A Profile of New Students 1994

The average age of newly-admitted undergraduates has grown steadily from 18.3 in 1989 to 19.4 in 1994, and a large percentage of the students continue to be from families of limited means. These are some of the findings of a recent survey on the University's new students in 1994-95. The survey was conducted by the University's Office of Student Affairs. Of the 2,802 new entrants, 2,733 completed the form 7 level. The more mature student population also includes some of the findings of a recent survey on the University's new students in 1994-95. The increase in the average age of students is due mainly to more admissions of students who could not enter the University in their first attempt.

Close to eight per cent of the students come from families with a monthly household income below HK$6,000. The median family income of HK$13,411 per month represents a meagre 0.6 per cent increase over that of last year, and the average household size is 4.8. All these figures explain the substantial increase in the number of students applying for government and University assistance this year.

Taking their fathers' educational attainment as the benchmark, about 85 per cent of the new entrants are first-generation tertiary students in their families. As few as seven per cent of their mothers have received any tertiary education. A case for strengthening language training of CUHK students is borne by the figures denoting self-assessment in abilities — 23.5 per cent of the students surveyed indicated inadequacy in spoken English, and 72.3 per cent in Mandarin.

While the majority of respondents indicated confidence in adapting to University life, many anticipated difficulties in three areas in particular: meeting course requirements (44.9 per cent), adapting to the University's teaching method (38.9 per cent), and understanding reading materials in English (28.4 per cent).

The respondents also indicated their four most preferred areas of employment to be administration/management (39.6 per cent), teaching (33.4 per cent), research (17.1 per cent), and computer (15.0 per cent). Those pursuing courses in professional disciplines like accountancy, computer science, electronics, medicine, and social work naturally opted for careers that correspond with their training.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Abilities / skills</th>
<th>Reporting competence</th>
<th>Reporting inadequacy</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Written Chinese</td>
<td>44.9</td>
<td>23.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written English</td>
<td>19.1</td>
<td>12.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spoken English</td>
<td>29.6</td>
<td>25.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mandarin</td>
<td>9.4</td>
<td>7.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Common sense</td>
<td>92.9</td>
<td>9.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-confidence</td>
<td>91.1</td>
<td>8.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytical ability</td>
<td>61.1</td>
<td>38.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Organizing ability</td>
<td>48.1</td>
<td>51.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership</td>
<td>14.6</td>
<td>85.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creativity</td>
<td>34.9</td>
<td>65.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Adaptability</td>
<td>67.7</td>
<td>32.3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social skills</td>
<td>35.5</td>
<td>64.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of students</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Donation of Books by Australian Consul General

The Australian Consul General, Dr. Jocelyn Chey (left), accompanied by Mr. Brian Cummins, the Consul for Public Affairs (left 3), visited the University on 27th March to present a gift of Australian books to the vice-chancellor, Prof. Charles K. Kao (left 6), who received the donation on behalf of the University, also present at the ceremony were Dr. Michael Lee, the University librarian (left 6), Dr. K.K. Tam, chairman of the English Department (left 5), and Prof. Andrew Parkin, professor of English (left 2). The presentation was followed by a tour of the University library conducted by Dr. Lee.

Art Historian Portrays Poetic Painting in China and Japan

Prof. James Cahill, Emeritus Professor of Art History at the University of California in Berkeley, visited United College from 18th March to 1st April as the second Distinguished Visiting Scholar of United College in 1994-95. During his stay, Prof. Cahill delivered a series of four lectures on the theme of 'The Lyric Journey: Poetic Painting in China and Japan'. The lectures traced the development of poetic painting in the Sung and Ming dynasties in China and the Edo period in Japan. Moderators of the four lectures included Prof. John Jamieson, director of the Chinese Language Centre, Prof. Kao May-ching, curator of the Art Gallery, and Dr. Stanley Baker from the Fine Arts Department of the University of Hong Kong.

Budding Scholars from Tsing Hua Visit United College

A delegation of five undergraduates from Tsing Hua University in Beijing, accompanied by their academic advisers visited United College from 26th March to 2nd April under the sixth Budding Scholars Exchange Programme. During their stay, the delegation visited the Tuen Mun District Board, the Land Development Corporation, different government departments, and other tertiary institutions to gather information for a research on 'Urban Construction and Modernization in China'. They presented their findings at a public seminar held on 30th March in the Hall of Adam Schall Residence.

As the second part of the exchange programme, a United College delegation consisting of nine undergraduate students of the college and two academic advisers — Mr. K. H. Wong, the college dean of students, and Dr. Irene Chow of the Management Department — will pay a return visit to Tsing Hua University in May 1995. They will spend a week in Beijing and make a public presentation on the topic 'The Civil Service System and Human Resources Management'.
Let me begin by stating the raison d'être of an academic library. Simply stated, the mission and goals of a university library are, in logical order:

1. to support study, teaching, and research related to all academic programmes;
2. to assimilate, organize, and preserve human knowledge and intellectual heritage in varied forms and systems;
3. to provide library resources and facilities for the administration and development of all units of the university community;
4. to cooperate and network with other libraries and information centres for the universal development and advancement of education.

We are committed to develop our library into an intellectual centre where students and faculty members will come to “check things out”, other than just a comfortable place to study and learn in. We have over 1.2 million books and bound volumes of periodicals, and more than 6,800 current journal titles, and our library system is equipped with networking and multimedia computer technologies which extend our capabilities and international linkages dramatically.

Our library system is a very complex organization with several branch libraries, each with their special historical background and special subject collections. The hilly terrain of the campus and the randomly spread out academic faculties and units have created many hurdles for access to library materials; the management and delivery of library services have also been handicapped by such geographical divisions. We are working on overcoming these hurdles and handicaps. We are also trying to fine-tune the Subject Oriented Library Scheme which was first implemented in 1993, making adjustments based on users’ requests. Enhancements for easy access and document delivery are provided on-campus and off-campus to make it more convenient for users. The following steps will be taken to further improve services and communication:

1. Provide more orientation sessions, computer skills workshops, and library research seminars for faculty and students.
2. Develop subject specialists among librarians and enhance reference services in support of study and research.
3. Strengthen outreach programmes for faculty members and students, and gauge users needs and expectations through surveys and electronic mail communication.
4. Provide training, re-education and motivation for all library staff to acquire new knowledge and skills, and to keep up with technological changes. Through counselling and seminars, staff will be taught how to handle stress, problematic encounters and difficult situations, and improve public relations.

Making the library user-friendly requires not just a team of friendly staff, but also easily accessible services, collections, library catalogues and computer systems. Plans are being developed in these areas, and improvements shall be visible within a year. Projects in the pipeline include:

1. Renovation of library buildings and relocation of offices to make all materials accessible to the handicapped, newcomers as well as researchers. We plan to rearrange our public service units and shelving areas so that more space and user facilities will be provided easily where readers will need them.
2. Construction of a user-education room and a seminar room for hands-on experience, user instruction, and library orientation. In this age of information explosion, users need a higher level of computer literacy and bibliographic knowledge to find what they need. Both novice users and experienced researchers will need continuous education in order to keep up with changes.
3. Development of a multimedia, non-book learning resource centre where users will find all types of information and bibliographic resources through new technological products such as CD-ROMs, hypertext media, self-learning materials, and external information systems. We plan to work closely with academic departments and the Independent Learning Centre to build a magnetic self-learning centre to enhance teaching, study, and research.
4. To keep abreast with current development of information technologies, and to make library resources easily searchable, a more user-friendly computer system will be introduced by the end of 1995, gradually replacing the current PC-based system. With the installation of the new integrated system, many other features and modules will be implemented in the near future. Local and international databases shall be accessible through all on-line public terminals in central and branch libraries. The next step will be to extend such access to in-office and in-hostel terminals, making our campus a virtual library regardless of location and region.

New technologies have brought about many changes and expectations. The University Library System is ready to face the challenge to make complementary changes. We will work with parties inside and outside the University to find new resources and approaches for study, teaching and research for our potential users.

In addition to plans outlined above, the University Library System is at present sponsoring two innovative projects. One is the First Search service which offers free search and record printing of 50 popular and special databases all over the world. If this experiment is well received in the first two months, we will expand the service. A comment from a faculty member said it all: “I found the First Search very useful. In fact, I think it is indispensable for my teaching and research. I use it almost every day. I hope more people will try it and that it will receive more publicity.”

The second project, which is equally innovative and significant, is the development and production of a Hong Kong newspaper database. The database will cover Chinese and English local papers, in full text complete with images (pictures and graphics) and World-Wide-Web searchable via a local terminal connected to HARNET and INTERNET. This project is funded by the University Grants Committee and CUHK. When this database comes on-line, it will put our University on the map worldwide. But that will be another story. We will keep you posted.

Michael M. Lee
How to Patch up a Bugging Problem

On the foggy evening of 29th March, Chinese and English poets and poetry enthusiasts gathered for three hours of poetry in the Shaw College lecture theatre. The occasion was the third annual Tolo Lights. It was Prof. Andrew Parkin of the English Department who came up with the idea of having regular poetry readings in the University. When he first arrived in Hong Kong, he was invited by some local English-speaking poets to contribute his works to an anthology of English poetry from the territory, or at least the first five significant decimal digits of the computed quotient can still be trusted. To put things in perspective, before the problem was discovered, the first 16 or so significant digits produced by the Pentium could always be trusted.

In this July Dr. Tang and a collaborator, Tim Cole, who is a computer chip design engineer in California, will present a paper detailing their findings (the 'fast patch formula') vis-a-vis the Pentium problem at the IEEE International Symposium on Computer Arithmetic in Bath, England. Dr. Tang so explains their work, publications and adviser, he met Dr. Tang, 'interested in improving some of their technology using more up-to-date research.' Dr. Tang has subsequently been consulted by Intel for various projects, the latest being a solution to the Pentium problem.

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The form used varied from free verse to the strictly metrical. The subjects addressed were also diverse, often creating interesting juxtapositions: an imagery poem describing a water-lily by Dr. Michelle Chau of the ELT Unit side by side with a poem by a student who waded lyrical about dawn. The even was rounded off with ‘Song Cycle for a Bereaved Mother’ written in English by Wu Ningkun (杜家祁) and ‘Dracula’ by Barbara Baker (李婉薇) and Barbara Baker (李婉薇). The event was rounded off by ‘Song Cycle for a Bereaved Mother’ written in English by Wu Ningkun (杜家祁) and ‘Dracula’ by Barbara Baker (李婉薇) and Barbara Baker (李婉薇).

At the end of the evening, the fog seemed to have lifted. As poets and audience left the theatre, the lights of Tolo Harbour were seen, distant yet distinct.

Shalini Bahadur

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Public Sector Reform in Hong Kong

Dr. Lam Kin-che, senior lecturer in geography,

Dr. Richard H

Dr. Cheng Yin-cheong, senior lecturer in

Prof. David Gwilt of the Music Department has

Prof. R C Leung of the Department of

Information and Public Relations Office. Contributions

verification

Hong Kong: Key Concepts, Progress-

Edited by Jane C.Y. Lee and Anthony

to-Date and Future Direction

is a

collection of ten essays on public sector reform which

examine financial management, new public management, and political

related to public reform. Four of them

considerations; three study reform

departmental level; and another three

programme. This book therefore is

over the government's public reform
discussion among the local community
trends. There has been very little

initiatives at the

loud of prevalent western reform

fundamental issues for further debate.

Service to the Community and

International Organizations

Dr. Lam Kin-che, senior lecturer in geography,

has been appointed by HE the Governor to the

Appeal Board Panels under the Noise Control

Ordinance for three years from 1st February 1995.

Dr. Richard Ho Man-wui, lecturer in Chinese

language and literature, has been reappointed by

HE the Governor as an adjudicator of the

Immigration Tribunal for two years from 1st

March 1995.

Prof. P. C. Leung of the Department of

Orthopaedics and Traumatology has been

appointed by the University to serve as its

representative on the Hospital Authority’s

Regional Advisory Committee of the New

Territories for one year from 1st April 1995.

Prof. David Gwilt of the Music Department has

been appointed by the Associated Board of the

Hong Kong from March 1995.

Dr. Chang Yin-choeng, senior lecturer in

educational administration and policy, has been

appointed as a member of the Editorial Advisory

Board of the International Journal of Educational

Management of UK from 1995.

(All information in this section is provided by

the Information and Public Relations Office. Contributions

should be sent direct to that office for registration and

verification before publication.)

Clearing the Air: Vehicular Emissions Policy

and Regulations for Hong Kong

Consulted by F.W. Ruso and W.D. Walls, the book is the first publicly

available economic analysis of air pollution in Hong Kong.

Findings of the study show that the air quality in Hong Kong compares

well to most industrialized cities in the

world, especially in relation to the

concentration of pollutants attributable

to motor vehicles. There are however two exceptions: heavily congested

urban corridors and tunnels and
carparks. The book points to goods

vehicles as the main culprit of

pollution.

The findings of this study have a

most important bearing on the

formulation of policies on pollution

abatement.

122 pages, paperback, HK$90

New Publications of the University Press

• Clearing the Air: Vehicular Emissions Policy for Hong Kong

• Public Sector Reform in Hong Kong

• The Manual of the Hong Kong Securities Industry (Second Edition)

• The Manual of the Hong Kong Securities Industry Examinations

• Clearing the Air: Vehicular Emissions Policy for Hong Kong

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黃瑞良的管理藝術

黃瑞良先生小傳

• 香港大學文學士，史丹福大學工商管理碩士。
• 七零至七四年間歷任遠東/美靈/李奧貝納廣告公司高級中文撰稿員/創作總監。
• 七四年與友人合創嘉璜廣告有限公司並任董事總經理至七七年。
• 七九年取得工管碩士銜後曾先後出任頂霸廣告公司東南亞區市務總監，香港電視企業國際有限公司集團經理，香港電視廣播有限公司國際事務及公共關係總監，快圖美有限公司總經理，《信報》董事總經理，《時代周報》亞洲區總經理，以及傳藝學校校長/電視廣播國際有限公司助理總經理。
• 一九九五年一月出任中大出版社社長。

黃瑞良的使命

黃瑞良先生表示，大學出版社是學術推廣的先行部隊，協助校內教師發表其研究成果，對象是知識層次較高的讀者。另一方面，大學常稱社會人士喻之為象牙塔，「故大學出版社的另一使命，是象徵『象牙塔』。作為大學的出版機構，出版社將繼續努力，著眼於文學和藝術，為大學的各種出版活動提供支援。」

出版社的使命

黃瑞良先生說：「我的經驗是，香港人的學習和工作能力很高，只待時機來臨便會展示他們的潛能。若工作講求創意，主管須給予下屬高度自由，發揮他們的創作力。」

出版社的出版事務

出版計劃

除了恆常和列出版的出版計劃外，出版社未來的出版工作包括：（一）把銀資較好的書籍重新包裝，或出版另一語言版本，適應市場需求；（二）與海外大學的出版社互相代理書籍。

出版事務處

不少校內人士都弄不清楚出版社和出版事務處的分別；該寄給出版社的文件往往錯寄出版事務處，反之亦然。

出版社位於崇基校園許讓成樓，出版事務處則位於校本部大學行政樓。兩部門工作並無重疊之處，也無從屬關係。

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數學系鄧平德博士最近應美國Intel公司之邀，提供專家意見，以解決其產品Pentium在運算除數時所出現的問題。Intel為著名之電腦晶片製造商，去年十月Pentium被發現有瑕疵而導致除數計算錯誤後，曾引起很大轟動。該公司一方面為用戶免費更換晶片，另方面要為未及時更換晶片的用戶，提供有效之檢證辦法，懸圖計算無誤。

鄧博士連同其他專家，已成功設計一項檢驗程式，用以查核Pentium晶片計算除數的準確性。用戶一旦發現有出錯可能，便可及時用軟件替代晶片作運算。有關鄧博士此項發現，請參閱本期英文專頁。

紀大衛教授獲委音樂顧問

音樂系紀大衛教授最近獲英國皇家音樂學院聯合委員會委任為該會在香港的音樂及教育顧問。皇家音樂學院稱讚紀教授為出色的演奏家、指揮家、作曲家和作家，且經常在電台推介音樂。他在一九七零年移居本港前，曾擔任該院主考官。紀大衛夫人莫樹鈐女士亦獲委任同等職位。他們表示：「我們十分樂意協助英國皇家音樂學院聯合委員會在香港的推廣工作，繼續為香港的音樂教育，略盡綿力。」

燈火璀璨處

第三屆「吐露燈」詩歌朗誦會舉行前的一天，我在深夜做了兩個很有趣的夢。第一個夢裡，我在一個擠滿了人的小房間內，坐在我前面的人手裡拿著厚厚一疊紙，上面密密麻麻寫滿字。我心裡嘀咕，他把手上的作品朗誦的話，那可不得了。這時有一群人從外面擠進來，一面擠一面紛紛抱怨說：「這麼小的房間，搞甚麼朗誦會!」「不是在大講堂朗誦的嗎?」「改了地方嘛!大講堂早給別人捷足先登借用過了。」

我嚇了一跳，這是沒有可能的事。但實實在在，這小房間不是大講堂。我拚命擠出去，走進黑夜裡，接著一驚而醒。

我翻過身去，沒多久便睡著，很快做了另一個夢。夢裡，承印《吐露燈》詩選的印刷商把書送來，我一看，不是我的書，馬上打電話去，對方承認弄錯了，但要過兩天才可以把我的書送到。這當然不可以，詩選得要配合明天的朗誦會出版。那傢伙一聲對不起便把電話掛斷。我氣得一下子醒了過來。

這大槓就是工作壓力了，倒是有趣得很，平常只知道七手八臂的忙，從來不在乎甚麼壓力。籌備一次「吐露燈」詩歌朗誦會，工作量不錯是大得驚人，但因爲心中所好，故此也甘之如飴。我寫詩差不多年二十年，作品發表了不少，但充其量，我只算是個在繆思女神的神殿旁擺地攤的小販，這點自知之明我是有的。如今有這麼一個機會給我奔走，把寫詩與愛詩的朋友請來聚首一堂，也算是報答了女神沒有把我趕走的恩德。

第一屆「吐露燈」我不過是想「搞搞新意思」，所以和姜道安教授一拍即合；第二屆是欲罷不能，而且這個朗誦會確實有潛力發展為書院生活裡一項有特色的文化活動。到今屆，我們找到香港大學比較文學系的梁秉鈞博士、浸會大學的陳永明博士與嶺南學院的黃國彬博士合作，朗誦會更有了一個明確的方向與組織。透過梁秉鈞博士的聯絡，我們邀請到有名的現代詩詩人商禽從台灣來港參加朗誦會。我雖久仰商禽的大名，但他的作品我從來沒有仔細讀過，這一次把他的詩一讀，真真是相見恨晚。商禽好詩好酒，詩我在他面前醜不敢獻，酒卻和他喝了個不亦樂乎。他說不大喜歡朗誦，也一直謙說不懂朗誦，但他當晚的誦讀，特別是「樹中之樹」，卻令我回味至今。

說句老實話，大學裡的工作鮮有可以使人做出樂趣來的，我有點誤打誤撞的卻找到一個新的天地。「吐露燈」會照耀下去，而且如楊汝萬院長在九四年詩選的序言所說，我們希望「吐露燈」能照亮，能照亮集體，但照亮集體，也照亮個體的詩壇增添亮色。

在此我謹向書院的工作人員致萬分謝意，他們的熱誠及投入令我感動。還有中文系的鄧仕樑先生和王晉江博士、英文系的譚國根博士與音樂系的陳永華博士，對他們的鼎力支持，我衷心感激。
九四新生平均年齡較大
自覺語文能力有待改善

大學近年收錄之新生，年齡趨向較大。九四至九五年度新生之平均年齡為十九點四歲，比上年度大零點四歲，比九零年度更大一點一歲，四年來一直上升。這種趨勢，主要是由於近年錄取中七生的人數增加；且新生之中，亦包括了一些非首年申請入學者。此外，本年度為十六年來第三次出現一年級女生之平均年齡比男生大：女生為十九點六歲，男生為十九點四歲。

調查結果顯示，就經濟背景而言，家庭收入較低者仍然佔新生之大多數。本年度新生家庭月入中位數為一萬三千四百一十一元，比上年度微增百分之零點六。而家庭每月總收入低於六千元者佔百分之七點八。此種情況，足以說明何以本年度申請政府及大學資助的學生人數大幅增加。

調查結果又顯示，如果以父親的教育程度為基準，有八成半新生為其家庭中第一代得以接受大學教育者。新生母親之中具專上學歷者只佔百分之七。語文能力之自我評估，自覺英語口語能力不足的新生佔百分之廿三點五，而對運用普通話缺乏信心者更佔百分之七十二點三；這說明大學加強學生語言訓練的措施實屬必要。

是次調查的內容，尚包括新生的一些心理特點及他們對大學生活的期望。大部分回應者表示有信心適應大學生活之餘，亦預料要面對不少挑戰，包括來自課程的要求、適應大學的教學方法，以及理解英文教材的困難等。

至於畢業後的職業選擇，最為一般新生垂青的四類行業依次為行政／管理、教學、研究，以及電腦。而攻讀專門學科如會計、醫科及社會工作的新生，則往往選擇與他們所學有關的專業。

物理系校友獲獎

華人物理學會最近授予本校物理系校友孫緯武教授一九九五年度物理研究優秀青年獎，表揚他在重力理論的傑出貢獻。

孫教授分別於七八及八零年獲本校理學士學位和哲學碩士學位，八五年獲加州理工學院哲學博士學位，現任聖路易斯華盛頓大學副教授。孫教授設計了新的計算方法，可以精確地解決黑洞對碰的動力問題，開創黑洞物理的研究新方向。

澳洲贈書

華人物理學會由各地華裔物理學者組成，宗旨為促進華裔物理學者之學術發展和與世界各地學術界之交流。該會每年從各地華裔年輕物理學者中選拔成就最傑出者，授予物理研究優秀青年獎。該獎項之評審為朱經武教授、李政道教授、沈呂九教授、顏東茂教授和楊振寧教授。

該獎項之評審為朱經武教授、李政道教授、沈呂九教授、顏東茂教授和楊振寧教授。