilities. Regardless of the size of his class he makes an effort to know each student by name, believing that this gives them "an identity and a sense

of belonging in the classroom, and shows that the teacher cares about the student and his or her learning progress. They feel respected and valued."

Rick's deep knowledge of his subject matter is clear from his research articles, his recently published book, *Tort Law in Hong Kong*, and the forthcoming publication *Employment Law and Practice in Hong Kong*.

He is of the view that a teacher should be well-versed in his subject matter and that his lessons should be well prepared. To this end, he designs well thought-out activities that engage his students in deep and active learning and creates a classroom culture that he describes as 'participatory democracy and equality among intellectuals'. It is this practice that enables him to inject 'Law', often considered a dry subject matter, with the interest necessary to engage all students.

In 2001 Rick became a founding member of the department's Teaching and Learning Quality Committee, and ensured coherence in the first-year LLB curriculum in his capacity as First Year Course Coordinator (2001–08).

His enthusiasm for teaching often spills beyond the classroom as he mentors tutors in the Faculty, providing them with clear guidance on how to bring about high quality

discussion in tutorials. Rick considers himself a reflective practitioner, and as such is tireless in his exploration of ways to improve his teaching.

In collaboration with his colleagues, both inside and outside the Faculty, he has conducted two complementary research projects, one on 'How Law Teachers Teach' and another on 'How Law Students Learn', and has published and presented the findings in Faculty seminars and international conferences.

He is firmly of the view that students maximize their learning opportunities only when they take full responsibility for that learning. Outcomes-based learning, one of the major initiatives of the new four-year Undergraduate Curriculum Reform, helps students achieve this goal by informing them from the outset of the learning outcomes of a course, the learning activities that will achieve these outcomes, and the way they are to be assessed.

Since the inception of outcomes-based learning at University level, Rick has been deeply involved in investigating how it can be implemented in his own teaching. He has also promoted this approach in his Faculty by hosting seminars to share his experience and research findings.

OUTSTANDING TEACHING AWARD

This Award, launched in 2008, recognizes teachers who have impressed their students and colleagues with their commitment to excellence in the teaching and learning process.

Mr Jason Carlow

Department of Architecture

Fostering students' critical thinking, curiosity and ability to address ill-defined problems are core goals for Jason Carlow. He believes this can be achieved by engaging in open conversation and careful questioning with students, encouraging them to take risks and accept challenges to their opinions, and recognizing the strongest ideas in their work.

"Architectural problems are often open-ended and have no exact solution or 'correct' answer," he said. "A student should not be afraid to make mistakes, for in mistakes there are opportunities. I try to encourage students to find mistakes with potential and then capitalize upon them in the development of a project."

MArch student Christine Ng Pui-yee has experienced Mr Carlow's teaching approach first-hand, and found him to be keen for students to learn from each other and from other cultures. He arranged a joint design studio with Columbia University in New York and took students there and to Shanghai, turning the cities themselves into their classroom.

"The thing about these trips that impressed me most was during our free time, he brought us to visit precious places and introduced their historical background to us. We visited many important buildings. His passion for teaching shows in all aspects," she said.



Mr Jason Carlow



Dr Chris Chan Wai-hong

Dr Chris Chan Wai-hong

School of Business

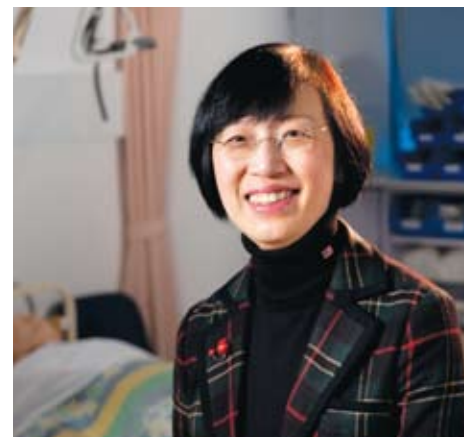
Mutual respect lies at the heart of Dr Chan's approach to teaching: respect between teacher and students, and among the students themselves. That respect starts with the teacher setting an example.

"I believe respect begets respect, professionalism begets professionalism, and a smile is reciprocated with a smile," he said.

MBA student James Huff said Dr Chan "embodied the kind of management professional that we were trying to become by enrolling in the MBA programme. Although he was very busy, he was the one teacher that learned all of our names. He was extremely clear on what he expected, but kept communication channels open. And students respected him for his commitment to excellence."

Dr Chan sees himself as a motivate and stimulator, who gets students to think but does not overtake their discussions. "[Class] discussions were rarely between Dr Chan and the students, but among students themselves. Very often, these discussions allowed students to voice their opinions and challenge one another," BBA(IBGM) student Sabrina Jensen said.

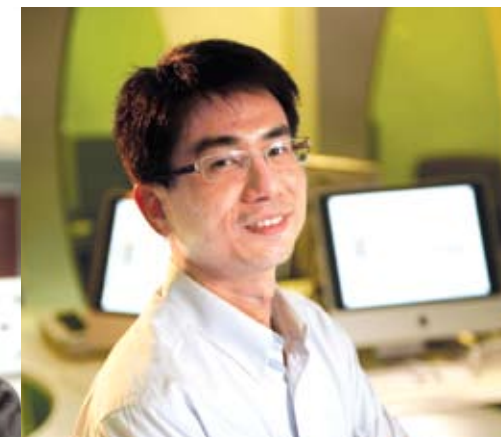
Dr Chan also welcomes students to challenge him and believes their criticisms can help him to improve: "My ultimate aim is to creatively shape and re-shape thinking and change minds. But I must first re-shape mine."



Professor Sophia Chan Siu-chee



Professor David Lung Ping-yee



Dr Yiu Siu-ming

Professor Sophia Chan Siu-chee

Department of Nursing Studies

Professor Chan has a clear vision of her role as a teacher. She is there to facilitate learning, encourage lifelong learning and prepare nurses for the future.

"I believe learners are not an empty vase and my goal is to facilitate the students' learning rather than just dispensing knowledge and information," she said.

"With the advancement of medical and information technology, knowledge expansion and globalization, the scope and science of nurses' practice is changing and expanding in response to the rapid changes. Nurses must be equipped with knowledge and skills ... and be motivated to learn the philosophy of science. The nursing curriculum is thus designed to strike a careful balance to nurture students with scientific minds, caring hearts, and skilful hands."

Professor Chan, who is Head of Department, has introduced new teaching techniques – for example, clinical PBL to improve nurses' critical thinking and problem solving in clinical settings – and sets an example with her caring attitude to students.

"She acts like a beacon whenever her students feel lost, she takes care of the feelings of her students and she provides encouragement and support to let us achieve our goals. I am deeply impressed by her spirit of never giving up," PhD candidate David Wong Chung-ngok said.

Professor David Lung Ping-yee

Department of Architecture

Professor David Lung Ping-yee is a Professor in the Department of Architecture where he says learning how to teach and learning how to be innovative in teaching is a continual process.

One of his former students Chan Leung-choi, (MArch 1988), now Managing Director of Aedas, recalls "David sometimes received 'criticism' from students who were still fond of rigid and sterile pedagogy like handouts, slide show by overhead projector etc. However for those students who were willing to learn out of the box, he was popular. He did not teach architecture by sketch paper, instead he used a piece of music by Vivaldi, a piece of painting by Picasso, for example, to explain the abstract architectural concept about theme and variation, structure and rhythm, order and mutation."

Professor Lung explains his philosophy in a 2000-year-old quote from *Xueji*: "One discovers one's deficiencies through learning; one finds out one's difficulties through teaching. In recognizing deficiencies, one is able to reflect on oneself; in overcoming difficulties, one is able to develop oneself. Therefore, it is said that teaching and learning are mutually enhancing."

He adds, "My role as a teacher is not only to disseminate knowledge, but to set an exemplary role model for students, to encourage them to be civic minded and ready to make contributions to society."

Dr Yiu Siu-ming

Department of Computer Science

Dr Yiu Siu-ming, an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science, has garnered respect from many of his students who describe him as a "lecturer who cares a lot about the learning process." As a PhD graduate from the Department in which he now teaches he says he was inspired by his own teachers to excel in his role as lecturer. He is devoted to motivating students, teaching them how to self-educate and deal with issues within and beyond the classroom. He also takes an active role in curriculum design exploring different teaching methodologies such as problem-based learning and outcome-based learning.

One of his former students Chim Tat-wing, (PhD 2008), says, "While he is presenting course materials, he keeps on monitoring students' progress. Once he finds any student is lagging behind, he slows down the pace or even repeats the previously presented materials with the addition of daily-life and easy-to-understand examples."

Another, Cheung Tang-lung, [BEng(CompSc) 2007] adds, "Dr Yiu is an energetic lecturer with a delightful sense of humour. He is willing to put himself into the students' shoes and is good at teaching from their perspectives. He seems to know exactly the difficulties students face, and is always helpful."

OUTSTANDING RESEARCH STUDENT SUPERVISOR AWARD

This annual Award is granted in recognition of supervisors of postgraduate students whose guidance has been particularly helpful. Winners are awarded a monetary prize of \$25,000 to further their own research and a Type B research postgraduate studentship.

Professor Cecilia Chan Lai-wan

Si Yuan Professor in Health and Social Work, Department of Social Work and Social Administration

Professor Chan is a registered social worker, known as a pioneer of innovative social services for disadvantaged populations and people in need and an international expert on integrative body-mind-spirit social work practice.

She uses a SMART model (Strength-focused, Meaning-based Approach to Resilience and Transformation) in her work on the empowerment of traumatized individuals such as cancer patients, women of divorce, bereaved persons, couples with infertility, suicide survivors and disaster victims.

Her approach of integrating Chinese philosophies and Chinese medicine concepts into holistic behavioural health has been vigorously studied by randomized control trials with psychosocial-physiological markers. Her promotion of Eastern spirituality of forgiveness, appreciation and gratitude are fundamental to building a harmonious society.

Of her students she says: "If they can all shine and become superstars I will be very happy to retire."

Honorary Clinical Associate, Alicia Pon Kwai-ling said: "She has left a huge imprint in my life. I have become a better person, a better student and definitely a better teacher."

Professor Lam Tak-wah

Department of Computer Science

Professor Lam joined the Department of Computer Science of the University of Hong Kong in 1988. From 2001 to 2006 he was an Associate Dean of the Faculty of Engineering and has received the Department's teaching excellence award several times, as well as the Faculty's best teacher award.

His research is on the design and analysis of algorithms for different applications. Apart from proving mathematical theorems, he is also interested in building practical software. The indexing software produced by his team has recently been adopted by the Beijing Genome Institute as a core tool of genome re-sequencing.

Assistant Professor in the Department, Chan Ho-leung says, "He is a top researcher in this area so he's very good at finding problems and explaining this area to us."

His PhD student, Hon Wing-kai, adds, "I believe he is the most hardworking person in our Department."

Professor Lam explains that his challenge is "How to motivate the students and, in particular, how to set up a goal for their research and how to build up their confidence."



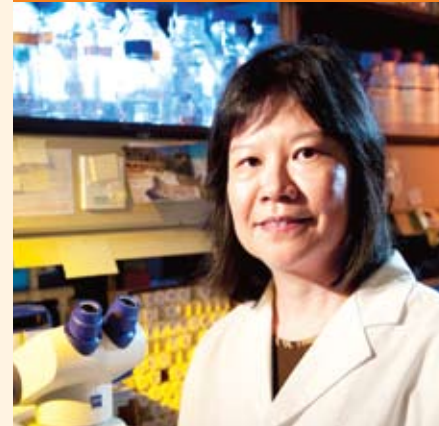
Professor Cecilia Chan Lai-wan



Professor Lam Tak-wah



Professor Victor Li On-kwok



Dr Sham Mai-har

Professor Victor Li On-kwok

Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Professor Li regards research student training as an apprenticeship, where students learn by working with a teacher how to identify and formulate a research problem and develop innovative solutions. In Professor Li's case, the students are learning from a master.

Professor Li has received many awards over his distinguished career, such as the Croucher Foundation Senior Research Fellowship and the Bronze Bauhinia Star from the Hong Kong Government, and is Associate Dean (Research) of Engineering and Chair Professor of Information Engineering. He has developed innovative techniques for the management and performance evaluation of communication networks and multimedia systems.

That expertise has provided students with opportunities to work at a very high level. Professor Li gives his students high priority, even when there are conflicts in his schedule, and he involves them in his work. With students, he has invented technologies for packet-switched networks, video-on-demand systems and resource allocation problems that have received or are being evaluated for patents.

Dr Sham Mai-har

Department of Biochemistry

Dr Sham has deep passion for microphotography and the aesthetic appreciation of scientific images, a passion she shares with her research students. The experimental and data collection work they undertake is painstaking, but it is rewarded with the joy of seeing images that reflect the truth and beauty of the biological world.

Dr Sham's passion has carried her through years of study in Hong Kong and London and almost 20 years of teaching and research at HKU, where she is an Associate Professor in the Department of Biochemistry. Her area of interest is molecular genetics and developmental genetics, and she has pursued several research paths in this field.

These include investigating the molecular mechanisms in mammalian development and human congenital disorders, where her work focuses on the roles of transcription factors including Hoxb and Sox10. Dr Sham is also working on neural stem cells and neural crest stem cells and looking into their therapeutic applications in human diseases.

OUTSTANDING YOUNG RESEARCHER AWARD

Exceptional research potential in young scholars aged below 40 is recognized by this award, which brings with it \$150,000 per year for two years to further research and a research postgraduate studentship.



Dr Giorgio Biancorosso

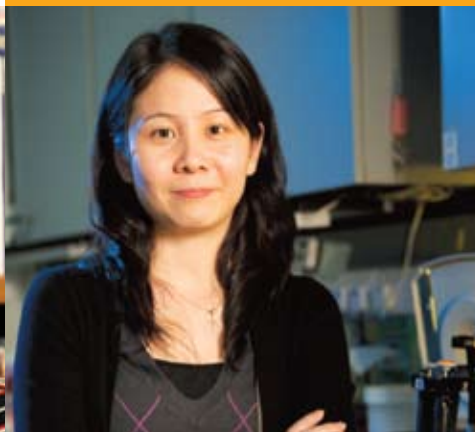
Dr Giorgio Biancorosso

School of Humanities (Music)

Dr Biancorosso is an Assistant Professor in Music in the School of Humanities where he teaches courses in Music History, Opera, and Film Studies. He came to Hong Kong as a Visiting Assistant Professor in 2004–05, and considers it a great stroke of luck that his visiting appointment has become permanent.

His work addresses the relationship between music and the moving image in cinema from a variety of perspectives: psychological, philosophical, and critical. He has published a number of articles and anthology chapters on such topics as film sound, music and the psychology of expectation, and the role of pop in Wong Kar-wai's cinema.

He is an adviser for major university presses and has lectured at Columbia University, Stanford, NUS, and UC Berkeley. This year, he will be Visiting Professor in Musicology at the National Taiwan University (Taipei) and is currently completing a book entitled *Musical Aesthetics Through Cinema* for Oxford University Press.



Dr Lui Wing-yee

Dr Lui Wing-yee

School of Biological Sciences

Dr Lui is a HKU graduate who won numerous awards and scholarships – including the Sir Edward Youde Fellowship and the University Women Scholarship – during her pre-doctoral training.

Currently an Assistant Professor in the School of Biological Sciences she believes that perseverance with a positive mindset makes everything a possibility and is grateful for the opportunities that HKU has given her since her undergraduate studies.

Her research interests are in cell adhesion and male reproductive biology and focus on understanding the precise mechanism of cell junction restructuring pertinent to germ cell movement and development. Abnormality in junction restructuring could result in male infertility.

Results obtained from her studies not only provide new insights for the development of non-hormonal male contraceptives, but also improve our understanding of unexplained male infertility.



Dr Nikolaos Mamoulis

Dr Nikolaos Mamoulis

Department of Computer Science

Dr Mamoulis joined the Department of Computer Science in 2001, and focuses his research on the effective management and mining of complex data types, including spatial, spatio-temporal, object-relational, multimedia, text and semi-structured data.

He has developed efficient data structures and search algorithms for large-scale practical applications, including the assignment of service facilities to users, location-allocation, and navigation in transportation maps.

His work is driven by the joy of problem solving and bringing new results to life. He believes that life's ever-evolving complexity guarantees that there will always be new challenges ahead to keep him busy.

Dr Mamoulis has published over 100 articles in prestigious journals and has chaired five international conferences and workshops and served on more than 80 programme committees. He is an editorial board member of Springer's *Geoinformatica* journal.

He appreciates the great support from the University and would like to credit to his graduate students for their energetic efforts in research.



Dr Gavin James Smith



Mr Simon Young Ngai-man

Dr Gavin James Smith

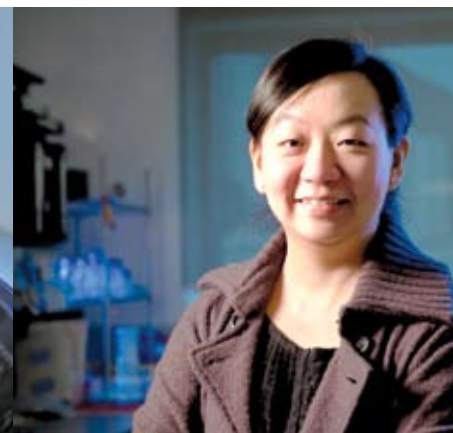
Department of Microbiology

Dr Smith's initial training was in ecology and evolution at the University of Melbourne, and he gained his PhD from HKU in 2003 and went on to complete his postdoctoral training in virology at the State Key Laboratory of Emerging Infectious Diseases and Department of Microbiology at HKU.

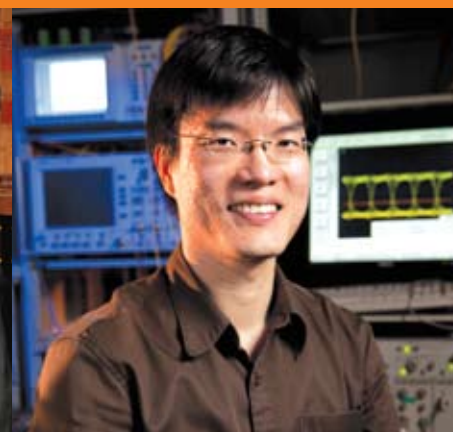
He studies the ecology and evolution of emerging infectious viruses and uses computational methods to determine genetic factors involved in the spread and adaptation of influenza virus in different hosts.

His work has been published in top international journals such as *Nature* and *PNAS*, and he has made major contributions to influenza research by introducing cutting-edge methodologies in bioinformatics and molecular evolution analysis.

His research is highly collaborative and this award is dedicated to the many people who have helped along the way. In 2007 he was awarded a prestigious seven-year Career Development Award by the US National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases (NIAID/NIH).



Dr Judy Yam Wai-ping



Dr Kenneth Wong Kin-yip

Mr Simon Young Ngai-man

Department of Law

In the sixth grade, Mr Young first experienced a 'eureka' moment of discovery through research. He was working on a class project to see what people threw away over lunchtime and found uneaten sandwiches, unopened soft drinks, and even money. Today, he sees his research into criminal and constitutional law and human rights as the pursuit of the coin at the bottom of the litter bin.

Mr Young's research has impacted on public policy making in Hong Kong through his work with the Law Reform Commission, his submissions on security measures and political reform, and his ongoing research on torture claimants. He set up the Basic Law Drafting History Online and his publications are cited by judges in Canada, Hong Kong and Australia.

Mr Young is Associate Professor of Law and Director of the Faculty's Centre for Comparative and Public Law. He is a graduate of the University of Toronto law school and obtained his LL.M. from the University of Cambridge.

Dr Judy Yam Wai-ping

Department of Pathology

Diligence and determination are the key drivers in Dr Yam's scientific pursuit, which she has directed towards investigating liver cancer. Her aim is to contribute to better clinical management of the disease and provide insights into the development of new therapies.

Dr Yam's research focuses on the functions and signalling pathways of focal adhesion molecules, which are closely associated with liver cancer. Their deregulation contributes to the acquired aggressiveness of cancer cells. Her work has answered fundamental questions about the subcellular localization, intracellular translocation and binding activity of these molecules, and have unveiled the molecular basis of liver cancer progression.

Dr Yam deeply appreciates the support of her mentors and research team members. She obtained her BSc from the University of Washington and her MS and PhD from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, and is currently Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology.

Dr Kenneth Wong Kin-yip

Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Dr Wong is both an outstanding researcher and teacher. He has developed a photonic signal processor that advances fibre optical communication technologies and promotes research in other fields, such as biophotonics and green energy systems. He is author and co-author of more than 150 journal and conference papers and in 2003 received the Optical Society of America New Focus Student Award.

Alongside these research achievements, he has received excellent evaluations of his teaching performance and was recipient of the Best Teacher Award in 2005–06. His commitment to teaching includes participating in service trips to Mainland China, and in 2010 he joined the Empower the Teachers Programme organized by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Dr Wong received his MS and PhD degrees in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University. He also worked in HP Laboratories as a Research Engineer in 1998–99 and as an independent consultant for Sumitomo Innovation Core USA in 2004, and is currently Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

OUTSTANDING RESEARCHER AWARD

This annual award honours scholars who produce high impact research of international merit. The recipients receive a \$250,000 monetary award to further their research.



Professor Frank Dikötter

Professor Frank Dikötter

School of Humanities (History)

Professor Dikötter was Professor of the Modern History of China at the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London, before he joined the University of Hong Kong as Chair Professor of Humanities in 2006.

He believes that history is a craft, and that immersion in primary sources is not only one of the joys of historical research, but also essential in understanding the complexity of the past and resisting some of the simplifications of the present. "History is not the private preserve of a few specialists," he says. "It belongs to everybody." Furthermore, he insists, "History does not have to be boring, it can be written in a lively fashion."

Professor Dikötter has pioneered the use of archival sources, introduced new research areas and developed fresh approaches to social history that have changed the ways in which historians view modern China.

He is currently completing a book for Bloomsbury on Mao's Great Famine, using recently opened party archives to link what happened in the corridors of power with the everyday experiences of ordinary people, giving voice to the disenfranchised. He believes his work has benefitted greatly from HKU's supportive research environment.

Professor Wang Jian

Department of Physics

Professor Wang is currently working in the field of nano-scale physics and nano-technology, a cutting-edge research area being pursued by major laboratories around the world.

His key contribution to the field is on the quantum transport theory and modelling in nanostructures. He says, "We are the first in the world to combine two very different fields – material science and so-called quantum transport theory."

On the theoretical side, he has successfully developed necessary formalisms to predict AC as well as nonlinear DC transport properties using the scattering matrix theory, the response theory, and the non-equilibrium Green's function theory.

These theoretical developments are closely linked with numerical investigations of atomic and molecular devices.

He says, "Most of the time I am always thinking about my project. I like Physics and I have a very good environment here. You don't have distractions or pressures here so you don't have any difficulties."

His research has resulted in a new method which has become the *de facto* standard technique for modelling the quantum transport of nano-devices.

His contributions to this area have won him the Achievement in Asia Award of the Overseas Chinese Physics Association and a Croucher Senior Fellowship.



Professor Wong Sze-chun

Professor Wong Sze-chun

Department of Civil Engineering

Professor Wong is a firm believer in multidisciplinary work. He has collaborated with colleagues from electrical engineering, mathematics, geography, urban planning, economics and medicine, and his research is primarily concerned with the multidisciplinary subject of transportation.

His interests include optimization of traffic signal settings, continuum modelling for traffic equilibrium problems, traffic flow theory, traffic management and control, transportation planning and network modelling, and road safety. He has published widely in refereed journals and currently is editor-in-chief or associate editor of several high profile international journals, and an editorial board member of 10 others. Over the past decade, he has been awarded, as principal investigator, nine GRF grants from the Hong Kong Research Council.

Professor Wong received his BSc(Eng) and MPhil degrees from HKU, and his PhD from University College London which he obtained with a Croucher Foundation Scholarship. He received an Outstanding Young Researcher Award from HKU in 2000 and an NSFC Young Researcher Award from the National Natural Science Foundation of China in 2007. He is currently Deputy Head of the Department of Civil Engineering at HKU and Director of the Institute of Transport Studies.



Professor Paul Yip Siu-fai

Professor Paul Yip Siu-fai

Department of Social Work and Social Administration

The core focus of Professor Yip's career has been how to use sophisticated quantitative methods to better understand human health and illness. He does not consider statistics to be a remote science but rather, a means of finding ways to make a difference in people's lives and in the health of the community.

Professor Yip has applied that conviction to the challenge of developing an integrative science for solving population health problems from birth to death. He has developed innovative statistical methods in surveillance and monitoring, and provided a better understanding of suicide and its prevention. This understanding is an essential step for developing novel approaches to health promotion.

Professor Yip has been awarded the Silver Innovation Award by the *Asian Wall Street Journal* and is a distinguished alumnus of La Trobe University. He is Director of HKU's Hong Kong Jockey Club Centre for Suicide Research and Prevention and Vice-president of the International Association of Suicide Prevention. He also serves as a consultant and advisor to the World Health Organization, Family Planning Association, and Central Policy Unit of the Hong Kong SAR.

MEMBER OF THE CHINESE ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

The Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) is a leading academic institution, and a comprehensive research and development centre in the natural sciences and high-tech innovation. Only those who have contributed enormously to China's scientific progress are elected to the Academy.



Professor Lap-Chee Tsui

Professor Lap-Chee Tsui Vice-Chancellor

Professor Tsui is an internationally acclaimed scientist who, in 1989, identified the defective gene that triggers cystic fibrosis. This represented a major breakthrough in human genetics and he has gone on to make in-depth contributions to the human genome study, particularly in the characterization of chromosome 7, and the identification of additional disease genes.

An alumnus of the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Professor Tsui was geneticist-in-chief and head of the Genetics and Genomic Biology Programme of the Research Institute at the Hospital for Sick Children, and held the HE Sellers Chair in Cystic Fibrosis and was University Professor at the University of Toronto before returning to his home city as the University of Hong Kong's Vice-Chancellor, in 2002.

Professor Tsui has been elected as a Foreign Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in recognition of his scientific achievement and important contributions to promoting the development of science and technology in China.

During a long and illustrious career he has won numerous prestigious awards.

Individual research output by an author or team is honoured through this prize. Each Faculty is allowed one prize and the winning entries each receive \$120,000.

Architecture

Health and safety in Hong Kong's apartment buildings vary considerably, mostly due to management systems rather than building design. This finding was reported in a joint study by the Department of Real Estate and Construction and the Department of Architecture, led by Dr Daniel Ho Chi-wing. 'A Survey of the Health and Safety Conditions of Apartment Buildings in Hong Kong' was published in *Building and Environment*.

Arts

The ways in which the East has been imagined and remembered in British literature is the subject of *Eastern Figures: Orient and Empire in British Writing* by Professor Douglas Kerr. The book raises issues of identity and representation, power and knowledge, and how to portray other people. It offers original ideas and approaches of interest to specialists in literary studies, Asian studies and history.

RESEARCH OUTPUT PRIZE

Business And Economics

A study on customer relationship development in services shows customer-firm affection can be an emotion-laden conduit for developing customer loyalty. The results have implications for managers and were published in the study, 'Strengthening Customer Loyalty through Intimacy and Passion: Roles of Customer-Firm Affection and Customer-Staff Relationships in Services', in the *Journal of Marketing Research*, by a team led by Professor Bennett Yim Chi-kin.

Dentistry

A team led by Dr Chaminda Seneviratne has described a novel molecular mechanism that is likely to mediate the higher antifungal resistance in *Candida* biofilms. This work will benefit future researchers working on the emergence of microbial drug resistance and, in particular, antifungal resistance. '*Candida Albicans* Biofilm Formation is Associated with Increased Anti-oxidative Capacities' was published in *Proteomics*.

Education

'Energy Expenditure and Cardiovascular Responses to Seated and Active Gaming in Children' has received substantial media attention and is likely to bring about a shift in the way that academics and the general public view the relationship between entertainment technology and exercise science. The study by Ms Robin Mellecker and Dr Alison McManus was published in the *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*.

Engineering

Interdisciplinary research between scholars in the Department of Mechanical Engineering has resulted in the solution to a real problem in the fields of tissue engineering and cell/drug delivery. 'A Microplate Compression Method for Elastic Modulus Measurement of Soft and Viscoelastic Collagen Microspheres' by Dr Barbara Chan Pui, Mr Li Chun-hei, Mr Au Yeung Kwan-lok, Professor Sze Kam-yim, and Professor Alfonso Ngan Hing-wan was published in *Annals of Biomedical Engineering*.

Law

The first comprehensive legal analysis of the Security Council's coercive disarmament and arms control measures involving weapons of mass destruction challenges a variety of widely held beliefs about disarmament and arms control law, and UN law. 'Dionysian Disarmament: Security Council WMD Coercive Disarmament Measures and Their Legal Implications', by Dr James David Fry, was published in *Michigan Journal of International Law*.

Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine

An international team has illustrated a new mechanism causing gene methylation that may contribute to various types of human genetic diseases. The results are expected to have a tremendous impact. They also reported a revolutionary finding that changes the way genetic diagnosis on hereditary disease is performed. 'Heritable Somatic Methylation and Inactivation of *MSH2* in Families with Lynch Syndrome due to Deletion of the 3' Exons of *TACSTD1*' by a team including Dr Chan Tsun-leung, Professor Yuen Siu-tsan and Professor Leung Suet-yi, was published in *Nature Genetics*.

Science

In this work, Professor Fung and Dr Hu set out to provide a practical guide to the analysis of DNA evidence. It is the only book emphasizing the computational aspects of forensic DNA. This is valuable for forensic chemists as they need to evaluate the strength of DNA evidence numerically. *Statistical DNA Forensics: Theory, Methods and Computation* by Professor Fung Wing-kam, and Dr Hu Yueqing was published by John Wiley & Sons.

Social Sciences

A new approach to teaching children about health risks resulted in 'Folkbiology Meets Microbiology: A Study of Conceptual and Behavioral Change', written by Professor Terry Au Kit-fong, Dr Carol Chan Kwai-ken, Mr Chan Tsz-kit, Dr Mike Cheung Wai-leung, Mr Johnson Ho Yiu-shun, and Dr Grace Ip Wai-man, published in *Cognitive Psychology*.

A FINE ART lesson

Students have curated an exhibition of rare books in a first-time collaboration between the Faculty of Arts, the University Museum and the HKU libraries.

European depictions of China in 18th and 19th century books may seem an esoteric source of real-life experiences, but for eight Fine Arts students they represented an uncommon opportunity to gain new skills and insights.

The students used illustrations from the books as the basis for an exhibition they curated at the University Museum over the winter, where they did everything from selecting the featured prints, deciding the order they would appear in and writing captions and entries for a bilingual catalogue, to helping to place the books in cases and adjusting the lighting.

"This was not just about our studies but about having to learn to interact with people who don't know anything about art. From this, we learned what the public would want to know," Rachel Suen Ka-lee said.

The exhibition was a collaboration arranged by Dr Gregory Thomas of the School of Humanities (Fine Arts) with Iris Chan and Edith Chan in the library's Special Collections department and Yeung Chun-tong, the Director of the University Museum and Art Gallery.

"Art history has always been based on a heavy dose of hands-on experience and engagement with real objects," Dr Thomas said. "One thing we don't have much of in Hong Kong that improves the study of art history is examples of western art. But we do have a very rich collection of antique books in the library.



"The goal was to give the students an opportunity to handle actual works of art and gain experience in curatorial work and research and writing. The work for this assignment would be typical in the museum world."

The students were trained how to handle the books, including washing their hands before class, never opening the books flat, never touching the illustrations with bare hands because of sweat and grease, using only pencils around the books and ensuring the humidity and lighting were set at the right levels.

More importantly, they also got a deeper understanding of historical European depictions of China as a place of strange landscapes and costumes, and sometimes barbaric practices.

Winnie Tsang Hoi-yan said: "I worked with an illustration about punishment [in which a man is having his foot cut off]. I already knew about the 10 worst punishments of the Qing dynasty, but I never knew they were portrayed as something as childish as in that book.

"The book was about the criminal justice system in China but there were only pictures, nothing else. It showed China as more violent than just, and tried to sensationalize the whole thing. China comes across as inferior and barbaric, and its justice system is also presented like a kind of entertainment. At first I was amazed by this but as I read more, I felt that China was being used as an object for others to impose their power on."

Her colleague, Nicole Fung Nok-kan, said the illustrations they worked with also made her more aware of stereotyping. "It has made me think of how I perceive other cultures. When I see an image, I won't trust it 100 per cent. I will think about what underlies it."

Dr Thomas said this was an unusual exercise given the difficulty in identifying artwork that students could handle and of tying in with the museum's schedule. But he hoped there could be more curating opportunities in future with the advent of the new four-year curriculum and new exhibition space at the Centennial Campus. ■

LEARNING AT THE deep end

Journalism students are getting hands-on training in the rough-and-tumble world of American broadcast journalism.



The Journalism and Media Studies Centre (JMSC) has linked up with ABC News, of the American Broadcasting Corporation, to provide content generated by students for broadcast in the US.

The initiative is part of the ABC News on Campus programme and HKU is the first university outside the US to be invited to join.

"This programme gives students a professional, real-life experience in dealing with one of the largest television news companies in the world," the Director of the JMSC's Broadcasting Programme, Jim Laurie, said. Mr Laurie worked for 21 years as a correspondent with ABC News.

"They have to pitch their stories in a way any professional journalist would," he said, and produce it to ABC's rigorous standards. "They also get to see that people in the US don't look at the world as we do out here."

Chen Liyi has had a taste of that in her first few weeks with the programme. She's a third-year Journalism and Economics student and one of two co-ordinators in charge of staying in regular contact with ABC News' New York office on students' story proposals.

"You have to be very sensitive to the needs of an American audience," she said. "It's a different society and a different context. In the back of your mind, you have to think, this is not even remotely Asia.

"When we're looking for interview subjects, it's better if they speak English; the audience isn't going to relate very well to Chinese-speaking subjects. The stories we pitch also have to relate to the audience. Recently we had a story on the bird's nest stadium in Beijing. The bird's nest is iconic so people can relate to that. We have to find subjects they are familiar with."

Twelve HKU undergraduate and graduate students are producing content and they were selected for their diverse backgrounds and potential. The students come from Hong Kong, Mainland China, Singapore, the US, Denmark, the Netherlands and the UK and they have a wide range of experiences. For example, some have worked with media organizations, such as CNN, one student was formerly a professional footballer and another was a competitive swimmer and diver at university level.

Mr Laurie and his colleagues Rob McBride, Ng Ka-ho and Roy Ching are providing the students with guidance and technical support to help their pitches succeed. While the bird's nest story is still in development,

ABC News has already aired a student story about Hong Kong bankers who do business during the day and box with each other at night.

"My hat goes off to the kids who are doing it. They are basically using all their breaks to work on stories – Chinese New Year, reading week, semester breaks. I think what motivates them is the opportunity to be part of, and to be seen to be part of, a professional organization," Mr Laurie said.

Liyi also finds it adds to her understanding of a free media. She has found ABC's openness to proposals refreshing compared to the boundaries that would be laid down in her native Singapore. One of the reasons she came to Hong Kong and HKU was to see how a freer media operates and what the limits to free speech might be at both ends of the spectrum.

"Freedom is good but not all good, control is bad but not all bad. You can flip it around. That's why I came here, to see all that. As a foreigner, I can stand back and take a look," she said.

The ABC News programme is funded in part by a Teaching Development Grant. Mr Laurie said they also sought other co-production agreements with other international media organizations. ■

A JEWEL IN THE university's crown

HKU Press is expanding its reach and increasing its influence. The Press' Publisher Michael Duckworth reveals its strategy for success.

While the world's university presses struggle under financial restraints, the HKU Press is enjoying a veritable renaissance thanks, in large part, to strong University backing and a grand vision for the future.

Publisher Michael Duckworth says HKU Press has just enjoyed its best year ever with 63 new titles in 2009, steadily increasing sales, and the strategic creation of new staff positions.

"We were a bit late getting into the electronic books arena," he confesses. "But in a sense we have learned from everyone else's trial and error, and now we have the momentum and commitment to make very good decisions and move very quickly."

This is due partly to HKU Libraries position, ahead of the curve in terms of digital publishing. "They're a terrific partner for us in many different ways, and connected well with China," says Duckworth.

"Because our basic costs are covered through rising sales and University support and because our incredibly efficient staff is keeping us well ahead of budget we can afford to be visionary strategically, both with electronic publishing and with other experimentations that many peer presses cannot afford at this time. We have just released our first iPhone app, for instance, an audio version of our bilingual *Handbook of Practical Medical Terms*. If leading Mainland scholars want to get their books published in English, we ought to be the primary place to do that ... and create a market for them in Taiwan and Hong Kong, and around the world in concert with copublishers and distribution partners in North America and Europe."

The Press, he says, is becoming more representative of what Hong Kong, as a city, has been for many years, "which is a vital conduit for western interactions with China, and Chinese interactions with the west."

Colin Day, the Press' previous publisher, helped establish it as a regional pan-Asian cultural studies and history centre. Duckworth believes in continuing that trend and exploring more provocative areas. A new series called 'Queer Asia' is one such major effort, which will be featured at the Shanghai Literary Festival this month. So too, has the 'Trans-Asia Screen Cultures' series "which explores an emerging pan-Asian cultural space in film, media and television – the way in which Korean TV dramas are influencing Chinese consumers, for example."

"We are able to publish what we think are meaningful, internationally credible works on taboo subjects, like Taiwan and Tibet. We benefit greatly from having this creative space in Hong Kong where such things are possible."

"So, the Press is a kind of safe zone for Taiwan, Mainland, North American and European academics to bring together important dialogue dealing with not just China, but Asia and east-west relations which is really distinctive."

"We do have a claim to say that we are the most influential scholarly publisher in Asia, publishing in English. The University's strong and steady support is a key factor in what the Press has achieved in the last decade. The University continues to be the beacon of academic excellence in Hong Kong and in Asia, and we benefit greatly from that."

He views investment in China as a long-term strategy. "Unlike many of the commercial presses we are in there to identify the five to ten leading disciplines and programmes where we can help facilitate influential scholarly dialogues in many directions."

And he is extremely bullish on the Press' influence. "It carries the name of HKU farther, in more disciplines, in more countries, than any other single unit of the University. And, more than that, we are not just an academic enterprise, in the commercial marketplace we are aggressively competing for intellectual shelf space and conversation space. We are one of the most competitive and influential units of the University." In fact, he says, "The Press ought to be recognized as truly a crown jewel of the University."

For the first time ever, and for two years running, the Press has enjoyed sales of more than \$5 million. This fiscal year ending June 30, it is expected to reach sales of more than \$6 million – an unprecedented figure. "So we are moving in the right direction, and making important gains in terms of visibility," he says. "But we still have a ways to go to become widely recognized as a world-class imprint." ■



Albert Chau came to his position as Dean of Student Affairs by a circuitous route, via engineering and psychology, but he is as passionate about student development beyond the classroom as he was about teaching and research.

After graduating in Industrial Engineering Dr Chau had a change of heart and switched to Psychology, teaching in the Department at HKU until 2005. During that same period he was kept busy as Associate Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences, Director of General Education and warden of University Hall.

His believes was an unusual choice for his current position as he had no background in student affairs. "All my predecessors were experienced administrators in this area, I was not," he says "but I believe that the traditional student affairs sector should be more integrated with the academic programme, it should be part of the learning life. So I wanted to blur the functional boundary between the two.

"Today we are talking about curriculum reform – extending it to four years – and the curriculum is conceived as a total experience for students. My thinking, back

Dr Chau's favourite pastime is to play with his dogs and cats.

BLURRING THE BOUNDARIES

between the classroom and the world

Activities beyond the classroom are a major part of student life. The Dean of Student Affairs Dr Albert Chau Wai-lap discusses the challenges and rewards of a new way of learning.

when I took this position, was quite similar, that the total experience is important." He has put his ideas into action in recent years by working closely with faculties in designing professional preparation programmes, working out service learning initiatives, and promoting global citizenship.

"Now I am helping to support faculties with their experiential learning projects. Blurring the boundaries is another way of talking about better integration between student life outside the classroom and the formal curriculum."

And exchanges have become increasingly popular. "Students really appreciate these sorts of projects, they find them really inspiring," he says. "What we are trying to do is return the ownership to students as much as possible, this is a major trend in higher education in general. Learning is now less dependent on the traditional instructional method and more on going through different experiences."

"We see an increased independence in students who are exposed to other cultures and situations, they show more initiative, some of them have formed their own NGO's." He cites Humanity in Focus as an example. "Initially the founders joined a programme run by the General Education Unit, and after spending time in Cambodia they decided to launch their own programme. I was so delighted, and the following year when I offered the same project they were running their own programme which was open to all the tertiary institutions in Hong Kong. This made me very happy."

"We also sent some students on an internship in fair trade and they came back and set up their own fair trade NGO. Others



went to Henan, in China, to work with child victims of Aids and HIV, and they came back and set up an NGO to continue the work."

However, more still needs to be achieved. "In terms of cross cultural exchange we have not realized our full potential yet and the integration between local and non-local students is another area that needs work. We can help by getting local and overseas to work on projects together – a lot of intellectual and cultural stimulation comes out of this."

"Halls are another way of getting students to mix, one third of the places are reserved now for non-local students, and local students embrace this opportunity to mix, which is very positive."

On the subject of hall life he cites his decade as warden of University Hall as one of the happiest periods of his working life. It's also

the point at which he adopted his first dog. He now has two dogs and seven rescued cats. Amazingly, all the animals live in harmony. "It's because the dogs know they are secondary to the cats," he laughs.

He's now setting his sights on developing more support for postgraduates, offering cultural adjustment for those coming in from the outside, and career adjustment for those going into private industry.

"It's a very exciting time to be in higher education – sometimes too exciting," he laughs. "We have the new curriculum, new campus and the centennial celebrations so there are a lot of big projects underway." But despite the challenges ahead he says, "It's a very stimulating job, I learn new things every day and receive a lot of very pleasant surprises from students." ■



MAKING FRIENDS IN the neighbourhood

The community is invited to form closer ties with the University.



**HKU Friends of
Centennial Campus**
香港大學百周年校園之友

One of the central planning principles behind HKU's campus development is that it is done through an open and respected process. Numerous consultations have been held with local residents, district councillors and organizations. Now, we are moving to the next level with a programme to develop local partnerships and more closely integrate HKU with the community.

The Friends of Centennial Campus programme was launched last year to invite individuals and organizations to have a closer connection with HKU. They may participate in selected seminars, concerts and other HKU activities, join guided tours on campus, join talks on the environment and heritage, and receive updates on the development of the campus. All of this is for free. Organizations may also enjoy free access to HKU Libraries and a 50 per cent discount on lending services.

"We're different from other universities in Hong Kong because we're in the middle of a very densely populated area and we

need to deal with community members proactively," said Henry Ho, who is overseeing community relations on the University's campus development.

"Our ultimate aim is to build partnerships. It's one thing to have a meeting where people show up, voice their opinions, then leave. It's another thing to try to work closely with them. We want to work with community leaders, the schools and the neighbourhood, and we've had a good start. We're making more and more friends."

About 30 organizations have signed up to be Friends of the Centennial Campus. Membership is open to anyone in Hong Kong, although most members have come from the Central and Western District. Some of the members were actively engaged in earlier consultations on the new campus, where construction work has now got underway. Mr Ho said the University would continue to engage with people on its building projects and on wider issues of interest to the community.

"Sharing knowledge is important. We not only want to make friends to support our projects, we also want to share knowledge that can benefit the local community. The community is especially concerned about the environment and heritage issues, and the Friends of the Centennial Campus programme acts like a bridge with them," he said.

The programme has been supported by the Head of the University Libraries, Dr Anthony Ferguson, who provided the library passes, and the Dean of Student Affairs, Dr Albert Chau, who is allowing a quota of individuals from the community to attend selected General Education courses. ■



From left: Mr Jack So, Chairman of the HKU Campus Development and Planning Committee, Dr the Honourable Leong Che-hung, Chairman of HKU Council, Mr Ma Lee-tak, Director of Water Supplies, and Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, Vice-Chancellor of HKU officiated at the ceremony.

New reservoirs of new campus

Construction work started on the new Centennial Campus in September 2009, after work to re-provision the existing reservoirs at the site was completed.

Two saltwater reservoirs have been built in a cavern, the first time this has been done in Hong Kong, to minimize the disturbance to vegetation and the neighbourhood. Two

freshwater tanks have also been built and their rooftops will become landscaped gardens with more than 100 trees.

The project took two and a half years to complete at a cost of \$500 million and the reservoirs were officially handed over to the Water Supplies Department last year.

The Centennial Campus will be ready by 2012 in time for implementation of the new four-year undergraduate curriculum.

GLOBALIZATION AND the rice cooker

The humble rice cooker, invented in Japan, has become a staple in Asian communities around the world via Hong Kong's free port and innovations, a new HKU publication reports.



When Yoshiko Nakano, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Arts, came to Hong Kong in 1997 having grown up in Japan and spent a decade in the US, she was struck by one thing: the proliferation of things Japanese and, especially, the deep affection people held here for their made-in-Japan rice cookers.

"I started asking people informally to tell me their memories of things Japanese and what they liked, and rice cookers kept coming up," she said.

"People who grew up in the 1960s said when they got their rice cooker, it was such a thrill. They saw the steam coming out of it and they felt they weren't poor any more. That came as a shock to me because at that time in Japan, if you had 'three treasures' you were part of the middle class – a

black-and-white television, a washer and a refrigerator. You never heard people talk about owning a rice cooker as being part of that."

And so Dr Nakano began a deeper investigation. She conducted more than 40 interviews with users, distributors and makers of rice cookers in Hong Kong and Japan, uncovering a story of globalization and innovation in which Hong Kong played a major role. She published earlier results in Chinese and Japanese with Dr Dixon Wong, Head of School of Modern Languages and Cultures and Honorary Professor Kirsten Refsing, and has now released her findings in English in the book *Where There Are Asians, There Are Rice Cookers: How "National" Went Global via Hong Kong*.

Rice cookers were invented in Japan in 1955 and caught the eye of Hong Kong-based William Mong, CEO of Shun Hing. He liked the convenience of a plug-in pot and, as he soon discovered, it was well suited to local living conditions where many people lived in cramped spaces and had to share kitchens.

Mong realized that people had to be convinced of the rice cooker's worth, though, especially since Japanese products at the time had a poor reputation and post-war anti-Japanese sentiment was still strong. So he persuaded one maker, National (now Panasonic), to add a window on the lid. People would be able to see the rice cooking and also know when to add Chinese sausage to the rice, which had to happen just before the rice was cooked.

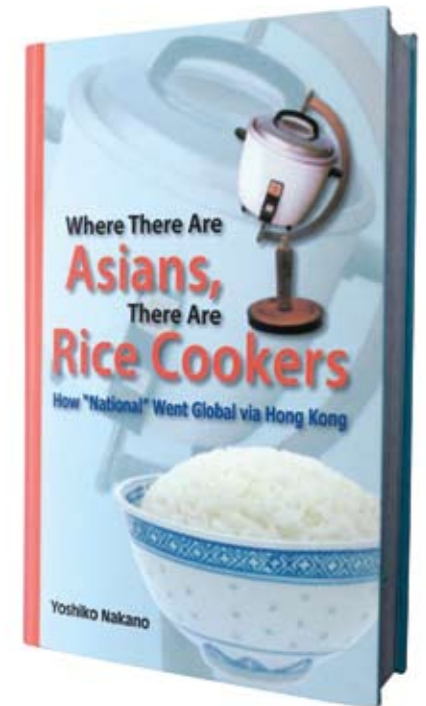
"This was an alien concept for the Japanese engineers," Dr Nakano said. "In Japan they use an aluminium lid and never open it during the cooking process. But they thought, okay, if that's what Chinese people want, we will do it."

"It worked very well. People didn't know about rice cookers in those days, but by making the cooking process visible from the top, they felt assured. This was helpful in gaining acceptance for the rice cooker in other parts of the world."

"Most importantly, National/Panasonic learned how to localize their product working with William Mong. They learned that you have to listen to other people and not impose the Japanese idea of perfect rice."

The free port of Hong Kong helped to spread the rice cooker to the rest of Asia and to Asian communities around the world. Following success in Hong Kong, National/Panasonic introduced innovations to meet other markets' needs, such as producing crispy rice at the bottom of the pot as preferred in Iran and adding cake- and noodle-making functions for Thailand. Mong also later persuaded the company to make rice cookers that produce more steam, to replicate the old clay pots used for cooking rice.

"The way the Japanese often describe how made-in-Japan products got globalized is that the salarymen were dedicated, they worked hard, took the product overseas, ran up against all these competitors and finally were able to sell their product to the Americans and the Europeans. But



this is one product that didn't follow the pattern of the typical Japanese product," Dr Nakano said.

"It was distributed through ethnic lines, it was sold in grocery stores not appliance shops in the West, and a lot of Asian people contributed to its localization. Where there are Asians, there are rice cookers. It's still pretty much happening along ethnic lines." ■

Where There Are Asians, There Are Rice Cookers: How "National" Went Global via Hong Kong is published by Hong Kong University Press.

Eileen Chang: The Fall of the Pagoda Book Launch

張愛玲《雷峯塔》

15 April 2010

1/F, Main Library, HKU

HKU PRESS PUBLISHES NEWLY-DISCOVERED MANUSCRIPT by eileen chang

The English-language novel by the Chinese literary sensation throws fresh light on her early years in Shanghai.

The Fall of the Pagoda, a semi-autobiographical work about a young girl, Lute, growing up amongst her extended family in Shanghai, was launched by HKU Press in April, 47 years after it was first penned.

Written in English, it is the first of a two-part series and a precursor to Chang's semi-autobiographical novel *Little Reunion*, published in 2009. The second novel in the series, *The Book of Change*, will be launched by HKU Press in September of this year, the month that marks Chang's 90th birthday and the 15th anniversary of her death.

At the launch, co-hosted by HKU Press and the University's Project for Public Culture of the Journalism and Media Studies Centre (JMSC), Publisher, Mr Michael Duckworth said, "This day would not be possible without the extraordinary dedicated stewardship of Dr Roland Soong (photo on left page). I think we are all agreed that this is a triumphant moment for the Press and a special thanks goes to our friends at the JMSC, Ying Chan, Valentina Ma and Matthew Leung, who have all done terrific work to make this day possible."

The manuscripts of both novels were discovered by Dr Soong, executor of Eileen Chang's estate, in a box of her papers at his parent's Hong Kong home. Speaking of the discovery, Dr Soong said, "Eileen Chang frequently asked my father to screen her work and offer feedback. Although she was confident in her literary ability she was frequently unsure as to whether her work would cause offence, or raise political problems, so my father read her work."

"When she passed away, in 1995, my parents became trustees of her estate and the executor of her will sent us a box of her papers. We just put them away. Then when I moved back to Hong Kong from the United States I began to go through the papers."

"The box contained many letters between her and friends and my family, and I also found two 400-page manuscripts."

After much work the first of those two manuscripts has been brought to public attention for the first time. Written in 1963 it represents Eileen Chang's attempt to break into the American literary market.

Speaking of the reason for publishing the manuscripts Dr Soong said, "There are



two reasons. First, I determined from her correspondence with my parents that she really wanted to publish these two books in her lifetime, she wanted them to be the launching pad of an English-based writing career in America. However, no publisher took her on. In her letters she never said these novels were 'bad' she never said she didn't want them published."

"She may have been told that there was no market for them but that is not to say that an American public at that time, or today, would not like them if they were published, or that a Chinese audience would not like them today."

"HKU Press has given her the opportunity to have these books published for the first time. This has been her known wish since 1963, and I am sure she would be pleased if she were here today with us."

"The second reason is that the *Fall of the Pagoda* is not just a rehash of Eileen Chang's Chinese writings. This book will provide new insight into her personal life. Eileen Chang has often said that the best material for a writer comes from her personal life because this is what she knows best, therefore she came back repeatedly to write about her childhood."

Dr Soong, also donated a photocopy of the manuscript of *The Fall of the Pagoda*

and *Long River* to HKU, while Perry Lam, Editorial Director of *Muse* magazine, shared his views on her literary writing.

"Eileen Chang," he said, "has a quote for everything, every single moment of happiness or despair. Now if Shakespeare invented the human for the western reader, then Eileen Chang discovered the consciousness for the modern Chinese reader."

"She is now recognized as one of the greatest modern Chinese writers and *The Fall of the Pagoda* serves as a reminder of what an incomparable writer she is in Chinese. Those of us who can read Eileen Chang in her own language should be eternally grateful. She has no peer as a short story writer, or an essayist, in Chinese. Now, with this chance to see Eileen Chang in a new light, to see her writing in English, we may have a better comparative point of view of her legacy and importance."

At the launch, at HKU's Main Library, the first Eileen Chang Memorial Scholarship recipient, Xue Jun-yan of the Faculty of Arts thanked Dr Soong for establishing the \$1 million Fund, for Mainland and Taiwanese students of the Arts and Humanities, in Chang's memory. ■

The Fall of the Pagoda is published by Hong Kong University Press.

CAPTURING THE
BUDDHA
on canvas

A series of works by a Taiwanese artist attempts to bring the Buddha closer to mankind.



Curator of the University Museum and Art Gallery, Yeung Chun-tong says public museums in Hong Kong seldom exhibit the work of Taiwan artists and so, “This exhibition will provide a chance to help understand contemporary art in Taiwan. In September last year our Museum displayed the paintings of another famous Taiwan artist, Liu Guo Song, and it is our wish to introduce more Taiwan artists to Hong Kong.”

He adds that Buddhist themes in art are currently very popular in Hong Kong and there is particular interest in Shi’s ink drawings of Guan Yin (Bodhisattva Avalokitesvara).

“I am sure visitors would like to see how a Chinese artist illustrates the life of Buddha Sakyamuni in oil, a western medium,” he says.

From March 24 to May 9, 2010 the Museum and Art Gallery will display three groups of Shi’s Buddhist-themed works produced over the past twenty years. The collection includes his first series of line drawings of the Bodhisattva Guan Yin, oil paintings of the life of the Buddha Sakyamuni, still lifes, woodcut prints and Chinese calligraphy taken from the Buddhist scriptures.

The exhibition is jointly presented by the Museum and HKU’s Centre of Buddhist Studies. ■

The Taiwanese painter Shi Song is famed for his ethereal portrayals of the Buddha. Working in several mediums, including oils, ink and prints Shi has captured a solid fan base with his Buddhist inspired collection.

Now his work is to be displayed in Hong Kong for the first time. Born in Shanghai in 1947, Shi moved to Taipei at the age of two and went on to study art at the prestigious Ecole Nationale Superieure des Beaux-arts, in Paris.

On returning to Taipei he continued to paint while working as an editor but, when his mother fell ill in the mid-1980s, he sought solace in a series of ink line drawings of Guan Yin, the compassionate bodhisattva in Buddhism.

Thus began his love affair with capturing the Buddha on canvas. Not long after he started the first series Shi’s mother passed away, and he continued with the drawings in the hope of acquiring insight into his grief and gaining a deeper understanding of life’s transience.

His interest in Buddhism led to meditation and further reading of the Buddhist scriptures. Then, in 1995, inspired by those scriptures he embarked on a retelling of the Buddha’s life in oils which resulted in a

dozen paintings set in a natural environment with trees, as trees played such a dominant role in the Buddha’s life.

In an attempt to humanize the Buddha and bring him closer to his earth-bound brothers Shi took the unusual step of illuminating his subject with sunlight, thus departing from the conventional representation of the Buddha as being lit from within.

Many of Shi’s paintings are meticulously executed in a photorealistic style and are striking for the sense of harmony and peace that they exude. His remarkable ability to capture natural light has seen him compared to Dutch master Johannes Vermeer.



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