Wei Lun Professor Lectures on School Improvement

Prof. Henry Levin, David Jacks Professor of Higher Education and Economics at Stanford University, gave a public lecture entitled 'Accelerated Education for an Accelerated Economy' in his capacity as Wei Lun Visiting Professor to the University on 26th September at the Ho Tim Building.

For a rapidly growing economy like Hong Kong, Prof. Levin found that the local education system may not be capable of preparing students adequately for the fast changes in the work environment or sustaining economic growth in the next century. He suggested that Hong Kong should redesign its basic education system which currently attaches too much importance to memory, language proficiency, mathematical skills, and computer knowledge, and too little importance to initiative, cooperation, problem-solving skills, decision-making, learning skills, and multicultural skills.

which together constitute the "intangible capital" for accelerating economies. He also pointed out in his lecture that to create schools that could provide the new work skills and cultivate competencies for the changing economy, it was not only the curriculum content that should be transformed, but also the organization of schools and their instructional strategies.

Prof. Levin was named one of the nine national leaders for "Innovation in Education" by New York Times in 1991, and received the Charles A. Dana Award for Pioneering Contributions to Education in 1992. He has published 14 books and close to 300 articles on education and economics, and for the last 11 years dedicated himself to the establishment of the Accelerated Schools Project — a national school reform project for accelerating the education of at-risk youngsters in the United States.

Orientation Day for Sixth Formers

Over 16,000 local students visited the campus on the Orientation Day for Sixth-Formers held on 4th October. The University's seven faculties as well as their teaching facilities were open to the visitors. Detailed information about some 40 undergraduate programmes was supplied. There were also open-air performances, video shows, exhibitions, and counselling sessions.

From 11.00 am to 12.00 noon, special talks to introduce the University to the sixth formers were held at the Sir Run Run Shaw Hall. Speakers included Vice-Chancellor Prof. Arthur K.C. Li, Provost-Chancellor Prof. Kenneth Young, University Registrar Prof. Richard M.W. Ho, and teacher of Chinese language and literature Prof. Lo Wai Luen. The talks were televised live on a video wall in the University mall so that more can share the views and experiences of the speakers.

The First Centre for Evidence Based Nursing in South East Asia

Telemedicine specialists from the Faculty of Medicine led by Prof. M.N. Hjelm visited the Faculty of Medicine of Shihezi University in Xinjiang and its First Affiliated Hospital last August, and signed a collaboration agreement on the development of telemedicine with the faculty on 1st September.

The Faculty of Medicine at Shihezi University was founded in the 1950s. Directly under the Ministry of Agriculture, it is an important facility for training medical professionals in the agricultural areas. It has contributed significantly towards the development of medical and health systems in Xinjiang and nurtured a large team of medical and health experts to serve different races in the province. The First Affiliated Hospital is a provincial hospital with more than 300,000 outpatient attendance and 13,000 admissions per year. Because of Xinjiang's remoteness and vastness, travelling is very time consuming and the development of technology and medical facilities is greatly hindered. The introduction of telemedicine to the area will facilitate the exchange of information between the province and the rest of China and other parts of the world. Patients will be able to receive sophisticated medical assistance immediately, and the standard of medical care in remote areas will improve.

Collaboration between the two faculties will focus on telemedicine technology for case diagnosis, training programmes, and conferences for academic exchange, technology instruction, information and data delivery, and assistance to equipment breakdown.

The Hong Kong centre was inaugurated at the Department of Nursing in partnership with the Prince of Wales Hospital on 24th September.

The Centre for Evidence Based Nursing is affiliated to the Joanna Briggs Institute of Evidence Based Nursing in Australia, which means local nurses can share and exchange, at the international level, information on the effectiveness of research based practice. All publications processed through the Joanna Briggs Institute will be made available to affiliated centres.

Prof. Ann Mackenzie, chairman of the Department of Nursing, points out that nurses in hospital wards and clinics do not have sufficient time on their hands to read current and advanced knowledge to review the latest research. The collaboration of experienced practising nurses with nurse researchers will thus provide a useful partnership for improvement and change in nursing.
More Victories to Forge a Fine Rowing Tradition

Each year the Hong Kong version of the Oxford Cambridge boat race is played between The Chinese University and the University of Hong Kong on the Shing Mun River in Sha Tin. At the 11th Inter-University Rowing Championship held on 21st September, CUHK rowers trounced their HKU counterparts in the men’s coxed eight 2,500-metre race and recaptured the championship they had lost last year. The CUHK women’s team also beat their opponent for the third time in three consecutive years in the coxed four 1,500-metre race and would keep the championship cup permanently. In the inter-university invitation race that followed, rowers from CUHK again proved themselves superior oarsmen and captured the invitation cup. Earlier on at the third Hong Kong Universities Rowing Championships held on 7th September, CUHK rowers also came first in the men’s and women’s doubles, and won the women’s overall championship.

The series of victories will certainly promote greater interest in the sport among CU students and build up a fine rowing tradition in the University. In fact two new shells have just been bought for the CUHK Rowing Club to better equip them for practice and competition. The two boats are donations from Dr. Thomas H.C. Cheung and were formally launched on 1st September.

Application in Daily Life, Fun with Narrative — English, The Dynamics of Nucleic Acid, Leadership Training, Audio Visual Production, The Unfathomable Galaxy — Astronomy, Understanding Psychology, the Performing Arts, Creative Thinking, and Fun with Biology. There were group games that emphasized innovation and creativity and workshops on special topics conducted by special guests. Prof. Alan Chan, a former British Royal Navy Officer, spoke on leadership training; Mr. Tung Wai Kit, senior lecturer at the Academy of Performing Arts, gave a talk entitled ‘Beyond the Stage’; Mr. Yung Ho Yin, a talented Chinese calligrapher, conducted a workshop on the appreciation of Chinese calligraphy. Visitors to the Faculty of Medicine, the Faculty of Engineering, the Art Museum, and the Marine Science Laboratory were also arranged. One very popular activity was the ‘Night Chat and Share’ session held every evening where participants could express their opinions and feelings freely.

As most participants found the summer camp experience rewarding, similar programmes will continue to be organized by the Faculty of Education. Programmes being planned include a series of training workshops for talented students, their parents, and teachers who are interested in gifted education, and a Saturday Gifted Programme organized on the campus at weekends for gifted secondary school students.

For the success of the 1997 Summer Gifted Programme, thanks are due to the departments of Psychology, social work, physics, chemistry, and computer science and engineering, whose faculty members and students served as course instructors, teaching assistants, and residential counsellors. Credit also goes to programme co-supervisors Profs David W. Chan and P.C. Cheung; programme coordinator Ms. Patricia Yeung; programme secretaries Ms. Ellie Ng and Priscilla Chan; and programme committee members Profs Cheng Pui-wan, Hau Kit-tai, Ho Kwok-hui, Dr. Caroline Kwok, Prof. Lau Sing, Prof. Lee Hong Wing, Prof. Leslie N.K. Lo, Dr. Elisabeth Rudowicz, Prof. Yang Chen Ning, Prof. Yau Shing Lap Chee.

Investiture of Ex-VC as Fellow of The Royal Society

Profs Charles K. Kao, former vice-chancellor of the University and currently honorary professor of engineering, has been elected as a fellow of the Royal Society. Founded in 1660, the Royal Society is one of the oldest and most prestigious academies of science in the Western world that promote the natural and applied sciences. The society consists of over 1,100 fellows, and Prof. Kao is the third fellow of Chinese origin linked with Hong Kong, besides Y.W. Kan and Tsui Lup Cheu.

What the Summer Gifted Programme is about

One hundred and two secondary school students gathered on the CUHK campus for a week of fun and challenge from 20th to 26th July. Nominated by their schools, these gifted and talented youngsters were participants of the first summer gifted programme organized by the Faculty of Education.

Gifted and talented students often have special needs that are not typically addressed in regular classrooms. Such needs include challenging instructional activities; a faster pace of learning; more abstract and conceptually complex theorizing; identification and confirmation of their talents, aptitudes, and abilities; talented and knowledgeable teachers who set high learning targets; interaction with supportive peers; exposure to diverse topics and disciplines; and opportunities for research, exploratory investigations, and creative ideas.

To provide adequate challenge and enrichment for gifted students in local secondary schools, the Faculty of Education launched a specially designed summer camp for them, the first of its kind in Hong Kong. Besides providing them with stimulating learning experiences, the one-week residential programme also created an atmosphere conducive to intensive interaction among equally capable peers so that participants can improve their social skills.

At the Summer Gifted Programme 97, participants were given opportunities to broaden their horizons and experience the importance of team work. Courses offered included Solving Mathematical Puzzles, Chinese Creative Writing, Creative Writing, Lab Problem Solving with PASCAL, Physics and its prefixes and the effectiveness of various treatment methods, and released their findings in a press conference held on 19th September and in the two-day symposium that followed. It was discovered that some 20 per cent of young children aged 3 to 5 would contract the disease and that dietary restriction and Chinese herbal medicine are commonly used to treat the condition. Specialists cannot yet agree on their effects but warn that a restrictive diet can lead to serious problems of malnutrition and obsessive eating behaviours. They recommend ultraviolet treatment using a new Narrow Band UVB Phototherapy Unit, which can filter out the most harmful ultraviolet rays and emit safer rays to effectively treat eczema and other skin diseases.

Symposium on Dermatology & Venereology

A topic eczema and many common skin problems such as psoriasis, fungal nail, and hand wart were the topics of discussion at Hong Kong’s first symposium on dermatology and venereology held on 20th and 21st September at the Prince of Wales Hospital. Jointly organized by the Division of Dermatology at the University’s Department of Medicine and Therapeutics, and the Social Hygiene Service of the Department of Health, the symposium also addressed the management of HIV diseases in Hong Kong.

Atopic eczema is a common allergic skin disease affecting young children in Hong Kong. Medical researchers at the University conducted a survey on its prevalence and the effectiveness of various treatment methods, and released their findings in a press conference held on 19th September and in the two-day symposium that followed. It was discovered that some 20 per cent of young children aged 3 to 5 would contract the disease and that dietary restriction and Chinese herbal medicine are commonly used to treat the condition. Specialists cannot yet agree on their effects but warn that a restrictive diet can lead to serious problems of malnutrition and obsessive eating behaviours. They recommend ultraviolet treatment using a new Narrow Band UVB Phototherapy Unit, which can filter out the most harmful ultraviolet rays and emit safer rays to effectively treat eczema and other skin diseases.

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Collaboration in Family Medicine with UBC

Prof. S.H. Lee, chairman of the Department of Community and Family Medicine, exchanges memorandum with Prof. C. Herbert of UBC.

A memorandum of understanding was signed between the University’s Department of Community and Family Medicine and the Department of Family Practice at the University of British Columbia, Canada on 25th September to facilitate collaboration in education, training and research. The two departments will exchange staff and students on teaching and research programmes, organize joint training courses, and cooperate in research projects.

Home-Grown Nurse Specialists

The Master of Nursing programme offered by the University will produce its first batch of graduates this year. Introduced in 1995, this two-year part-time self-financing programme is the first of its kind in Hong Kong for graduate nurses working in clinical settings. Its objective is to promote clinical excellence and research skills in patient care and to prepare graduate nurses for advanced clinical nursing. The programme offers courses in acute care, oncology, community and public health, midwifery, and mental health. Students are required to carry out research in the second year of study.

R & D in Local Enterprises: Does it Necessarily Increase Profit?

R & D Simply Put

Anyone who has lived in Hong Kong long enough must have noticed the change in the queueing system in many banks. In the past, there was a line in front of each teller, and the duration of your wait depended on how long it took the teller to serve the customer ahead of you, in other words, on luck. If your teller happened to be a service or if the customers in front of you had complicated transactions, your wait could very well be longer than someone who arrived at the bank later than you. Under the new system, customers queue up in one line for all the tellers in the bank. Those who come first, therefore, are always served first.

Credit for working out the improved queueing system goes to the Research and Development (R & D) departments of the banks. In fact all technology- or science-related ideas for products and services often come from the think-tank of researchers and scientists in the R & D departments of companies.

A Project to Gauge Local R & D Activities

R & D activities are expensive and misdirected expenditures can lead to disastrous consequences for the company. Is more always 'better' and the 'more' the 'better'? And under what circumstances? The answers can provide valuable insight for firms in Hong Kong. But until recently, little research on the quantity and cost-effectiveness of R & D activities in Hong Kong has been done, and unlike many other countries in Asia, Hong Kong has had no R & D index.

With a grant of HK$120,000 from the Government’s Industry Department in 1994, Prof. Alan C.B. Tse of the Department of Marketing conducted a research project on 'The Development of a Measurement of Scientific and Technological activities in Hong Kong' to examine the complex relationship between R & D expenditure and business performance and to establish an R & D index for Hong Kong.

Close to 4,000 Managers Contribute Useful Information

The subjects of the study were the general managers of 3,726 companies registered in Hong Kong. The companies were chosen on the basis of their size from the Central Register of Establishments, a central database maintained by the Census and Statistics Department. All 2,658 companies classified as 'big' on the database, i.e., having over 50 employees, were selected. And of the close to 30,000 'small' companies, i.e., those having 50 or fewer employees, 1,668 were selected by random sampling. A questionnaire was then sent to the general managers of the selected companies in the summer of 1994.

Questions concentrated on the relation between R & D and business performance as measured by sales growth rate, customer retention ability, and returns on investments. The subjects were asked to visualize their company's major competitor, compare the business performances of the two companies, and then indicate the results of that comparison on a scale from -3 to +3. Zero meant a draw, while a positive number meant the comparison was in their favour and vice versa. Questions were also asked on the coordination between R & D and marketing as it may have an impact on business performance. Do staff in the two departments communicate well? How often do they have meetings? Do R & D staff seem to understand customer needs? Another issue under scrutiny was the influence of the business environment: the impact of R & D expenditure on business performance as examined in the light of the overall rate of technological change in society, and the condition of the principal target market.

More R & D Expenditure, More Profit?

The results of the study show first of all that R & D expenditure is positively associated with business performance. In other words, more money spent on R & D means more profits for the company, more new products or services launched, and more loyal customers. Prof. Tse pointed out that this conclusion is in line with the findings of other studies conducted abroad.

The project's more in-depth study shows that if R & D communicates well with marketing, increased R & D expenditure is associated with higher levels of business performance. But when the rate of technological change is rapid, high levels of R & D expenditure may not necessarily boost business performance. This is because products and services easily become outdated at times of great technological change.

Project data show furthermore that when the principal target market is shrinking, increased R & D expenditure can lead to better business performance. When it is expanding, however, the positive relationship ceases to exist. An expanding market indicates that interest in the existing products or services is still high, hence, launching new products or services may not make a company perform better than its major competitor. Conversely, in a shrinking target market where customers are tiring of what is available, the novelty of new products or services is able to stimulate business performance.

Hong Kong's First R & D Index

The questionnaire also solicited information on the background of the companies, such as their size and whether they are Hong Kong companies, as well as data on the percentage of total expenditure companies allocate for applied research or basic research, the number of researchers companies employ for R & D purposes, the number of patents applied for, the number of patents granted, and the number of new products or services launched. The consolidation of such data by Prof. Tse ushered in Hong Kong's first R & D index, which is extremely useful to the government in understanding the scientific and technological activities carried out in Hong Kong and to formulate strategies to boost Hong Kong's technological capacities.

Piera Chen
The Chinese University Staff Cricket Club

From Pradip Nath, ELTU

It may come as a surprise to many that The Chinese University, in addition to its many extracurricular organizations, also has a Staff Cricket Club, and that, among all those organizations, the cricket club is arguably the most active.

The membership of the club is made up of staff from different faculties, and often includes spouses, friends and family members. Consequently, the get-togethers usually take on the atmosphere of a Sunday afternoon family outing, even though the sport itself is always played with befitting scholarly application and seriousness.

Given all the activity, one would think that the existence of the club would be well known to the larger campus community. That, unfortunately, is not the case, quite possibly because cricket does not enjoy the same kind of visibility on our campus as say, games like tennis and football, for which there are many facilities. The two fields on campus on which cricket could be played have never been made available to the club, and consequently, we have remained largely unknown.

This obscurity, however, does not extend to the larger Hong Kong social cricket scene: the Chinese University cricket team has been practising the sport on a regular basis every season for the last six years. Since its inception in 1992 the club has gone from strength to strength, so much so that last year, a plan to enter the team for the Hong Kong Sunday League Competition was seriously considered, but ultimately abandoned, when we realized the team did not have the right number of players who could commit themselves to the challenge of a rigorous weekly event.

Hence, for the time being, this club will continue to field only a social cricket team, playing about two matches a month. We will also be taking part in the Inter-Varsity Sixes Tournament, and the Hong Kong Eights Tournament. In other words, we have a busy season ahead of us.

Finally, the club had a thoroughly enjoyable season last year, and it is gearing up for the next, which is already upon us. We are looking forward to another exciting season; and with the aim of sharing that excitement, the club is opening its doors to new members. So, no matter whether you are an avid practitioner of the sport, or would simply like to support it, the Chinese University Cricket Club warmly welcomes you to join the club. You may register with any of the following members:

Prof. Robert Jones: Tel 26096886; Fax 26035139
Dr. Tony James: Tel 26096862; Fax 26035723
Mr. Pradip Nath: Tel 26097432; Fax 26035157

The Chinese University Cricket Club needs YOU!!
The University Council has decided to confer honorary doctorates on four distinguished persons at the University's 53rd congregation to be held on 11th December 1997. Dr. Li Ka-shing will be awarded the degree of Doctor of Laws, honoris causa; Prof. Wu Jieping and Prof. Yang Chee-ning will both receive the degree of Doctor of Social Science, honoris causa; and Dr. Deanna Lee Rudgard will be conferred the degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa.

The Shanghai Museum and the Art Museum of The Chinese University will jointly present an exhibition titled 'Themes and Variations: The Zisha Pottery of Chen Mingyuan' at the West-wing Galleries of the Art Museum from 25th October 1997 to 4th January 1998. Mr. Wang Qingzheng, Deputy Director of the Shanghai Museum, will officiate at the opening ceremony to be held on 24th October at 2.00 p.m. The Shanghai Museum and the Art Museum of The Chinese University will jointly present an exhibition titled 'Themes and Variations: The Zisha Pottery of Chen Mingyuan', which will feature 100 representative pieces for display at the exhibition. The exhibits are divided into four groups: objects for the scholar's table, archaistic vessels, tea wares, and trompe l'oeil pieces. The exhibit will be on display from 25th October to 4th January 1998.
統計學系統計學系林埜教授

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順利修訂了該系去年度的預算，且獲得了本年度的預算。

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港滬學術交流新紀元
本校與復旦合辦課程

會計學院與上海復旦大學管理學院及會計學院系與復旦大學管理學院合辦課程，讓港澳人士深入了解內地有關體制。

簽約儀式由會計學院院長何順文教授和復旦大學管理學院院長李榮根教授主持。會計學院指出，近年內地貿易及金融業不斷開放和改革深化，變其商業環境及香港的颇有不同。本次同心協力，為港澳人士深入了解內地有關體制，掌握最新發展動向，助力其職業發展。”

签约仪式由會計學院院長何順文教授和復旦大學會計學系系主任張文賢教授主持。何教授指出，近年內地貿易及金融業不斷開放和改革深化，變其商業環境及香港的颇有不同，本次同心協力，為港澳人士深入了解內地有關體制，掌握最新發展動向，助力其職業發展。”

在香港的學習期間，上午以課堂講授為主，下午為實地參觀考察，訪問政府機構、金業機構、工商企業組織及監管機構，使學員直接接觸到現時內地的工商、會計及金融體制。該院曾於去年及本年初與北京大學管理學院舉辦過兩項類似課程，深獲學員好評。

課程為期四週，首三週於北京舉行，最後一週到上海作實地考察，讓學員直接接觸到內地的工商、會計及金融體制。該院曾於去年及本年初與北京大學管理學院舉辦過兩項類似課程，深獲學員好評。

紫外光治療儀 皮膚病者佳訊

內科及藥物治療學系最近添置了全港首部紫外光治療儀，以窄頻帶紫外光進行「照療法」，對付濕疹等皮膚病。

該系調查顯示，異位性濕疹是香港常見的皮膚病，兩成至三成五至七歲的幼童會患上。濕疹雖然非致命的疾病，卻會嚴重影響患者的生活及社交。忌口是港人用以治療濕疹的傳統方法之一，但醫療效果在西方醫學界仍有爭議。而且，忌口後可能引致營養不良，影響兒童的發育，並非最好的治療方法。

內科及藥物治療學系陳衍里教授表示，紫外光治療儀適用於对付牛皮癬、濕疹和個別種類的皮膚癌，無需藥物輔助，而且不會導致病人皮膚疼痛或生皺。

該系與衛生署社會衛生科學院於九月一日由張博士和李國章校長主持，全港首批護理學碩士共十七人將於今年畢業。他們在九月十五日出席專題研究報告會，闡述他們的畢業論文，內容包括手術後的鎮痛處理、對照顧長期精神病患者的護理人員的要求、初生嬰兒深切治療護理，以及高血壓患者健康教育課程評估等。

看！北京來的千羽鶴

北京醫科大學的學生送贈一千九百九十七隻千羽鶴予本校，慶祝香港回歸中華人民共和國。該批千羽鶴在邵逸夫堂展出，吸引不少師生駐足欣賞。
偉倫講座
飛躍經濟中的躍進教育

著名教育經濟學者Prof. Henry M. Levin指出，香港學校著重背誦的傳統教學方法已不合時宜，無法配合社會發展的需要。

Prof. Levin上月以偉倫教授身分到訪本校，並於廿六日假何添樓B6演講廳主持公開講座，講題為「飛躍經濟中的躍進教育」。

他說，隨着香港經濟與內地經濟的關係漸趨緊密，金融業和服務業佔香港經濟的比例愈大，而香港的工業也會轉向生物技術、軟件、資訊科技等行業，生產一些貼近市場需求的產品。

他表示，在新的經濟模式下，會有新的工作需求；在分秒配合市場變化的行業，講求僱員的創意、決斷、紓解難題的能力和團隊精神等等。如果香港教育要創造這些無形資本，不單課程內容要改變，學校的組織和教學方法也必須革新，多向成功的企業學習，讓教師和學生參與校政決策並承擔後果。

Prof. Levin是史丹福大學高等教育及經濟學講座教授，過去十一年一直致力在美國開拓「躍進學校計劃」——一個全國性的學校改革計劃，旨在提高靑少年尤其邊緣少年的學習成果。美國、澳洲及巴西共有一千間中小學參與了該類計劃。

中大通訊 1 第壹四期 一九九七年十月十九日