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The Sixth Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong

The Chinese University Council approved in October 2003 the appointment of Prof. Lawrence J. Lau as the sixth vice-chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong beginning from 1st July 2004.

Since his assumption of vice-chancellorship, Prof. Lau has proactively met with members of the University to enhance mutual understanding. During these meetings, he has listened to the views of CUHK faculty, staff, students, and alumni, and shared with them his educational ideals and vision. Prof. Lau has also attended various activities with the aim of strengthening the University’s connections both within and beyond its gates.
With members of the University Council and college trustees

With Dr. Lee Quo-wei, life member of the University Council

Over tea with teaching and administrative staff

At a dinner given in his honour by alumni in the media industry

Meeting the media

Attending the CU Alumni Weekend Camp
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1 Being interviewed by students
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5 Speaking his mind to graduate students
Sixty-First Congregation for the Installation of the New Vice-Chancellor and the Conferment of Degrees
The 61st Congregation for the Installation of the New Vice-Chancellor and for the Conferment of Degrees was held on 9th December 2004. Officiating at the ceremony was Dr. Raymond P.L. Kwok, vice-chairman of the University Council.
THE INSTALLATION OF THE NEW VICE-CHANCELLOR
Prof. Lawrence J. Lau had been appointed by the University Council as the sixth Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong with effect from 1st July 2004. The official installation ceremony was held at the 61st Congregation on 9th December 2004. Prof. Lau was presented with a copy of the Ordinance of the University and the seal of the vice-chancellorship by Dr. Raymond P.L. Kwok.

The Introduction of Prof. Lau was written and delivered by Prof. David Parker of the Department of English.
Today we celebrate a historic moment in the life of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Prof. Lawrence J. Lau is about to be installed as our sixth Vice-Chancellor. Prof. Lawrence Lau is an economist of high stature in the world of learning: a distinguished researcher and director of research; an adviser to governments, universities and foundations; a scholar with a profound understanding of the economies of the East Asian region. He is a man of educational wisdom and vision. Drawing on the rich traditions and achievements of the Chinese University and his own experience at some of the world’s foremost universities, Prof. Lau has mapped out a clear path for the University to follow into its fifth decade. While being faithful to its Hong Kong origins and base, he wants the Chinese University ‘to become a great Asian university of international standing’.

Born in China, Prof. Lau did his schooling in Hong Kong before leaving for Stanford University, where in 1964 he received his Bachelor of Science degree in Physics and Economics with Great Distinction. He took his postgraduate education at the University of California at Berkeley, completing his MA in 1966 and his Ph.D. in 1969. Meanwhile he had joined the faculty of his alma mater, Stanford, where he became a full professor of economics in 1976. In 1992, he had the honour of being named the first Kwoh-Ting Li Professor of Economic Development at Stanford. At the same time, he served as co-director of Stanford’s Asia/Pacific Research Center and later as director of the Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research. During a highly distinguished research career mainly in the fields of economic development, economic growth and the economies of East Asia, including China, he authored or...
edited five books and published more than 160 refereed papers. In 1966 he developed one of the first econometric models of China, which he has continued to revise and update ever since. He is one of the first economists to analyse and to understand the so-called East Asian economic miracle of the late twentieth century.

In the few short months since he joined The Chinese University of Hong Kong, Prof. Lau has taken every opportunity to outline his educational philosophy and his vision for the future. Of fundamental importance to Prof. Lau is a belief that a great university is not simply a place that produces and transmits knowledge to its students, crucial as these functions are. A great university must teach its students to ask questions, to formulate and to solve problems, to take an inquiring and critical attitude towards received ideas—in short, it must be a place where students learn to think for themselves. As he said to our freshmen at the Inauguration Ceremony on 1st September of this year: ‘This is the best thing the University can offer you—not just a degree or a diploma, but a capacity for life-long self-learning.’

What lies behind this belief is Prof. Lau’s understanding of the rapidly changing world into which our graduates will be moving. It will be a world in which knowledge will be the basis of the economy, yet the skills and knowledge students acquire at university may become quickly out of date. Those who flourish in this world of accelerating change will be those who can adapt and renew their knowledge—in other words, those who have been taught to teach themselves. The effective, versatile and employable people of the future will be those who have learned how to think—critically, independently, and creatively. For these reasons, Prof. Lau also strongly supports the broadening of the Hong Kong secondary education system which will stimulate students to become active and independent learners before they enter university.

For Prof. Lau, a great university must do more than produce employable graduates for the local, national and international economies. Its education should offer to transform the whole person, helping each student to realize his or her potential. Here Prof. Lau sees the critical role of our distinctive collegiate system, which nurtures the growth of character, a sense of standards and values, and important social skills. Likewise he is conscious of the vital potential of our long-established general education programme, which should enable students to develop broad interests, passions and knowledge outside their specialized areas of study. A great university is distinguished by its well-educated graduates—people with lively interests and who are well informed—those with breadth as well as depth of understanding.

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At the heart of Prof. Lau’s vision for the future is internationalization, what he calls ‘education without borders’. The Chinese University can only become truly international, he believes, if two things happen. The first is that it should attract many more quality students from the mainland and beyond. He would like to see ours as a truly multinational and multicultural campus with eventually 20 or 25 per cent of the student body coming from outside Hong Kong. This would bring great intellectual stimulus and cultural
At the heart of Prof. Lau’s vision for the future is internationalization, what he calls ‘education without borders’. ... He would like to see ours as a truly multinational and multicultural campus with eventually 20 or 25 per cent of the student body coming from outside Hong Kong. ... The second thing Prof. Lau wants to see happen is a significant expansion of the University’s exchange and study abroad programmes. Even a brief period of overseas study can broaden a student’s horizons in ways that can be life-transforming.

Central to Prof. Lau’s vision are research and scholarship, which are at the heart of a great university of international standing. Here too his ambitions for this university are high. In recent years, the Chinese University has become the premier research institution in Hong Kong measured in terms of externally-funded research income and research output. For Prof. Lau, this leadership has to be consolidated and to grow, not least because, as he knows from his own experience, a great international teaching university has to be a great research university.

During his own career, Prof. Lau has been recognized for his distinguished research by many bodies of higher learning. He is an elected member of Phi Beta Kappa, a member of Tau Beta Pi, a Fellow of the Econometric Society, and an Academician of Academia Sinica. He has been a member of the Conference for Research in Income and Wealth, an Overseas Fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge, an honorary member of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; an honorary professor of the Institute of Systems Science, Chinese Academy of Sciences; an honorary professor of Jilin, Nanjing, Tsinghua, and Shantou universities, the People’s University and Southeast University. He is an international adviser to the Chinese National Bureau of Statistics and a member of the Board of Directors of the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation for International Scholarly Exchange in Taipei.

Over a century ago a famous British statesman (Benjamin Disraeli) said: ‘Upon the education of the people of this country the fate of this country depends.’ If anything, this statement is even more relevant today to the future of the people of this Special Administrative Region — a community whose only resources are intelligence, hard work, and ingenuity. Prof. Lau’s vision is to help build that future by making The Chinese University of Hong Kong one of the leading seats of learning in Asia, both in research and in education across a comprehensive range of disciplines. It is an important vision for Hong Kong, China, and the region as a whole. The whole University community — teachers, administrators, students, and alumni alike — looks forward with great confidence and expectation to its fifth decade under the leadership of Prof. Lawrence J. Lau. It is now our privilege to witness his installation as Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong. [...]
Mr. Chairman, distinguished guests, colleagues, parents, graduates, alumni, ladies and gentlemen:

Forty years ago, the Founding Vice-Chancellor of The Chinese University of Hong Kong was installed. During the ensuing years, five most distinguished scholars, each coming from a different academic background, have in succession led this university from infancy to adulthood. The energy, faith, and devotion they brought to their tasks have propelled the University forward and fuelled its continuous quest for excellence. Today, the University is widely recognized as one of the best tertiary educational institutions, not only in Hong Kong, but also in our region.

For forty years, the University has been moving forward and upward, drawing strength from its youthful vigour, its bicultural heritage, its collegiate system, and its emphasis on general and whole-person education. It has also benefited from the deep dedication of generations of teachers, staff, students, and alumni, and the enormous good will of benefactors both in and out of Hong Kong. All these we shall seek to consolidate; all these shall continue to sustain us.

And right from the beginning, the University has been conceived, ‘not just as a Chinese University with British affiliation but as a Chinese University of international character’, to quote Dr. Choh-Ming Li, our Founding Vice-
Chancellor. Right from the beginning, internationalization has existed as an instrument to tap resources — human as well as material — for the University's growth, and to raise it to a position of respect in the community of universities. A glimpse into our University's archives will show the University receiving wise counsel from distinguished persons all over the world on plans of its establishment. It will show a steady stream of celebrated international scholars and experts joining its faculties, contributing to the design of academic programmes and departments, and becoming members of advisory boards and even the University Council. It will show students from a multitude of countries entering the University's gates for exchange ever since they first opened. It will also show foreign governments and international foundations giving the University substantial assistance to develop its campus and to launch innovative projects. All these have continued for over four decades.

Then, as now, internationalization goes hand in hand with our mission to preserve, enrich, and promote Chinese culture and is in fact nourished by our Chinese intellectual heritage. Indeed Chinese culture has flourished and prospered at our university and will continue to do so in the future. Today, the Chinese University is one of the premiere centres for Chinese studies in the world, with scholars coming from all over to learn and conduct research. Our Chinese intellectual heritage is indeed one of the University's strongest competitive advantages.

The primary motivation for internationalization has been, and remains, that it enhances significantly the education of our students. By bringing together, on the same campus, young people from all corners of the earth, they will have the opportunity to live with and learn from one another. Their horizons will be broadened, their understanding of diverse cultures will be deepened, and their awareness of the realities of the world will be sharpened. They will develop a greater capacity to communicate, empathize, and tolerate. They will develop the qualities they need to become effective in both work...
and personal life in an increasingly globalized world and a globalized employment market, and especially in a dynamic, international gateway city such as Hong Kong.

By sending our students through the challenge of living abroad as exchange students, where they can immerse themselves completely in a different culture and acquire the perspectives and skills to operate efficiently and independently in a new environment, they will become much better equipped with the kind of versatility, confidence, perspective, and exposure needed to respond creatively to unexpected challenges and opportunities. For the student, the semester or year abroad is often life-transforming.

And by being able to offer a better education, the University can attract better students. By being able to attract better students, the University can in turn attract better teachers. By being able to attract better teachers, the University can in turn attract even better students, both locally and around the world, thus setting the University on to a virtuous cycle of continual endogenous improvement.

Moreover, our non-local students will become part of our intangible capital. If they choose to remain in Hong Kong after graduation, they augment the pool of talents here. If they return to their respective home countries or regions, they become part of our durable network of friends and goodwill ambassadors. By opening up opportunities here for others, we in turn also open up opportunities for ourselves elsewhere.

However, the degree of internationalization of our University is not enough at present. Among undergraduates, non-local students currently constitute less than six per cent, compared to 90 per cent non-Beijing for Peking University, and 35 per cent non-Michigan for the University of Michigan (both public universities like the Chinese University).

Moreover, the times are now different. Two major changes, one technological and global, and the other geopolitical and local, have significantly reshaped the environment faced by Hong Kong. First, over the last decade, the information and communication revolution has greatly facilitated and accelerated globalization everywhere. Supply chains are now more international, more dynamic, and more finely divided than ever. Competition is now more global than local — for example, Indian and Filipino call centres compete for the business of US firms; and Hong Kong and Japan will compete for Asia’s Disney World customers. The
returns to knowledge, especially international knowledge, has become much higher. There is great demand in the labour markets for individuals with international knowledge, perspective, and skills (including language skills). That is why world-class universities such as Harvard and Yale are moving to require that all their undergraduate students spend some time abroad during their undergraduate years.

At the same time, competition for talents has also become global. Not only are employers competing with one another, so are universities. We in Hong Kong have been trying to retain our best students in our universities here through our Early Admissions Scheme. But to be able to attract and retain talents competitively, the Chinese University must offer an environment and programmes comparable to our non-local peer institutions, which in turn mandates further internationalization on our part.

Second, the opening and the rise of the Chinese economy over the last quarter of a century have also presented unprecedented challenges and opportunities for Hong Kong. Before the Second World War, Shanghai was unquestionably Asia’s World City. Hong Kong began to surpass Shanghai after 1949 when China was closed to the rest of the world. Hong Kong benefited greatly as the unique gateway to mainland China. However, Shanghai is now poised to reclaim what it considers its rightful place. Indeed, Shanghai, as well as the rest of mainland China, are internationalizing at a rapid rate. While Shanghai will always be more centrally located than Hong Kong as far as the Chinese economy is concerned, Hong Kong can still compete by greatly strengthening and solidifying its existing international ties and by forging new relations with the ASEAN countries, serving as the hub linking them with mainland China and the rest of Northeast Asia. Hong Kong runs the risk of being marginalized if it does not make itself more valuable to others. Hong Kong must continue to find ways to add value and its international character is one of its major comparative advantages, which it must maintain and enhance in order to compete.

It is against such a backdrop that the Chinese University strives to realize its vision for its fifth decade, which is to develop into a leading comprehensive research university in Hong Kong, China and the region, through excellence in teaching, research, and service. Only then can it serve effectively the students in Hong Kong and the needs of Hong Kong. To thrive in its fifth decade and to respond effectively to the demands of the times requires a strategy of heightened internationalization. We use the term ‘heightened’ because internationalization is by no means a new phenomenon on this campus: we
shall simply be making greater strides at a faster pace.

We shall strive to create a truly international campus with a multi-lingual and multi-cultural milieu for those who come here in pursuit of academic excellence and personal growth. We do this by increasing our recruitment of non-local undergraduates from the mainland and overseas, by introducing special postgraduate programmes that attract talent from across the globe, and by expanding our exchange network to accommodate more student exchanges, both outbound and inbound, and from a broader mix of countries and regions. We shall make it possible for a greater number of our students to go abroad as exchange students for at least a term. ... We shall create as many opportunities as possible for all those who wish to benefit from such an experience. We embrace this international dimension of our academic programmes.

In fulfilling another mission of ours, that is to create new knowledge through research, a higher degree of internationalization is likewise beneficial. The Chinese University has an international research reputation and a strong research culture. Whereas our researchers will continue to ensure local relevance in their work so that their findings can be translated into tangible benefits for Hong Kong, we shall redouble our efforts to forge new links and engage in collaborative research with academic centres of excellence worldwide. We shall establish joint laboratories with non-local partners to pool resources, achieve critical mass, and cultivate our special strengths. We shall participate in multi-centre research on topics of global significance and contribute to the advancement of human knowledge. We shall also expand opportunities for our research students to be visiting scholars at research institutions abroad.

By taking part in national, regional, and global collaboration, our researchers and research students will be inspired by the cross-fertilization of ideas and stay...
abreast of the state-of-the-art in their own fields. Through constant interaction with true leaders in their disciplines, they can calibrate their work against the highest international standards. Greater access to non-local sources of research funding will open up. True excellence will eventually be achieved.

And with equal fervour, the new knowledge thus created will be channelled back to the communities that support these research activities. This means that we shall be ready to render our expertise not only to serve Hong Kong but everywhere it is needed.

The University’s accomplishments in teaching, research, and service in the coming decade will therefore depend in large measure on how successful we are in strengthening the international element in these functions. In the age of globalization, such an approach will enable us to attract talent, raise standards, achieve excellence, extend our impact, and render services to not only Hong Kong, but the rest of China, Asia and the world.

Ladies and gentlemen, I consider it my greatest privilege to be able to serve this splendid university as its sixth Vice-Chancellor. With its roots in Hong Kong, the Chinese University aspires to become Asia’s World University, one that can help to promulgate Chinese culture and usher in a new Chinese renaissance; one that will create new knowledge for humankind; one that will attract scholars from all over the world and enrich and enhance the pool of talents available to Hong Kong. I welcome the challenge and the responsibility, and shall devote priority to the internationalization of the University. I pledge to do my utmost to add value for our students, our University, and Hong Kong. And I shall look to all of you — teachers, parents, students, alumni and friends — for your advice and support.

In closing, I wish to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt thanks to the parents and teachers, who all labour hard and long in their own ways to make today possible for our graduates. And to our graduates receiving their degrees today, I offer my most sincere congratulations as well as my very best wishes for every success in the future.
THE CONFERMENT OF DEGREES
At the 61st congregation, 5,030 degrees, including four honorary degrees, were conferred. The four distinguished persons receiving honorary degrees were Prof. Lao Yung-wei (Lao Sze-kwang), renowned philosopher, professor of philosophy at Huafan University, Taiwan, and academician of Academia Sinica; Mr. Yang Liwei, the Chinese astronaut who commanded China’s first manned space flight; Prof. Sir James A. Mirrlees, Nobel laureate in economics 1996, and distinguished professor-at-large of the Chinese University; and Dr. William Mong Man-wai, chairman and senior managing director of the Shun Hing Group.

Prof. Lao was conferred the degree of Doctor of Literature, *honoris causa*. Mr. Yang received the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*. And Prof. Mirrlees and Dr. Mong were each awarded the degree of Doctor of Social Science, *honoris causa*.

The citations of the four honorary graduates were written and delivered by Prof. Serena Jin of the Department of Translation and Prof. David Parker of the Department of English. Prof. Mirrlees addressed the congregation on behalf of the honorary graduates.

The graduation ceremonies of the four colleges and the part-time degree programmes for first degree graduates took place in the afternoon. Officiating at these ceremonies were the college heads and Prof. Liu Pak-wai, pro-vice-chancellor. Ms. Lina Yan, Prof. Lo Wai-luen, Mr. Alfred W.K. Chan, and Mr. Timothy Cheung were the guests of honour.
Lao Yung-wei is one of the greatest living Chinese philosophers. The author of more than 30 monographs, his work plays a vital role in bringing Chinese philosophical traditions into fruitful conversation with those of the West. At home as much with Kant, Hegel, and Wittgenstein as with Zhuangzi, Mencius, and Wang Yang-Ming, Prof. Lao has developed an original approach that extracts useful elements from diverse reflective traditions.

As a young scholar in the 1950s, he spent much of his energy studying the major figures of the Western philosophical tradition such as Kant, Hegel, Collingwood, Rousseau, J.S. Mill, Toynbee, Cassirer, Quine, and many more. Among these figures, the influence of Kant has been the most crucial and lasting one, as is seen in his much-acclaimed book, Essentials of Kant’s Theory of Knowledge (1957, 2001). With this solid background in Western philosophy Prof. Lao found his way back to a more thorough treatment of the Chinese philosophical tradition.

Throughout his entire philosophical itinerary, Prof. Lao has been an eloquent exponent of the originality of classical Chinese philosophy in relation to that of the West. In sharp contrast to the ‘China-centred’ position adopted by most other Chinese philosophy specialists of Chinese origin, Prof. Lao has emphasized the necessity of considering Chinese philosophy within the entire setting of ‘the world-philosophy to come’ (Essays on Cultural Problems, 1957, revised and enlarged edition 2000). He has also consistently defended the need for a problem-oriented and open-ended concept of philosophy, as opposed to the system-based, exclusive doctrines that dominate many other philosophical schools. It was in this spirit that Prof. Lao has written a complete three-volume History of Chinese Philosophy (1968–1981, 1984–86).

Prof. Lao’s interests are not merely theoretical, but practical. Some of his main concerns have been with the history of Chinese culture and its expression in contemporary socio-political realities. Some of his major books include China’s Way Out (1981, 2000), Lao Sze-kwang’s Essays on Social and Political Issues (1989), Disenchantment and Legislation (1991), and New Reflections on the Future Developments of Chinese Culture (1993).
His main questions have been: How does a culture evolve and endure? What socio-political issues are problematic and in need of our critical attention? How does Chinese culture rejuvenate itself when it has been through political upheaval and social crisis? The deep humanistic sources of his thought emerge from his emphasis on the need for moral introspection, self-criticism, and social reform when something has gone wrong in a society. In his famous book, *The Punishment of History* (1971, 2000), he gives a compelling analysis of the self-delusive false consciousness produced by powerful ideological systems. At the same time, Prof. Lao writes not simply as a critic, but as one who shares the historical responsibility. His constant theme is that the whole culture must share the debt of history — as a first step to facing the reality of the present. Drawing on Confucian, Taoist, and Buddhist traditions, as well as on modern Western critical and liberal thought, he produces a picture of the individual that is at once new and traditional.

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Prof. Lao’s great gifts as a teacher are the fruits of his profound philosophical research. As a lecturer he has the ability to use simple language to achieve both clarity and depth, even when he is explicating the most subtle themes. In seminars he exhibits a formidably sharp critical mind, but never uses his position to indoctrinate his students to his own way of thinking. Though he commands the greatest respect from his students, he never plays the role of ‘the master’, but helps the students to make up their own minds. Like his philosophy, his teaching is based on open-ended inquiry and a respect for diversity of views. Many younger philosophers owe their devotion to the discipline to Prof. Lao’s influence.

Prof. Lao came from a long distinguished family. His great great grandfather, Lao Congguang, was the Governor of Guangdong and Guangxi provinces who signed the first Kowloon Treaty on behalf of the Qing Government. He was also an esteemed scholar, who wrote, among other works, a book on the interpretation of the I-Ching.

Prof. Lao had a great aunt, Lao Junzhan, who was a famous mathematician trained in France, and his father, Lao Jingjiu, took part in the 1911 Revolution and worked closely with the founders of the Republic of China.

Brought up in such a scholarly family, Prof. Lao had a solid foundation in the Chinese classics, and began to show a precocious talent in both prose and poetry at the age of seven. After graduating from high school in 1946, he studied in the Department of Philosophy, Peking University, where he was taught by the renowned scholars Hu Shi, He Lin, and Tang Yongtong. Later, when the Kuomintang withdrew from the mainland, he completed his studies at the University of Taiwan. In 1955 he moved to Hong Kong and taught at Chu Hai College. In 1964 he began his long association with The
Chinese University of Hong Kong, when he was appointed to the Department of Religion and Philosophy. He retired formally from the department in 1985, yet served the University for another decade by occupying successively such posts as senior research fellow of the Institute of Chinese Studies as well as senior college tutor of Shaw College. It is during his 30 years of service to the Chinese University that he wrote most of his important books and gave leadership in the role of head of the Graduate Division of Philosophy. Prof. Lao also played an important role in designing the part of Chinese Culture of the Integrated Basic Studies (IBS) programme at Chung Chi College — a series of general education courses that have shaped the lives of generations of college students. One major output of Prof. Lao’s occupation with the IBS programme was the publication of his much acclaimed book Essentials of Chinese Culture (1965, 1998), which today remains a bestseller for university students and general readers.

During his time at the Chinese University Prof. Lao was a visiting scholar at Harvard University, 1969–1970, and twice a visiting fellow at Princeton University, 1970 and 1975–1976. After his retirement in 1985, he was a visiting professor at Tsing Hua University, Taiwan, 1989–92, National University, Taiwan, 1990, Chengchi University, Taiwan, 1992–93, Soochow University, Taiwan, 1999–present, and from 1994 he has been chair professor at Hua Fan University, Taiwan. He has also returned on several occasions to the Chinese University, notably in 2000–2001, as a visiting professor of the Department of Philosophy, in the year of Chung Chi College’s 50th Anniversary. He taught courses in the Philosophy of Culture and Comparative Studies of Eastern and Western Philosophy, which gave the younger generation the precious opportunity to be taught by him.

Prof. Lao’s contributions to Chinese philosophy have won him prestigious awards and honours including the Distinguished Academic Achievement Award from the Phi Tau Phi Scholastic Honour Society, and the Culture Prize from the Executive Yuan in Taiwan. He has been an Academician of the Academia Sinica, Taiwan since 2002, the third philosopher, after Hu Shi and Feng Youlan, to be so honoured. In the same year, Prof. Lao was also conferred the honour of National-Endowed Chair Professorship by the Ministry of Education, Taiwan.

A distinguished calligrapher and poet, Prof. Lao once expressed his profound reverence for the philosophical enterprise in a brilliant couplet:

While the boundless horizons of truth extend beyond words
Let the limited writings of men be left to posterity

The philosopher, the lover of wisdom, is at home in a limitless realm of thought, well beyond the boundaries of our language. Prof. Lao’s life work reminds us of the high ideals of the philosophical calling, as well as its abiding social and political relevance.

Mr. Chairman, it is my honour to present to you Prof. Lao Yung-wei, renowned philosopher, dedicated teacher, analyst of Chinese culture, and defender of humanistic values, for the award of the degree of Doctor of Literature, honoris causa.

by Prof. David Parker
Mr. Yang Liwei is the first Chinese astronaut to have travelled in outer space. His eminent success, which has drawn attention around the world, has its origin in a small town in the northeast of China, in the family of a hardworking and modest school teacher. In 1965, Yang Liwei was born in Suizhong County in Liaoning province, the second child of the family. From a tender age he learnt from his parents a practical and industrious approach to life, and this down-to-earth spirit has provided him with the primum mobile for his celestial career.

Having finished school in his home town in 1983, Yang Liwei was admitted to the Number Eight Aviation College of the People’s Liberation Army Air Force. He graduated with excellent grades in 1987, and became a pilot in the air force, fulfilling a long cherished dream. He flew various types of fighter aircraft and rose to squadron leader. With 1,350 flight hours, he had achieved a high technical competence; he was ranked a pilot of the first class and was twice awarded class three commendation in 1992 and 1994.

In 1996, as the nation’s space programme gathered momentum, China looked to its armed forces for astronaut candidates. After a series of the most stringent assessments and physical examinations, 13 candidates were selected in January 1998, among them Yang Liwei. This first cohort of astronauts were enrolled at the Astronaut Training Base in Beijing. They went through a training regimen of unprecedented rigour, fired by the desire to roam the heavens, a dream that has tantalized the Chinese mind for millennia.

Training in astronautics is distinctly different from training in aeronautics. Even a veteran pilot such as Yang had to start again from the very basics. In five years of the utmost hard work, he began with basic theories, followed by technical and practical training. The theoretical training over 30 disciplines and over 100 courses covered an extensive range of subjects: aviation dynamics, air dynamics, geophysics, space physics, jet propulsion, space navigation, as well as flight monitoring and control. A severe regime
of practical training included tests under high g-forces that pushed human physiological endurance to its limits and beyond. In addition, the astronaut candidates had to exercise in areas outside Beijing such as the Guanting Reservoir, in order to train for sea escapes and wilderness survival.

...The astronaut Yang Liwei, spirited and assured, made his way into Shenzhou-5, the largest manned spacecraft in the world up to this time. On his shoulders rested the task of achieving glory for the nation. ...In the 21-hour mission Yang Liwei orbited the earth 14 times, making a journey of about 600,000 kilometers. Shenzhou-5 then landed safely on the Amugulang Prairie in the Siziwangqi Region of Inner Mongolia, only 4.8 kilometers from the designated landing spot, significantly pointing to the advanced achievements of astronautics in China. For five thousand years the Chinese had dreamed of celestial travel, ...this dream has come to be realized. ...

Mr. Yang amply demonstrated his indefatigable spirit and unyielding perseverance during the five years of strenuous training. With tremendous courage, willpower, and diligence he came first in three important assessments, and was eventually placed on the final shortlist of three. On the eve of the expedition, he was selected as China's first man in space for being able to maintain the best psychological stability, such was his rock-solid composure during the final phase of training and assessment.

Everything was ready at the Jiuquan Launch Centre in the morning of 15th October 2003. The astronaut Yang Liwei, spirited and assured, made his way into Shenzhou-5, the largest manned spacecraft in the world up to this time. On his shoulders rested the task of achieving glory for the nation. Armed with courage and propelled by a sense of responsibility, he was ready for the momentous journey into space. Shenzhou-5 was launched into space by the Changzheng-2F carrier rocket, nicknamed the 'Magic Arrow'. The flight up was successful and the spacecraft entered its orbit 10 minutes after the launch. In the 21-hour mission Yang Liwei orbited the earth 14 times, making a journey of about 600,000 kilometers. Shenzhou-5 then landed safely on the Amugulang Prairie in the Siziwangqi Region of Inner Mongolia, only 4.8 kilometers from the designated landing spot, significantly pointing to the advanced achievements of astronautics in China. For five thousand years the Chinese had dreamed of celestial travel, as manifested in the myths of Chang'e and Kun and Peng and the poetic conceits of Li Bai ('Let us hope for a meeting amidst the clouds and the stars'); this dream has come to be realized. China also became the third space nation, after the United States of America and the former Soviet Union.

The first Chinese astronaut accomplished his mission with great success, and with great flair — while orbiting past midnight on 16th October, he told mission control that he felt 'good'. The remark, simple yet overwhelming, immediately invigorated a billion hearts, reverberating in the minds of countless people in China. We can imagine Yang Liwei looking out of the spacecraft, surveying the boundless universe above and the expansive planet earth below. Such a celestial experience, beyond the understanding of the ordinary soul, must have given Yang Liwei the capacity to appreciate and embrace all that is between...
Heaven and Earth, and with that a greater generosity of mind and a more profound humility of character.

Amidst all the accolades and tributes, the triumphant Yang Liwei attributed the success of China’s first manned space mission to collective effort and team spirit. At a welcome reception on 31st October 2003 in Hong Kong he said: ‘The realization of a millennium-old dream once again bears witness to the world that the Chinese people have the wisdom and the courage to take their rightful place among the peoples of the world. With our own power and resources, we have built our way to the heavens. Several generations of astronautics experts have given their utmost to the cause; they are the true heroes’ — words as sincere as they are moving. Standing on the shoulders of giants and showing the way for those to come, Mr. Yang has indeed achieved a breakthrough of monumental significance.

Mr. Yang Liwei is a gentleman of a modest disposition. He respects his parents and loves his family; his career does not allow him sufficient time and attention for his loved ones. However, as the old adage has it, ‘A general forgets his family the day he receives his orders.’ Fortunately, his parents and his wife fully understood the importance of his mission, and gave him the support that he needed; Yang Liwei was therefore able to go on his mission with composure and freedom from worries.

Commendations have been heaped upon Yang Liwei’s tremendous success. The Nanjing Purple Mountain Observatory will name an asteroid the Yang Liwei Star, while the American Astronautical Society conferred upon him, in Vancouver on 5th October 2004, the Flight Achievement Award for the year, this being the first time the award was presented to a non-American since it was established in 1958. A previous recipient is Neil Armstrong, the first man on the

Mr. Yang Liwei achieved the flight to outer space through years of stringent training, unrelenting efforts, and unremitting diligence and perseverance. Eagerly watched by billions of his compatriots, he created a first for astronautics for the Chinese people; he showed to the world China’s achievements in science and technology, and laid a foundation for the country’s astronautical endeavours in the years to come. ...
One of the key problems in modern economic research is how to deal with problems of **asymmetric information** — that is, where different decision-makers have different information. For example, if the government thinks about raising income tax, it doesn’t know if I will then decide to work less hard than I do now. If the government doesn’t know this, how can it set taxes so as to optimize revenue without stifling my incentive to work hard? Prof. Sir James Mirrlees, whose work we are honouring here today, found a solution to this complex problem. The solution was so powerful that it has provided the basis, not only for the construction of taxation systems around the world today, but for our understanding of a whole range of other markets and systems. These include insurance, auctions, wages, and share markets. The contribution of Prof. Mirrlees was of such fundamental importance to our understanding of these markets and systems that in 1996 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for Economics.

As a schoolboy, Prof. Mirrlees wanted to be a professor of mathematics. When he entered the University of Edinburgh he found the mathematics so easy he was able to develop a range of other interests — in literature, music, art and philosophy. His study of Utilitarian moral philosophy led him to think about fundamental questions such as: What is a good life? What is truly rewarding? His intensive political discussions with his classmates led him to ponder questions of welfare economics. When he went on to Cambridge he found absorbing interest in issues such as poverty and the distribution of wealth — so much so that he chose to take his Ph.D. in economics. He was moved by the moral questions of his day. As he says himself in his Nobel autobiography: ‘...because poverty in ... the underdeveloped countries seemed to me what really mattered in the world ... that meant [taking up] economics.’

Starting a new discipline at Ph.D. level meant a lot of catching up, which he proceeded to do amidst the great
intellectual ferment of Cambridge in the early 1960s. It was in his Ph.D. that he began to work on the neglected question of uncertainty — how, for example, it affected the optimal rate of saving in an economy. Using his mathematical background he was able to produce an original model for showing that ‘uncertainty is a reason for saving more, not less’. The breakthrough came after months of not getting anywhere, a product partly of sheer determination and of the happiness of his recent marriage.

His first experience of Asia was a visit to India, where he learned a great deal about how developing economies work, partly from talking to people in government and observing at first hand how people lived in rural areas.

On his return to Britain Prof. Mirrlees took up a fellowship in economics at Trinity College, Cambridge. The stimulus of teaching led him to think increasingly about welfare economics and to conceive a general theory of economic activity. In fact, the germ of his Nobel Prize work was contained in an examination question he set on optimal taxation. ...After a sabbatical at MIT, he produced the first version of the optimal income taxation paper; but it took several more years' intellectual labour to produce the rigorous mathematical reasoning that would justify the Nobel Prize winning theory.

It is characteristic of Prof. Mirrlees that he gives great credit to his collaborators, such as Peter Diamond. As he says himself, 'I followed the main principle for academic success: get a good co-author (and also the second: get another).’ Creative inspiration in the life of thought, he believes, requires at least three things. The first is spending time in discussion with intelligent people, not only in your own field — people who can keep up with your thoughts and grasp the problem you are trying to solve. He was fortunate in Oxford and Cambridge to be challenged by very sharps minds — those of physicists, for example. The second thing needed is curiosity and interest — really wanting to know what other people are doing; really wanting to understand, at the deepest level, why things are so. The third is sheer persistence. There are many blind alleys in the life of strenuous thought. The person who is driven by a
great curiosity and interest needs great determination to overcome frustration and to push the calculations forward as far as they need to go. Those who know Prof. Mirrlees well are struck, above all, by his persistence.

Great curiosity and interest needs great determination to overcome frustration and to push the calculations forward as far as they need to go. Those who know Prof. Mirrlees well are struck, above all, by his persistence.

As well as his Nobel Prize, James Mirrlees has received honorary degrees from many universities, including Warwick, Portsmouth, Brunel, Edinburgh, Oxford, Peking and Macau. In 1997 he was knighted by Queen Elizabeth II.

He has been Fellow and President of the Econometric Society in Britain; a Fellow of the British Academy; an Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh; President of Royal Economic Society; President (Section F) of the British Association for the Advancement of Science; a Foreign Associate of the US National Academy of Sciences; and President of the European Economic Association.

Sir James has held visiting positions at many institutions: the MIT Center for International Studies in New Delhi; the Pakistan Institute of Development Economics in Karachi; at MIT, Berkeley and Yale. In 1995 he returned to Cambridge as professor of political economy, a position he held until 2003.

Prof. Mirrlees developed an interest in Chinese economic development in the 1980s when he was involved in the establishment of the Chinese Economic Association in Britain. In 2002 he accepted appointment at The Chinese University of Hong Kong as Distinguished Professor-at-Large. In this role he is able to provide leadership in the advancement of the University, enhancing the University’s links with the international scholarly community.

He has given important lectures at the University, including the Special Lecture on ‘Incentives and the Universities: the Impact of Performance Measurement’, which was delivered at the University Presidents’ Global Forum held in March 2004. He is also a member of the Management/Nomination Committee of the Sun Hung Kai Properties Nobel Laureates Distinguished Lectures. Last month he himself participated in the series, in a seminar along with Prof. Michael Spence, Nobel laureate in economics 2001. Prof. Mirrlees’ topic was ‘Ageing and Pensions in the Chinese Economies’.

Mr. Chairman, it is my honour to present to you Prof. Sir James Mirrlees, Nobel laureate and one of the fundamental economic thinkers of our time, for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Science, honoris causa.


by Prof. David Parker
The Golden Jubilee Anniversary of the Shun Hing Group in 2003 was a magnificent occasion celebrated with a large assemblage of distinguished guests and messages of congratulations and good wishes from all over the world. Founded in 1953, the Shun Hing Group is going from strength to strength after half a century of enterprising effort, and behind the grandeur of its success there is a moving story. It all began with a promise between the company and a foreign friend, which was brought to fruition through the collaborative efforts of a remarkable Sino-Japanese partnership. Through lots of hard work and a readiness to move with the times the enterprise took off, and has since soared to the heights of business success.

Dr. William Mong Man Wai is the chairman and senior managing director of the Shun Hing Group, and an entrepreneur and philanthropist of international renown. His family had come from the Panyu County of Guangdong, and he was born in Hong Kong in 1927. Both his parents were overseas Chinese who returned from Japan and were very conversant with the Japanese language, and the young William had developed an early interest in mathematics and the sciences. He went to La Salle College and, during the Second World War, moved to the mainland to further his studies. He returned to Hong Kong after the War and was then admitted to Tsinghua University in Beijing, where he proceeded to study aviation engineering. In 1948 he came back to Hong Kong upon the instruction of his father, and in 1949 he went to Japan to continue his education, at which point a unique career of exceptional dimensions began.

When he first arrived in Japan, Mr. Mong ardently sought to consolidate his command of Japanese and to gain in-depth understanding of the life and manners of the Japanese people. He enrolled at the Chiyoda Primary School in the Kanda district in Tokyo and, despite his status as a university student, sat with young children and studied in their midst. Mr.
Mong, 22 at the time, went to school very early and devoted himself wholeheartedly to the lessons and completed the six-year primary school curriculum in the short span of six months. This firmness of purpose, coupled with great diligence, laid the foundation for his immense success in the days to come, and his fluency in Japanese played a pivotal role in facilitating his business contacts and operations in Japan.

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The old Chinese adage has it that ‘Good tools are essential to a job well done’. Mr. Mong, now equipped with solid professional knowledge in engineering and a firm grasp of the Japanese language, launched into the retail market for Japanese electrical appliances, an area not devoid of risks at the time. With the greatest perseverance and unsurpassed wisdom he boldly took the initiative to introduce National radio sets to Hong Kong, and with remarkable business results won the trust of Mr. Konosuke Matsushita, known as ‘the god of management’. Mr. Mong was then given the sole agency of National products in Hong Kong and Macau, and a business partnership and friendship of over 50 years thus began. A bond based on mutual respect and frankness between two outstanding entrepreneurs that transcends the written contract, it is a manifestation of the trust between two real gentlemen.

Since its establishment in 1953, the Shun Hing Group has made it its business to introduce quality electrical appliances to Hong Kong. These range from the radios and electric rice cookers of the early days to the later washing machines and microwave ovens, and the more recent audio-visual equipment, office automation equipment, and information network systems. In all these business initiatives the Company’s priority has been to enhance the quality of life in Hong Kong through the introduction of state-of-the-art electrical appliances. During the past five decades the Shun Hing Group had grown in size and scope while the living standard of Hong Kong citizens had also risen from the modest to the affluent, and there was certainly a profound and inalienable connection between the two.

Today, at the dawn of the 21st century, Shun Hing has evolved into a business empire with diversified interests employing about 1,600 people in various operations all over the world. The Group’s business is no longer confined to home appliances and audio-visual products, but has extended to security systems, construction, warehousing and logistics,
mechanical and electrical engineering, advertising, and real estate investment and development on the mainland. The structure and governance of these enterprises have also undergone large-scale revamps and the Group now comprises three main components, namely, Shun Hing Electronic Holdings Ltd., Shun Hing China Investment Ltd. and Shun Hing Overseas Investment Ltd., each run by specialists in their respective fields.

Over the years Dr. William Mong has explored new frontiers in international business with his distinguished foresight and brilliant acumen. In the beginning, as if gifted with prescience, he courageously brought Japanese electrical appliances to Hong Kong in the 1950’s on the assumption that ‘I take up what others set aside, while letting go of what others are after’.

In running his business his operational principles are founded on the concept of ‘not to question those to whom duties have been assigned, while not to assign duties to those whom one might question’. In the spirit of the ancient motto, ‘if one may seek renewal he must do it everyday, and keep the renewal process going’, he amalgamates the best of Chinese, Western, and Japanese management concepts to create greater room for business growth and expansion. Thus the Shun Hing Group, under the leadership of Dr. William Mong, sees striving for perfection as the epitome of its corporate culture, and its employees are committed to collaborative efforts under a united spirit of trust and mutual encouragement. Guided by these principles, the Group continues to grow and develop its activities to serve the community.

Dr. William Mong has contributed substantially to the advancement of commerce and industry, education, medical services, and social welfare. The Shun Hing Education and Charity Fund was set up in 1984 and, since its foundation, has donated close to HK$400 million in support of educational, health care,
recreational, sports, and environmental protection projects in mainland China and Hong Kong. Over the years the Fund has endowed campus facilities, research institutes, research grants, and scholarship schemes at major universities in both Hong Kong and the mainland. In 1996 an important donation was made to Sidney Sussex College at Cambridge University for the construction of a multi-purpose building; the William M.W. Mong Building became the first building at Cambridge University named after an Asian.

In recognition of his efforts in promoting bilateral trade between Hong Kong and Japan, the late Emperor Hirohito bestowed upon Dr. Mong the Japanese Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosette, in 1988. In 1994 the Comite de France presented him with the Gold Cup Award. Dr. Mong is a Council Member or Honorary Committee Member of many local and mainland universities, and a recipient of honorary doctorates from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, the University of Hong Kong, the City University of Hong Kong, and the Open University of Hong Kong. He also holds consultant professorships at Peking University and Tsinghua University, and an honorary fellowship of Sidney Sussex College at Cambridge. The Nanjing Purple Mountain Observatory named Asteroid 3678 the Mong Man Wai Star in 1996 for the distinguished work he has done to promote economics, science, technology and education in China. In 1999 the Municipal Government of Nanjing presented Dr. Mong with an honorary citizenship as a commendation for his outstanding contributions to education in the motherland.

Dr. Mong and the Shun Hing Education and Charity Fund have for long been staunch supporters of teaching and research at The Chinese University of Hong Kong. Since the 1960’s major donations have been received from Dr. Mong and the Fund to finance scholarships, the establishment of laboratories, and various training programmes at the University. The first building at The Chinese University named after Dr. Mong, housing facilities for scientific research, opened in 1998, while the William M.W. Mong Engineering Building was dedicated and commissioned in October this year. In 2003 the Shun Hing Education and Charity Fund generously endowed a professorial chair at the Institute of Mathematical Sciences, this being the first chair named after an individual at The Chinese University. In 2004 the University again benefited from the munificence of the Fund with the establishment of the Shun Hing Institute of Advanced Engineering. Mr. David Mong, Chairman of the Fund and the son of Dr. William Mong, personally participates in the project as the chairman of the advisory board.

With a reputation greatly respected locally and worldwide, and a career that benefits both industry and the community, Dr. Mong has won our admiration with his splendid efforts in promoting economic, educational, and cultural developments. Mr. Chairman, may I now respectfully present Dr. William Mong Man Wai for the award of the degree of Doctor of Social Science, honoris causa. 

(An English translation of the citation written by Prof. Serena Jin)
An Address

given by

Prof. Sir James A. Mirrlees

We who have received honorary degrees today thank the Chinese University for what is truly an honour. We value these degrees no less than if we had had to earn them by passing examinations and spending years at the University. Taking examinations would not have been a pleasure, but time spent as a student would have been. We have lost something and gained something by getting our degrees the easy way. Fellow graduates, you need not be too envious. For all of us, a university degree is a declaration that we are valued: a great reward indeed. For me, it is particularly pleasing to be so valued by what is now my own university.

Today’s congregation is special because a new Vice-Chancellor is being installed. The Chinese University has been peculiarly fortunate in its Vice-Chancellors, who have served it exceedingly well. This fine tradition will be well sustained by Lawrence Lau. It is a further privilege to be part of that event.

Some of us have lived our whole lives in universities, and, as we say in economics, that reveals a preference. The pursuit of knowledge proved so appealing that we could not give it up. Maybe nowadays we do not expect to know everything that is worth knowing, and to

I hope you will all go on learning, both easy subjects and hard ones. But now, I am afraid, you will become busy, and risk being too busy to keep learning and exploring. A word of advice. Don’t. Do not be too busy. That is hard. You may make more money that way, but it is not a good life.

I hope you will all go on learning, both easy subjects and hard ones. But now, I am afraid, you will become busy, and risk being too busy to keep learning and exploring. A word of advice. Don’t. Do not be too busy. That is hard. You may make more money that way, but it is not a good life.

understand what anyone understands; though we can still try. You who graduate today have had a taste of it, and many of you will have more. I hope you will all go on learning, both easy subjects and hard ones. But now, I am afraid, you will become busy, and risk being too busy to keep learning and exploring. A word of
advice. Don’t. Do not be too busy. That is hard. You may make more money that way, but it is not a good life.

Samuel Johnson, the great lexicographer, who created the first satisfactory dictionary of English had to leave the University of Oxford after one year: when his father died he could not afford to stay. Oxford was not a very distinguished university in the eighteenth century, but Samuel Johnson greatly regretted that his time there had been so short, and that he had no degree. Years later, Oxford made him an honorary doctor, and from that day to this, he has been known as Dr. Johnson, a title he held in the highest esteem. In his dictionary, which is not without jokes, Dr. Johnson had defined a lexicographer as a ‘harmless drudge’. He was indeed a busy man; but not too busy. He had plenty of time for the marvellous conversations Dr. Boswell recorded. The breadth and depth of his interests are a model for all. Drudgery may help one to a doctorate, but I hope a doctorate may be held to declare at least that one is harmless.

G.H. Hardy, a Cambridge mathematician of the highest quality, wrote A Mathematician’s Apology. In it he claimed to have the great merit of harmlessness, since as a particularly pure mathematician, his achievements were beauty and knowledge without application. He did not, by the way, think it possible in general to be better than harmless. My first two degrees were in mathematics, specializing in pure mathematics; but I took the risk of doing harm, for my third degree, and my career is, as you have heard, in economics.

In that subject, there is plenty of scope for doing harm, though I claim that amateur economists, a numerous band, do more harm than professionals. My first paper was written with Nicholas Kaldor, one of the Hungarians — there have been several — who became a British Lord. He had a reputation: he went around the world advising governments on taxes.

...My first two degrees were in mathematics, specializing in pure mathematics; but I took the risk of doing harm, for my third degree, and my career is, as you have heard, in economics.

...It is for you to decide, now that you begin to go out in the larger world, just what effect you will seek: it will probably not be what you intend. ...

Normally after he had persuaded them to adopt at least some of his recommendations, something of a revolution would follow. Of course, it is quite pleasing to have an effect on the world. It is for you to decide, now that you begin to go out in the larger world, just what effect you will seek: it will probably not be what you intend. When I suggest that taxes should be increased, as they should in Hong Kong, I find that it does not increase one’s popularity. It comes as a relief, therefore, that after a lifetime in economics, one can be sufficiently valuable to warrant a degree. My fellow graduates have more clearly deserved it.

Thank you, The Chinese University of Hong Kong. ☐
The master’s degree graduation ceremony was held on 10th December at Sir Run Run Shaw Hall. It was presided at by Prof. Kenneth Young (upper), provice-chancellor, with Sir C.K. Chow, Mr. Ricky W.K. Wong, and Mrs. Ng Fong Siu-mei as guests of honour.
### Number of Graduates

#### Doctoral Degrees Breakdown
- Doctor of Medicine: 5
- Doctor of Philosophy: 154
- Doctor of Education: 6
- Doctor of Music: 1

Total: 166

#### Master's Degrees Breakdown by Field
- Philosophy: 442
- Arts: 403
- Divinity: 8
- Fine Arts: 3
- Music: 2
- Accountancy: 28
- Business Administration: 285
- Professional Accountancy: 53
- Education: 87
- Nursing: 22
- Public Health: 16
- Chinese Medicine: 5
- Science: 646
- Architecture: 37
- Social Science: 77
- Social Work: 12

Total: 2,126

#### Bachelor Degrees Breakdown by Field
- Arts: 385
- Business Administration: 509
- Education: 114
- Engineering: 405
- Medicine and Surgery: 152
- Nursing: 85
- Pharmacy: 31
- Chinese Medicine: 12
- Science: 535
- Social Science: 506

Total: 2,743

Total: 5,026
Former director of the Institute of Chinese Studies, Dr. Fong-ching Chen, donated a statue of Dr. Choh-Ming Li to the Chinese University to commemorate the Founding Vice-Chancellor and his remarkable contributions to higher education and to CUHK. The statue, created by famous sculptor Prof. Wu Weishan, is now situated in the courtyard of the Institute of Chinese Studies. In attendance at the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the statue, held on 28th November, were former vice-chancellors of the University. Prof. Lawrence J. Lau, the serving vice-chancellor, Prof. Arthur K.C. Li, Secretary of Education and Manpower, Dr. Fong-ching Chen, and Dr. Jean Rogers, daughter of Dr. Choh-Ming Li, also made speeches on the occasion.
Dr. Choh-Ming Li founded the Chinese University in 1963 and served the University as vice-chancellor until 1978. He was the first Chinese to take up the position in Hong Kong. It was he who moved the three colleges — Chung Chi, New Asia, and United to the current Shatin campus. It was also he who set directions for the University’s development, formulated teaching and research policies, and put forward the vision of ‘to combine tradition and modernity, and to bring together China and the West (結合傳統與現代，融會中國與西方)’.

Under his leadership, the University evolved into a modern international university rooted deeply in Chinese culture.
Welcoming address by  
Prof. Lawrence J. Lau

Prof. Arthur Li, Dr. Edgar Cheng,  
Dr. J.S. Lee, Dr. Fong-ching Chen,  
Distinguished guests, ladies and  
gentlemen:

In the presence of so many  
veterans of the University and its  
long-time benefactors, I am a little  
shy speaking of the man we have  
come to commemorate today: our  
Founding Vice-Chancellor, Dr.  
Choh-Ming Li.

Most of you here are either colleagues  
who worked closely with him during the  
first 15 years of the University’s existence,  
or friends who have known him for  
decades and who are highly familiar with  
his life and his deeds. On my part, whereas  
I had the great fortune of meeting him  
personally, I knew him principally through  
his writings, particularly his seminal work  
on the Chinese economy and Chinese  
statistics. It is my great honour and  
privilege, as the serving vice-chancellor, to  
officiate at this presentation ceremony and  
to welcome you to our campus to join us  
in paying tribute to Dr. Li.

This afternoon we find ourselves in  
this beautiful courtyard of the Institute of  
Chinese Studies. And in a short while, the  
former director of the Institute, Dr. Fong-  
ching Chen, will present to the University  
this life-size statue for permanent  
installation in this corner of the courtyard,  
in fond remembrance of our Founding  
Vice-Chancellor.

We thank Dr. Chen for his magnificent  
gift. And I think I speak for everyone here  
when I say we share his deep appreciation  
of Dr. Li’s momentous contribution to this  
university, and his profound admiration  
for Dr. Li’s unique personal attributes.

Dr. Li’s co-workers have described  
him as ‘Mr. Energy’ — referring to the  
tremendous dynamism, vitality, and  
forcefulness he showed in his everyday  
work for the University throughout his  
vice-chancellorship.

His successors — all five of us  
gathered here today for this ceremony —  
have been awed by his foresight and his  
broad vision. He saw far, he saw beyond  
the immediate present and future to  
understand Hong Kong’s long-term  
education needs, and he set lofty goals for  
the Chinese University to accomplish. He  
had a plan for his beloved university right  
from the beginning; we are treading the  
trail that he blazed.

Students of the University affectionately  
called him the ‘gardener’, and we  
have alumni representatives here to bear
witness to their great respect for and fondness of Dr. Choh-Ming Li.

People from all walks, near and far, local and overseas, had been captivated by his zeal and converted by his persuasiveness to become the University’s friends and sponsors. Many have remained staunch supporters till today, and not a few of them are with us here this afternoon.

His children, including Dr. Jean Rogers who has made a special trip from the States to attend this ceremony, have told us how they have been impressed by their late father’s indomitable spirit and his tremendous will to succeed.

And then the donor of this statue, Dr. Fong-ching Chen, calls him the ‘Master Builder’, a true leader with irresistible charm and charisma.

I do not intend to describe each and every feat achieved by Dr. Li to advance the cause of the Chinese University. They are simply too numerous to list. But I think I should explain why we are here and not anywhere else on the campus.

If Dr. Li had had the opportunity to choose, he would certainly have decided on the same spot for his statue. The Institute of Chinese Studies is the place which functionally and symbolically reflects the University’s commitment to its distinctive educational mission, which is to integrate Chinese and Western intellectual and cultural traditions. So goes the motto of Institute set by its founding director: to combine tradition and modernity, to bring together China and the West.

Indeed the Institute was established at Dr. Li’s own initiative just four years after the University’s establishment. It signifies the University’s determination to develop Chinese Studies as a major field, in which it can claim distinction and make an important contribution to the world of scholarship. The action was consistent with the basic philosophy of the University to nurture its international character and status while cultivating its
Chinese heritage.

Through the Institute, therefore, the University assumes its institutional responsibility of preserving and enriching the Chinese culture as well as promoting it, not only among Chinese societies, but also in the Western world.

Today, as we talk about internationalization, about cross-cultural exchanges, we shall call to mind the vision of our Founding Vice-Chancellor. Today, as we formulate plans to promulgate Chinese culture, we shall call to mind the contribution of the Institute of Chinese Studies and the ground work laid by its founding director.

Where else will be more appropriate than the Institute of Chinese Studies to house Dr. Li’s statue?

Ladies and gentlemen, on behalf of the Chinese University, let me thank you once again for coming here to witness the presentation of this exquisite statue, and sharing with us our fond memories of our Founding Vice-Chancellor. Let me also express our profound gratitude to Dr. Fong-ching Chen for his most special gift. Henceforth our Founding Vice-Chancellor will be sitting comfortably in this cosy corner of the courtyard, watching the gold fish trooping by, greeting every visitor with his winning smile, and mildly reminding them that they are at the very heart of The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Thank you.

Wu Weishan the Sculptor

Born in 1962 at Dongtai, Jiangsu Province, Wu Weishan graduated from the Fine Arts Department of Nanjing Normal University. He subsequently worked at Peking University, the European Ceramics Centre, and the Department of Sculpture of Washington University in the US. A sculptor of the human form, Wu has held exhibitions in the Netherlands, the US, South Korea, Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan. He was awarded the prestigious Pangolin Prize by the Royal Academy of Sculptor of the UK, which also elected him as a Fellow (FRBS). Wu is now a professor at Nanjing University and head of the Institute of Fine Arts and the Institute of Sculpture Art at the same university. His work is on permanent exhibition at public locations throughout China and among the collections of major museums the world over.
HK$69 million Grants for 43 Projects

Grants totalling some HK$69 million from various local and overseas sponsors for projects undertaken by CUHK researchers were recorded during the period May to November 2004:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sponsors</th>
<th>Amount Involved (HK$)</th>
<th>Number of Projects Supported</th>
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<tr>
<td>CAS-Croucher Funding Scheme for Joint Laboratories</td>
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<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health &amp; Health Services Research Fund</td>
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<td>Hong Kong Jockey Club Institute of Chinese Medicine Ltd.</td>
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<td>Hong Kong Trade Development Council</td>
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<td>Innovation and Technology Fund</td>
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<td>Innovation and Technology Fund &amp; Lung Cheong Toys Ltd.</td>
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<td>Quality Education Fund</td>
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<td>Research Fund for the Control of Infectious Diseases</td>
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<td>S.K. Yee Medical Foundation</td>
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<td>The Croucher Foundation</td>
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<td>The Fulbright Hong Kong Scholar Programme</td>
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<td>The Hong Kong Arts Development Council</td>
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<td>The Language Fund</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Lord Wilson Heritage Trust</td>
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RGC Research Grants for 2004–2005

A total of 144 research proposals submitted by academic and research staff of the University have been awarded earmarked grants of HK$78.5 million from the Research Grants Council (RGC) this year. The University also received a direct allocation of HK$13.64 million to finance small projects.

For 2004–5, the government has made available some HK$403 million for selected research proposals submitted by academic and research personnel in the UGC-funded tertiary institutions, and HK$65 million for direct allocation to the institutions to finance small projects.

The 144 CUHK projects selected for earmarked grants fall into four subject disciplines: biology and medicine (38); engineering (48); the physical sciences (20); and the humanities, social sciences and business studies (38).
CUHK Wins HK$8 Million Grant for Digital Entertainment Technologies

To promote digital entertainment in Hong Kong, the Innovation and Technology Commission invited proposals to develop new technologies for the industry. Three such proposals submitted by the Faculty of Engineering have subsequently been selected; a total of HK$8 million was awarded by the commission for the purpose.

The first project is conducted by Prof. Michael R.T. Lyu of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering. He will develop ‘Augmented Reality’ technologies that can be applied to entertainment kiosks and mobile phones, enabling better integration of real-life images and computer animation in video games. His project is conducted in collaboration with three local firms: CSL, Global Digital Creations Holdings Ltd., and Video Club International.

In the second project, Prof. John C.S. Lui of the Computer Science and Engineering Department teams up with Infoislive, a local mobile game developer, to design a software system specifically for developing multi-player on-line games that can be played in the wireless environment. Such a game engine will be the first of its kind in Hong Kong. The project is supported by Group Sense Ltd., a mobile phone manufacturer.

The third project involves the development of computer-aided design technologies for the presentation of curved or waved objects. Such technologies are particularly useful for portraying game characters in action such as Chinese Kung Fu masters, or characters with long hair or wearing long gowns. The project is headed by Prof. K.C. Hui of the Department of Automation and Computer-aided Engineering, and conducted in collaboration with several computer game developers, including GameOne and DigitFORCE.

Research Highlights

To generate more interest in the University’s research activities, the Chinese University Bulletin continues to bring to readers highlights of research projects supported by the Research Grants Council and other research funds.

An article on new strategies for ulcer prevention in patients with arthritis and vascular diseases can be found on pages 48–51.
Defining New Strategies for Ulcer Prevention in Patients with Arthritis and Vascular Diseases

Nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) including aspirin have a wide spectrum of clinical applications. NSAIDs are commonly used as painkillers for the treatment of arthritis. There is also growing evidence that NSAIDs can prevent colorectal cancer and dementia. Aspirin is one type of NSAID that can prevent clogging of blood vessels. It is an established treatment for the prevention of coronary heart disease and stroke. About 50 million Americans have started taking aspirin over the last two decades. However, NSAIDs also damage the stomach. It is the leading cause of peptic ulcer and its complications such as bleeding and perforation worldwide.
NSAID-induced Ulcer Disease: A Global Health Problem

NSAID or aspirin in any dosage carries an ulcer risk. Among patients taking aspirin at very low doses for cardiovascular protection, the risk of ulcer bleeding is more than two times that of non-users. The risk of ulcer bleeding is very high among patients who have a history of ulcer and multiple medical problems. Up to 20 per cent of high-risk patients receiving NSAIDs develop recurrent ulcer bleeding within six months if they have a history of ulcer bleeding. Furthermore, ulcer bleeding in old and frail patients often carries high mortality. In the US, the number of deaths due to NSAID-related ulcer complications each year is comparable to that due to acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS). The direct medical cost for treating NSAID-related ulcer disease exceeds US$4 billion per annum. In Hong Kong, arthritis, coronary heart disease, peptic ulcer, and stroke are amongst the top 10 medical conditions in the elderly population. These medical problems are closely related to each other because about 50 per cent of peptic ulcer disease is associated with NSAIDs use for the treatment of arthritis, coronary heart disease, or stroke. It has been estimated that over 325,000 people in Hong Kong aged 70 or above are taking NSAIDs. The problem of NSAID-induced ulcer disease is increasing in our aging population.

For years, research on the prevention of NSAID-induced ulcer has been dominated by the pharmaceutical industry. Development of potent anti-ulcer drugs and advances in new anti-inflammatory analgesics and anti-platelet agents have reduced the gastric toxicity of traditional therapies. However, these new treatments are often very expensive, and more importantly, have not been critically evaluated in high-risk populations. Over the years, Prof. Francis Chan and his research team have been dedicated to developing novel strategies and critically evaluating current strategies for the prevention of NSAID-induced ulcers.
Eradication of Helicobacter pylori as a Novel Strategy for the Prevention of NSAID-induced Ulcers

According to Prof. Chan, a current recommendation for high-risk patients with arthritis is co-prescription of NSAIDs with a potent acid suppressing drug (proton pump inhibitor). However, this strategy requires elderly patients to take extra tablets. Furthermore, the long-term cost of acid suppressing drugs is enormous. Alternatively, one potential approach is to eliminate certain reversible risk factors, one of which might be Helicobacter pylori infection. Like NSAIDs, H. pylori infection is another important risk factor of peptic ulcer disease worldwide. The bacterium is found in the stomach of about 50 per cent of the local population. H. pylori induces inflammation in the stomach and, in some patients, leads to ulcer formation. Although both H. pylori infection and NSAIDs can cause peptic ulcers, whether curing the infection would prevent NSAID-induced ulcers was unknown. This alternative ulcer prevention strategy, if proven effective, would have the potential of reducing the need for long-term acid suppressive drugs.

Prof. Chan and his team conducted a series of pharmaceutical industry-independent studies to address this important clinical question. In the first study, they randomly assigned a group of arthritis patients infected with H. pylori to receive an NSAID alone, or a course of antibiotics to eradicate H. pylori followed by an NSAID. Two months later, patients who received antibiotics had an almost four-fold reduction in the incidence of ulcers. To confirm this preliminary observation, they conducted a second study in which the treatment of arthritis was extended from two to six months. The second study showed that elimination of H. pylori before starting long-term NSAIDs effectively reduced the risk of ulcers by over 65 per cent in six months.

The researchers further explored the benefit of ‘test-and-treat H. pylori infection’ in patients receiving aspirin who were at high risk of ulcer bleeding. In the third study, they compared the eradication of H. pylori infection alone with maintenance acid suppressive therapy for the prevention of recurrent bleeding in
patients with *H. pylori* infection and a history of ulcer bleeding. The result showed that one week of antibiotics was comparable to long-term acid suppressive therapy in preventing recurrent ulcer bleeding associated with aspirin.

These three studies have for the first time defined a novel and cost-effective strategy for the prevention of peptic ulcer disease in patients requiring NSAIDs and aspirin. Patients needing regular treatment with NSAIDs or aspirin should be tested for *H. pylori* infection and, if it is present, should receive a course of antibiotics to eradicate the bacterium. This strategy not only reduces ulcer risk but also reduces the need for acid suppressive drugs, thereby decreasing healthcare expenditure. These research findings and their implications, which were initially viewed with much skepticism, have been formally adopted by both the European and Asia-Pacific expert panels on *H. pylori* infection as a strategy for the prevention of ulcers in patients requiring NSAIDs.

**Redefining Treatment Guidelines for High-risk Arthritis Patients**

What methods of ulcer prevention are there for patients without *H. pylori* infection who require NSAIDs? Prof. Chan says that current recommendations for high-risk arthritis patients include adding an acid suppressive drug to NSAIDs or, recently, the substitution of NSAIDs with a COX-2 selective inhibitor, a new class of NSAID that is marketed as an effective painkiller without toxicity to the stomach. In the US, the sales of this new class of painkillers exceeded US$6 billion each year. While there is strong evidence that this new class of drugs reduces ulcer risk in low-risk patients, it is unknown whether it is as good as a combination of NSAIDs and acid suppressive drugs.

In the fourth study, arthritis patients without *H. pylori* infection who had a history of ulcer bleeding were randomly assigned to receive a COX-2 selective inhibitor (celecoxib) or a combination of a conventional NSAID (diclofenac SR) and an acid suppressive drug (omeprazole) for six months. The results showed that although the two strategies were comparable in reducing the risk of recurrent ulcer bleeding to about five per cent in six months, neither treatment could totally eliminate the risk of recurrent bleeding in these high-risk patients. This research finding, which alarmed the international medical arena, has radically changed existing treatment guidelines for arthritis patients who are at risk for ulcer disease.

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**Defining New Strategies for Ulcer Prevention**

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**Prof. Francis Chan** obtained his M.B., Ch.B. with honours from The Chinese University of Hong Kong in 1988. After completing his residency training, he studied at the University of Calgary, Canada as a Croucher Foundation Research Fellow in 1993. He joined CUHK in 1997 as a lecturer. In 1998, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine. Prof. Chan’s extensive research work has gained much recognition in the form of awards and invited lectures. He was appointed senior lecturer and reader in 2000 and 2003, respectively.

Prof. Chan serves as an associate editor and an editorial board member in a number of international journals. He is a fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London, the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland, the American College of Gastroenterology, the Hong Kong College of Physicians, and the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine.
News in Brief

Council News

New Council Members

- Prof. Cheung Yuet-wah has been elected by the Assembly of Fellows of Chung Chi College as a member of the Council for the unexpired period of membership of Prof. Leung Yuen-sang from 1st August 2004 to 22nd April 2007.
- Mr. Anthony Y.C. Yeh has been elected by the Board of Trustees of United College as a member of the Council for the unexpired period of membership of Dr. Ho Tim from 25th June 2004 to 15th March 2007.
- Prof. H.C. Kuan, Prof. Rance P.L. Lee, and Prof. Joseph J.Y. Sung have been elected/reelected by the Senate, as members of the Council, each for a period of three years from 1st August 2004.

Reappointment of Pro-Vice-Chancellors

Prof. Kenneth Young and Prof. Jack C.Y. Cheng were reappointed as pro-vice-chancellors of the University for two years. The effective dates of their reappointment were respectively 1st August 2004 and 1st October 2004.

Dean of Arts Reelected

Prof. Daniel P.L. Law has been reelected Dean of Arts for a new term of three years from 1st August 2004.

Appointment of Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellors and University Officers

- Prof. Billy So, professor in the Department of History, and Prof. Michael K.M. Hui, professor of marketing, were appointed as associate pro-vice-chancellors with effect from 1st October 2004.
  Prof. So was also appointed Registrar of the University from 13th December 2004, succeeding Prof. Richard M.W. Ho upon the latter’s retirement on 12th December 2004.
- Prof. Ho Puay-peng, professor in the Department of Architecture, will succeed Prof. Jack C.Y. Cheng as University Dean of Students from 1st February 2005.
- Prof. Wong Wing-shing, professor of information engineering, will succeed Prof. Kenneth Young as Dean of the Graduate School with effect from 1st September 2005.

New Head for Chung Chi College

Prof. Leung Yuen Sang, professor of history, has been appointed by the University Council as Head of Chung Chi College for a period of four years from 1st August 2004, succeeding Prof. Rance P.L. Lee.
Three faculty members of the Chinese University were honoured in the 2004 Honours List of the HKSAR for their outstanding contributions to the fight against SARS and to Hong Kong.

Prof. Joseph J.Y. Sung, professor of medicine and therapeutics, was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star. Prof. John S.L. Tam, professor in the Department of Microbiology, was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star. Prof. Albert Lee, professor in the Department of Community and Family Medicine, was awarded the Chief Executive’s Commendation for Community Service.

Prof. Lee Sik Yum, professor of statistics, has been selected as a 2004 Fellow of the American Statistical Association (ASA) for his outstanding work in research and in promoting the development of the statistical profession.

Prof. Fanny M. Cheung, chair of the Department of Psychology and professor of psychology, was selected as a recipient of a 2004 American Psychological Association Presidential Citation for her efforts to promote the field of psychology in China, cross-cultural research, and the study of women’s issues.

Dr. Lee Sze Kuen Victor, director of the School of Continuing Studies, has been elected as an Honorary Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute of Marketing on 1st April 2004.

Prof. Yan Houmin’s paper ‘Coordination of a Supply Chain with Risk-Averse Agents’, coauthored with Gan Xianghua and Suresh P. Sethi, won the Wickham-Skinner Best Paper Award at the Production and Operations Management Society Cancun meeting. Prof. Yan is from the Department of Systems Engineering and Engineering Management.

Prof. Michael Harris Bond, professor of psychology, was awarded an honorary fellowship by the International Association for Cross-Cultural Psychology (IACCP) in recognition of his continuing and distinguished contributions to the field of cross-cultural psychology. He is also president of IACCP.

A paper entitled ‘Orientalist Knowledge and Social Theories: China and the European Conceptions of East-West Differences from 1600–1900’ authored by Prof. Hung Ho-fung, assistant professor in the Department of Sociology, was awarded the 2004 Best Article Prize of the American Sociological Association (for the section on the Political Economy of the World System).

M.Phil. student Ngai Chi-kin and his supervisor Prof. Raymond Yeung of the Department of Information Engineering have won the Best Paper Award in Communication Theory at the 2004 International Conference on Communication, Circuits and Systems held in Chengdu, China from 27th to 29th June 2004.

Prof. Lo Yuk Ming Dennis, professor of chemical pathology, was recently made a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh.

Prof. Catherine A. McBride-Chang, professor in the Department of Psychology, was recognized as a 2004 Fellow of the American Psychological Society (APS) for her sustained outstanding contribution to the advancement of psychological science in the area of research.
Emeritus Professors

Prof. Ambrose Y.C. King was awarded the title of Emeritus Professor of Sociology with retroactive effect from 1st July 2004; and Prof. Serena Jin, the title of Emeritus Professor of Translation with effect from 1st August 2005, upon their retirement from the University.

Prof. Ambrose Y.C. King is a sociologist of high standing and great renown. A distinguished scholar with important publications and a loyal member of the University for 34 years, he has influenced both academia and the University in significant ways.

Prof. King joined The Chinese University of Hong Kong as lecturer in sociology in New Asia College in 1970. Since then he has been a highly valued member of the University, having been appointed to key positions and entrusted with important tasks. He became chair professor in 1983 and was head of New Asia College from 1977 to 1985, and concurrently chairman of the Department of Sociology. He was appointed pro-vice-chancellor in 1989. In 2002 he was made vice-chancellor of the University until his retirement in June 2004. Prof. King has been a visiting scholar at Cambridge University, the Center of International Studies at MIT, the University of Heidelberg, and the University of Wisconsin.

In 1994, Prof. King was elected Academician of Academia Sinica, Taiwan, and was appointed a Non-Official Justice of the Peace by the Hong Kong government. In 1998, the HKSAR government presented him with the Silver Bauhinia Star in recognition of his contribution to sociological studies. The same year he was conferred a Doctor of Letters, honoris causa, by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. In 2001, he was elected an outstanding alumnus of the University of Pittsburgh.

During her service, Prof. Jin has made great contributions both academically and professionally. She was chairman of the Department of Translation between 1993 and 1998.

Prof. Jin is fellow of the Institute of Linguists (London), council member of the Translators’ Association of China, invited researcher of the Research Institute of Shanghai Foreign Language University, and visiting professor of Fujian Normal University. She has served as adviser or member of the editorial committee of several respected academic journals.

Prof. Jin is currently president of The Hong Kong Translation Society. In 1997, she received an OBE (Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire) for her ‘unique and invaluable contribution to the promotion of translation in Hong Kong’.

During her long service at the Chinese University, she has devoted herself to a large number of administrative positions including sub-dean of the Faculty of Arts, and member of the Board of Trustees of New Asia College. She is at present chairman of the Committee of Cultural Life of New Asia College and member of the University Council.
Professor of Accountancy

Prof. Wong Tak-jun has been appointed professor of accountancy from 2nd July 2004.

Prof. Wong has an MBA (1986) and a Ph.D. in management (1990) from the University of California, Los Angeles. From 2002 to 2004, he was professor in accounting and director of the Centre for Corporate Governance at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Professor of Chinese Language and Literature

Prof. Samuel Cheung Hung-nin has been appointed professor of Chinese language and literature from 2nd August 2004.

Prof. Cheung, who has a Ph.D. in oriental languages from the University of California (1974), Berkeley, has taught Chinese at the University of Oregon, UC Berkeley, the University of Hong Kong, and Hong Kong Baptist University. Prior to joining CUHK, he was professor and head of the Division of Humanities at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and professor emeritus of East Asian languages at UC Berkeley.

Professor of Humanities

Prof. Leo Lee Ou-fan has been appointed professor of humanities from 2nd August 2004.

Prof. Lee obtained his Ph.D. in history and Far Eastern languages from Harvard University in 1970. In the following two years, he was lecturer in history at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. He had also taught history and/or East Asian languages and cultures at various universities such as Dartmouth College, Princeton University, Indiana University, the University of Chicago, and the University of California, Los Angeles. Prior to joining the Chinese University, he was professor in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations of Harvard University.

Professor of Government and Public Administration

Prof. Emerson M.S. Niou has been appointed professor of government and public administration from 5th August 2004.

Prof. Niou has a Ph.D. in political science from the University of Texas at Austin (1987). He has taught political science at the State University of New York at Stony Brook, and the California Institute of Technology. He joined Duke University as associated professor of political science in 1994, becoming professor of political science in 2002.

Professor of History

Prof. David William Faure has been appointed professor of history from 1st September 2004.

Prof. Faure obtained a Ph.D. in sociology from Princeton University in 1976. He was lecturer in history at the Chinese University from 1976 to 1991. Prior to rejoining the University, he was university lecturer in modern Chinese history and Fellow of St. Antony’s College, University of Oxford.
Professor of Community and Family Medicine

Prof. Suzanne S.Y. Ho has been appointed professor of community and family medicine from 1st October 2004.

Prof. Ho received her Ph.D. from the National University of Singapore in 1986. She joined the Chinese University as lecturer in 1981, becoming reader in 1999. She is a Fellow of the American College of Nutrition and the American College of Epidemiology.

Professor of Marketing

Prof. Michael K.M. Hui has been appointed professor of marketing from 1st October 2004.

Prof. Hui obtained his Ph.D. from London Business School in 1988. He joined the Chinese University as associate professor in the Department of Marketing in 1996, becoming professor in 1999.

Professor of Orthopaedics and Traumatology

Prof. Leung Kwok-sui has been appointed professor of orthopaedics and traumatology from 1st October 2004.

Prof. Leung obtained his MD from the Chinese University, FHKCOS from the Hong Kong College of Orthopaedic Surgeons, FHKAM from the Hong Kong Academy of Medicine, and FACS from the American College of Surgeons. He joined the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology of the Chinese University as lecturer in 1983, becoming reader in 1992.

Professor of Biochemistry

Prof. Ng Tzi-bun has been appointed professor of biochemistry from 1st October 2004.

Prof. Ng received his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada. He subsequently joined the Department of Biochemistry of the Chinese University as lecturer, becoming reader in 1997.

Professor of Economics

Prof. Zhang Junsen has been appointed professor of economics from 1st October 2004.

Prof. Zhang received his Ph.D. in economics from McMaster University in Canada in 1990. He joined the Chinese University as assistant professor in the Department of Economics in 1993, becoming professor in 2000.

HK$228 Million Secured for CUHK’s Development under UGC’s Matching Grant Scheme

The University has succeeded in securing a major contribution of HK$228 million from the government to match dollar-for-dollar the bulk of the donations it has raised under the UGC’s Matching Grant Scheme. All funds will go towards financing programmes of strategic importance at the University.

With the launch of the HK$1 billion Matching Grant Scheme by the UGC two years ago, the University has engineered a large-scale fundraising drive to tap non-government sources of funding support.

The fundraising drive began in late 2002 and swept through the University’s 40th anniversary celebrations, slowing down only during the SARS outbreak before regaining momentum after mid-2003. By 30th June 2004, the University had succeeded in raising very generous donations from thousands of local and overseas donors, including members of the public, corporations...
CUHK Welcomes 3,000 Outstanding New Undergraduates and 300 Exchange Students from Around the World

This year close to 3,000 outstanding students gained admission to the Chinese University's various undergraduate programmes. They include 180 top students from Hong Kong admitted through the Early Admissions Scheme and some 240 non-local students. In addition, 300 exchange students from around the world join CUHK to experience life and studies in a different culture.

According to 2004 JUPAS results, CUHK admitted 2,366 band A applicants (i.e., those who have selected CUHK programmes as their first three choices) this year, representing 23 per cent, or the largest share of the 10,228 band A applicants admitted by degree programmes of all local institutions. The Programme in Insurance, Finance and Actuarial Analysis continued to attract the best students.

Among other new students for 2004–5, 180 gained admission through the Early Admissions Scheme — the largest number since the scheme’s launch in 2002. They were selected from about 500 outstanding sixth formers, some with impeccable HKCEE results — three having achieved 10As, thirteen 9As, and twenty-five 8As. Many of them have been awarded scholarships by the University.

A total of 240 non-local students also entered the University’s gates — the largest ever non-local cohort among local tertiary institutions. The majority of these students are high achievers from the mainland, with the rest hailing from Southeast Asia and the US.

and foundations, alumni, friends, University Council members, college trustees, faculty and staff. The bulk of contributions received was then matched dollar-for-dollar by the government up to HK$228 million in support of the University’s development. A considerable amount is left unmatched as government funds for the purpose are limited. The University is thankful to all benefactors for their unwavering support, and to the government and the UGC for kindling a philanthropic culture in higher education.

Donations received will go towards supporting programmes of strategic importance at the University. Notable examples include:

- William M.W. Mong Professor of Mathematics
- Named Professorship in Law
- Professorship in Hebrew Studies
- Research in SARS and Other Emerging Infectious Diseases
- Scholarships, Financial Assistance for Student Activities and Exchange Programmes
- Research in Chinese Medicine
- Training and Educational Activities in Ophthalmology and Visual Sciences
- The Yuen Yuen Research Centre for Satellite Remote Sensing
Prof. Steven Chu, Nobel laureate in physics 1997, visited CUHK on 30th June 2004 to give a 40th Anniversary Distinguished Lecture entitled ‘What Can Physics Say About Life?’. In his lecture held at the Sir Run Run Shaw Hall on campus, Prof. Chu talked about how physicists understand life, and how they develop a physical theory of life in which living things are describable with a simple set of laws that make possible quantitative predictions. The function attracted an audience of over a thousand, many of whom were secondary school students.

Before the lecture, Prof. Chu met with some 70 CUHK students majoring in physics, mathematics, and biochemistry. He encouraged them to persist in their search for the truth, to be bold in expressing themselves, and not to be satisfied with just a single answer. He also recounted how, as a student, he once set off an explosion during an experiment. All those

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Lectures by Shaw Prize Winners

Prof. P. James E. Peebles and Prof. Chern Shiing-shen, winners of the first Shaw Prize in astronomy and mathematical sciences respectively, delivered lectures on cosmology and differential geometry in September 2004 at The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Established in 2002, the Shaw Prize is an international award managed and administered by The Shaw Prize Foundation based in Hong Kong. Regarded as the Nobel Prize of the East, it honours individuals who have achieved significant breakthroughs in academic and scientific research or application, and whose work has made positive and profound impact on humankind. The Shaw Prize 2004 consisted of three awards: astronomy, mathematical sciences, and life science and medicine. Each prize carries a cash award of US$1 million.

• Prof. P. James E. Peebles, winner of the first Shaw Prize in astronomy and one of the world’s leading theoretical cosmologists, spoke on ‘The Discovery of the Expanding Universe’ in the fully-packed lecture theatre of Shaw College on 8th September. In his lecture, Prof. Peebles described how the idea of an expanding universe came about and explained the evidence that supports such an idea.

• Prof. Chern Shiing-shen, winner of the first Shaw Prize in mathematical sciences, is a world renowned mathematician and educationist. He
present were greatly impressed by Prof. Chu’s warm and down-to-earth manner and his humour.

Prof. Chu was awarded the Nobel Prize in physics for his discovery of atomic cooling and trapping with laser. He is currently Theodore and Frances Geballe Professor of Physics and Applied Physics at Stanford University, and has been appointed director of the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. The Laboratory has an annual budget of US$521 million and a workforce of approximately 4,000.

spoke on ‘Fifty Years of Differential Geometry’ on 10th September in T.Y. Wong Hall of the Ho Sin-Hang Engineering Building. Among the audience were three former vice-chancellors of the University: Prof. Ma Lin, Prof. Charles K. Kao, and Prof. Ambrose Y.C. King.

In his lecture, Prof. Chern shared with over 400 faculty and students the joy he had derived from mathematics, how his teachers had opened his eyes to the beauty of the discipline, and the evolution of differential geometry over the last half century. According to him, good mathematics is innovative and bad mathematics means simply following other people’s work. The keys to learning mathematics are patience and having good teachers.

(The University deeply regrets the passing of Prof. Chern on 3rd December 2004.)

Joint Centre for Advanced Study Established by CUHK, HKU and UST

The Chinese University signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the establishment of the Joint Centre for Advanced Study with the University of Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology on 10th September 2004. The memorandum enables the three institutions to deepen their collaboration and, by pooling resources and capitalizing on their respective strengths in postgraduate studies, enhance Hong Kong’s capacity to provide some of the finest educational opportunities in the world.

The memorandum was signed by the heads of the three institutions — Prof. Lawrence J. Lau (middle), vice-chancellor of CUHK, Prof. Tsui Lap-chee (left), vice-chancellor of HKU, and Prof. Paul Chu (right), president of HKUST. Dr. Alice K. Y. Lam, chairperson of the University Grants Committee, was the guest of honour.

The Joint Centre for Advanced Study will develop in three phases. First it will run as a virtual centre offering joint courses to postgraduate research students of the three partner universities. Then it will organize colloquia and workshops. The long-term goal will be to identify a suitable site to serve as a permanent home for the centre after a review of operations.
CUHK Tops the 2004 List of East Asia’s Best MBA Schools

For three years in a row since 2002, The Chinese University of Hong Kong has been ranked number one in East Asia by business magazine Asia Inc in its ranking of MBA schools. The results were released in the September 2004 issue of the magazine.

The 2004 survey on ‘Asia’s Best MBA Schools’ by Asia Inc studied business schools which have a full-time MBA programme. The schools assessed fell into four geographical regions: East Asia, Southeast Asia, South Asia and Australia/New Zealand. They were rated on the basis of school and faculty quality, student quality, and peer-reputation ranking. The Chinese University has again emerged as the No.1 MBA School in East Asia.

CUHK Ranked Fourth Globally in International Business Research

The Chinese University was ranked fourth in international business research worldwide by Management International Review, a leading international business journal based in Germany.

The survey ranked the productivity of business schools based on the total number of articles published in three top international business journals between 1996 and 2000. The journals are Management International Review, Journal of International Business Studies, and Journal of World Business. The results were carried in an article entitled ‘Ranking the International Business Schools: Faculty Publication as the Measure’, published in Management International Review.

The Chinese University was ranked number one in Asia and number four globally, ahead of the University of Pennsylvania, Harvard Business School, and New York University. The top three universities were all from North America.

‘I am most delighted by the results,’ said Prof. Lee Tien-sheng, dean of the CUHK Faculty of Business Administration. ‘Our colleagues have done a lot of high quality projects on international business research, especially on international business practice in Asian countries. These important research findings help strengthen Hong Kong’s position as an international business centre.’

Prof. Lau Chung-ming, chairman of the Department of Management, noted that the competitive advantage of the BA Faculty lies in its extensive research network. Since 2001, it has published 17 papers in the three journals, more than the sum of papers published between 1991 and 2000. Prof. Lau is confident that the faculty’s excellent performance will again be recognized in the next survey.
Astronaut Yang Liwei
Encourages CUHK to ‘Reach out to the World’

Astronaut Yang Liwei, the astronaut who commanded China’s first manned space flight, received a warm welcome in the Shaw College Lecture Theatre where hundreds of eager students and staff gathered to listen to his talk on China’s space programme and on life as an astronaut on 10th December 2004, a day after he was conferred the degree of Science, *honoris causa*, by the University. As a token of thanks, he presented the University with a model of *Shenzhou-5*, the spacecraft which took him to space. Dr. Yang hopes that, like the spacecraft, the University would reach out to the world and beyond.

Dr. Yang gave an account of China’s manned space-flight programme and its significance, as well as the hardships he encountered and how they were overcome. He emphasized the importance of having had confidence in himself and in the technical staff helping him.

Dr. Yang also painted a bright picture of the future of China’s space programme. Forthcoming plans include launching *Shenzhou-6* and *Shenzhou-7*, and the building of a space station. He encouraged the students to take CUHK’s many space-related courses and contribute directly or indirectly to China’s manned space-flight programme.
Eleven members of the Chinese national Olympic team, fresh from the Athens Olympic Games where they and their team mates bagged 32 gold medals, paid a visit to the Chinese University on 8th September 2004.

The 11 gold medallists were Wang Yifu and Zhu Qinan (shooting); Chen Yangqing, Shi Zhiyong, and Tang Gonghong (weightlifting); Li Ting (tennis); Liu Xiang (110m hurdles); Yang Wenjun (canoe/kayak flatwater); Chen Zhong (taekwondo); Wang Xu (wrestling) and Teng Haibin (pommel horse).

The University Sports Centre was filled to the brim with some 700 excited students and staff of the University who cheered and shook national flags when the Olympic heroes and heroines marched in.

As a gesture of support to Beijing’s hosting of the 2008 Olympic Games, Dr. Edgar Cheng, Council chairman, Prof. Lawrence J. Lau, vice-chancellor, and Prof. C.N. Yang, distinguished professor-at-large, presented a banner with autographs of CUHK students and staff to the Olympic delegation.

The programme reached its pinnacle when the gold-winning team walked into the crowd, creating a golden opportunity for autograph seeking and photo taking.

2003 CUHK Graduates Show Encouraging Employability

A graduate employment survey shows that the employment rate and salary level of the 2003 graduates of the Chinese University are highly satisfactory despite unfavourable economic conditions.

A graduate employment survey conducted by the Career Planning and Development Centre of the Office of Student Affairs of the University shows that as at end of 2003, about 97 per cent of CUHK graduates were either employed or pursuing further studies and the average monthly salary for those employed was HK$13,831. The highest monthly salary received by a graduate was HK$85,000. The average number of offers received by a graduate is two. These figures are encouraging in view of the unfavourable economic conditions brought about by the SARS outbreak in 2003.

The survey, conducted by means of questionnaires and telephone interviews from November to December 2003, covered all full-time, first-degree CUHK graduates of 2003.

Of the 2,502 respondents, some 70 per cent had joined the commerce and industry sector, followed by education (13 per cent), social and public organizations (12.2 per cent), and government (2.3 per cent).

The top six career fields for CUHK graduates were, in descending order, computer and information technology/e-business, accounting/auditing, administration/management, teaching, marketing, and medical and health care. In terms of job satisfaction, over 90 per cent indicated satisfaction with their current jobs.
Student Achievements

CUHK Students at the Top in National General Knowledge Competition

A team of students from the Chinese University won second prize in the Third Greater China General Knowledge Competition on 15th October held in Beijing.

Twenty-one universities from mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macau took part in the competition which was organized jointly by China’s CCTV and Taiwan’s CTI TV. The CUHK team outperformed their peers from big names like Peking University and Tsinghua University to win second prize.

The contestants were asked questions on a broad range of subjects including politics, history, geography, mathematics, physics, English, science, economics, and medicine. The CUHK team comprised Wong Yeung (Electronic Engineering), Yang Liu (Accountancy), Lin Peng (Biochemistry), Guo Zhi Xian (Journalism and Communication), Huang Ren Bin (Information Engineering), and Susana Soo (Government and Public Administration). The team won because of the breadth and depth of their world knowledge.

Doctoral Students Awarded

- Ms. Xu Xiaodong (photo), doctoral student on the History of Chinese Art Programme of the Department of Fine Arts, has been awarded the Ford Foundation Fellowship by the Asian Cultural Council in June 2004 to undertake dissertation research in the US in autumn 2004.
- Mr. Rama Kamesh Bikkavilli, final year doctoral student at the Department of Biochemistry, was awarded £500 for winning the Pfizer prize for the best oral communications during the ‘BioScience 2004: From Molecules to Organisms’ Conference held from 18th to 22nd July 2004 in Glasgow, UK.

Champion of the Young Entrepreneurs Competition

A CUHK team comprising Vincent Wang and Rockson Zhang, two full-time MBA students; Alan Lam, a graduate student in engineering; and Sharon Yan, an M.Phil. student in computer engineering, won the championship of the Young Entrepreneurs Development Council (YDC) E-Challenge 2004 with their business plan ‘Lord of Computer Ring’. The team was presented a cash prize of HK$30,000 at the prize presentation ceremony on 19th June 2004.

The competition was organized by YDC with prizes sponsored by the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, and supported by the MTR Corporation and the Young Entrepreneurs’ Organization.
Outstanding Accountancy Students

World’s Top Winner in ACCA Examination

Ms. Regina Kan, accounting graduate of the Chinese University, beat some 5,500 competitors to gain top marks in the ACCA December 2003 Examination.

Other high achievers in the examination included Hong Kong’s top winner Ms. Stephanie Kwan; gold medallist Ms. Joyce Chan; bronze medallists Mr. Clement Li and Ms. Ann Li. They are all recent graduates of the CUHK Professional Accountancy Programme.

A celebration reception was held at the CUHK Teaching Centre in Central on 11th June 2004. Prof. Liu Pak-wai, pro-vice-chancellor, Prof. Lee Tien-sheng, dean of the Faculty of Business Administration and Prof. James Xie, director of the School of Accountancy were in attendance. Honorary guests included senior representatives of ACCA, members of the Advisory Board on Accounting Studies, and current employers of the graduates.

Winner of Prestigious Award

Mr. Yip Kwan-hon (left), a first-year accounting student at the University, beat 28 other candidates with excellent academic merits to win the 2004 Sanford Yung Scholarship.

Mr. Yip impressed the selection panel with his dedication to the accounting profession and his desire to pursue further training overseas. He received a cash award of HK$120,000 at the prize presentation ceremony held on 7th June 2004 at the PricewaterhouseCoopers Executive Conference Centre, and a summer placement in a commercial city outside Hong Kong.

Students Placed Second in Division at Moot Corp 2004

Four graduate students of the University — Alan H.F. Lam (Ph.D., engineering), Vincent Wang Dong (MBA), Sharon Yan Ping (M.Phil., engineering), and Rockson Zhang Changchun (MBA) won second place in their division at the Global Moot Corp 2004 Competition held at the University of Texas in Austin from 5th to 8th May 2004.

The CUHK team presented a plan for Sengital (HK) Ltd., a company which designs and markets products based on low-power, wireless, motion sensing technologies, including a computer mouse on a ring and a game controller. The company registered in May and has plans to begin operations soon at the Science Park.
Students Help Recovered Drug Addicts Start Business

Five teams of 21 MBA students from the University competed on 8th May 2004 to design the best business venture for former drug addicts with entrepreneurial ambitions.

The Booz Allen Hamilton Social Entrepreneurship Challenge Business Plan Competition was a joint initiative between the CUHK Faculty of Business Administration and renowned international management consultant Booz Allen Hamilton (BAH).

The contest took place in the CUHK MBA Town Centre in the Bank of America Tower. The winner was a business venture offering affordable cleaning and home improvement services to median income working families using state-of-the-art appliances. Prizes included a cash award for the winning team and internships with BAH’s Greater China operations.

Students and Graduates Honoured for Teaching Excellence

Seven alumni and students of the University’s Faculty of Education were bestowed the first ever Chief Executive’s Award for Teaching Excellence 2003-4 at a ceremony held on 10th September 2004.


The Chief Executive’s Award for Teaching Excellence Scheme is open to teachers of subjects under the Chinese Language Education Key Learning Area and the English Language Education Key Learning Area in primary and secondary schools, as well as teachers involved in language teaching in kindergartens and special schools.

Individual winners each received a scholarship of HK$25,000, to be used for professional development purposes and sharing at schools in Hong Kong and elsewhere.

In a similar vein, Leung Tim (photo), who graduated from the Postgraduate Diploma in Education Programme in 1996 and the Master of Education Programme in 2004, was one of 10 recipients of the Outstanding Science and Technology Teacher Award, a nation-wide competition held in Chendu, Sichuan last summer.
Hong Kong Champs from CUHK Do Themselves Proud at Microsoft’s International Software Design Competition

A team of three engineering students from the Chinese University was ranked top 12 in the world championship of Imagine Cup 2004, Microsoft’s International Software Design Competition. A team of three CUHK engineering students became one of 12 finalists in the Imagine Cup 2004 world championship organized by Microsoft in Brazil in July. The team had earlier defeated 19 local teams to win the Imagine Cup 2004 (HK) competition, thus gaining the right to compete in the world championship with 38 other regional champions.

The CUHK team comprising Dexter Chan (middle) (Electronic Engineering), Edmond Tse (left 2) (Information Engineering), and Cheryl Wong (left 1) (Systems Engineering and Engineering Management) entered the software design category with their own software: Portable Shopping Companion (PSC). Building upon Hong Kong’s reputation as a shoppers’ paradise and the growing number of visitors to the city, the software aims at making the shopping mall experience more convenient.

Among the 12 teams who made it to the finals, only two were from Asia.

Students and Alumni Win IT Excellence Awards

Two doctoral students and two recent graduates of the Faculty of Engineering were awarded IT excellence awards by the Hong Kong Computer Society in August 2004 in recognition of their outstanding achievements in IT application and the innovative IT technologies they developed.

Zensis Ltd., a CUHK spin-off company founded by two 2002 CUHK graduates, won the gold award in the SME product category with their first product PhotoRite™, an automatic digital photo enhancement software. The first fully automatic software of its kind in the world, it has already been ported on to a variety of leading mobile phone brands and digital camera platforms.

Two Ph.D. students working in the Video over InternEt and Wireless Technologies Laboratory of the Faculty of Engineering seized one of only two bronze awards in the post-secondary category with Video2MMS™. (No gold or silver award was given out in this category.)

This is an automatic video information processing and conversion system for multimedia messaging service which employs innovative video information processing and MMS condensation technologies to automate the preparation process for supplying video content to mobile phones.

The judges commented that the system ‘innovatively uses the latest technology to implement an application with real utility’.
More Victories for CUHK Rowers

The Chinese University rowing team clinched the overall championship titles at the Tenth Inter-Universities Rowing Championships and the 18th Intervarsity Rowing Championships held on 21st and 22nd August, and 12th September 2004 respectively.

The Tenth Inter-Universities Rowing Championships was held at the Shing Mun River Rowing Centre in Sha Tin. The participating teams came from CUHK, the University of Hong Kong, Baptist University, the Hong Kong Institute of Education, City University of Hong Kong, and the University of Science and Technology. The men’s team from CUHK won three gold and four silver medals in the tournament, making them the champion for the fifth year in a row. The women’s team won four gold and one bronze medals, making them the women’s champion for the third successive year. Thus the CUHK team became the overall champion for the third consecutive year.

Ten days later, the Intervarsity Rowing Championships was held at the same venue. CUHK rowers clinched four gold and one silver medals in the five matches organized for the day and captured the overall champion trophy.

The Intervarsity Rowing Championships is an annual regatta held between CUHK and the University of Hong Kong. The CUHK teams showcased their excellent prowess and team work in all five matches. Except for the Mixed Quad sculls Invitation in which they came second, CUHK rowers walked away with gold in all other events. In particular, the CUHK Women’s Coxed Four team won their third consecutive championship while the Men’s Coxed Eight team succeeded in defending their championship title four years in a row.

Students Clinch Gold and Silver Medals at National Universities Tennis Championships

The Chinese University tennis team won first and second place respectively in the Division I men’s singles and doubles of the Ninth National Universities Tennis Championships held at the Southwest Petroleum Institute in Chengdu, Sichuan, from 10th to 16th July 2004. A record-breaking 417 representatives from 46 prestigious universities in China took part in the event.
including, for the first time, a five-strong team (three men, two women) from the Chinese University.

Ian Pang, captain of the men’s team, beat the number one and number two seeds from Zhejiang University to win the Division I men’s singles title. In doubles, he and teammate Howard Leung took second place. Maggie Lin and Juni Ng were placed seventh in the Division I ladies’ doubles.

The University also won the Sports Ethics and Fair Play Prize and Ian Pang was elected Sportsman of the Year.

**Badminton Team Wins Double Bronze in National College Badminton Championships**

The Chinese University badminton team came away with bronze medals in the ladies’ singles and the mixed doubles of the Eighth National College Badminton Championships, held from 21st to 26th July at the China Three Gorges University in Yichang, Hubei. There were a record-breaking 43 participating teams from tertiary institutions in Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan, and the mainland China. The Chinese University sent, for the first time, a six-member team to take part in the competition, and Ms. Fung Ying beat some 60 opponents to win the bronze medal in the ladies’ singles. The CUHK women’s team was the fourth runner-up in the group event.

In the mixed doubles, Ms. Fung Ying and teammate Mr. Yuen Yuen Kin defeated the defending champion in the quarterfinals and finally won the bronze medal in the event.

Ms. Fung Ying was also elected the Most Outstanding Lady Athlete.

**Student Wins Gold in Athens 2004 Paralympic Games**

Lau Yan-chi, Year 1 social work student of United College, won a gold medal for Hong Kong in the Athens 2004 Paralympic Games.

Lau Yan-chi teamed with Leung Yuk-wing to take home the gold medal in the Boccia Pairs BC4 event, defeating Portugal, Hungary, Spain, Canada, and Slovakia.

Lau suffers from a condition known as congenital muscular dystrophy which confines him to the wheelchair. Boccia is a competitive sport for people with cerebral palsy and other locomotor disabilities.
New Centre

HK$50 Million-Minimally Invasive Surgical Skills Centre to Be Set Up

The first Minimally Invasive Surgical Skills Centre in the Asia-Pacific will soon be set up at CUHK. A HK$50 million project, the centre will revolutionize conventional surgical training, enhance patient care, and facilitate global exchange on advances in surgical skills. The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust funds over half the project.

The centre, to be located inside the Prince of Wales Hospital, will be completed by 2005. It will house a surgical animal skills laboratory, Hong Kong’s first virtual reality training laboratory, two state-of-the-art endo-surgery operating theatre suites, a simulated operation room, a cutting-edge robotic surgical system, a microscopic and endoscopic surgical laboratory, and a seminar room, all linked by teleconference facilities.

The centre, which costs HK$50 million to build, will be funded by The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust (HK$28.2 million) and Kai Chong Tong Foundation, as well as contributions from the general public.

The University’s Faculty of Medicine has been playing a pivotal role in MIS development and research in the Asia-Pacific. Over the years, faculty members have developed a great number of novel MIS techniques, with many of the world’s and Asia’s firsts being performed at the Prince of Wales Hospital.

New Treatment

New Minimally Invasive Approaches in Paediatric Surgeries Proves Highly Successful

The Division of Paediatric Surgery and Paediatric Urology under the Department of Surgery has pioneered a new approach to bladder surgery and a new method to repair inguinal hernia in infants and children.

Bladder Surgery

Traditionally complex bladder surgeries in both adults and children have been performed via an open approach which requires a large incision over the abdominal and the bladder walls. Forceful retraction of the bladder wall is required to allow adequate exposure for surgical vision and manipulation and prolonged urinary diversion is necessary post-operatively. This is associated with severe wound pain and bladder spasm, significant surgical stress reactions, delayed return to normal daily activities, and a long, unsightly abdominal scar.

The new approach involves performing laparoscopic procedures within the bladder under carbon dioxide bladder insufflation. Various complex bladder surgeries in infants and children can now be very safely and effectively conducted using this new technique. It has also significantly reduced surgical trauma and stress, and shortened hospital stay from between seven and 14 days to only 24 hours.
Inguinal Hernia Surgery

Inguinal hernia is one of the most common surgical problems in young children, occurring in about 20 per cent of pre-term infants. Surgical repair of the inguinal hernia is the only definitive and effective treatment.

Traditional surgical repair, performed via an open inguinal exploration, requires a bigger incision and carries the risk of damage to the vas deferens and testicular vessels. A contralateral hernia also occurs in about 20 to 30 per cent of cases.

The new method to repair inguinal hernia in infants and children combines the use of the laparoscope and a specially made herniotomy hook designed and named after the division head Prof. Yeung Chung-kwong. The laparoscope enables clear visualization of the hernial defect and neighbouring structures, and accurate assessment of the presence of a contralateral hernia, thus avoiding unnecessary exploration. The herniotomy hook allows complete dissection and ligation of the hernial sac under laparoscopic guidance while safeguarding the vas and testicular vessels. If a contralateral hernia is present, it can be repaired simultaneously and in similar fashion, thereby eliminating the need for a second operation. All patients are discharged on the same day. Post-operative pain is minimal with nearly all children resuming normal activities the day after.

HK's First Frozen-Egg and Frozen-Sperm Baby

A healthy baby was born on 29th April 2004 following the transfer of blastocysts derived from frozen-thawed eggs fertilized with frozen-thawed sperm. The good news was announced by the Assisted Reproduction Technology Team of the Faculty of Medicine. To the best of the Team’s knowledge, this is the first report in Hong Kong of a live birth using this method.

The patient was a 37-year-old woman who had a five-year history of tubal occlusion. A total of 23 eggs were collected from the woman and frozen. Fourteen were thawed and 10 survived. These were inseminated with her husband’s frozen-thawed sperm using the intracytoplasmic sperm injection (ICSI) technique. Eight eggs were fertilized and developed into early embryos on the third day. Two embryos developed into blastocysts on day five and were transferred back to the woman’s uterus. On the 35th week of gestation, a healthy baby boy weighing 3.14 kg was born.

Successful pregnancies using frozen-thawed human eggs are difficult to achieve. According to a recent survey, fewer than 70 live births have been reported throughout the world in the past 15 years. The potential applications of the ICSI technique in assisted reproduction include problematic sperm production at the time of egg collection, egg donation programmes, and in countries prohibiting embryo freezing, preservation of fertility for young women with malignancy prior to radiotherapy or chemotherapy.

Supportive Therapy for Cancer Treatment-induced Complications

Chemotherapy is one of the mainstays of therapy for cancer patients. In Hong Kong, 10 per cent of cancer patients carry the Hepatitis B Virus. Chemotherapy may lead to reactivation, resulting in varying degrees of liver damage and death.

A study by the Department of Clinical Oncology, published in the Journal of Clinical Oncology, shows that the anti-viral drug, lamivudine, can reduce the incidence of both hepatitis and its reactivation during and after chemotherapy. It also appears that lamivudine can prevent reactivation-associated mortality.

Breast cancer patients suffer from a higher risk of lymphedema, which is the accumulation of lymph in the interstitial spaces of the body, a frequent complication of cancer and its therapies.
The Department of Clinical Oncology set up in 2003 a service dedicated to the prevention and management of lymphedema in breast cancer. The service takes a multidisciplinary approach and comprises regular arm exercise, a patient support group, and a Lymphedema Clinic for those requiring complex physical therapy.

The department has also begun research studies on the risk factors of lymphedema and the quality of life of patients undergoing breast cancer treatment. Health information on Chinese populations will be collected to provide relevant data for developing an evidence-based and feasible model of prevention and management.

Medical Research

Researchers Solve Mystery of Long-term Memory

Researchers at the Chinese University, in collaboration with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and Cornell University in the US, found that a protein called brain-derived neurotrophic factor (BDNF) is crucial to the formation of long-term memory. BDNF is well known as a trophic factor for neuron survival. The discovery solved the long-standing mystery of what converts short-term memory to long-term memory. The results were published in Science on 15th October 2004.

The researchers of the study, by applying electrophysiological techniques on normal and gene knock-out mice, show that in the hippocampus, a brain area important for memory formation, BDNF is the only key protein required for the formation of long-term memory. They also found that the synthesis of the active form of BDNF is critically dependent on a seemingly unrelated enzyme system known as tPA/plasmin. This may have implications for further research on the mechanism of long-term memory function.

The study was mainly carried out by Ms. Petti Pang (photo) who, at the time, was a Ph.D. student at the Department of Physiology at CUHK, under the supervision of Prof. Yung Wing Ho, associate professor in the Department of Physiology and one of the study’s authors. Ms. Pang used only 12 months to solve the mystery of long-term memory formation.

The findings also have interesting implications for the mechanism of forgetting — the reverse of memorization. The research team is now studying specific hypotheses on this issue.

Important Breakthrough in Research on Sperm Maturation

Sperms do not intrinsically possess the ability to swim or fertilize eggs. They acquire these abilities through a process called sperm maturation in the epididymis situated next to the testes. How sperm matures in the epididymis has been puzzling to scientists despite nearly four decades of research.

A recent study conducted by the University’s Epithelial Cell Biology Research Centre in collaboration with the Shanghai Institute of Biochemistry and Cell Biology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences reveals the first secret of sperm maturation. It has been found that Bin1b, a β-defensin gene found in the head region of the epididymis, can attach itself to the sperm head and induce progressive sperm motility in originally immotile immature sperm.
Prof. Chan Hsiao Chang, director of the centre, explained that β-defensin is the first molecule found in the epididymis that is involved in initiating sperm maturation. It can be used as a biomarker for the diagnosis or treatment of male infertility. The findings also provide a basis for the development of new contraceptive strategies.

Studies on the detailed mechanisms of β-defensin’s interactions with sperm membrane proteins are already in the pipeline and there are also plans to examine Bin1b expression in infertile patients. The Lalor Foundation in the US has awarded a Lalor Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship to Mr. Zhou Chen-xi, a doctoral candidate under the supervision of Prof. Chan, to undertake one of the studies, entitled ‘The Role of Epididymis-specific Defensin, Bin1b, in Sperm Maturation’.

HKIB Opens New Multipurpose Purification Pilot Plant

A new biotechnology and plasma-derived therapeutics downstream pilot Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) facility officially opened on 30th June 2004 at the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology (HKIB). The facility was designed and constructed by HKIB. The plant, funded by the Innovation and Technology Fund of the HKSAR government, serves as a multipurpose protein purification platform for the production of clinical grade materials with built-in biopharmaceutical manufacturing systems in accordance with Hong Kong and China GMP requirements.

The new plant is designed to enhance the HKIB’s multifaceted relationships with industry, academia, and the government. It also permits acceleration of basic and applied product research in partnership with industry. For instance the project’s sponsor, Advantek Biologics Ltd. will make use of the plant to develop plasma-derived therapeutics using technologies licensed from Amersham Biosciences, the New York Blood Center, and Asahi Kasei Pharma Corporation. Target markets for these products include a wide spectrum of diseases such as primary immune deficiency, lupus, Hepatitis B, and rabies.

CUHK Consortium Leads Business Integration of RFID Technology for HK

A research team from the University’s Centre of Cyber Logistics (CCL) is spearheading a project with leading industry partners to investigate the integration of Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technologies in business chains for Hong Kong. The team comprises Prof. Waiman Cheung, director of CCL, Prof. Chu Sung-chi, and Prof. Timon Du from the Faculty of Business Administration.

The project, officially launched on 19th October 2004, enjoys great support from the University’s partners in the logistics, supply chain, and technology industries, as well as solutions providers and regulatory agencies. The Asia-Pacific Institute of Business at the University has also made significant contributions to the study.

RFID technology, unlike the commonly used barcode scanning method, can identify products packed in high density within a tolerable time frame. The project addresses three topical areas: information infrastructure, business collaboration, and information security and privacy.
Prof. Waiman Cheung (photo) said that the project will provide clear and forward-looking recommendations to leverage RFID technologies in the near future, and to take steps to alleviate key concerns, especially those related to security and privacy.

The industry partners have provided support to the project, in terms of equipment and software, to the tune of HK$2.5 million.

**CUHK Collaborates with Four Technology Heavyweights to Establish the Guangzhou-Hong Kong International Software Park**

The University’s Centre for Innovation and Technology — the technology transfer arm of the Faculty of Engineering, signed a Guangzhou-Hong Kong International Software Park Cooperative Agreement with the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation, the Hong Kong Productivity Council, Guangzhou Tianhe Software Park, and the Guangdong Software Industry Association on 26th August 2004 for the setting up of a software park.

The Guangzhou-Hong Kong International Software Park will leverage on the synergies between Hong Kong and Guangzhou to serve as an international platform for software research and design, production, and export. CUHK will contribute technological innovation and technological talent. The Park will provide more career opportunities in China for CUHK graduates, as well as a platform for closer research collaboration between the University and Guangzhou’s software industry. This agreement is also the latest in a series of collaboration between the Chinese University and its neighbour — the Hong Kong Science Park.

**CUHK Staff Designs Ecological School for Gansu**

Prof. Edward Ng of the Department of Architecture has designed an experimental ecological school jointly with Xian Jiaotong University. The school will be built in Gansu. Funded by the Kadoorie Farm Charity Trust, the aim of the project is to build an ecologically sustainable school that is environment friendly and comfortable to occupy. The school also demonstrates good design principles to the regional government.

Under the motto ‘High Science and Low Technology’, the design utilizes traditional construction methods and local materials but in modern and scientific ways. Solar and thermal mass technologies are used together with a sophisticated passive ventilation system.

A well integrated landscape design links spaces together providing a mixture of indoor, semi-outdoor, and outdoor spaces conducive to learning. When completed, the school will accommodate 400 students and will form a base for further research.

Construction work is expected to finish in June 2005.
Christian Festival Debuts at Chung Chi

The first ever Chung Chi Christian Festival was organized from 18th March to 17th April 2004, with sponsorship from the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia.

Festival activities included a bible exhibition, a contemporary Christian arts exhibition, an outdoor concert of contemporary Christian music and dance, public lectures, a film night, a book chart, and choir performances by Christian colleges and universities in Hong Kong and other countries in Asia.

Officiating at the opening ceremony on 18th March were The Most Reverend Dr. Peter Kwong, archbishop and primate of Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui, Mr. Karl C. Kwok, chairman of the Chung Chi College Board of Trustees, and Prof. Rance Lee, then head of Chung Chi College. Dr. David Suh, executive director of Asian Christian Higher Education Institute, and leaders of various Christian churches participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Renaming of Theology Division

The Theology Division of the University has been officially renamed the Divinity School of Chung Chi College from 1st August 2004, following approval by the University Council.

New Asia-Yale-China: The First 50 Years Celebration and Reunion

In 1954, a formal cooperation between New Asia College and the Yale-China Association began. This flourished into a long, fruitful, and mutually beneficial relationship between the two parties.

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of cooperation, the two institutions held various academic, cultural and reunion activities in Hong Kong from 17th to 19th June 2004. These included a 50th Anniversary Symposium held on 17th June in the Mong Man Wai Building, a school visit, student presentations, a cultural boat tour, a brunch talk on modern architecture, and a gala closing banquet. All were warmly received by the over 80 overseas guests of the Yale-China Association, New Asia alumni and trustees, Hong Kong Yale Club members, as well as University and college members, and students.
Exhibitions

• Innovations and Creations: A Retrospect of 20th Century Porcelain from Jingdezhen was held from 9th July to 10th October 2004. The exhibition was co-organized by the Art Museum and the Jingdezhen Ceramic Museum to celebrate the 1000th anniversary of the township of Jingdezhen, the ceramic capital of China, and the 50th anniversary of the Jingdezhen Ceramic Museum.

The exhibition gave an overview of the efforts of Jingdezhen potters in the last century. There were roughly 200 entries which included imperial wares for the last emperor, Hongxian wares, famille rose enamels, wucai enamels, monochromes, blue and white, and antique-type ware. The majority were selected from the collection of the Jingdezhen Ceramic Museum and the rest from private and public collections in Hong Kong.

• Exhibition on Chinese Export Art in the 17th to 19th Centuries took place from 10th September 2004 to spring 2005 in the East-wing Galleries of the Art Museum.

This small display features a variety of interesting export items during the late Ming and Qing dynasties, including blue-and-whites, armorial porcelain, Kraak porcelain, lacquer ware, ivory carvings, and fans. The exhibits come from the Art Museum collection and donations from a member of the Friends of the Art Museum.

• Noble Riders from Pines and Deserts: The Artistic Legacy of the Qidan was held from 25th October 2004 to 20th February 2005.

The Qidan were a semi-nomadic pastoral people who originated from the ancient Donghu tribes in northeastern China. In the 10th century, Yelu Abaoji founded a kingdom which was later renamed the Liao dynasty, which ruled northern China for well over two centuries (from 916 to 1125). The exhibition illustrated the important artistic developments that occurred in the steppes and in Chinese territory as a result of the Qidan conquest.

The exhibits — headdress, textiles, necklaces, pendants, belts, harness and hunting accessories, utensils, and religious objects — comprise over 170 items in metal, amber, jade, agate, crystal, ceramic, and organic substances. They come primarily from private collections in Hong Kong with some deriving from the Art Museum collection.

A seminar accompanying the exhibition was jointly organized by the CUHK Art Museum, the CUHK Department of Fine Arts, and the Hong Kong Museum of Art on 25th October.
New Programmes
The University Senate approved in June 2004 the introduction of the following new programmes:

From 2004–5
• Executive Master of Science Programme in Logistics and Information Technology Management (offered at the South China University of Technology)
• Master of Science Programme in Sports Medicine and Health Science
• Master of Social Science Programme in Advertising
• Postgraduate Diploma Programme in Chinese Language and Literature
• Postgraduate Diploma Programme in Psychology of Family Violence
• Postgraduate Diploma Programme in Psychology of Life Adversities
• Postgraduate Diploma Programme in Sports Medicine and Health Science
• Postgraduate Diploma Programme in Epidemiology of Infectious Diseases (upgraded from the self-financed diploma programme)
• Minor Programme in Cultural Heritage Studies
• Minor Programme in Cultural Studies
• Minor Programme in Japanese Language
• Minor Programme in Japanese Culture
• Minor Programme in Linguistics
• Minor Programme in Language Studies
• Minor Programme in Engineering Management

From 2005–6
• Master of Arts Programme in Trauma Psychology

Conferences/Workshops/Seminars
• First International Congress of Ethnic-Chinese Biblical Scholars, 25th to 29th May 2004, jointly sponsored by the Ethnic-Chinese Biblical Colloquium and the Theology Division of Chung Chi College;
• Seminar on ‘Moving Towards Virtual Supply Chain Management’, 28th May 2004, organized by the Centre for Supply Chain Management of the Faculty of Business Administration, sponsored by the European Commission and Li & Fung Group, supported by the Hong Kong Logistics Association and the Chinese Executive Club;
• The Professional Development Workshop for secondary school teachers, 5th June 2004, jointly

Lectures
Wei Lun Lectures
• Prof. Louis Caplan, professor neurology at the Harvard University, delivered a public lecture entitled ‘What Is Stroke — How Can We Prevent It — How Can It Best Be Managed’ on 7th October 2004.
• Prof. Takeshi Oka, Robert A. Millikan Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus, Department of Chemistry, Department of Astronomy and Astrophysics, and the Enrico Fermi Institute, University of Chicago, delivered a public lecture entitled ‘Astronomy and Chemistry’ on 28th October 2004.
• Prof. Neil Bryan Oldridge, distinguished research scientist, College of Health Sciences, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and visiting professor, School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences, Indiana University, spoke on ‘Cost-effectiveness of Cardiac Rehabilitation Using Patient and Community Preferences: Does It Matter?’ on 2nd November 2004.

Other Lecture
organized by the Centre of Emerging Infectious Diseases and the Faculty of Education;
• The International Conference on the Boxer Movement and Christianity in China, 10th and 11th June 2004, jointly organized by the Centre for the Study of Religion and Chinese Society of Chung Chi College, the Holy Spirit Study Centre of the Hong Kong Diocese, and the Research Centre of Catholic History of Fu-Jen Catholic University, Taipei;
• The Secondary School Principals’ Forum, 13th to 19th June 2004, coorganized by New Asia College;
• The Third International Conference on Mental Health Issues, 1st to 3rd July 2004, jointly organized by Harvard University, Peking University, and the Department of Psychiatry of the Chinese University;
• The Third Seminar on Moral Education, 5th to 13th July 2004, jointly organized by New Asia College and the Beijing Oriental Morality Institute;
• The International Conference on Internet Communication in Intelligent Societies, 8th to 10th July 2004, by the School of Journalism and Communication;
• The Fourth Seminar on Traditional Chinese Culture, 15th to 20th July 2004, coorganized by New Asia College;
• Training programmes on CHESS Management, 2nd to 7th August 2004, by the School of Hotel and Tourism Management;
• The International Conference and Exhibition of the Modernization of Chinese Medicine and Health Products (ICMCM) 2004, 12th to 16th August 2004, coorganized by the University.

Visiting Scholars
• Prof. Nora Chiang, dean of humanities and social sciences and professor of the Social Work Department of the Pingtung University of Science and Technology in Taiwan, visited the University’s Gender Studies Programme from 3rd to 6th May as the programme’s Visiting Scholar 2004.
  Prof. Chiang gave lectures and seminars during her visit. On 4th May, she spoke on ‘Feminist Geography: A Quiet Revolution’ and had a roundtable with gender studies faculty on ‘Engendering Social Science Pedagogy’. On 5th May, she gave a workshop for graduate students on ‘Feminist Methodology: Is Qualitative or Quantitative Better’.
• Prof. Yung Yuk-ling, professor of planetary science at the Division of Geological and Planetary Sciences, California Institute of Technology, paid a visit to United College from 17th to 31st October 2004 as the college’s first Distinguished Visiting Scholar in 2004-5.
  During his visit, Prof. Yung delivered two public lectures and hosted a night talk. Topics addressed included ‘Are We Alone in the Universe?’, ‘Did the Sunspot Cycle Cause the Fall of the Ming Dynasty?’, and ‘Life on the Cutting Edge of Science at Caltech’.

Obituaries
• Dr. Philip Shen, former head of Chung Chi College and dean of the Faculty of Arts at CUHK, passed away on 5th August 2004 at his home in Claremont, Los Angeles. He was 73.
  Dr. Shen joined Chung Chi College in 1962 as lecturer in philosophy and religion. For 32 years since until his retirement in 1994, he devoted himself to serving Chung Chi and the University, taking up such important positions as dean of arts, chairman of the Department of Philosophy and Religion, dean of College General Education of Chung Chi, and head of Chung Chi College.
• Mr. Liu Ming, former director of the New Asia-Yale-in-China Chinese Language Centre, passed away on 15th August 2004 at his home in Los Angeles, USA. He was 71.
  Mr. Liu joined the University in 1974 and served as the director of the language centre until 1990. He was honorary adviser to the language centre in 1990-91.