Young Cancer Survivors Help Brighten Hong Kong

The Little Life Warrior Society held their first annual general meeting on 23rd August and hosted a party for over 300 childhood cancer survivors and their family members at the School of Public Health Building of the Faculty of Medicine. The Little Life Warriors Choir, consisting of 30 members of the society, sang songs of encouragement and glorification of life.

The participants also made drawings together with members of the BrightenHK Campaign, which were then converted into e-cards and uploaded to the campaign webpage to boost Hong Kong's morale and restore confidence in Hong Kongers.

Dr. Shing Ming Kong, chairman of the society, related how the Children's Cancer Centre, located within the Prince of Wales Hospital compound, came under great threat during the SARS epidemic. Fortunately the centre managed to weather it through without a single case of infection. Doctors and nurses from the centre joined other frontline medical staff in helping to fight the disease and look after young SARS patients.

The Little Life Warrior Society was founded in 2002 to inform the public about children cancers through various activities. Members are drawn mainly from the medical staff of Lady Pao Children's Cancer Centre of the Prince of Wales Hospital and the CUHK Department of Paediatrics.

The BrightenHK Campaign was initiated by the Internet Professionals Association, the Outstanding Young Persons' Association, the Better Hong Kong Foundation, and the World Trade Centres Association. It aims at uniting Hong Kong people and raising their confidence in the fight against SARS.

Finance Chief and Chair of Tourism Board Share Their Insight into Hong Kong

Mr. Henry Tang, now Financial Secretary of the HKSAR, and Mrs. Selina Chow, chair of the Hong Kong Tourism Board, spoke to students and alumni of the University’s EMBA and MBA Programmes last July in Talking to CEOs. The programme is jointly organized by the University’s EMBA Programme and RTHK. Mr. Tang’s programme was broadcast on 6th July and Mrs. Chow’s on 29th June on RTHK.

Mr. Tang said he lives by one important principle: Don’t push too hard on profit, do what’s right for your employees and they will walk that extra mile for you. It was this piece of advice from his father which had guided him for 25 years while he ran his family business. He continues to guide him in his service to the HKSAR.

After a year on the job as Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology, he said the government should not be judged solely on one dimension and that he discovered a lot of committed people in the civil service. He believes that the success of any organization hinges on striking the right balance between its ‘shareholders’ and employees.

Mr. Tang urges people in Hong Kong to take a macro view and think beyond their geographical boundaries. China has abundant technological and other resources which are complementary to the territory. Hong Kong should also recognize its competitive advantage rather than try to copy other cities.

Intensifying regional competition and the double blows of a sagging economy and SARS have not intimidated Mrs. Selina Chow who believes whole-heartedly that Hong Kong is a superior ‘product’ and a multi-faceted one historically and culturally. Similarly regional competition is nothing new, she said. The challenge is to find someone with thorough knowledge of the product and the marketplace, and a good understanding of Hong Kong’s position in the competition, who can show it off in the best light.

Mrs. Chow’s advice to CEO hopefuls is to be proactive, to make themselves visible instead of waiting to be noticed. For those with political aspirations, serving voluntary organizations is an effective way to get noticed. ‘And above all, focus on your goal and soldier on. Hong Kong’s people’s shortcoming is often giving up too soon,’ she observed.

Introducing the 40th Anniversary Fair

On 15th September, five days before the official opening of the 40th Anniversary Fair, a press conference was held at the Cho Yee Conference Hall to introduce the features of the fair. Prof. Ambrose King, vice-chancellor, and the three pro-vice-chancellors Prof. Kenneth Young, Prof. P.W. Liu, and Prof. Jack Cheng also outlined CUHK’s blueprint for development in the next 10 years, and the highlights of the anniversary celebrations from September to December 2003.

A sculpture of the 40th anniversary logo has been erected at the University Mall near Pi Ch’iu Building in anticipation of the Anniversary Fair.

Upcoming Anniversary Celebrations

21st to 26th September
(Sunday to Friday)

40th Anniversary Fair

The theme of the 40th Anniversary Fair is ‘Advance and Excel’. The Fair will capture the University’s development as contextualized in that of Hong Kong over the last four decades, and look forward to advancements in the next decade. It will project the vision and mission of the University through multi-media exhibitions while its impact on education and society, its innovations and inventions will also be presented. Academic disciplines will be introduced through interactive games and there will be student performances.

The Fair’s four pavilions will feature four themes: Heritage and Vision (Sir Run Run Shaw Auditorium, open from 20th to 26th September), Impact on Education and Society (University Mall), Innovations and Inventions (Ground floor, University Library), and Fun and Games (University Mall).

A series of interesting lectures by distinguished alumni and faculty members have also been organized from 19th September to 16th October. All lectures will take place at 7.30 p.m. on campus and will be delivered mostly in Cantonese. For details, please visit http://www.cuhk.edu.hk/fair.
Pre-clinical Studies Show Effectiveness of New Anti-cancer Product

The Department of Biochemistry conducted a series of in-vitro and in-vivo pre-clinical studies for an anti-cancer product developed by CK Life Sciences International (Holdings) Inc. The results show that immune cells in mice fed with the product are activated while human liver cancer cells implanted in them are suppressed. The positive pre-clinical findings have prompted the two parties to launch clinical trials.

Prof. Fung Kwok-pui, leader of the pre-clinical studies and professor of biochemistry, said, ‘This clinical trial is a good example of cooperation between academia and commerce. Not only would such collaboration speed up the pace of research, but it would also give wider recognition to study results.’

Preliminary studies show that the orally-prescribed, yeast-based product can improve the immune system of cancer patients, reduce mortality rate, and promote recovery from chemotherapy and radiotherapy. It can also lessen common side-effects caused by chemotherapy and radiotherapy such as nausea, bleeding, edema, and deterioration of the immune system, and prevent complications and pain arising from surgery and injection.

Breakthrough in Treatment for Autoimmune Disorder

Immune thrombocytopenic purpura (ITP), one of the most common autoimmune disorders today, results from autoantibodies working against our blood platelets. The Prince of Wales Hospital registers about 30 to 40 new cases annually. Patients with ITP have a higher risk of bleeding, which may be life-threatening. Costicosteroid is proven to be an effective first-line therapy for this disorder. Conventional treatment involves the use of prednisone and the treatment lasts for weeks to months. It induces the platelet count in about 75 per cent of adult patients. A prolonged course of costicosteroid therapy may lead to side-effects including infection, osteoporosis, hypertension and endocrine disturbances.

From January 1977 to December 2000, the Division of Haematology of the Department of Medicine and Therapeutics treated 125 adult ITP patients using a new regimen of costicosteroid that contains a high dose of dexamethasone. The treatment lasted four days. Eighty-five per cent of the patients showed a positive initial response to the treatment and most were discharged from hospital by the third day of treatment. Half remained in remission without further treatment at six months’ follow-up.

Principal investigator Prof. Gregory Cheng (right) and Dr. S.M. Wong.

Though just as effective as conventional treatment, the new regimen is safer. Its short duration minimizes the adverse effects of a prolonged course of corticosteroid therapy. It also produces a quicker response in patients and reduces the length of hospital stay.

Going Global

And that is to put it on the world map, an ambition very much in line with the department's mission: 'To be a leading centre in social work education and research in Chinese communities.' Besides academic department of The Chinese University, one conducted by the department will also need to bear relevance to the Departmemt of Neurosurgery at Harvard Medical School in 1990—91.

Clinical and experimental aspects of head injury, neurovascular interventional therapy, neuro-oncology, and telemedicine in neurosurgical practice.

Applying the World to Hong Kong

Internationalize, Innovate, and Economize

Chair of Social Work

Professor of Surgery

Internationalize

The department has been conducting very rapidly in the last few years and we now have seven postgraduate programmes. There is a need to integrate them better, he remarked. Some creative but highly relevant ideas for undergraduate courses are unemployment and social work practice, global social policy, human sexuality and social work, and spirituality and social work.

The department is also looking to establish a joint postgraduate degree programme with a mainland university within the next two years and to recruit more doctoral students from Malaysia and Singapore, countries which do not have doctoral programmes in social work, as well as from mainland China and Taiwan.

Prof. Poon joined CUHK as lecturer in surgery in 1986, becoming senior lecturer in 1990 and professor in 1996. He was on general surgical rotation at the City and University Hospitals in Hong Kong, and been engaged in frontline work in Hong Kong.

For those focussing on Hong Kong, they need to think how their work relates to the rest of the world, Prof. Poon said. Similarly he believes that, whatever their focus, the department's future research projects should involve international scholars.

More Colours on the Palette

Joint programmes leading to double degrees, such as social work and government administration, are an important international trend in social work which has not yet reached Hong Kong, Prof. Poon says. He hopes that his department will be a pioneer in this area.

Some of his more immediate plans include reviewing the undergraduate and graduate curricula with his colleagues to introduce more innovative courses in the former and consolidate the latter. 'The department has been developing very rapidly in the last few years and we now have seven postgraduate programmes. There is a need to integrate them better,' he remarked. Some creative but highly relevant ideas for undergraduate courses are unemployment and social work practice, global social policy, human sexuality and social work, and spirituality and social work.

The department is also looking to establish a joint postgraduate degree programme with a mainland university within the next two years and to recruit more doctoral students from Malaysia and Singapore, countries which do not have doctoral programmes in social work, as well as from mainland China and Taiwan.

Prof. Poon also explores ways of raising the department's research output and boosting its quality. 'I understand that teaching and community service have already taken up much of our staff's time, leaving little for research, even though they want to excel in all three. This means they might have to work even harder to increase their research output,' he pointed out.

Innovate

According to the new chairman's own cosmopolitan background. Prof. Tang has degrees from institutions in Canada, the US, Singapore, Luxembourg and Hong Kong.

More Colours on the Palette

Joint programmes leading to double degrees, such as social work and government administration, are an important international trend in social work which has not yet reached Hong Kong, Prof. Tang says. He hopes that his department will be a pioneer in this area.

Some of his more immediate plans include reviewing the undergraduate and graduate curricula with his colleagues to introduce more innovative courses in the former and consolidate the latter. 'The department has been developing very rapidly in the last few years and we now have seven postgraduate programmes. There is a need to integrate them better,' he remarked. Some creative but highly relevant ideas for undergraduate courses are unemployment and social work practice, global social policy, human sexuality and social work, and spirituality and social work.

The department is also looking to establish a joint postgraduate degree programme with a mainland university within the next two years and to recruit more doctoral students from Malaysia and Singapore, countries which do not have doctoral programmes in social work, as well as from mainland China and Taiwan.

Prof. Tang will also explore ways of raising the department's research output and boosting its quality. 'I understand that teaching and community service have already taken up much of our staff's time, leaving little for research, even though they want to excel in all three. This means they might have to work even harder to increase their research output,' he pointed out.

Chair of Social Work

New Department Heads

University Swimming Pool Notice

University Library and all branch libraries will be closed on the following public holidays:

1st October 2003 (Wednesday) National Day
2nd October 2003 (Thursday) Chung Yeung Festival
4th October 2003 (Saturday) National Day

As SARS is now under control, the University swimming pool is open to students/staff/alumni and their immediate family members and guests.

3rd session: 3.30 p.m. - 6.15 p.m.

宣佈事項

第1節:上午十時三十分至十一時四十五分
第2節:下午二時三十分至三時四十五分
第3節:下午三時三十分至六時十五分

30th November 2003, the following opening hours of the University swimming pool are as follows:

1st session: 10.30 a.m. - 11.45 a.m.
2nd session: 12.30 p.m - 1.45 p.m.
Mr. William Au, the new director of the Security and Transport Office since February 2003, is a seasoned top police officer who does not look a day older than 35. During his 30-year career with the Police Force, he had worked for every unit except the Marine Police and the former Special Branch. He was district commander of Sha Tin prior to joining the University, and previously, of Tsuen Wan and Wong Tai Sin. In 1996, he coordinated rescue efforts for the tragic Garley Building fire. But Mr. Au’s career has not always been connected with the disciplinary forces. After graduating from the University of Hong Kong in 1971, he taught history for a year. This was followed by a six-month stint in a bank. He joined the police in 1972, and a few years later, earned a part-time M.Phil. in sociology from The Chinese University.

More Polished Services
Not only does Mr. Au look youthful, he has also been rejuvenating the University’s security and transport systems. You may have noticed that since July, security guards and drivers on campus can be identified by the name tag on their uniforms. If you are impressed or less than impressed by the service of a school bus driver, you now know that he is Mr. XYZ. If you drive, you may notice that guards at the gates have been greeting you with a smile or a nod as you enter or leave the campus. And if you are a putonghua speaker, do not be surprised if a security guard starts rattling off in putonghua to you. They are all being encouraged to learn the dialect at the New Asia-Yale-in-China Chinese Language Centre. These are but some of Mr. Au’s immediate efforts at stepping up the service quality of security and transport personnel at CUHK.

Mr. William Au:
Campus Security with a Christian Touch

"The signage system in campus car parks is unclear. For example, instead of indicating which labels are not allowed in, as car parks outside would, the ones here indicate which ones can enter, say label A. This leaves B, A/B, C, D, and U confused," Mr. Au remarked. But as such plans involve other units within the University, their realization depends on the consensus reached and the subsequent approval of the Administrative Affairs Committee (AAC) and the Administrative and Planning Committee (AAPC).

Signage and Parking Labels
His more long-term plans include simplifying parking labels, solving problems of the free parking policy, and improving parking signage. At present, there are 14 types of labels covering vehicles owned by staff, students, alumni, family members of staff, guests, and other individuals connected to CUHK. Mr. Au believes the categories can be reduced for more efficient administration. The University has always had a rather generous parking policy that encourages alumni and visitors to frequent its libraries, cafeterias, and swimming pool. While excellently intentioned, it has also been an easy target for abuse. Mr. Au is all for finding a solution that protects the University’s parking income while preserving the original idea behind the policy.

Adjusting to Campus Culture
Running a 120-man security and transport team in the peaceful University community won’t leave Mr. Au, who used to manage 900 policemen in Sha Tin—Hong Kong’s most highly populated area, biting his fingernails. However changes take longer to implement here because client opinion is taken extremely seriously. ‘Although I’m still adjusting to the pace and culture here, I think it’s generally positive. New regulations may take longer to pass because consultation is thorough, but once they are passed, there is little opposition to their being carried out,’ he pointed out.

His ultimate test, however, is that of the juggler—how to handle service improvement and cost reduction at the same time with one hand tied. ‘Certain options, such as cutting salaries, cannot be considered. There are bus routes that are losing money but which would be politically incorrect to cancel because staff and students feel they need them,’ he said. The alternatives left include freezing positions and promotions, and reviewing the petrol frequency of safer corners of the campus.

A Christian’s Approach
Mr. Au would like to request the University community to treat guards and drivers as family and not to give them an unnecessarily difficult time even if they’ve impounded the vehicle you parked in haste on someone’s balcony. Being respected is essential to morale. ‘As a Christian, I believe in treating my staff that I came. That is why I’ve spent a lot of time talking to them in batches. They may be surprised to find that I’m not the brusque and surly ex-cop they imagined me to be. Even while working in Tsuen Wan and Sha Tin, I never once lost my temper.’ And therein lies the key to a youthful appearance and positive mindset.

Piera Chen

Information in this section can only be accessed with CWEM password.
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。
認識新同事

鄭文珊致力在中大建立籌款文化

大學因應發展的需要，於七月設立了直接向校長負責的拓展及籌募處，該處剛履新的高級主任鄭文珊先生期望能協助建立中大的籌款文化。

鄭先生取得美國加州州立理工大學理學士學位後，留在當地工作作了八年，期間考取了執業會計師的資格，「但我沒有執業，在美國的最後一份工作是做財務總監。」他於一九九零年回港，協助打理家族的五金製造和環保生意，後者包括廢油回收再煉，以及設計和裝置工業廢水處理系統等，他在黃金時期和賴克倫為了整頓而學習高爾夫球，他便逐漸養成了這個嗜好。

人家説邊打高爾夫球邊談生意容易成功，大概邊打高爾夫球邊談捐款也一樣有效吧？這，鄭先生非常同意，亦希望球友給中大的捐款是「一桿入洞」。運動以外，他又持續進修，以增廣知識，「剛完成了中大行政人員工商管理碩士課程，從中感受到新思維的衝擊，令我有新的體會，又建立了新的同學網絡。」他以前也曾為香港一些慈善團體籌款，所以有信心挑起革新校園籌款文化的擔子，於七月二日加入中大服務。

「大學秘書長和校友事務處處長等一直積極投人大學的籌款活動。我的工作目標是協助他們的籌款工作，並合作推動新的籌款項目，例如吸引校友回饋母校，向大學、書院以至學系捐贈；另外，於大學不同層面推廣籌款活動。」

鄭先生明白，中大的籌款競爭對手除了其他大學外，還包括醫院、慈善團體，以至內地各種教育和福利機構。所以，他的長遠目標是促使敎師認同籌款是工作的一部分，自覺地爭取各方的捐款。他又期望香港的經濟好轉，屆時有能力捐款的人多了，可資捐贈的金額大了，各院校可籌得的捐款必定比現在的更多。
香港前路

行政人員工商管理碩士課程與香港電台合辦的《與CEO對話》最後兩集已於六月二十九日及七月六日播放，嘉賓分別為香港旅遊發展局主席周梁淑怡女士和工商及科技局局長唐英年先生。

唐英年先生認為，政府要提升民望，首要是提高政策的透明度，其次是定出目標並努力不懈，亦要包容不同意見。

他遵從父訓，不太著緊利潤，而是多關心員工；「最終員工自會加倍回報給你」。他加入政府後，亦緊守這個宗旨。

他表示，香港最大的特色是融合了中西文化，是外地無法取代的；而內地有豐富的資源，可與香港互補，相輔相成。香港政府要努力改善營商環境，吸引私人公司在港投資，以促進經濟發展。而要改善營商環境，就得致力維持法治和良好的金融體制，並要保護知識產權及加強對外推廣。

唐先生忠告創業者，他們的生意應最少包含創新、高增長和科技其中一項元素。

周梁淑怡女士在節目中指出，沒有產品是完美的，重要的是不斷改良。她形容香港是優良的「產品」，在歷史及文化上都透發多元化的特質，而且與眾不同。她出掌旅遊發展局後，決定改變香港的形象，「提出了一個先進的『亞洲國際都會』城市新概念」。

周女士認為，香港在SARS過後，應邀請海外傳媒和旅遊業人士來訪，並積極籌備大型會議和展覽，以推廣香港給各地人士認識。另方面則應推動內部消費。

她對CEO的要求是：作為領導人，必須具有傑出和超越期望的決心。她自認是「一位有目標和允許下屬發揮的領導人」。

香港大學商學院創辦傑出商管學生會

近年營商環境急劇轉變，新一代的商業專才除了要有紮實的學術根基外，亦必須具備全方位的能力，如人際技巧、溝通傳意能力、專業形象、分析能力及時事觸覺等，方能配合社會對人才的需要。

商學院創辦傑出商管學生會

系統工程與工程管理學系

系統工程與工程管理學系新任系主任何嘉教授表示，該系過去多年的努力，教學與研究均達至國際公認的一流水準，而最優化和運籌學這個範疇的成績尤為突出。他說，該課程亦深受內地學生歡迎，由於向隅人數太多，校方已同意將內地自費生的名額由原先的四個增至十個。他說：「學系有如此紮實的基礎，當系主任並非難事，不過是為同事服務而已。我會盡力提供鼓勵性的環境，讓他們工作時心情舒暢，為學系的發展作出更多貢獻。」

李教授説：「政府表明重點發展物流、金融、旅遊及服務四個行業，而這正是學系的教學與研究重點。我們要把握這個機遇，也看作是一個挑戰，在現有的基礎上，令教學更配合社會的需要，使香港成為世界一流物流中心。」

他補充説：「系統今年九月起與清華大學在深圳合辦『高級管理人員物流供應鏈管理碩士課程』，為內地培訓物流業專才。姚大衛教授領銜的卓越學科領域申請工作進展順利，已進入最後階段，非常有希望獲選。這些工作都很切合學系的發展方向。」

開辦自資碩士課程雖有助增加資源，承擔系內的開支；但李教授認為，這些可投資於教學及研究，並非以降低學費為目標。他說：「系統的學費在商學院內屬中間水準，而已購買行內較高的。」

對於風險管理科學課程能在三年間獲得佳績，梁沛霖教授認為是各位同事努力的成果，尤以前任課程主任陳毅恒教授的貢獻最大。他表示，作為課程主任，要繼往開來，還需繼續依靠同事的大力支持，而自己主要是負責統籌和聯繫而已。
校慶活動全面展開

校慶重點活動「香港中文大學四十周年校慶博覽會」於本月隆重展開，金耀基校長特聯同三位副校長楊綱凱教授、廖柏偉教授及鄭振耀教授，於九月十五日向新聞界介紹博覽會的節目，大學未來十年的發展藍圖，以及未來數月的重點校慶活動。記者招待會後金校長和三位副校長更於四十周年校慶標誌雕塑前拍照留念。該雕塑放置於林蔭大道近碧秋樓處。

血小板減少症新療法

內科及藥物治療學系血液科利用混合高劑量地塞米松（Dexamethasone）的皮質類固醇，治療特發性血小板減少症的成年患者，療效良好，可減少量副作用，並縮短治療期。

特發性血小板減少症是由病人體內的抗體攻擊自身的血小板所致，亦是醫學上常見的自體免疫失調症之一，香港每年約有二百宗相關病例，威爾斯親王醫院每年新增的病例則有三、四十宗。

特發性血小板減少症的患者有較大機會出現出血問題，嚴重的更有生命危機。皮質類固醇是現時的第一線療法，傳統的治療模式是按病人體重，每公斤使用一至二毫克潑尼松或同等劑量的藥物，治療期由數星期至數月不等。其中七成半成年患者的血小板值會因而上升；若延長治療期，則會引起感染、骨質疏鬆、高血壓、內分泌失調等副作用。

內科及藥物治療學系血液科在一九九七年至二零零零年開展研究，治療一百二十五名特發性血小板減少症的成年患者。研究採取嶄新的治療模式——讓患者每天服食四十毫克地塞米松，為期四天，發現治療，八成半患者對新藥的初步反應理想，大部分患者在接受治療的第三天已經可以出院，當中的五成患者在六個月的治療和追蹤期間，病情日輕，毋須接受其他治療。

研究主持鄭彥銘教授（右）和王紹明醫生（左）上月三十日在記者簡布會上表示，新療法對患者有效。新療法亦獲證實為安全，並能達到與傳統療法大致相同的成效；更縮短了治療期，減少患者留院的日數和傳統治療法的副作用，從而有助減輕醫療成本。

這項研究結果已刊於八月二十八日出版的《新英格蘭醫學雜誌》。