The University's 53rd congregation for the conferment of degrees took place on Thursday, 11th December 1997 at the University Mall. Presiding at the ceremony was Dr. the Honourable Anson Chan, Chancellor of the University and Acting Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. Of the 4,203 degrees awarded that morning, 72 were PhDs, five were MDs, 604 were master’s degrees, and 3,522 bachelor’s degrees. The year saw the graduation of the first batch of Master of Nursing and Master of Architecture students.

This year honorary doctorates were awarded to four distinguished persons. Dr. Li Ka-shing, eminent entrepreneur and chairman and managing director of Cheung Kong (Holdings) Limited and chairman of Hutchison Whampoa Limited, was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. Prof. Wu Jie-ping, internationally renowned urologist and honorary president of Beijing Medical University and honorary director of its Institute of Urology, was conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Science. Also receiving the honorary degree of Doctor of Science was Prof. Yang Chen-ning, Nobel laureate in physics and distinguished professor-at-large of The Chinese University. Dr. Deanna Lee Rudgard, philanthropist and a director of Hysan Development Company Limited, received the honorary degree of Doctor of Social Science. Their citations were written and delivered by Prof. Serena Jin and Prof. Andrew Parkin, the public orators.

Prof. Yang, who was originally scheduled to address the congregation on behalf of the honorary graduates, was unable to attend the ceremony due to health reasons. His speech was delivered by Prof. Andrew Parkin.

In his speech, Prof. Yang said he is 'cautiously optimistic' about the future of Hong Kong. He believes that with its wealth of human resources, its excellent geographical location, and its ability to face challenges, the HKSAR is well-poised to make use of the multifarious possibilities that future science and technology will open up for humankind.

On the same day, the four colleges, the Part-time Degree Programmes, and the Graduate School also held graduation ceremonies for their students.
Brain Tumour Expert Elucidates the Character of the fos Oncogene

Prof. Thomas Curran, founding chairman of the Department of Developmental Neurobiology of St. Jude's Children Research Hospital in the US, gave a lecture on 19th December 1997 in his capacity as Wei Lun Visiting Professor to the University. In his lecture entitled 'Transcription Factors, Oncoenerges and the Brain: the Good, the Bad and the Ugly', Prof. Curran discussed some of the work his laboratory conducted on the characterization of the fos oncogene. Prof. Curran is credited with the identification of fos, the oncogene responsible for the induction of bone tumours in mice by the FBJ murine sarcoma virus, in 1982. Continuous research conducted by Prof. Curran not only opened a new area of signal transduction research, but also provided new approaches to drug discovery and insights into diseases such as epilepsy and neurodegenerative disorders.

Prof. Curran graduated from the University of Edinburgh in 1978 and obtained his Ph.D. in 1982 from University College, London, for studies conducted at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Laboratories. He subsequently underwent postdoctoral training at the Salk Institute in San Diego. Prof. Curran spent approximately 10 years at the Roche Institute of Molecular Biology, holding the position of associate director from 1992 to 1995, after which he moved to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, as the founding chairman of the Department of Developmental Neurobiology. Prof. Curran is also a professor in the Department of Anatomy and Neurobiology at the University of Tennessee.

Prof. Curran is the recipient of many awards and honours associated with neuroscience and cancer research. He is currently chairman of the publications committee of the American Association for Cancer Research, and a member of the NCI Initial Review Group Committee. In his present position at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Prof. Curran is building a research effort in basic neurosciences and is co-leader of a developing programme on brain tumours.

Professor of Fine Arts Looks at China's Art Education

From self-learning and artistic transmission from master to disciple, the modes of art education in China have since the mid-19th century changed to formal training at art institutions, according to Prof. Mayching Kao, professor of fine arts and director of the Art Museum.

After professorial inaugural lecture, 'Art Education in China: from Tradition to Modernity', delivered on 5th December 1997, Prof. Kao pointed out that modern art education came about in the late Qing period with the introduction of Western technology and institutions to China. In particular the development of modern art education was divided into four phases: the preparatory phase (1850 to 1902), the foundation phase (1902 to 1911), the developing phase (1912 to 1949), and the divergent phase (1949 to present). Citing the experiences of major artists as well as their roles in art education, Prof. Kao elucidated the relationship between art and education in China.

Prof. Kao concluded the lecture with a description of the present situation of art education in China, pointing out that the education and objectives and curricula of the art institutions as well as the qualification and methodology adopted by the teachers have direct bearing on the quality of art graduates and on artistic development.

Prof. Kao graduated from The Chinese University in 1967. She then went abroad to the US where she obtained her MA from the University of New Mexico and her doctorate in oriental art history from Stanford University. Prof. Kao joined the University's Department of Fine Arts in 1982, and has been director of the Art Museum since 1981. She was appointed professor of fine arts in August 1994.

Study on Falls and Mobility Decline Receives Gerontology Award

The project 'Health Risks, Health Changes and Quality of Life in the Hong Kong Elderly Cohort: Risk Factors for Falls and Mobility Decline' was recently awarded the Hong Kong Association of Gerontology Tenth Anniversary Award for Outstanding Research in Gerontology. Members of the Faculty of Medicine involved in the project are Prof. Suzanne C. Ho, the principal investigator, and six other team members — Prof. Jean Woo, Dr. Yuen Yiu Keung, Dr. Joseph Lau, Ms. S.G. Chan, Ms. Aprille Sham, and Prof. Lee Siu-hung. A paper on the project was presented in the Fifth Annual Congress of Gerontology on 29th November 1997.

Service to the Community and International Organizations

- Prof. Lee Kam-hon, professor of marketing, had been appointed by the Chief Executive as a member of the Advisory Committee on Social Work Training and Manpower Planning for two years from 1st November 1997.
- Prof. Chan Wing-sah, professor in the Department of Music, had been appointed by the Chief Executive as a member of the Copyright Tribunal for two years from 1st December 1997.
- Prof. Ching Pak-chung, dean of engineering, had been appointed by the Chief Executive as chairman of the Advisory Committee on Social Work Training and Manpower Planning for two years from 1st December 1997.
- Prof. Yeung Yue-man, head of Shaw College and director of the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, had been invited to be a member of the International Scientific Advisory Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Prof. Simio Ho, professor in the School of Accountancy, had been appointed guest professor by Peking University from May 1997.
- Dr. Yeung Siu-hung, dean of engineering, had been appointed by the Chief Executive as a member of the Technical Education of the Vocational Training Council from 1st October to 31st December 1997.
- Dr. Wan Chi-sen, director of the School of Continuing Studies, had been appointed by the Secretary for Education and Manpower as a member of the Committee on Management and Supervisory Training of the Vocational Training Council from 1st October to 31st December 1997.
- Dr. Yuen Yiu Keung, head of Shaw College and director of the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, had been invited to be a member of the International Scientific Advisory Board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).
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- Prof. Simon Ho, professor in the School of Accountancy, had been appointed as vice-president of the International Association for Accounting Education and Research (IAAER).
- Dr. Eva Hon, director of the Research Centre for Translation, had been appointed guest professor by Peking University from May 1997.

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"Excellent" Research Project

Touching: What Goes on Under the Skin?
Investigating the Role of Merkel Cells in the Sensory Perception of Touch

Our life is normally dominated by our visual and aural senses. We believe only what we see and hear, often neglecting our sense of touch. Yet, new born mammals depend on touch to find their mother’s milk, nocturnal animals and the blind feel their way around their surroundings. Our sense of touch is extremely sensitive. The touch receptors in the skin of our finger tips respond to the slightest stimuli on the skin’s surface.

How Touch Is Sensed

How are stimuli on the skin transmitted to the central nervous system? Below the epidermis are different types of mechano-receptors important for the sensory perception of touch. When stimulated, they convert the stimulus into electrical nerve signals which pass through the afferent nerve fibres into the central nervous system.

Do Merkel Cells Relay Messages?

Located just below the epidermis are also clusters of Merkel cells, which form a system with afferent nerve fibres. Together they are known as Merkel cell mechano-receptors. The junctions between Merkel cells and nerve terminals show all characteristic features of synapses - structures that transmit information from one cell to another within the nervous system. It has therefore been postulated that Merkel cells are the actual sites of mechanoelectrical transduction converting stimuli into action potential.

The well-protected location of Merkel cells — between the horny epidermis and the firm collagenous fibres of the cutis and subcutaneous tissue — has made them virtually inaccessible for direct observation or measurement with microelectrodes. As a result there has been much controversy about the role of Merkel cells.

Insight from Mechanisms of Sound Transmission

In the inner ear the mechanical vibrations of sound are converted into nerve signals in specialized cells called hair cells, which have a number of similarities with Merkel cells. It has been found that in the transduction process, voltage gated channels are opened up in the cell's membrane. The role of Merkel cells in mechano-electrical transduction may be proved unequivocally by measuring transmembrane ion currents in the cell's membrane. The role of Merkel cells in mechano-electrical transduction may be proved unequivocally by measuring transmembrane ion currents in the cell's membrane. The role of Merkel cells in mechano-electrical transduction may be proved unequivocally by measuring transmembrane ion currents in the cell's membrane. The role of Merkel cells in mechano-electrical transduction may be proved unequivocally by measuring transmembrane ion currents in the cell's membrane.

Successful Isolation of Merkel Cell Mechano-receptors for Investigation

Prof. W.H. Yung said, 'The greatest difficulty we had to overcome was in isolating normal and functioning Merkel cell mechano-receptors from mammals. It had never been done before.' The team found the solution to their problem in rats whose whiskers or sinus hairs are abundant in Merkel cell mechano-receptors. Moreover, Merkel cell mechano-receptors in whiskers are, comparatively speaking, easier to isolate once the whisker including the root has been carefully excised from the animal. Despite the absence of research literature on the subject, Chan succeeded after repeated attempts in removing the outer layers of the whisker's root with the help of a dissection microscope. The isolated Merkel cells and relevant nerve fibres are covered only by a thin glassy membrane which does not interfere with optical measurements (figure 1).

Prof. Yung believed that the development of this novel preparation is one of the factors contributing to the project’s excellent rating.

Increased Calcium Concentration in Cells Indicates Transduction Function

The team then measured the concentration of Ca2+ in Merkel cells using a technique called microfluorimetry. Merkel cells were loaded with Ca2+ sensitive dyes and then stimulated mechanically. The difference in Ca2+-concentration before and after the stimulus was measured by the dye's shift on the absorption or emission spectrum in the ultraviolet or visible ranges. At the same time, to confirm the receptor function of Merkel cell mechano-receptors, Senok made electrophysiological recordings of receptor responses. Samples were also sent to the University of Hamburg to observe whether the ultrastructure of the isolated Merkel cells was intact. Test results demonstrated that the Ca2+-concentration in Merkel cells increased after direct mechanical stimulation (figure 2), and was associated with receptor responses. These preliminary findings serve as evidence for the direct involvement of Merkel cells in the mechano-electric transduction process.

Future Studies

The responses of the Merkel cells to mechanical stimulation vary greatly. Prof. Yung explained that this is not surprising because it is difficult to apply the same pressure to each of the few cells under the microscope. Besides, such mechanically induced increases in calcium may be brief and vary localized. To achieve greater accuracy, the researchers replaced mechanical stimulation with stimulation by Adenosine Triphosphate (ATP) or high concentrations of Potassium Chloride (K+). The conditions induced by these chemicals better mimic the effects of natural stimulation. The results are found to be consistent with those obtained by mechanical stimulation (figure 2).

Cells within the nervous system are shown to transmit information through changes in ion currents in the cell's membrane. The role of Merkel cells in mechano-electrical transduction may be proved unequivocally by measuring transmembrane ion currents in the cell's membrane. The role of Merkel cells in mechano-electrical transduction may be proved unequivocally by measuring transmembrane ion currents in the cell's membrane. The role of Merkel cells in mechano-electrical transduction may be proved unequivocally by measuring transmembrane ion currents in the cell's membrane.

Prof. W.H. Yung graduated with first class honours from the Department of Biology of The Chinese University in 1985, and obtained his M.Phil. in physiology from CUHK two years later. He then received a Commonwealth Scholarship to pursue doctoral studies at Oxford University, receiving his D.Phil. in 1990. He was subsequently granted a Croucher Foundation Fellowship to stay an extra year as postdoctoral fellow. Prof. Yung joined the University's Department of Physiology as lecturer in 1991. His main research interests lie in the receptor function of Merkel cells, and synaptic physiology in the central nervous system.

Prof. K. Baumann obtained his MD from the University of Hamburg, Germany, in 1971, and his Habilitation (or Ph.D.) from the same university in 1978. He joined The Chinese University as senior lecturer in 1981, becoming reader in 1991. Prof. Baumann left the University and returned to Hamburg University in 1996.
New Council Members

- Mr. Roger K.H. Lok and Mr. Robert Ng have been nominated by the Chancellor, in accordance with Statute 11.1(k) and 11.4 of The Chinese University of Hong Kong Ordinance (the Ordinance), as members of the University Council for three years from 5th December 1997.

- The Honorable Chan Kam-lam, Dr. the Honourable Law Cheung-kwok, and Dr. the Honourable Tang Siu-long have been elected members of the Provisional Legislative Council, in accordance with Statute 11.1(i) and 11.4 of the Ordinance, as members of the University Council from 5th December 1997.

New Deans of Engineering

- Prof. P.C. Ching of the Department of Electronic Engineering has been elected Dean of Engineering for three years from 1st January 1998.

New Academic Programmes

- The University Senate recently approved the introduction of the following new programmes in the academic year 1998-99:

  - Master of Science Programme in Information and Technology Management (part-time, self-financed)
  - Master of Science Programme in Business Economics (part-time, self-financed)
  - Doctor of Philosophy Programme in Pharmacy
  - Master of Science Programme in Language, Literature and Cultural Studies
  - Master of Science Programme in Social Sciences
  - Master of Science Programme in Interdisciplinary Studies

- The monthly and cumulative returns for the month of November 1997 in the Designated Investment Funds of Staff Superannuation Schemes are as follows:

  - Bank Deposit -0.64%
  - Balanced -1.29%

- The University Library System New Service

- University Library System New Service

- New Long Leave Scheme for Teaching Staff

- The University Council has recently approved the implementation of a new long leave scheme entitled 'Long Leave Scheme for Terms of Service (A) and Equivalent Teaching Staff' from 1st January 1998. The main features of the new scheme as compared to existing arrangements under the 1990 scheme are as follows:

  - (a) Long leave may be accumulated up to a maximum of six months at any time without prior application.
  - (b) There is no yearly gratuity payment in lieu of untaken long leave.

- The 1998 scheme is applicable to Terms of Service (A) and equivalent teaching appointments whose appointments are approved by the University on or after 1st January 1998.

- There will be no change to the long leave provisions for serving teaching appointees. Enquiries may be directed to the Personnel Office at Ext. 7285/7288.

- The monthly and cumulative returns for the month of November 1997 in the Designated Investment Funds of Staff Superannuation Schemes are as follows:

  - Bank Deposit -0.79%
  - Balanced 0.73%

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- University Library System New Service

- New Academic Programmes

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- New Long Leave Scheme for Teaching Staff

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Information in this section can only be accessed with CWEM password.

若要瀏覽本部分的資料，請須輸入中大校園電子郵件密碼。
一四位教授获国家自然科学奖——

本校四位教授荣获一九九七年国家自然科学奖。该奖是中国自然科学界的最高荣誉，奖分四个等级，每年评选一次。四位教授的研究成果被推荐为国家自然科学奖一等奖，其研究成果将为中国科学的发展作出重要贡献。

校务进修学院与澳洲维多利亚科技大学最近签订合作协议，于本年三月在香港开设商科课程。

比较哲学研讨会——

哲学系与中国文化研究所共同主办“比较哲学研讨会”，邀请国内外知名学者参加，深入讨论中国哲学与西方哲学的差异。

校园十景之九——

校内风景如画，四季如诗。在美丽的大学校园中，您可以尽情享受自然的宁静与和谐。
羅進教授演論中國美術敎育

藝術講座教授羅進教授指出，中國美術敎育的概況，已從傳統的師徒及自學方式，改變為高門的美術敎育模式。

羅教授於五月一日出席在香港文化中心舉行的中國美術敎育研討會，以《中國美術敎育的現況》為題，對中國美術敎育的現況做一概況。他表示，中國美術敎育的歷史悠久，從師徒相授的傳統，到現代的美術學校，中國美術敎育已發展到一個新的階段。

羅教授指出，中國美術敎育的現況，主要有以下幾個特點：

1. 教育系統的多元化：中國美術敎育的系統，從傳統的師徒相授，到現代的美術學校，已經發展到一個多元化的系統。
2. 教育內容的現代化：中國美術敎育的內容，從傳統的師徒相授，到現代的美術學校，已經發展到一個現代化的內容。
3. 教育方法的現代化：中國美術敎育的教學方法，從傳統的師徒相授，到現代的美術學校，已經發展到一個現代化的教學方法。

羅教授認為，中國美術敎育的現況，已經發展到一個新的階段，需要我們去研究和探索。
第五十三屆大會
署理特首主禮
頒授學位四千餘

本校上月十一日在大學廣場舉行第五十三屆大會，頒授榮譽學位學士、高級學位及學士學位。典禮由大學監督、香港特別行政區署理行政長官陳方安生博士主持。

本屆學術については四千二百零三人破歷年紀錄領受學士學位者三千五百廿二人，碩士學位者六百零四人，醫學博士學位者五人，哲學博士學位者七十二人，當中包括首批翻譯文學士、體育運動科學教育學士、機械與自動化工程學士、食品及營養科學學士、護理學士和建築學士。

國際知名企業家、長江實業(集團)有限公司董事局主席兼董事局經理及和記黃埔有限公司董事局主席李嘉誠博士獲授榮譽法學博士學位；享譽國際的泌尿科專家、北京醫科大學名譽校長及該校泌尿外科研究所名譽所長吳階平教授，以及著名物理學家、諾貝爾物理學獎得獎人、本校博文講座教授楊振寧教授獲授榮譽理學博士學位；名譽董事及會計師黃美儀獲授榮譽社會科學學士學位。

四位傑出人士的讚辭由翻譯系金聖華教授和英文系姜安道教授撰寫並宣讀。楊振寧教授因身體不適，未能親領學位，其講辭由姜安道教授代為宣讀。楊教授在講辭中表達了他對香港未來三十年發展的看法——審慎樂觀。他指出，一批又一批受過良好教育的年輕人接連湧現，可為香港灌注活力，持久不竭。再者，由於中國經濟發展蓬勃，香港的繁榮可望保持。他表示，二十世紀向全人類啓示了科技能大大提高生产力，是前人不可以想像的，這種認知將帶給人類新的動力，進一步推動世界各地在香港奪二十一世紀的發展。

同日各成員書院、兼讀學士學位課程和硏究院也分別為其所屬之本科生和碩士生舉行畢業典禮，由書院院長、副校長廖柏偉教授和副校長兼硏究院院長楊綱凱教授主持。

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