Faculty of Education Formalizes Collaboration with School Sector

The Centre for University and School Partnership was officially inaugurated on 3rd November. The centre, established by the Faculty of Education, will tap the know-how of educationalists at CUHK and cooperate with the school sector in Hong Kong to find practical solutions to problems related to teaching and learning, and engineer strategies for improvement at kindergarten, primary, and secondary levels, through research, innovation, and experimentation. The centre will also generate models in knowledge transfer for future university-school partnership schemes.

Officiating at the inauguration ceremony of the centre were Mrs. Fanny Law, Director of Education of the HKSAR government, Mr. Tai Hay-lap, member of the Education Commission, and Prof. Arthur K.C. Li, vice-chancellor of the University.

Centre for the Advancement of E-Commerce Technologies Opens

The Centre for the Advancement of E-Commerce Technologies (AECT) was officially set up on campus by the Faculty of Engineering on 4th November.

With state-of-the-art facilities and expertise from the Faculty of Engineering, AECT will assume a crucial role in the advancement of e-commerce technologies and applications. It will conduct basic and applied research in major areas of e-commerce technologies, which include the Internet and information systems technologies, and enterprise solutions technologies.

A major focus of the centre’s activities is to develop ‘E-Commerce Pilots’ with local firms that are committed to adopting e-commerce technologies and setting up business operations on the Internet. Such pilot projects include:

- Integrated Trading Environment Project, with The Securities and Futures Commission of Hong Kong (SFC);
- E-Banking and Securecard Project, with Citibank, Hong Kong; and
- Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) and Strong Cryptography Project, with Hong Kong Post.

The centre was made possible by the generous sponsorship of various business corporations including The Oracle Systems Hong Kong Limited and the Sun Microsystems of California Limited.

Officiating at the opening ceremony of the AECT were Mr. Chan Tak Hay, the Secretary for Trade and Industry of the government, Prof. Arthur K.C. Li, vice-chancellor of CUHK, Mr. Arica Poon of Oracle Systems Hong Kong Limited, and Mr. Danny Tam of The Sun Microsystems of California Limited.

United College Celebrates 43rd Anniversary

A ceremony to mark the forty-third anniversary of United College was held on 22nd October at Sir Run Run Shaw Hall. Mr. Shum Choi Sang, chairman of the United College Board of Trustees, and The Honourable Ms. Elsie Leung, Secretary for Justice of the HKSAR government, officiated at the ceremony and addressed the assembly. They also presented prizes to the college’s students.

Shortly after the ceremony, the official opening of the Shum Choi Sang United College Archives and an anniversary party took place on the college campus. The archives contain over 190 items including documents, letters, bulletins, photographs, newspaper cuttings, prizes and souvenirs collected through the years. At the anniversary party, the college’s Kung Fu Club performed a lion dance and a 40-pound birthday cake donated by the college staff association was cut. This was followed by an anniversary luncheon held at the Staff Common Room attended by trustees, donors, alumni, staff members, and other guests.

In the evening over a thousand guests and students attended the traditional Thousand People’s Feast held by United students on the college campus.

HIV-related Research Wins Support

The Council for the AIDS Trust Fund recently approved two grants in support of HIV-related research at the University:

- Behavioural Surveillance of the Sexually Related Behaviours of the General Chinese Female Population in Hong Kong (HK$333,000)
  Principal investigator: Dr. Joseph Lau, Centre for Clinical Trials and Epidemiological Research
- Compliance with Complex Medication Regimes in HIV/AIDS Patients (HK$345,328)
  Principal investigator: Prof. Alexander Molassiotis, Department of Nursing

Chung Chi College Celebrates 48th Anniversary

Chung Chi College organized a series of celebratory events jointly with its student union to celebrate its forty-eighth anniversary in October. Highlights included the Founders’ Day Thanksgiving Service and the Thousand People’s Feast on 29th October.

Prof. Chen Te, former professor at the Department of Philosophy and Chung Chi College Dean of General Education, was invited to be the guest speaker at the thanksgiving service. The traditional Thousand People’s Feast, now in its 23rd year, was held at the Lingnan Stadium and was attended by an impressive number of students, staff, and alumni.

Meanwhile the College Student Union organized a Student Festival which included a carnival, a tug-of-war, a round-the-campus run, a dance competition, a singing contest, and a cooking competition.
Getting Prepared for the New Millennium

The Computer Services Centre (CSC)/Information Technology Service Unit (ITSU) first started to work on the transition to the new millennium for the centrally managed computer systems and networks in August 1997. By July 1999, the checking, modification, and testing of all centrally managed computer systems and networks were completed. A set of contingency plans have also been formulated to minimize any adverse impact in case something should go wrong during the transition.

CSC/ITSU Contingency Plans

Below are some of the contingency plans:

1. A full backup for all the data of the centrally managed production systems will be performed on the following dates:
   - Computer systems for academic, research and support use (e.g., the campus-wide e-mail system, CUHK web server, data library and academic application software server, high-performance computing systems etc.)
   - The backup will be performed from 00:00 on 25th December to 24:00 on 31st December 1999. This means that any data modified by users during this period would probably not be archived in the backup media.
   - Computer systems for administrative use (including the admissions system, student record system, personnel system, payroll system, superannuation system, SAP accounting system, student accounts system, and new funding model system)
   - The backup will start from 00:00 to 24:00 on 31st December 1999. This means that any data modified by users during this period would probably not be archived in the backup media.

2. A Y2K Information Centre (YIC) will operate from 00:00 on 1st January to 24:00 on 3rd January 2000. Staff members can contact the YIC should they need general Y2K information or have any questions on the operation status of centrally managed computer systems and networks. Details of the operation of the YIC and the related contact telephone numbers will be announced on the Y2K homepage (http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/y2k) in early December.

3. Comprehensive systems checking will be performed between 18:00 on 31st December 1999 and 24:00 on 1st January 2000. During the comprehensive systems check, some systems will inevitably be shut down from time to time and hence be unavailable. Therefore, avoid scheduling important computing activities during this period.

4. No new systems will be introduced one month before and after 1st January 2000 in order to help isolate and resolve problems related to Y2K if any should arise.

5. No professional staff and technical staff will take leave during the first two weeks of the year 2000 to ensure there is sufficient manpower to deal with unforeseen problems.

Your Contingency Plan

No one really knows what will happen when the clock ticks into the new millennium. However, one thing's for sure — if you have established a contingency plan for your business functions, the damage will be minimized should these functions fail to work. The single most important thing to do is to make a full backup copy of all your data by 31st December 1999. This is because problematic applications may damage your data at the turn of the millennium, and this backup will be the best protection for your data should that happen.

Go to http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/y2k for the latest on Y2K.

CU Press

Bedside Manner: Hospital and Health Care in Hong Kong

Bedside Manner: Hospital and Health Care in Hong Kong, written by Robin Hutchison, relates the differences in Hong Kong's hospital and health care service before and after the establishment of the Hospital Authority.

Up to the mid-1980s Hong Kong depended on government and subvented hospitals as well as a number of private institutions to serve its more than six million population. Gross overcrowding of hospital wards, faltering administration, harassed and overworked staff, unsatisfactory service to the public demanded urgent change. Overseas experts, invited to propose reforms, came up with a challenging solution which the Hong Kong government decided to adopt. This book tells how Hong Kong acquired a new hospital administration in an attempt to reform a system rapidly running out of control.

Bedside Manner: Hospital and Health Care in Hong Kong is a source book for medical staff and administrators. It will also serve the general public as valuable background reading for understanding the recent Harvard report.

ISBN 962-201-798-3, paperback, 290 pages, HK$195
A People’s Man —
New Chair of Anaesthesia and
Intensive Care Puts Patients, Staff,
and Students First

Department Heads Series

Nowadays it may be unthinkable to have a surgical operation without anaesthesia. Yet, painful and barbaric as it may seem, this was quite the case only one and a half centuries ago.

In Hong Kong, there are estimates of being about five to six hundred thousand surgical operations a year, most of which would be largely impossible without anaesthesia.

Prof. Tony Gin, new chair of the Department of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care at the Faculty of Medicine, said that as a medical specialty, anaesthesia is much broader now than when it was still very much associated with surgery. Only about 60 per cent of the work of a modern anaesthetic department is related to surgeons in the operating room. The other 40 per cent is related to acute and chronic pain medicine; perioperative medicine, obstetric analgesia in the labour ward; and services to physicians, radiologists, and other medical personnel requiring the administration of anaesthesia for various procedures. Intensive care medicine has evolved as a separate specialty, looking after adult and paediatric surgical and medical patients.

Patient Safety and Satisfaction a Major Concern

The drugs anaesthetists use to suppress unwanted responses from patients such as pain and movement are toxic, and often lethal. They produce different effects in different patients depending on factors such as age, the nature and extent of illness, whether they are pregnant, etc. ‘People sometimes think that receiving an anaesthetic is very simple and without much risk, no different from, say, going to the dentist. In fact, there is a significant mortality from anaesthesia because the drugs involved are dangerous and the patients may not be in the best of health,’ said Prof. Gin. Fortunately, he added, the safety standards and training for anaesthesia and intensive care in Hong Kong are among the highest in the world.

A common misconception about anaesthetics is that they have minimal contact with the patient, that anaesthetists are there simply to administer the drug. In fact, anaesthetists talk extensively with their patients both pre- and post-operatively. It is important that we communicate with patients, convey to them information about their health and their treatments, and give them some appreciation of what happens to them when they come to the medical system,’ said Prof. Gin.

A major trend in anaesthesia over the last decade has been the increasing emphasis on patient safety and satisfaction. According to Prof. Gin, anaesthetists play the role of the patients’ advocates, always trying hard to put their patients’ interest first and spending a lot of time to make sure that they can be anaesthetized safely.

Staff Morale Essential for Research & Teaching Excellence

Research is also very important in ensuring safety because it is often concerned with finding better and safer ways to administer drugs. Prof. Gin said his department has regularly won prizes from the Australian College of Anaesthetists for its research, mainly in aspects of pharmacology. His own research interests are anaesthetic pharmacology, anaesthesia during pregnancy, and neuroanaesthesia.

He hopes that the department will maintain its research output and excellence in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching, both of which are highly rated in the faculty and the territory. He is also determined that it will continue to provide learning opportunities for anaesthetists from the mainland and acquire wider international recognition for its research in a variety of subspecialties, in particular, obstetric anaesthesia and neuroanaesthesia. But above all, he wants to make sure that his staff are happy working in the department.

He is ‘in one sense, more interested in having good relations within the department than looking at external markers of success’ because it is only when staff enjoy working with one another in the department that they can contribute to the progress of the department as a whole.

Teaching Methods Depend on Students’ Personality

Prof. Gin believes that the objective of a medical education is to equip the students with the skills and education needed to be good doctors, who should be able to communicate with their patients and earn their respect.

Teaching is about students. Clearly, the way we teach is dependent on the personality of the local student audience should be taken into account, as he has learnt from having taught at the department for eight years from 1988 to 1996. ‘Experience has been that students in Hong Kong prefer to have more didactic teaching. This may influence the feasibility of certain kinds of teaching, and may make it harder to institute some of the measures which are considered more educationally rewarding because the local students may find them threatening,’ he pointed out. Any approach to teaching, therefore, should be implemented with care and constant attention to its effect on the students.

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Medicine is about patients; administration is about staff, and teaching is about students. Clearly for this new department chairman, the human element is of paramount importance in all aspects of his job.

Piera Chen
新任講座教授

Professorial Appointment

大學宣布委任程伯中教授為電子工程學講座教授，任期由一九九九年十一月一日起生效。

程教授在美國伊利諾伊大學攻讀電子工程學，先後於一九七八及一九八五年獲工學學士及工學院學士學位。他在伊利諾伊州立大學香檳分校從事研究工作，一九八五年獲選為美國電子學工程師學會院士，同年加入本校為電子學系講座教授，後於一九九四年晉升為高級講座教授，九四年為教授。

程教授為多個專業學會的院士或資深會員，並為學術期刊的編委或副編委。近年的研究興趣包括通訊理論與數字處理、語音分析、合成和識別等。

Prof. Ching Pak-chung has been appointed professor of electronic engineering from 1st November 1999.

Prof. Ching obtained his B.Eng. and Ph.D. from the University of Liverpool in 1977 and 1981 respectively.

He was lecturer in the Department of Electronic Engineering of the Hong Kong Polytechnic from 1982 to 1984. He joined the Department of Electronics of The Chinese University as lecturer in 1984, and was promoted to senior lecturer rank in 1990, and reader in 1994. He was elected Dean of Engineering in 1998.

Prof. Ching's research interests include automatic speech recognition for Cantonese, adaptive digital signal processing for time delay estimation, geolocation by satellites, and blind signal estimation using high order statistics.

宣布事項

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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University-wide Virus Protection Programme

From CSC/ITSU:

Virus protection is the key to the reliability of our computer systems, where most of our daily work takes place. The University has provided a budget for a central antivirus site license — Trend Enterprise Solution. The license includes protection for all micro-computers and servers at the University, as well as for the home computers of staff and students.

Software installation and configuration in various departments and units have begun since 8th September. Every staff member and student (undergraduate and postgraduate) is entitled to one license of Trend PC-cillin for his/her computer at home/in the hostel. Trend PC-cillin running on Microsoft Windows 95/98/NT provides virus protection for stand-alone PCs. Users can download the PC-cillin from the web or borrow the CD-ROM from the department/library starting from mid-November. Details can be read online at http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/avcentre.

For enquiries, please contact Ms. Christina Keing (e-mail: keing@cuhk.edu.hk or tel: 2609 8861) or Mr. Brian Yung (e-mail: brian-yung@cuhk.edu.hk or tel: 2609 9534).

Staff Ball 1999

The 1999 CUHK Staff Ball, organized jointly by the Staff Common Room Club and the Staff Club/Associations of the four colleges, will be held on Sunday, 12th December 1999, at 7.00 p.m. in the ballroom of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel in Central.

The event will feature a lavish four-course dinner, a dance performance, a lucky draw, and lots of dancing till midnight.

All participants will enjoy a subsidized fee of HK$500 per head. Tables of 10 can be booked at the special price of HK$4,800 each. Dress code for the evening will be black tie or lounge suit. Bus coupons between campus and Central are sold at $35 per return trip per person.

For enquiries, please contact Ms. Christina Keing (e-mail: keing@cuhk.edu.hk or tel: 2609 8861) or Mr. Brian Yung (e-mail: brian-yung@cuhk.edu.hk or tel: 2609 8504).

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。
新任學系學科主任
談世紀大計
為新計劃施肥澆水
商學本科課程許敬文教授
新任商學本科課程學科主任許敬文教授表示，由於他過去多參與院內研究事務，對本科課程行政工作的認識不夠深入，上任初期「還需多多學習。」他續説：「其實很多新計劃都是前任學科主任陳志輝敎授播下種子的，我只是負責施肥澆水，保護剛萌芽的幼苗，希望它們都能茁壯成長，開花結果。」

開拓校友網絡
在眾多已萌芽的計劃之中，許敎授特別關注本科課程校友會的發展和經改良的學長計劃。

工商管理學院自成立至今，已有六千多名商學本科課程畢業生，不少在香港乃至海外的工商或學術機構擔任要職。許敎授説：「這些校友網絡都是學院的寶貴資產，如不能善用，實在可惜。所以，我們花了不少功夫協助成立校友會。」但校友會成立的日子尚短，大部分會員又是近年的畢業生，所以現時會員人數與活動十分有限。他認為院內各學系可以更積極地推動校友會的發展，建立互惠互利的關係。

學長計劃
該院以前的學長計劃只為準畢業生尋覓合適的校園朋友，以年長朋友的身分指導他們認識現實的商業世界。不過，由於僱主長期批評剛畢業的學生對社會的認識不夠深入，商學本科課程決定改良計劃，讓學生在學時即可參加，爭取更多時間與學長相處，學習多方面的知識，應付未來的挑戰。」

全力以赴
許敎授是中大校友，主修市場學，後負笈法國和英國，並曾在加拿大和香港科技大學任敎。他於九六年加入中大市場學系，一來是對母校存有感情，二來是他喜愛中大工商管理學院的文化。他覺得這裡的敎師都充滿熱誠，全心貢獻敎育，彼此又衷誠合作，熱中研究工作，更能與學生保持亦師亦友的關係，至為難得。

許敎授以他的經驗為例，他「雖是本科課程新手，卻得到同事的支持和信任。」所以，他更感到應竭盡全力去處理大小事務。「正是這種文化，令工商管理學院得以保持極高的敎研水準。」許敎授説。「但是，要怎樣調整才能兩全其美，還得仔細考慮。」

這裡有的是人才
計算機科學與工程學系梁廣錫敎授
提供優質敎育
「我們會以優質敎育和具影響力的世界級研究，推進科技發展，以及提升香港和內地計算機與資訊科技工業。」這是計算機科學與工程學系新任系主任梁廣錫敎授訂下的目標，以配合港府的發展策略。

梁敎授説，資訊科技與計算機科學關係非常密切，要推動資訊科技，其中一個重要途徑就是從電腦敎育著手。該系聲譽優良，新生的公開試成績出眾。不過，經過前陣子社會對輸入資訊科技人才的討論，揭露了大眾對資訊科技的一些誤解後，梁敎授認為該系須加強針對性的推廣工作，讓中學生了計算機科學與資訊科技幾乎是二而為一的。

推廣計劃包括推出全新的學系網頁，派員到中學介紹學系的發展，郵寄學系資料予中學，招待中學師生參觀學系的設施，以及在長假期舉辦一些活動或課程，讓中學生親身體驗計算機科學的效用。他也會檢討在現行的收生機制下，該系如何招收有天份但公開試成績不突出的學生。

激勵創意
梁敎授解釋説，學術成績固然重要，但創意對激發計算機科學和計算機工程學的發展也很重要。所以，該系除維持傳統的敎學外，會加強刺激本科生和研究生的創意和批判思維，並培養他們的領導能力和創業精神。例如舉辦一些比賽，讓學生自由組隊，在限定的資源和時間內，解決難題或完成指定的任務。

發展具影響力的研究
梁敎授謙稱，該系的研究經費尚算充足，而研究項目的應用性高，整體的研究表現還算不俗。在政府雄心勃勃推動資訊科技發展之下，系方已選出七大發展範疇，鼓勵學系同人搞一些具影響力的大型研究，和合作開展研究。「具影響力」意指可讓敎師從中取得研究成果，可以激發學生創意，而且成果可應用於社會或工商業。至於在科技轉移方面，該系會積極參與大學大學創新科技中心的活動。

行政網絡化
梁敎授加入中大服務已十四年，長期參與學系、學院、大學，以及香港研究资助局的研究事務和審批工作，曾掌領兩個電腦學會，又負責編審多份學術期刊，他如何應付系主任的職務呢？「方法就是再勤力些。」他哈哈笑地回答。「我一定會堅持做研究，而且不會減少。」為了爭取更多時間，他會將學系行政互聯/內聯網化，建立學系的資料庫及電子日記，讓所有資生在同一時間取得所需訊息，減省不必要的行政工作。他只會在學系的策劃性工作，實際的工作則交由學系的委員會或個別同人負責。梁敎授認為行政管理的職務，是務實的行政管理系統，會增進系內的溝通和工作效率。

對香港資訊科技發展樂觀
他對香港的資訊科技發展頗為樂觀。不過，前提是政府須多投資在有潛質的學生身上。「他們纔是發展資訊科技的重要資產。」他對過於偏重輸入專才的建議有所保留，認為香港每年培訓的各層級計算機與資訊科技人才其實非常多，只不過這行業過去只重應用，不大致力科研與開發，未能提供與高科技有關的職位，致使不少具這方面知識的大學畢業生無奈地出任電腦業的其他職位，或是移民。如果行業有發展空間，人才固然不會流失，而更多高素質的學生也會選修電腦博士班和從事科研，最終助長整個行業的發展。
新亞金禧講座
楊榮文論中國文化與政治
新亞書院上月廿九日在邵逸夫堂舉行第二個金禧講座，由新加坡貿工部楊榮文部長（左圖）以英語主講「中國文化與政治」。出席者達一千三百人，除新亞書院校董和校友，以及中大學生外，還有海外學生等中國文化的師生

楊部長在演講中，從不同角度審視中國的歷史與現況，包括其政治、社會和文化等方面。他的演講深受與會者的歡迎，包括社會學、政治學和中國文化的學者。其演說中，楊部長強調中國文化對於中國現代政治的影響，以及中國現代社會的發展。他強調，現代中國的政治發展與中國文化的傳統有著密切的關係。他還指出，現代中國的政治發展與社會變革，需要從中國文化的傳統中汲取養分，才能取得真正的成功。他的演講受到了與會者的廣泛好評，並引起了不少熱烈的討論。

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聯合四十八周年校慶
崇基學院及崇基學生會今年籌劃了一連串校慶活動，於上月廿九日舉行的校慶感恩崇拜及「千人宴」為高潮所在。校慶感恩崇拜由前中大哲學系教授兼崇基通識教育主任陳特教授任主講嘉賓。崇基千人宴始於一九七六年，今年的參加人數與近年相若，有二千七百多名崇基學生、教職員及校友於嶺南運動場上共晉晚餐，慶祝學院成立四十八周年。今年的校慶活動還有嘉年華會、拔河比賽、舞蹈比賽、歌唱比賽、環校跑及烹飪比賽等。

施舟人來中大講學
施舟人教授是法國高等研究院中國宗教研究教授、荷蘭萊頓大學中國歷史研究教授，又是荷蘭皇家科學院院士，最近的研究課題是「聖城北京」的一千四百多間廟宇。施教授在中大除講學外，又與宗教系黎志添教授合作，為道教中天師道派的經典《正一法文》點校及加上註釋，預計明年暑假出版。另外，他與李熾昌教授則合作開展詩經和聖經詩篇的比較研究，並就此課題教授本科生。他指出，中國古代舉行宗教儀式時，所唱頌的其實就是詩經所收集的作品，故可以把它們視作宗教經文。「外國都是從神學的角度來研究宗教經文的，中國卻一直著眼於經文的哲學、歷史和文學意義。我們是以神學角度來分析詩經的。」
中國美術史研究的百年變化

中央美術學院美術史系薛永年教授本月以偉倫訪問教授身分蒞校訪問交流,並於四日假何添樓主持公開講座,講題為「二十世紀中國美術史研究的回顧與展望」。

薛教授指出,進入本世紀以後,隨著西方文化的引入,歷史悠久的中國美術史學經歷了不少變化,形成了五大特色:(一)研究人員以院校美術教師為主,改變了古代以鑒賞家為主的格局。(二)西方考古方法的引入和大量美術文物的出土,大大擴展了研究者的視野。(三)因新文化觀新史學思想(包括歷史唯物主義)的推動,開闢了重視無名作者作品、民間美術和工匠藝術的研究方向。(四)一反明清以來適應鑒藏需要的畫家傳寫法,普遍以美術通史或繪畫通史為著作的形式。(五)側重因果闡釋的「外向觀」研究方法得到充分發展。

薛教授總結二十世紀中國美術史研究的成績是,既有明顯成就,又存在一些不足。他展望在新的世紀中,隨著美術史專門人才增多,社會加強美育,中外交流的深入,對優良傳統的再認識等,中國美術史的研究水平必與國際同步,並保有自己的特色。薛教授在中央美術學院美術史系攻讀本科,並從張珩、徐邦達學習書畫鑑定,曾任吉林省博物館歷史藝術部館員,一九八零年起在中央美術學院任教。他的研究範圍廣泛,近年以研究明清畫史為主,兼及山水花鳥傳統研究和中國美術史學研究。