Surgical Advance Brings Hope to the Hearing Impaired

Two ground-breaking Auditory Brainstem Implant (ABI) operations were performed at the Prince of Wales Hospital recently by the Divisions of Otolaryngology and Neurosurgery of the University’s Department of Surgery to restore hearing in patients with bilateral nerve and sensory deafness.

In October 1999, two young women with tumours on both hearing nerves had their tumours removed and were implanted with 24-channel ABI devices — the first time such implantations were conducted in Asia following their successful initial trial in Europe. The devices were switched on in late November. The Prince of Wales Hospital is one of only two centres in Asia capable of performing ABI surgery.

The ABI is a device that is surgically positioned into a patient’s brainstem to partially restore hearing. Patients with total hearing loss on both sides resulting from hearing nerve problems, in particular tumours, are suitable candidates. The surgery was performed by two teams of surgeons: ear specialists and neurosurgeons. The tumour was first removed, then the device was positioned in the brainstem with the help of a sophisticated monitoring system. The implanted electrodes were linked to an external speech processor through an antenna whereby electrically stimulated signals are transmitted to the brain. Intensive monitoring of the patients is essential to the success of the surgery as the brainstem is one of the most important parts of the brain controlling breathing and heartbeat. Programming of the device and rehabilitation of the patients are undertaken by both the audiologists and the speech therapists in the teams.

The success of ABI surgery is not only a milestone in hearing restoration, but also highlights the importance of multidisciplinary teamwork and the ability of local medical professionals to provide the highest standard of medical care to Hong Kong citizens.

Pooling Brilliant Minds to Promote Excellence

Prof. Tom McArthur of Exeter University in the UK delivered a public lecture entitled 'Describing the World of English' on 18th February at the University. A prominent scholar in contemporary English teaching, with numerous publications including dictionaries, books, and journal articles, Prof. McArthur addressed issues in English language teaching that are useful for the community-at-large as well as the English teaching profession.

Prof. McArthur was invited to the University under the 1999-2000 Distinguished Humanities Professorship Scheme initiated by the Faculty of Arts. The aim of the scheme is to bring outstanding scholars in the humanities the world over to Hong Kong to advise the faculty on issues relating to research and teaching, the development of core courses and specific areas of excellence. Through communication with and among these scholars, the faculty hopes to broaden its own international perspective and enhance its academic culture.

Other scholars invited to participate in the scheme are also important figures in their respective fields. They include Prof. Kristofer Schipper, scholar of religion from Sorbonne University of Paris, Prof. Willem Elders, scholar of music from the Utrecht University in the Netherlands, and Prof. Theo Hermans, expert in translation from the University of London.

TWO MORE RESEARCH PROJECTS RECEIVE SUPPORT

The following research projects conducted by University staff have attracted funding support from local sources:

- A Cross-sectional, Single-centre Study on the Levels and Sources of Mercury, Cadmium, and Lead in a Hong Kong Mother-Infant Cohort (HKSS545,704)
  **Sponsor:** Health Care and Promotion Fund
  **Principal investigator:** Prof. Fok Tai-fai (Department of Paediatrics)

- Nursing Management of Oral Mucositis in Cancer Patients (HKSS77,220)
  **Sponsor:** Health Services Research Fund
  **Principal investigator:** Prof. Anne M. Chang (Department of Nursing)

CUHK Aid to East Timor Highlighted at Malaria Conference

Malaria, an old menace, is an increasing problem in southeast Asia. Already endemic in parts of mainland China, climatic changes could result in its return to Hong Kong.

The problem of malaria in South China, the Philippines, and East Timor was discussed in the symposium ‘Malaria — Problems and Potential Solutions’ held by the Division of Clinical Pharmacology of the University’s Department of Medicine and Therapeutics on 8th February 2000. Hong Kong’s contribution to the fight against this enormous health problem was highlighted both in terms of its donation of essential drugs and other medical aid, and in terms of the progress being made here towards developing effective malaria vaccines. In particular, the University’s recent donation of anti-malaria drugs to East Timor under the sponsorship of Mr. Eric Hotung was presented.

CUHK has also teamed up with the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology (HKIB) to test a revolutionary malaria vaccine in collaboration with the National Institute of Health (NIH) in the US. The HKIB has synthesized large quantities of this vaccine which should stop the spread of malaria by mosquitoes. This transmission blocking vaccine will be tested on human volunteers, and, following the completion of clinical studies, the HKIB-CUHK-NIH team will conduct field trials of the vaccine in malaria-ridden areas such as South China, East Timor, and Thailand.

Speakers at the conference included Mr. Robert Hotung and Ms. Virginia Maher of the Hotung Institute for International Studies, Prof. Mamie Hui and Prof. Julian Critchley of the CUHK Faculty of Medicine, Drs. Simon C.W. Kwong and Philip K.M. Ngai of HKIB, Dr. Louis Miller of NIH, Dr. Allan Saul from Brisbane, and Prof. Tang Lin Hua from Shanghai.
Founder of Soka University Visits CUHK

Dr. Daisaku Ikeda, president of Soka Gakkai International and founder of Soka University, visited the University on 14th February 2000 at the invitation of the vice-chancellor. Prof. Arthur K.C. Li was conferred an honorary doctorate by Soka University in December 1998.

Service to the Community and International Organizations

- Prof. Liu Pak-wai, pro-vice-chancellor, has been reappointed by the Chief Executive of the HKSSAR as a member of the Commission on Strategic Development for two years from 1st February 2000.
- Dr. Joseph Lau, director of the Centre for Clinical Trials and Epidemiological Research, was appointed at its member of the Sub-committee on Public Education on Rehabilitation of the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee for two years from 1st January 2000.
- Prof. Low Ping-chung, professor of orthopedics and traumatology, was appointed by the Chief Executive of the HKSSAR to the Rehabilitation Advisory Committee for two years from 1st January 2000. He was also appointed as a member of the Hong Kong Arts Development Council for six months from 1st January 2000.
- Prof. Ju-Ching, professor in the Department of Orthopaedics and Traumatology, was conferred a visiting professorship by Sichuan University for three years from January 2000.
- Dr. Daniel Shek, professor in the Department of Social Work, was re-appointed as a member of the editorial board of Research on Social Work Practice for three years and was invited to serve as an international consultant on the editorial board of the American Journal of Family Therapy.
- Prof. Lawrence Meng, associate professor in the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, was appointed as a member of the Shatin District Council of the HKSSAR for three years from 1st January 2000.
- Dr. Too Wang-sai, senior lecturer in the Department of Biochemistry, was appointed as a member of the Shatin District Council of the HKSSAR for three years from 1st January 2000.

New Asia College/Yale University Student Exchange Programme

Eight New Asia students, led by Dr. Peter Man, college secretary of New Asia College, spent two weeks in the States under the seventh New Asia College/Yale University Student Exchange Programme from 29th January to 12th February, exploring various issues under the theme of ‘Family’. During their stay at Yale, the students presented four reports, namely ‘One Child Policy in China’, ‘Cross-Border Marriages Between Hong Kong and Mainland China’, ‘Filipino Maids and Their Impact on Hong Kong Families’, and ‘Change in Female’s Role and Status Within Family’ in an academic symposium. They also paid visits to US families, elementary and high schools, and other organizations such as Planned Parenthood, and toured New York and Washington, DC. Yale students will pay a reciprocal visit to New Asia in March, during which they will present reports on family issues in the States in a symposium to be held on 14th March. Upon completion of the Hong Kong programme, the Yale group will tour Guangzhou for two days before returning to the States.

Evolution of role

Starting out as a China research centre established by Western scholars in Hong Kong in the early 60s, when it was impossible to enter the People’s Republic of China for research purposes, the role of the USC has since expanded as a result of the socio-political developments of China and Hong Kong over the following four decades. China’s adoption of the Open Door Policy in the late 70s meant that Hong Kong’s and hence the centre’s original role as a watch post for China observers was losing importance. Western scholars and students of China studies went to the PRC, some of them on scholarships that supported studies conducted only in mainland China. It was then that the centre began strengthening its other function — collecting research materials on China with an emphasis on first-hand and reference publications in the social sciences and the humanities. The reputation it now enjoys among famous China scholars such as Ezra Vogel, Lucien Bianco, and Jonathan Unger, as a library incomparable in its coverage of materials on post-1949 China, owes itself to the move of immense foresight made some 20 years ago.

Who are the users?

The centre’s ownership was transferred to The Chinese University in 1988. Until then, the centre had been well known only in China studies circles in the West, as most of its users had been Western scholars. But after the late 80s, the composition of its users has been more diverse. Japanese, Koreans, and Chinese from Taiwan have been coming in increasing numbers. The number of local teachers and graduate students using the centre has also risen since 1990. More recently, with increased interaction between Hong Kong and China mainland, the number of mainland scholars expressing an interest in visiting the centre has also been staggering.

Many of these mainland scholars might have heard about the USC from Western scholars doing fieldwork in the PRC. Yet, there are other reasons for their visit. Back home, the missing news reports of local universities had the opportunity to use the USC’s services. Luckily, the centre received allocations from the Research Grant Council’s Central Allocation Fund last year to finance research trips by mainland Chinese scholars to the USC. The scheme is designed to benefit over 10 mainland scholars each year, with a view to maximizing usage of the centre’s services, fostering new research relationships between scholars from different regions, and contributing to the development of social science on the mainland by giving these scholars increased exposure.

Although the centre’s role as a research base for foreign China scholars is now obsolete, it has remained steadfast in its mission of promoting China studies among local and mainland scholars, and its reputation has only grown. Ms. Jean Hung, assistant director of the USC, said, “Such a centre needs an academic environment in which to thrive. We always tell users about other researchers who are engaged in similar research at the University in the hope of facilitating communication and collaboration among scholars from Hong Kong, the mainland, and overseas.”

The USC is also a free climate for academic discussion. I’ve been told by mainland scholars who have lived in the US or Europe that, to their own amazement, their experience at this centre has been more rewarding than elsewhere in the world.” She has also encountered scholars from England and Australia, for
New Publications

Chinese University Press

The following book is available to University staff at a 20 per cent discount at the University Bookshop, John Fulton Centre.

The Life and Times of Sir Kai Ho Kai (second edition)
In the early years of British colonial rule, Hong Kong went through an interesting and different phase of development, while a second generation of local Chinese were born as British subjects. Having received a Western education, this new breed acted as spokesmen and intermediaries between the government and the people. Perhaps the most distinguished and certainly the most resourceful of them was Sir Kai Ho Kai (1859-1914)—barrister, physician, reformist, revolutionary, and essayist.

Written by G.H. Chan, this book traces the life of Sir Kai Ho Kai and his family, and contains descriptions of notable social events in Hong Kong, such as the Boponics Epidemic, the establishment of the Alice Memorial Hospital, the Hong Kong College of Medicine, and the Po Leung Kuk. Also included are sketches and anecdotes of prominent citizens and government officials of that time. Political developments in China during the period, seen as the background of Sir Kai’s reformist and revolutionary activities, are briefly discussed, as well as his relationship with his student, Dr. Sun Yat-sen.

This second edition is an improvement with the addition of new materials related since the publication of the first edition in 1981. G.H. Chan was a lecturer in medicine at the University of Hong Kong in 1949-1956, consultant physician at Queen Mary Hospital in 1956-1967, then deputy director and director of Medical and Health Services at the Hong Kong Government in 1967-1977. He is also the founding dean of the Faculty of Medicine, The Chinese University of Hong Kong, in 1978-1986.

ISBN 962-281-873-4, hardcover, 342 pages, HK$165

Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies

Occasional Paper No. 104
Earnings Divergence of Immigrants

From 1981 to 1991, the mean earnings of immigrants fell further behind natives in Hong Kong, with the gap widening from 11.3 per cent to 25.5 per cent. Earnings data of this magnitude, as documented in this paper, is rather unusual among major recipient countries of immigration. Written by Lara Kit-chun and Liu Pak-wai, this paper shows that earnings divergence in Hong Kong is due mainly to divergence in skill prices for education between immigrants and natives. This unaccrossial shift in the demand for skills caused by economic restructuring in Hong Kong does not only have a differential impact on prices of different levels of skill, but also on prices of skills from different sources.

ISBN 962-441-104-2, paperback, 38 pages, HK$50

Hong Kong Institute of Educational Research

Canadian and International Education

Volume 26 Number 2

This journal is the official publication of the Comparative and International Education Society of Canada. It encourages articles covering a wide range of topics related to education, including philosophical discussion, curricular changes, educational policy analysis, administrative reorganization, and comparative analysis.

ISSN 0150-1409, paperback, 217 pages, HK$50

Asian Journal of Counselling

Volume 6 Number 2

This is a journal devoted to the examination of the professional and personal aspects of the counseling process. It is dedicated to publishing manuscripts concerned with research, theory development, current professional and scientific issues, new techniques or innovative programs and practices. Volume 6 Number 2 especially addresses the topic "The Development of Counselling in Four Chinese Communities."

ISBN 1560-8255, paperback, 148 pages, HK$50

For enquiries, please contact Miss Audrey Ma at 2609 0754.

What is Unique?
A main factor for the centre’s uniqueness lies in its acquisition. Unlike ordinary libraries, it does not buy from libraries, even the National Library of China in Beijing doesn’t have 840 titles of statistical yearbooks at its disposal, for example. Even the National Library of China in Beijing doesn’t have 840 titles of statistical yearbooks at its disposal, for example. Even the National Library of Canada in Ottawa doesn’t have as many Chinese and English gazeteers as the USC does. The USC has its own unique background and views.

Many users of the USC have left the centre with a whistle on their lips and a lighter step. This is normally more than what reading and xeroxing can do to a person. The fact is that the USC is an exceptionally user-friendly place, a very homely place.

A hike in Ma On Shan organized by the USC
A hike in Ma On Shan organized by the USC has material in its collection that cannot be found elsewhere in the world. We have 840 titles of statistical yearbooks at the national and local levels in our collection, and can be equally rewarding.

In addition, the centre is run equally by their hard-working attitude as by their warmth and friendliness. After returning to their home province, they might need only a single journal and few monographs, this has been the primary source of data. And provided the trend of decentralization in China, more and more research has been focused on the provinces or counties. In the past we might only need one single journal, whereas the centre has recently allocated some additional storage space in the lower ground floor of the University library, the space was only large enough for its collection.

The USC welcomes all undergraduate and graduate students and scholars to use its services and take part in its functions. Ms. Hung believes that each user is a living source with his/her own unique background and views. Many users of the USC have left the centre with a whistle on their lips and a lighter step. This is normally more than what reading and xeroxing can do to a person. The fact is that the USC is an exceptionally user-friendly place, a very homely place.

Piera Chen

example, who had spent months searching for data on the mainland to no avail, only to find it within a few hours at the USC. Their first reaction on finding the materials was they wanted to cry, she said with a laugh.

New Features

The enhancement of the USC’s services has been designated an Area of Excellence by the University. As conseres, surveys, and other qualitative methods have been increasingly employed to generate socio-economic information in today’s China, and the electronic format has become a universal tool in archiving and sharing data, the USC, with RGIC support, established in 1996 a USC Databank for China Studies. The databank has over 20 large- and medium-sized datasets including “Urban Household Survey 1986-1997,” “Women Status in Contemporary China (1991),” and “Survey on the Reform and Efficiency of State-owned Enterprises 1980-1994,” all of which have been made available to the public. It is now acquiring compact discs of Chinese newspapers and periodicals compiled by Renda University of China, of indices to journals and newspapers compiled by Tsinghua University and Shanghai National Library. In the coming years, it will continue to acquire and archive machine-readable datasets, establish a stable network jointly with mainland institutions to ensure regular data flow from the mainland to the USC, install remote networking capability whereby users can consult online a complete and interactive data catalogue, and enjoy direct access to the data via the Internet.

Another ongoing project of the centre is rendering its research-topic-oriented searching system so as to facilitate research of the review literature and the compilation of bibliographies. The centre has also set up its own website which contains links to other useful websites, including those of the government and civil organizations on the mainland.

An Ongoing Headache

The virtual world definitely has its merits but it cannot always take the place of hard copies. ‘It was thought before that electronic versions could replace hard copies but reality has proven otherwise. When a researcher has to go through large amounts of data intensively, he/she definitely needs to do so with hard copies,’ Ms. Hung observed. Hard copies need storage space and for the USC, with its 400 Chinese language newspapers, 2,000 periodicals, over 80 English-language academic journals, and about 50,000 Chinese and 7,000 English monographs, this has been the primary source of headache. And provided the trend of decentralization in China, more and more research has been focused on the provinces or counties. In the past we might only need one single journal, whereas the centre has recently allocated some additional storage space in the lower ground floor of the University library, the space was only large enough for its newspaper collection.

Compliments Abound

The USC has a long-standing tradition of holding luncheon seminars several times a month, during which local and visiting scholars share and discuss their research findings. To encourage attendance, the seminars are held during lunch time to save time and are open to the public. The USC welcomes all undergraduate and graduate students and scholars to use its services and take part in its functions. Ms. Hung believes that each user is a living source with his/her own unique background and views. Many users of the USC have left the centre with a whistle on their lips and a lighter step. This is normally more than what reading and xeroxing can do to a person. The fact is that the USC is an exceptionally user-friendly place, a very homely place.

Piera Chen

HK$30

HK$50

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### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### 公積金計劃投資成績

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### 公積金計劃之投資

- **投資基金**
  - 長期基金
  - 平衡基金
  - 穩定基金

### 公積金計劃之投資

#### 青光眼

青光眼是眼球內的壓力不正常，引致視覺神經受損。治療青光眼包括進行手術和使用藥物。治療目標是保持視力和延緩病情的發展。

#### 重點

- **治療青光眼**
  - 手術
  - 藥物治療

### 標題

#### 標題

- **課程**
  - 話題
  - 專題

### 重點

- **教學**
  - 使用IT工具
  - 網站
  - 讀物

### 重點

- **活動**
  - 網站
  - 新聞
  - 報道

### 重點

- **資訊**
  - 學院
  - 學術
  - 新聞

### 重點

- **課程**
  - 話題
  - 專題

### 重點

- **活動**
  - 網站
  - 新聞
  - 報道

### 重點

- **資訊**
  - 學院
  - 學術
  - 新聞
Information in this section can only be accessed with CWEM password.

4. Multi-media Projects
5th April, 9.30a.m.–12.30p.m.
Seminar by CSC
• Ecology CD-ROM for the Department of Surgery
• Multi-media course development for GEO 3001 with the Office of General Education
• Courseware development on job interview skills for the Independent Learning Centre
• Computer animation for the Accelerated Schools Project with the Department of Computer Science and Engineering
• CD-ROM for learning Japanese characters

5. Classroom Presentation
8th April, 9.30a.m.—12.30p.m.
Workshop by CSC
• Introduction to facilities available in classrooms
• Making a presentation using PowerPoint 2000
• Converting a PowerPoint presentation to the web
• Changing course notes to slide shows

6. HTML Authoring Tools
15th April, 9.30a.m.—12.30p.m.
Workshop by CSC
• Comparing several HTML editors e.g. simple editor, Netscape Composer, IE Express, Wied
• Introduction to the basics of Dreamweaver and Frontpage

Obituary
數學系一級文員蕭鴻鳴先生於二零零零年二月十一日辭世。蕭先生於一九六四年十一月加入本校服務。
Mr. Siu Hung-ming, General Clerk I in the Department of Mathematics, passed away on 11th February 2000. Mr. Siu first joined the University in November 1964.

中大通訊
CUHK NEWSLETTER

編輯: 梁其汝 助理編輯: 蔡世彬 李琪 陳偉珠 製作: 梅潔媚
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中大通訊 第一六零期 二零零零年三月四日
新院長談校外進修學院發展藍圖

一九九九年十二月廿二日，市區氣溫攝氏六點七度，是天文台自一八八三年有紀錄以來最寒冷的冬至，也是新任校外進修学院院長李仕權先生履新的第一天。另一個同樣寒冷的日子，在安仁大學遠遙的辦公室內，李先生向本刊記者勾勒學院的發展藍圖。

一九八九至九一年——美國銀行亞太資料中心高級技術訓練主任
‧一九九一至九九年——香港公開大學科技學院高級講師及商業管理學院副教授

李仕權先生專訪

李仕權先生說：「當年加入中大，我受聘於香港公開大學的科技學院及商業管理學院。校方希望我前往美國銀行亞太資料中心任職，以期引進了一系列的技術訓練課程，並期望能為香港的企業界提供更多的高素質人才。」李先生在該學院任職期間，獲悉中大將要開設進修學士課程，為企業界提供新的發展機會，這正是李先生希望於進修學院推行的模式。

李先生還談到，校外進修學院成立於一九七九年，現已成為香港地區最大的、具規模的進修教育機構。現時共有四百多個課組，學生約有四萬三千人，包括來自許多不同行業的職場人士。李先生認為，校外進修學院是大學在社會經濟方面的重要貢獻，對於社會人才的培養有著不可忽視的作用。

新院長李仕權

李先生認為，校外進修學院的重要性遠超過其他高等院校，因為它能為社會提供更多的職業訓練和持續教育。因此，校外進修學院的發展藍圖，必然包含著對整個香港社會的責任。

李先生指出，校外進修學院成立的宗旨是為廣大市民提供一個通向知識、技能和文化的平臺。他認為，進修學院應成為社會人士的第二大學，並且要為他們提供一個與企業界開拓的空間。

在開設新課程的過程中，李先生特別強調了課程的靈活性和實踐性，以符合學生的實際需求。他認為，課程計畫的設計應以市場為導向，以滿足學生和企業的需要。因此，校外進修學院在網絡課程的開設上，也做了大量的努力，以滿足現代社會對遠程教育的需求。

此外，李先生還提到，校外進修學院的發展藍圖，必然是以社會需求為基礎的。因此，他將積極尋求與企業界的合作機會，以開設更多的實踐性課程，為學生提供更多的實踐機會，以提升他們的職業技能。

總之，李先生認為，校外進修學院的發展藍圖，必須要有社會企業的參與。他將積極尋求與企業界的合作機會，以開設更多的實踐性課程，為學生提供更多的實踐機會，以提升他們的職業技能。
理學院嘉獎傑出師生

理學院今年首設模範教學獎及院長榮譽錄獎狀，表揚該院教師及學生的教學和學業成就，獲獎者共一百零八人。

理學院模範教學獎由該院學系各推舉一位模範教師。教學評估結果是其中一個重要因素，其他因素包括講解清晰，能啟發學生思考，提高學生對科學的興趣，並為學生處世的榜樣。獲獎教師包括生物化學系徐國榮教授，生物系林漢明教授，化學系李偉基教授，數學系呂恭孚教授，物理系廖國梁教授及統計學系潘偉賢教授。

理學院院長榮譽錄之設立，目的是鼓勵成績優異、品學兼優的學生。理學院院長柳愛華教授勉勵獲獎的學生好好學習，加強獨立思考能力，學會做人，努力爭取成為本地專才，為建設香港作出貢獻。按一九九八至九九年度成績獲獎的一、二年級學生共五十人，而一九九七至九八年度則有四十八名學生獲獎。

新亞耶魯學生交流探討港美家庭概況

八名新亞學生獲選參加「第七屆新亞耶魯大學學生交流計劃」，於一月廿九日至二月十二日在新亞書院院務主任文直良博士帶領下，訪問耶魯大學，並順遊紐約和華盛頓。

新亞耶魯學生交流探討港美家庭概況

研究中國近代史的學者對於中國數十年來發生的連場政治運動，都有不知從何入手的感覺。一方面是中國政府到意封鎖有關資料，另方面是太多的小道消，息，令到歷史的真相不能呈現在世人的眼前。

著作等身，桃李滿天下的胡教授為中華第一位女植物學博士，鑽研植物分類學及藥用植物學凡六十年，本校中草藥研究尤多得力於胡教授。

胡教授表示，香港的山區蘊藏八百種中藥，單是在馬料水便發現很多稀有植物；而以她命名的秀英竹及由她定名的龍脷葉，亦種植於中大校園。

胡教授曾力保校園的樹木，免遭擴建工程而斫伐。生物系辛世文教授表示，在胡教授的協助下，中大已收集到三千五百種植物。由於每種樹木有八萬多個基因，中大將有充足的植物基因支援未來生物科技的發展和研究。

新書

《紅太陽是怎樣升起的︰延安整風運動的來龍去脈》

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培訓中學教師推廣電腦文化

教育學院和香港教育研究所與培正中學獲教育署委託，開設「資訊科技教育中學培訓協調員」培訓課程，培訓部分中學教師在校內推廣使用電腦教與學的文化，並順遊紐約和華盛頓。

教育政策研討系列

《污水排放策略︰我們的冀求與承擔》

要解決水質污染固然有賴污水處理的科技，更重要的是改變污染者的行為。中大社會科學院和香港亞太研究所合辦的第五次公共政策論壇，以香港的環保政策為主題，重點討論污水排放與費用的承擔。此書為該次論壇的結集，由黃健枝教授主編。

與會者大都同意香港的排污策略應有彈性和可持續性。彈性是指排污策略的處理技術能因應污水質量的改變而調整，減少無謂開支；可持續性是指所用的方法，在能耗和物耗都應符合環保原則，且不會因解決香港的問題而在另一個地方製造新的問題，亦不會為了解決目前的問題，而為下一代增添新的問題。

有關的民意調查顯示市民大都支持政府出錢改善水質，但工商界對排污費卻持保留態度。爭論的焦點其一是收費水平是否合理；其二是收費在於回收成本還是改變污染者的行為。

國際統一書號962-8077-36-8，平裝本，二十六頁，十五港元。
神經性失聰病人佳音

醫學院成功進行兩宗聽覺腦幹植入手術，恢復兩名雙側神經性失聰病人的聽力，取得亞洲領先地位。

兩名病人雙耳的聽覺神經有腫瘤，不能將聲音傳送到腦部聽覺中樞而失聰。本校外科系耳鼻喉科及腦外科的醫生去年十月成功將聽覺腦幹儀器植入病人體內，而該廿四頻道的儀器於一個月後開始運作，全球至今共有六宗廿四頻道植入手術，本校為其中三宗。

手術由兩組醫生施行，首先是切除腫瘤，然後把儀器準確地放置在腦幹內。由於腦幹是人體心血管和呼吸的中樞，醫生須有豐富的解剖知識和倚靠精密的監測系統，才能將儀器正確放入腦幹的聽覺中樞，產生模仿聽力的作用。手術後病人按設定的頻道及術前病人的訓練由聽力學家和語言治療師負責。

市民看經濟：
短期匍匐 中期樂觀

根據經濟學系一項民意調查顯示，大部分市民自覺過去一年的財政狀況沒有改善，但對香港未來五年的整體經濟表現樂觀。

「市民對香港經濟現狀評價」的調查由經濟學系關焯照教授主持，香港亞太研究所進行，調查範圍包括家庭財政狀況、營商環境、香港未來整體經濟表現及消費者購買意欲等。調查於一月十七日進行，成功訪問了五百零四名成年市民。結果發現，大部分受訪者認為本身的財政狀況在去年並沒有改善。少於一成的市民聲稱財政狀況比一年前「變好」，而「跟一年前一樣」和「變壞」的分別有五成七和三成四。

對未來一年財政狀況的預測，只有兩成四人認為會「變好」，而預計會「跟現在一樣」和「變壞」的分別有五成及一成六；四分一人認為未來一年香港將會出現好的營商環境，五成人認為只屬「一般」，一成七認為會轉差。但是，對於未來五年香港整體經濟表現，四成九受訪者持樂觀態度，認為「跟現在一樣」佔兩成三，只有一成八表示悲觀。

關教授表示，雖然零售量在過去數月有上升趨勢，但市民的購買意欲仍沒有明顯轉強。根據此次調查，只有三成六市民認為現在是購買主要家庭用品的好時機，而持相反意見的市民則佔四成三。他分析調查結果，指市民對本身家庭財政現況不甚滿意，因而影響了購買意欲，並對未來一年的家庭財政狀況和香港營商環境沒有太大信心。至於市民對香港未來五年整體經濟表現的信心明顯增強，則可能與港府在未來數年陸續推出多項大型基建工程和興建迪士尼樂園有關。

身體力行 預防疾病

醫學院一百三十名師生組隊參加上月二十日於尖沙咀舉行的馬拉松比賽，以提高市民強身健體的運動意識，並鍛鍊醫生的體能和意志。

該院的調查發現，飲食不均衡和缺乏運動者，患糖尿病的比率會大增。平日做適量運動的人士，患糖尿病的比率為百分之二，沒有運動者則為百分之五。家族成員有糖尿病紀錄者，四成會患上糖尿病，但如有適量運動，發病率會大幅減至百分之十四。適量運動是指每星期最少運動三次，每次最少三十分鐘。

該院多年來的研究顯示，香港人運動量不足，引致肥胖、高血壓、膽固醇過高、糖尿病、胃腸病、骨骼弱、骨質、心臟病等日益普遍。首次比賽亦為醫學院的對內籌款活動，以支持學生的體育活動。