Research Findings on 1991 Direct Elections

A group of local academics and researchers conducted a survey on last year’s Legislative Council elections and released preliminary findings on 27th August.

CUHK researchers involved include Dr. K. S. Louie of the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Dr. Joseph Chan of the Department of Journalism and Communication, Dr. Ngo Hang-yue of the Department of Organization and Management, and Dr. Tsang Wing-kwong of the Department of Educational Administration and Policy.

They selected some 1,600 registered electors from the electoral roll to interview and found that those with higher socioeconomic status and a better education background had a greater propensity to vote. The survey also reveals that the official register of electors contains many errors, which have been caused by deaths, emigration, removal, and the demolition of buildings. The error rate is as high as 17 to 24 per cent.

The Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies will hold a conference on 13th October to present other findings of the survey.

Conferences on Economic Reforms in China and Informal Politics in East Asia

The China’s Reform and Development Research Programme of the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies hosted two international conferences in August, attracting close to 100 academics and researchers from local and abroad.

Conference on Productivity, Efficiency and Reform in China’s Economy
3rd to 6th August

Co-organizers of the function included the Department of Economics at the University of Pittsburgh, and the Institute of Quantitative and Technical Economics of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

Over 50 academics and economists from the United States, Australia, China, Taiwan and Hong Kong attended the function, which was divided into six discussion sessions: reform and productivity, productivity issues, national/regional productivity issues, sectoral productivity, measurement of productivity and data problems, and interregional comparisons of productivity.

International Symposium on Informal Politics in East Asia
17th and 18th August

Informal Politics generally means political activities that are not regulated by legal procedures, or those areas in
politics which enjoy a high degree of flexibility despite the existence of formal regulations. In societies where legal systems are yet to be perfected, informal politics will tend to play a more important role.

The conference to study informal politics in East Asia was cosponsored by the Pacific Rim Research Programme of the University of California. Political scientists, scholars and researchers from the United States, Japan, Taiwan, South Korea and Hong Kong gathered to discuss informal politics in Chinese culture, Chinese economy and organization, informal politics in South Korea and Hong Kong, and informal politics and elections in Japan and Taiwan.

130 PDP Graduates in 1992

A total of 130 students from the Part-time Degree Programmes completed their undergraduate studies this summer. Of these, 20 are from the Business Administration Programme, 36 from the Chinese and English Programme, nine from the Music Programme, 39 from the Primary Education Programme and 26 from the Social Work Programme.

Art Gallery Exhibition

Paintings and Calligraphy of the Ming and Qing Dynasties from the Chih Lo Lou Collection

The Art Gallery and the Chih Lo Lou Art Promotion (Non-profit-making) Ltd. will jointly present an exhibition entitled ‘Paintings and Calligraphy of the Ming and Qing Dynasties’ from 10th October to 20th December.

On display will be 80 items of paintings and calligraphy drawn from the Chih Lo Lou Collection of Mr. Ho Iu-kwong, a well-known local collector. Works of great masters such as the ‘Four Masters’ of the Ming Dynasty, Dong Qichang, Zhang Ruitu and Mei Qing of late Ming, the ‘Four Wang’s’ of early Qing, and the painters of the Yangzhou School of mid Qing will be featured in the exhibition, demonstrating the various styles of Chinese painting and calligraphy during the Ming and Qing periods.

Mr. Ho Iu-kwong and Dr. J. S. Lee will officiate at the opening ceremony of the exhibition to be held on Friday, 9th October at 4.30 p.m. All are welcome.
Interested in Cricket?
Come Join the CUHK Cricket Club

The Chinese University of Hong Kong Cricket Club has recently been established to promote the game of cricket at the University. The club is seeking members interested in any aspect of the game and previous cricketing experience is not essential. Membership is open to all staff and graduate students of the University.

The regular season will extend from October until May, and six games per season are anticipated (i.e. approximately one game every month). It is envisaged that the army field at Sekong will serve as the venue for the club’s ‘home’ matches. Regular practice sessions will also be held on campus and, at some future juncture, it is hoped to include in these sessions an informal coaching component for those less familiar with the game.

The club has purchased a set of playing equipment and, in order to offset this cost, full membership fee has been set at HK$500 (graduate students $250). A modest match fee will be payable by playing members at each game.

If you are interested in joining the CUHK Cricket Club, or require further information, please contact one of the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tel. No.</th>
<th>Office</th>
<th>Home</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Robert Jones</td>
<td>6096886</td>
<td>6036394</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>John Buswell</td>
<td>6096298</td>
<td>6036314</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>David Gilkes</td>
<td>6097241</td>
<td>6035404</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

You Can Now Borrow up to $100,000
From the Chinese University Employees’ Credit Union:

For the benefit and convenience of members, The Chinese University Employees’ Credit Union (CUECU) will raise the loan limit from $60,000 to $100,000 from 1st October 1992. The Union’s Loan Committee meets twice a month on the 2nd and 16th to vet applications. Members who want to apply for loans should submit their applications to the treasurer of CUECU two days before the meetings. Application forms can be obtained from CUECU coordinators or committee members.

The credit union also welcomes all academic and administrative staff of the University to apply for membership. A copy of the application/direct debit authorization form is attached to the September issue of the CUHK Newsletter. Just fill out the form and return it with an admission fee of HK$1 to Mr. C. N. Kwong, c/o Buildings Office.

Reuse Old Envelopes
Don’t Throw Them away

The Business Section of the University Bursary calls upon all academic and administrative units to reuse old envelopes, especially brown envelopes.

Here are some tips for reusing envelopes on the campus:
• When anything is sent to you in such envelopes, open the envelopes carefully so that they can be kept neat and tidy for future use.
• Store them in a handy place for reuse.
• When you put down the name and address of the addressee on an envelope, make sure they do not occupy excessive space. Try also to start writing from the top left corner of the envelope.
• If the face of an envelope is fully written, stick a blank sheet onto the surface for writing new addresses.

Remember, your cooperation will help save natural resources as well as University expenses on stationery.

New Publications of the University Press

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

Professorial Appointment

Professor of History

Prof. Chan Hok-lam has been appointed professor of history from 1st August 1992.

Born in 1938 in Hong Kong, Prof. Chan read history and Chinese at the University of Hong Kong and obtained his BA and MA degrees in 1961 and 1963 respectively. He furthered his studies in history at Princeton University in USA and received his PhD degree in 1967.

Prof. Chan has held various appointments both within and outside USA since 1967, acquiring extensive teaching and research experience. He taught at the University of Auckland, New Zealand for one year before taking up the post of research associate for the Ming Biographical History Project at Columbia University in 1969. In 1972, Prof. Chan joined the University of Washington in Seattle and served there for 20 years, first as associate professor, then as professor of Chinese history and chair of the Chinese Studies Programme of the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies. During periods of leave, he held appointments as research fellow and visiting professor at different leading universities in the States, Australia and Taiwan.

Prof. Chan has also served as a member of the Joint Committee on Chinese Studies of the American Council of Learned Societies/Social Sciences Research Council; external examiner of the Department of Chinese, University of Hong Kong, and of the Department of Far Eastern History, Australian National University; and external assessor of the Department of Chinese Studies, University of Malaya. He is currently external assessor of the matriculation examination syllabus in Chinese history, Hong Kong Examination Authority, and member of the panel on Chinese Studies of the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation.

Prof. Chan is married, with two sons and a daughter.

The 44th Congregation and Special Arrangements on the Congregation Day

The 44th congregation for the conferment of honorary and higher degrees will be held on Thursday, 15th October at 3.00 p.m. in the Sir Run Run Shaw Hall.

The Rt. Hon. Christopher Patten, Governor of Hong Kong and Chancellor of the University, will officiate at the ceremony, which will be followed by a reception at the Benjamin Franklin Centre Staff Dining Room.

This year four distinguished persons will be awarded honorary degrees. They are Mrs. Alice Kiu-yue Lam, Mr. Wilson T.S. Wang, Prof. Tsui Lap-chee and Prof. Ezra F. Vogel. On the same occasion about 300 graduates will be granted higher degrees.

Citations will be written and delivered by the public orator, Dr. Chou Ying Hsiung, reader in English. Dr. C. P. Kwong, senior lecturer in information engineering, will be the mace-bearer. Prof. Ezra Vogel will address the congregation on behalf of the honorary graduates.

Members of the staff are reminded that classes will not be suspended on the congregation day on 15th October. It will be left to the discretion of individual teachers who have classes on that day to make alternative arrangements if they wish to attend the congregation.

Robing Room for Procession Members

Staff members joining the official procession should assemble by 2.30 p.m. on the ground floor of the Y.C. Liang Hall, which will serve as the Robing Room. Marshalling of the procession will begin at 2.40 p.m. on the Central Avenue outside the Y.C. Liang Hall.

Traffic Arrangements

Traffic on the Central Avenue will be made one-way only (west-bound) from 1.30 p.m. on the congregation day, leaving one lane of the avenue for parking. Appropriate traffic signs will be put up and campus guards will be on hand to assist motorists.

BFC Staff & Student Canteens Temporarily Closed

The Benjamin Franklin Centre Staff Dining Room will be closed all day on 15th October and the Student Canteen will be closed from 12:00 noon.

Staff Development Grants/Programmes 1993-94

The following staff development grants/programmes are available for the academic year 1993-94:

1. ACU Academic Exchange Fellowships
2. ACU Development Fellowships
   (incorporating the former Administrative and Senior
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Travelling Fellowships)</th>
<th>promotion in respect of non-teaching staff on Terms of Service (A).</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3. ACU T.H.B. Symons Fellowship in Commonwealth Studies</td>
<td>All applications/nominations should be sent to the secretaries of the relevant committees:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. ACU Times Higher Education Supplement Third World Fellowship</td>
<td><strong>For teaching staff and instructors</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Commonwealth Academic Staff Fellowships</td>
<td>Mr. K. C. Yuen, Secretary, Academic Staff Review Committee, c/o Personnel Office, South Wing, 2nd floor, University Administration Building (Ext. 7285)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. Commonwealth Academic Staff Scholarships</td>
<td><strong>For non-teaching staff</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Croucher Foundation Fellowships/Scholarships</td>
<td>Mr. S. S. Tam, Secretary, Administrative Affairs Committee, c/o Personnel Office, Room 203, University Administration building (Ext. 7269)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Croucher Foundation Travel Grants</td>
<td>Further enquiries may be directed to the respective committee secretaries. A separate announcement concerning Terms of Service (B) and (C) staff review matters will be made around December 1992.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Freemason’s Fund for East Asian Studies</td>
<td>University Swimming Pool Opening Hours</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 10. Japan Foundation Dissertation Fellowships Programme | From 12th September to 30th November, the opening hours of the University Swimming Pool will be as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1st session</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>2nd session</td>
<td>2.30 p.m. to 6.30 p.m.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The pool is open seven days a week including public holidays. Admission tickets in sets of 12 are sold at bargain price to students, staff and dependents, alumni, and guests at the Office of Student Affairs, Room 108, Benjamin Franklin Centre. |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme</th>
<th>No Satellite Master Antenna Television System on Campus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11. Japan Foundation Professional Fellowships Programme</td>
<td>From the Director, Buildings Office:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Japan Foundation Research Grant Programme</td>
<td>Despite two tendering exercises and twice issuing questionnaires, there has been insufficient evidence of support from resident members on the campus for a scheme that could guarantee the reimbursement of capital investment and maintenance costs of the system through subscriptions within a reasonable period of time, say five to six years. The University administration has therefore decided against the incorporation of any satellite master antenna television system at her domestic buildings for the time being. The decision may be reviewed after summer 1993 if circumstances so warrant.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. C.Y. Kwan Endowment Fund for Staff Development</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>14. Lee Hysan Foundation Endowment Fund for Staff Development</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Staff members interested in applying for the above grants may consult their department/unit heads or faculty deans, who should have received detailed information on these programmes in early September. Further enquiries may be directed to the Personnel Office (Ext.7183 or 7265). |

**Annual Staff Review**

Applications/nominations are invited from all full-time teaching and non-teaching staff on Terms of Service (A) and Instructors, in respect of staff development grants, retirement/extension of service and promotion, soon to be considered in the coming staff review exercise for the academic year 1993-94.

The deadlines for submissions are as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3rd Oct. 1992</td>
<td>for retirement/extension of service in respect of full-time teaching staff on Terms of Service (A) and Instructors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>31st Oct. 1992</td>
<td>for staff development grants in respect of full-time teaching and non-teaching staff on Terms of Service (A) and Instructors. (Please refer to Staff Development Grants/Programmes 1993-94 above.)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14th Nov. 1992</td>
<td>for promotion in respect of full-time teaching staff on Terms of Service (A), and Instructors.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30th Nov. 1992</td>
<td>for retirement/extension of service/</td>
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</tbody>
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**University Swimming Pool Opening Hours**

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**No Satellite Master Antenna Television System on Campus**

From the Director, Buildings Office:

Despite two tendering exercises and twice issuing questionnaires, there has been insufficient evidence of support from resident members on the campus for a scheme that could guarantee the reimbursement of capital investment and maintenance costs of the system through subscriptions within a reasonable period of time, say five to six years. The University administration has therefore decided against the incorporation of any satellite master antenna television system at her domestic buildings for the time being. The decision may be reviewed after summer 1993 if circumstances so warrant.
There is a very long tradition in the West for university buildings to be named after important personages. Every ancient academic establishment in Britain and continental Europe boasts of edifices that bear the names of princes, prelates, statesmen and wealthy merchants. These old buildings are very often architectural gems held in great admiration by academics and visitors (maybe less so by the average undergraduate), and in that way serve to perpetuate the memory of the persons to whom they were dedicated, long after their lives and deeds ceased to be of interest to anyone but antiquarians.

The Chinese University has its fair share of buildings named after eminent individuals, most of whom made significant contributions to the University's development. Whether aesthetically these buildings will stand the test of time falls outside the domain of this newsletter, but readers might wish to know how some of these buildings came to be called as they are. Our feature writer proposes to tell the stories of some in this issue, with promise for more in the near future.

Benjamin Franklin Centre

The 2nd of April 1969 was an auspicious day, for on that day the first building of the University was officially opened. The late Sir David Trench, then Chancellor, presided at the ceremony, accompanied by the late Dr. Choh-ming Li, the vice-chancellor, Mr. Edwin Webb Martin, the American Consul-General, and a host of University officials and guests and friends. The building was, of course, the Benjamin Franklin Centre, then as now dedicated to staff and student activities and indisputably the hub of campus life. The construction cost of HK$2,500,000 was a present from the American people: 55 firms and individuals in the United States made their donations through the US Department of State, the Asia Foundation and the American business community in Hong Kong.

With this background the reader should now be able to see the connection between the building and Benjamin Franklin. But the naming actually carries a deeper meaning, as can be seen in the following quotation from Sir
David's speech at the opening ceremony:

'It was, I think, an extremely happy idea to name this centre after Benjamin Franklin. He was certainly one of the outstanding men of his time, and versatility was one of his prominent characteristics. Statesman, philosopher and scientist, he had a full career and an enquiring mind.

'If there is a risk of the students of this university becoming narrow in outlook through intensive study in their own disciplines, it is here at this centre that they will have the chance to mix with members of other faculties and to widen their ideas through debate and social contact.'

From what this writer has observed, the BFC, as it is affectionately known to all on campus, has indeed fulfilled the charge given it by the late Chancellor, and most of the activities conducted therein are no doubt what Mr. Franklin would have similingly approved.

**Cho-Yiu Hall**

Dr. the Honourable Sir Cho-Yiu Kwan (1907-1971) was, apart from being a highly successful lawyer and a prominent citizen of Hong Kong, one of the founders of The Chinese University, and the first chairman of its Council, from 1963 to 1971. Among his numerous contributions to CUHK, the most remarkable must be the efforts he made to secure a campus for the University.

Dr. Choh-ming Li, Sir Cho-Yiu's long-time colleague, had this to say about the part Sir Cho-Yiu played in obtaining the grant of 273 acres of Crown land from the Government:

'Even with the Government's agreement in principle to grant the land to the University, it required immense legal talent and negotiating skill to overcome the many problems along the way. Representing the University in this matter, Sir Cho-Yiu handled the negotiations single-handed - with heavy personal sacrifice in time and effort. I believe it was largely his unquestioned integrity and selfless devotion to public interests that hastened the consumation of the negotiations for the land grant to the University on 3rd July 1970. I may state unequivocally that without the land The Chinese University would not exist as it does today. That statement describes exactly the major contribution of Sir Cho-Yiu to the University.'

As a tribute to Sir Cho-Yiu Kwan, the University decided, in early 1972, to name the University conference hall the 'Cho-Yiu Hall'. His portrait in the hall, which hangs behind the chairman's seat, is a present from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

**R C Lee Lecture Hall**

Known variously to different generations of students as the UFO, the Flying Saucer or the Electric Rice Cooker, the lecture hall complex at the Science Centre, a fine specimen of the architect's ingenuity, has been a campus landmark for many years. It was dedi-
located, during the autumn of 1987, to the memory of another founder of The Chinese University, and has since been known as the R C Lee Lecture Hall. Dr. Richard Charles Lee (1905-1983) was not only a prominent figure in high commerce, but also one of the leading citizens who, when the establishment of a Chinese university was still a mooted idea, rendered their staunch support and promoted the cause of the University to the community at large. Dr. Lee had been vice-chairman of the University Council and chairman of the important Campus Planning and Building Committee since the early 1960s and held both posts until his death in 1983.

Pi-Ch'iu Building

The Pi-Ch'iu Building was completed in two stages, in 1977 and 1979. Members of the University interested in identifying the dedicatees would probably have read the inscription, composed by Mr (now Sir) Q. W. Lee, then treasurer of the University, inside the building, but for those who have not noticed the commemorative tablet or who cannot understand the Chinese text, here is an unworthy attempt at translation:

'The Chinese University of Hong Kong is located in Shatin, New Territories, where land and sea meet in peaceful, beauteous harmony. The Pi-Ch'iu Building, a newly constructed venue for lectures and research activities, is a gift from the brothers Ho Tim and Ho Yin, who donated the construction cost in memory of their mothers. The Ho's are a family of renown in the district of Panyu, and the father of the Ho brothers was a gentleman of profound virtue. His two wives, Madam Teng Pi-chou and Madam Liang Ch'iushian, lived in great harmony and were close as sisters. Ho Tim, the elder of the two, is the son of Madam Liang; Ho Yin, the younger brother, is the son of Madam Teng. Both Tim and Yin are prominent figures in the banking and finance industry, and their fraternal regard for each other is unsurpassed. I have been a friend of both brothers for 40 years, and have often heard them describe how kind their late mothers had been to them. As a gesture of commemoration and token of gratitude, Messrs Ho Tim and Ho Yin made a donation to The Chinese University for the Pi-Ch'iu Building to be constructed, and named it after their mothers. This is an act of admirable filial piety that will also benefit higher education in Hong Kong, and I reverently record this on stone as a permanent memorial.'

Sui-loong Pao Building

The Sui-loong Pao Building was the gift of the late shipping magnate, Sir Y. K. Pao, to the University. Named after Sir Yue-kong's father, the building was opened by Sir Murray MacLehose (now Lord MacLehose), the Chancellor, in January 1978. Mr. Sui-loong Pao himself, at the age of 83, was present at the ceremony. The building had had a long association with the Faculty of
Business Administration until recently and, to quote Sir Murray, '... I suspect few have much to teach [the Pao family] about the practical side of business administration. Their extraordinary capacity for hard work, clear thought and intense self-discipline, should inspire those who work here...’ Indeed we have seen a good number of students thus inspired, as they move on from the classrooms in the Sui-loong Pao building to high positions in commerce or academic research.

**John Fulton Centre**

The Right Honourable Lord Fulton of Falmer (1902-1986) is, even to those who have but an inkling of the history of The Chinese University, a most important figure: he proposed the establishment of the Chinese University to the Hong Kong Government, and devised the blueprint for its structure and operation. Upon his death the Council pronounced him a founding father of the University, and decision was promptly passed for a new staff/student amenities building, adjacent to the Benjamin Franklin Centre, to be named after him. The dedication ceremony took place in October 1989; Mr. Andrew Li, QC, chairman of the UPGC, was the guest of honour, and Lord Fulton’s family was represented by his son, Dr. Oliver Fulton. There can be no doubt that a centre of staff and student activities would be the most fitting memorial to this elder statesman in British and Commonwealth higher education, as Dr. Oliver Fulton made clear in his speech at the ceremony: ‘This John Fulton Centre in which we stand today is, if you like, a symbol of Lord Fulton’s belief: that the university is not just a collection of classrooms, laboratories and libraries, but a living space in which all the human needs of students and staff alike can be cared for.’

**Adam Schall Residence**

So far we have been talking about places named after persons with Chinese University associations in the main. Let us now proceed to a building dedicated to someone who was born 400 years ago, and whose anniversary is celebrated by the issue of special stamps in Germany this year. The first student hostel to be built at United College bears the name of Adam Schall (1592-1666), a German Jesuit who came to China as a missionary during the last years of the Ming Dynasty. His career in China spanned over 40 years, and his appointment as Astronomer Imperial at the Manchu court made it possible for the knowledge of Western science and technology to be imparted to the early Qing emperors. The Adam Schall Residence, opened in December 1971, was half paid for by funds raised in Germany through the Society of Jesus and the Maryknoll Sisters, hence the Jesuit motto on the hostel’s foundation stone, *Ad Maiorem Dei Gloriam*. However, the dedication of the hostel to Adam Schall did not only commemorate the fact that it was a gift of the Catholic Church in Germany, but, more importantly, it represented the determination of the University and United College to promote international goodwill and the integration of Eastern and Western cultures, efforts which found ample manifestation in the long career of Father Adam Schall.
Information in this section can only be accessed with CWEM password.
Information in this section can only be accessed with CWEM password.
Services to the Community and International Organizations

- Dr. Poon Wai-keung, senior lecturer in organization and management, has been re-appointed as an external examiner for the course of organization behaviour of the Open Learning Institute of Hong Kong for 1992.
- Dr. M. G. Jones, lecturer in chemical pathology, has been admitted as a member of the Royal College of Pathologists from 20th February 1992.
- Prof. Arthur K. C. Li of the Department of Surgery has been appointed by the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons as a member of the editorial board of the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Surgery.

We welcome your contributions

1. Items for the next issue (mid-October 1992) should reach the Editor by 26th September 1992.
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 (tel. 6097297; fax. 6035503).
3. Contributions should bear the writer's name and contact telephone number, and may be published under pseudonyms. Articles without Chinese translations will appear in the English version of the Newsletter only. No anonymous letters will be published.
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 1,300 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.