The University held its 41st congregation at the University Mall on Thursday, 13th December 1990. His Excellency The Governor and Chancellor of the University, Sir David Wilson, conferred bachelor’s degrees on 1,353 graduates, including 277 Bachelors of Arts, 271 Bachelors of Business Administration, three Bachelors of Medical Sciences, 86 Bachelors of Medicine and Bachelors of Surgery, 341 Bachelors of Science and 375 Bachelors of Social Science.

In the vice-chancellor’s speech at the ceremony, Prof. Charles K. Kao stated that the University had always emphasized research along with good teaching. More than 1,100 projects were undertaken by teachers in various departments in 1989-90, involving an annual budget of some 40 million dollars. Eight new research institutes/units were also established within the University over the last three years to match the many faceted social developments in Hong Kong. All these institutes are important for Hong Kong’s long-term development and will enable the University to attract excellent teachers, research scientists, and research students.

More than 3,000 alumni of the University and their families took part in the activities of the Alumni Day organized for the first time on campus on Sunday, 2nd December 1990.

The function was held to strengthen the bonds between the University and its alumni and to encourage more graduates to support the University’s activities.

The day’s programme began at 2.00 p.m. with a video show at the Sir Run Run Shaw Hall about the University’s recent developments and future plans. This was followed by an animated cartoon show especially arranged for children.

At 3.30 p.m., a football match between the University team and the football team of the Guangzhou Institute of Physical Culture drew all the participants to the University Sports Field. The match was preceded by various entertainment performances, and the presentation of a cheque for $50,000 by Mr. Thomas Cheung, president of the Federation of the Alumni Associations, to Prof. S. W. Tam, pro-vice-chancellor of the University, as a gesture of alumni support for their alma mater.
Game-stalls and gift-counters were run on the outskirts of the sports field and an appeal for donations towards the CUHK Children's Cancer Fund was made to the participants, who responded by making generous contributions. All had an enjoyable afternoon and many suggested to the organizers before they left that the event should be repeated in 1991.

The first Alumni Day was jointly organized by the Office of Alumni Affairs, the Physical Education Unit, the Sir Run Run Shaw Hall, the Information Office, and the Staff Association of the University.

Prof. Baysung Hsu, pro-vice-chancellor and professor of physics, received the Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the Queen's New Year Honours announced on 31st December 1990.

Prof. Hsu obtained his degrees of B.Sc. and Ph.D. from the University of Manchester and is a Fellow of the Institute of Physics. He held various research appointments in the United Kingdom, and engaged himself in research on polymer physics and fibre science. He joined this University in 1964 as professor of physics and was elected several times as dean of science. He has since 1979 been appointed as pro-vice-chancellor of the University, and has served as chairman or member of many academic and administrative committees. Prof. Hsu's contribution to the overall development of The Chinese University over the years has been monumental.

The University will spend over HK$20 million to build the largest workstations network in Southeast Asia for its engineering programme.

Digital has been chosen as the system integrator for the workstations and networking. The project when completed will comprise some 150 advanced workstations and a large number of PCs. It will provide a computing power of at least 2000 million instructions per second, and a total disk storage exceeding 60 gigabytes.

Formal documents were signed between the University and Digital at the Hotel Conrad on 7th December 1990.

At the signing ceremony, Prof. Charles K. Kao said that the workstation project would enable the University to keep abreast of current technology at a world-standard level and greatly facilitate research and teaching.

Today CUHK is the largest local institution producing the highest number of university graduates in areas related to information technology. It aspires to train a new generation of engineers proficient in communication, in networking, in computing, and in application of advanced engineering tools. The project is the first step in the development of a campus-wide network in the University. There are also plans to establish a high speed communication link with networks in the UK and the USA to enable staff and students to gain access to the vast resources in leading universities worldwide.

Upon the recommendation of the Senate, the University Council has approved the establishment of two new faculties in 1991-92: a Faculty of Education and a Faculty of Engineering. Together with the existing Faculties of Arts, Business Administration, Medicine, Science and Social Science, the University will have seven faculties.

The new Faculty of Education will replace the existing School of Education and Physical Education Unit and will comprise four departments: Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Department of Educational
The new Faculty of Engineering will initially comprise three departments, all to be transferred from the existing Faculty of Science: Department of Computer Science, Department of Electronic Engineering, and Department of Information Engineering. Pending sufficient resources, a fourth department of Systems Engineering will be added.

The University will soon build its fourth guesthouse at the eastern tip of the campus next to the Yali Guesthouse. The guesthouse, to be named Chiangs Building, is funded by a generous donation of $12 million from Dr. Chiang Chen, managing director of Chen Hsong Holdings Ltd. The foundation stone of the new building was laid by Dr. Chiang himself on 20th December 1990.

Chiangs Building to be completed in early 1992 will be a nine-storey building with 64 twin-bed rooms, a common room, a conference room and a reading room. The new facilities will be used to provide accommodation for visiting scholars and fellows on training programmes, mainly from China. At a time when the University is actively developing exchange programmes and collaborative projects with institutions in China and overseas, and when the number of visiting scholars and research fellows is expected to be on the steady increase, Dr. Chiang’s donation for the building project is most timely and welcome.

December 1990 was a busy month for conference organizers in the University. A total of seven conferences were held by five different units and departments during the period.

Asia-Pacific Institute of Business (APIB)

Managing Cultural Differences Workshop
14th December 1990
Hong Kong Sheraton Hotel

The workshop was jointly organized by the APIB and the Mass Transit Railway Corporation to examine issues related to managing and conducting business in a cross-cultural and multi-cultural setting.

Prof. Geert Hofstede, professor of organization anthropology and international management at the University of Limburg, the Netherlands, delivered a keynote speech on ‘The Cultural Side of Management’. Senior officers of international corporations in Hong Kong were also invited to share their experience in managing staff of different cultural backgrounds.

Department of Biology

Symposium on Microbial and Engineering Technology in Waste Treatment
3rd-6th December 1990
Cho Yiu Conference Hall

Over 50 scientists from all over the world took part in this four-day symposium to exchange information on the principles and techniques of applying microbial and engineering technology to the treatment of solid and liquid wastes. Some 30 papers on the most recent advances in this field were presented and Prof. G. Hamer of the Institute of Aquatic Sciences, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, delivered a keynote lecture on ‘Micro-
KINETICS AND DYNAMICS: A BASIS FOR EFFECTIVE INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER TREATMENT

The function was cosponsored by the UNESCO Bangkok Microbiological Resources Centre. The chairman of the local organizing committee was Prof. S. T. Chang of the Department of Biology, CUHK.

THE HONG KONG INSTITUTE OF ASIA-PACIFIC STUDIES (HKIAPS)

SOCIAL INDICATOR STUDIES CONFERENCE
6th-7th December 1990
Cho Yiu Conference Hall

The conference was jointly organized by the HKIAPS, the Social Sciences Research Centre of the University of Hong Kong, and the Department of Applied Social Studies of the Hong Kong Polytechnic.

Social indicator studies are useful for measuring and assessing changes in a given society, the quality of life of the citizens and their attitudes, and the effectiveness of government policies. They also provide up-to-date and comprehensive information and analysis for social scientists and policy makers. Such studies have been conducted in mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong and the two-day conference provided an opportunity of intellectual exchange for academics and experts from these three places.

Apart from the presentation of papers, the conference programme included a panel discussion on the 'Prospect of Cooperation in Social Indicator Studies among Mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong'.

WORKSHOP ON GEOGRAPHY AND DEVELOPMENT IN PACIFIC ASIA IN THE 21ST CENTURY
9th-13th December 1990
Cho Yiu Conference Hall

The workshop was organized by the Commonwealth Geographical Bureau in collaboration with the University's Department of Geography and the HKIAPS. This was also the first time the Commonwealth Geographical Bureau had held an international workshop in Hong Kong. Experts from 11 commonwealth countries and local universities attended the five-day conference and more than 20 papers were presented. Topics centred around the future development of the Asia-Pacific region in commerce, resource management, transport and communication, urbanization, and agriculture.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE RELATIONSHIP AMONG COUNTRIES OF THE TAIWAN STRAITS: CHINA, JAPAN, TAIWAN
20th-21st December 1990
Cho Yiu Conference Hall

The conference was cosponsored by the Overseas Chinese Archives of the HKIAPS and the Faculty of International Studies and Business of the Kyushu International University in Japan. The objective was to explore the economic, political, and educational relationship among mainland China, Taiwan, Hong Kong and Japan. Scholars from the four areas and experts from official and semi-official Japanese institutions in Hong Kong were invited to participate in the conference and present papers on the development of relationships between these countries.
Department of Statistics

Conference on Recent Developments in Statistical Research
15th – 17th December 1990
Science Centre, CUHK

The conference was organized by the International Chinese Statistical Association and cosponsored by the Department of Statistics. Over 160 statisticians from mainland China, Taiwan, USA, Canada, Singapore and Hong Kong took part in the conference to exchange views on the latest trends of statistical research. More than 100 papers were presented in 24 sessions, covering a wide range of topics including mathematical statistics, social and economic statistics and biostatistics.

The International Chinese Statistical Association was established in 1987 to promote academic exchange among Chinese statisticians from different parts of the world. The conference was the first of its kind organized by the association.

Department of Surgery

Wilson T. S. Wang International Surgical Symposium
14th-16th December 1990
Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre

The symposium was held to provide a forum for surgeons from different parts of the world to present their research findings, share their surgical expertise, and discuss new advances made in the surgical field. Medical educationists explained new methodologies of training, and young trainee surgeons presented their work to internationally renowned experts for comments and advice. Surgeons from this University introduced to overseas participants the techniques of using laser surgery to treat inoperable oesophageal cancer and of using silastic balloons to expand the skin in the treatment of unsightly scars. Over 250 surgeons from 25 countries/regions including mainland China, Taiwan, Australia, UK and USA attended the symposium, which was funded by a generous donation from Mr. Wilson T. S. Wang.

A Growth and Nutrition Research Team was set up in the Department of Paediatrics in 1984 to study the growth and nutritional status of Hong Kong infants. After six years of intensive study, the department held a press meeting on 1st December 1990 to announce some of the research findings. An exhibition was also staged at the Prince of Wales Hospital to explain to the public the relationship between child growth and nutrition.

The research team points out that whilst nutrition is crucial to infant growth, the present dietary intake of Hong Kong infants is already adequate, and that if care is not exercised, overnutrition and fatness will result. Good eating habits should be cultivated during childhood to prevent obesity in adolescence and adulthood.
O Siemens, how long shall we stay with you?

Time and again we explain to our friends and relatives that we’ve not been chatting endlessly over the phone with our stockbroker or some insurance man, that it is due to no fault of ours our phone is always ‘engaged’ during office hours, and that we’ve been trying equally hard to ring them, though in vain.

Few really understand. Here in Hong Kong in the nineties, not many people have had the opportunity to experience the workings of a telephone system as ancient as the one we have on campus.

Ten Years of Abundance

Named Siemens ESK 3000 E PABX, the system is nearly as old as the campus itself. First installed in 1971, it had its day in the seventies, being the most advanced among its contemporaries. At a time when the University had a total staff force of under 1,500 (including some 500 minor staff), its 72 trunk lines (36 for incoming and 36 for outgoing calls) and 1,000 extension lines were more than adequate to serve the University’s telephonic needs.

Ten Years of Want

But very soon it’s a system past its prime. The University underwent rapid expansion in the early eighties and a much enlarged staff force means a greater demand for both extension and trunk lines on the campus. These the Siemens PABX was unable to provide without very costly modifications. As a makeshift, which finally turned out to be a decade-long arrangement, more party-lines were installed so that some new comers would share extension lines with old staff. And instead of providing more trunk lines to accommodate the increased number of incoming and outgoing phone calls, a gadget was fixed to the system in 1983 to directly connect incoming calls that managed to get through to the relevant extensions. (Prior to 1983, all callers had to dial the main exchange number first and the telephone operators would connect their calls to the required extensions.) The effect might not have been intentional: out of hearing, out of mind; the frequency of incoming telephone calls became nobody’s concern, let alone the adequacy of merely 36 trunk lines for such calls.

So when similar systems in other organizations were one by one replaced by newfangled networks with larger capacities and novel functions, the Siemens PABX remained unchallenged on the campus. The heavy black telephone sets with dials continued to squat stubbornly on each and every office-desk, unwilling to give way to their posh push-button cousins. Meantime only those with the greatest patience and persistence would succeed in the scramble for trunk lines to make one brief telephone call.

But the University continued to expand. By January 1987, the number of full-time staff had grown to 2,440, and the Siemens PABX had aged to such an extent that signs of senility became too apparent to ignore. Vehement squeals that warned you not to make any further attempts to dial when it was overworked deteriorated to whimpers. It started to hiccup, lisp, and stammer. By fits it lost its voice altogether and became totally irresponsible to outside stimuli. It’s time the system be scrapped.
Not yet. It took time to obtain funds from the UPGC to buy a new system to replace the old one. From 1987 to 1990, the University busied itself with preparing applications, providing justifications, inviting tenders, and selecting suitable models. During the period, the number of full-time staff grew to nearly 2,800, who had to share the use of the same old 36 trunk lines to reach by phone those working outside the University.

*Good Tidings of Great Joy for All: Replacement is Near*

Now listen to the good news from the Buildings Office: in about four months’ time, a new system named Harris 20-20 Integrated Voice and Data PABX will come to our rescue. New cables have been laid all over the campus since last July in anticipation of its arrival. When it is fully installed, the system will accommodate 2,400 extension lines, 800 data lines (capable of linking PCs to the databases at the University’s Computer Services Centre), and 128 trunk lines. Such a capacity can be further enlarged if required at a reasonable cost.

All telephones with dials will in due course be replaced by push-button tel-sets, each equipped with basic functions like call waiting, call transfer, abbreviated dialing, and conference calling.

Halleluja! Better late than never!

One word of caution though. There will be a transitional period when the new system has to be used side by side with the old, as it is not possible to change all the wiring and telephone sets at the same time. The Buildings Office also warns that most extension numbers will be changed and installation processes will inevitably cause inconvenience in the office. But surely nothing can be more inconvenient than what we now have at our finger tips, and let the telephone operators worry about new extension numbers. We telephone users will be only too glad to exchange new name cards printed with new telephone numbers to celebrate the advent of a new telephonic era on the campus.

**Your New Telephone Can Work Miracles**

*Call Waiting*
This service allows you to answer a second call while you’re already on the telephone. A ‘warning tone’ informs you that someone else is waiting on the line. If you wish, you can put the first caller on hold while you talk to the second and return to the first caller later.

*Call Transfer*
This service allows you to direct all incoming calls to any other telephone number until you cancel the instruction. The calls are transferred automatically without the awareness of the caller. It will be most useful if you need to leave your office but don’t want to miss an important call.

*Abbreviated Dialling*
This saves you time in reaching frequently called numbers. Telephone numbers can be stored in the memory and then dialled simply by keying a two-digit code.

*Conference Calling*
This allows you to add other parties to an already established telephone conversation. All can talk to one another simultaneously.
The second administrative staff luncheon was held at the BFC VIP Dining Room on 7th December 1990 with Prof. Charles K. Kao, the vice-chancellor, as guest speaker. Prof. Kao gave a talk on the University’s five-year plan and had a lively discussion with staff members on diverse subjects over lunch. Close to 50 University administrators attended the luncheon.

December Prom’ — A dancing party that belongs to all

If you need to consult the dictionary for the meaning of the word ‘prom’, you should actually attend one to gain a real sense of the term; and if for whatever reason you missed the ‘December Prom’ on Saturday, 8th December 1990, the account that follows might help you decide whether you’d like to join the second prom’ in 1991.

Prologue

The evening was blessed with a comfortable and gentle winter breeze, and it marked the first ever large-scale dinner dance function on the University campus. It was organized for all faculty and staff by the recently formed Campus Link group.

Like a young girl in her new dancing costume and dancing shoes going to her first party, the Sports Centre, brightened up by hundreds of colourful bulbs, stood out in the tranquil campus, anticipating a night of great fun.

By 7.30 p.m., beautifully dressed ladies and neatly attired gentlemen started to gather in front of the Sports Centre, greeting each other with hearty smiles. At the counter in the foyer were gentlemen who were selecting roses for their partners, red, pink, yellow... at a minimum of $10 each.

Lovely music from a live band welcomed into the hall guests who were amazed to discover how a gymnasium designed for badminton and basketball could be so transformed and look so completely different.

Prom’ begins

After the 304 participants had taken their seats at 32 tables, each decorated with candles and flowers and beautifully wrapped table prizes, Hardy Hsoi and Lisi Tsao, the two MCs, formally declared the Prom’ open.

Then the main lights dimmed, leaving
only the spot lights and the slowly revolving great silver ball hanging from the centre of the roof, casting irregular and colourful moving patterns on the walls and ceiling.

Guests first ordered their pre-dinner drinks from a selection slip placed on their tables and then bought them at the bar. At 8.00 p.m., the self-service buffet started. Queues formed on both sides of the hall in front of food counters prepared by an outside caterer while some eager couples chose to dance before they ate.

For those who preferred to watch people dance rather than take the steps themselves, the night was equally enjoyable with lots of games and performances in between breaks in the dancing.

Performances and games

There was a Wu Style Tai Chi Chuen demonstration, a jazz and social dance performance, and a quiz for advocates of environmental protection.

For those who wanted to test the strength of their loins, there was the Limbo Rock. The most entertaining performer was the six feet plus Michael Bond of the Psychology Department while the winners were Grace Lee of the Medical Faculty-Office and Lau Wing Chung of the Physical Education Unit.

Empress & Emperor of the Prom’

The highlights of the night were the elections of the Empress and the Emperor of the Prom’.

Those ladies who were sure that they could receive the largest number of roses from other guests that night, or simply wanted to give themselves a try, had to outdo Melody Chong of the Vice-Chancellor’s Office, who received 56 roses and was eventually crowned Empress of the Prom’.

The two princesses receiving some 30 roses each were Lily Tang, sister-in-law of Benny Tsao of the Music Department, and Mary Lena Fung of the Physical Education Unit.

Those gentlemen who believed they had a better answer to questions like ‘What is the most valuable thing you think your wife has given you’, or ‘Who would use the newly won Porsche – you, your wife or your girlfriend, when your family has an old Honda Civic in use’, or ‘Who is the boss in the family’, should have come forth as the contestants for the Emperor of the Prom’. However, only those with presentable hairy legs and impressive beer bellies would have been chosen to enter the final round to pick their questions.

Jacob Leung, the University Secretary and one of the five finalists, declared that the most valuable thing his wife had given him was herself. He probably repeated this to Mrs. Leung when he returned home with the trophy he won. The second on the list was Roger Eston of the Physical Education Unit, who would give the Porsche to his wife because if his wife was happy, he would be happy too. C.N. Chen, head of Shaw College and professor of psychiatry, confessed to the Prom’ that he thought he ‘was’ the boss in the family but he ‘isn’t’. This answer placed him in the third position.

Lucky draw

At around 11.30 p.m., the climax of the Prom’ was reached with the lucky draw. There were a total of 43 prizes donated by generous colleagues, council members, good friends of the University and various friendly companies and organizations.

For reasons unknown, holder of ticket no. 202 failed to turn up when his number was drawn and missed the chance of taking home the first prize: a Toshiba 25” multi-system colour TV set. Everyone re-lifted their hopes after the MC had declared the ticket void and Eric Ho of the Management Information Unit won the envy of all when his number was picked.

Epiilogue

There might have been complaints about food, both quantitywise and qualitywise, but as Gwen Kao, the chairperson of the December Prom’ Organizing Committee, reiterated in her brief opening address – the Prom’ was not just an enjoyable social gathering, it demonstrated the strength of team work and helped to foster a community spirit on campus. It did! The Campus Link itself speaks for this. It is a campus concern group formed in May last year to coordinate social activities for the University community. Member organizations include the Campus News, the Chinese University Women’s Organization, Chung Chi College Staff Club, the Information Office, New Asia College Staff Association, Shaw College Staff Association, Sir Run Shaw Hall, the Staff Common Room and United College Staff Association.

Just imagine how many hands contributed and how many evenings with families or boy and girl friends were sacrificed to make the Prom’ a reality. Three cheers to the heroes behind the scenes!
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Vacancies

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<th>Post</th>
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<tr>
<td>Professor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Professor/Reader</td>
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<td>Senior Lecturers/Lecturers</td>
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(All information in this section is provided by the Personnel Section)

New Publications of The University Press

The following new books will be sold at a 20 per cent discount to staff members at the University Bookshop, John Fulton Centre:

- China, Britain and Hong Kong 1895-1945 (in English) by Chan Lau Kit-ching; xxiv + 479 pp., (hardcover, HK$195).
- The Other Hong Kong Report 1990 (in English) edited by Richard Y.C. Wong and Joseph Y.S. Cheng; xxx + 581 pp., (paperback, HK$88).
- 《中學中國語文教學法》(in Chinese) by Chow Hon Kwong; xii + 282 pp., (paperback, HK$40).
- 《洋相》(in Chinese) by Siao Fong Fong; xiv + 192 pp., (paperback, HK$43).
Obituary

Prof. Lien-Sheng Yang, Harvard-Yenching Professor of Chinese History Emeritus at Harvard University, member of this University’s Advisory Board on Humanities, passed away on 16th November 1990 at his home in Arlington, Massachusetts, USA. He was 76.

Prof. Yang was born in China in 1914 and received the AB degree from Tsing Hua University in 1937. He furthered his studies at Harvard University and received the AM degree in 1942 and the Ph.D in 1946. He joined the Harvard faculty in 1947 and retired in 1980 as Harvard-Yenching Professor of Chinese History. Internationally known for his scholarly criticism and quick wit, fondly remembered by generations of students as a kind teacher, Prof. Yang was one of the pioneering scholars who helped shape American sinology.

Prof. Yang had been a member of The Chinese University’s Advisory Board on Humanities since the University’s inauguration, and was conferred an honorary degree of Doctor of Laws by the University in 1976.

Professorial Inaugural Lecture

Prof. J. A. Gosling, professor of anatomy, will deliver his inaugural lecture entitled ‘The Discipline of Human Anatomy: Historical Milestone, Current Status and Future Prospects’ on 25th January at 5.00 p.m. at Lecture Theatre LT6, Lady Shaw Building. All are welcome.

Change of Faxline Numbers

The faxline numbers of the following units have been changed from 16th January 1991:

- Shaw College — from 6010427 to 6035427
- The Chinese University Press — from 6931692 to 6036692

Services to the Community and International Organizations

- Prof. Dominic Man-kit Lam, professor of biotechnology and director of the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology, has been appointed by the President of the United States a member of the President’s Committee on the Arts and the Humanities.
- Dr. Chun Sin-wai, senior lecturer in translation, has been invited by the Hong Kong Baptist College to serve as an external examiner for the course of BA (Hons) in translation for three years until 31st August 1993.

We welcome your contributions

1. Items for the next issue (mid-February 1991) should reach the Editor by 26th January 1991.
2. All contributions and suggestions should be sent to the Editor, CUHK Newsletter, c/o the Publication Office, University Secretariat, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (ext. 2936).
3. Contributions should be accompanied with Chinese translations; otherwise they will appear in the English version of the Newsletter only.
4. The Editor reserves the right to reject contributions and to edit all articles for reasons of clarity, length or grammar. Those who do not wish to have their articles amended should indicate clearly in writing.
5. No part of this Newsletter may be reproduced without the written consent of the Editor.
6. This publication has a circulation of 1,100 and is primarily intended for staff members of CUHK. Copies are also sent to local educational institutions and individuals associated with the University. Those who wish to be included on the mailing list please contact the Newsletter direct.

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