

Academic @ Affairs

N E W S L E T T E R

ENGINEERING TEACHING EXCELLENCE APPRECIATION AWARDS

(Fall 2001 awardees)

1. Prof Chun Man CHAN
Assistant Professor (CIVL)
2. Prof David MOUNT
Visiting Professor (COMP)
3. Prof Ross MURCH
Associate Professor (ELEC)
4. Prof Jiyin LIU
Assistant Professor (IEEM)
5. Prof Tianshou ZHAO
Associate Professor (MECH)

*Have an enjoyable
summer break.*

The next issue will reach you in September when the new academic year begins. For comments or suggestions, please contact Betty Law of the office of VP-AA (email: aabetty, ext: 6132)

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UST ranked top 5 in the China Field

The School of Humanities and Social Science has conducted a study on its ranking in the China Field. The three journals in the China Field with the highest Impact Factor in the Journal Citation Report were selected as the basis to examine the ranking of our research achievements in the China Field. These three top journals are *China Journal*, *China Quarterly*, and *Journal of Asian Studies*.

The three key findings of the study are:

- ◆ In term of publication in the top three journals in the China Field, **HKUST is ranked first among the universities in Hong Kong.**
- ◆ In term of publication in the top three journals in the China Field, **HKUST is among the top 5 universities around the world**, sharing the spotlight with such famous universities as Harvard and Stanford.
- ◆ **Hong Kong has emerged as a new prominent center in China Studies** over the past five years in international communities.

If you are interested in obtaining a copy of the complete report, please contact Josephine Wong at Division of Social Science: 2358-7782 or "sojowong@ust.hk".

HKUST Business School has moved up to rank 47th in the world's top business schools offering full-time MBA

Business School Ranked Top 50 Again

programs, according to the latest business education rankings released in January 2002 by the Financial Times.

It is the only school in Asia Pacific to make a top 50 position in the rankings. In addition, HKUST again ranks first in the world for the international experience that its MBA program offers, and second for its international faculty.

Michael G Gale Medal for Distinguished Teaching

Call for nominations for the 2002 Award

- A golden opportunity to recognize and honor the teacher for his/her excellence in teaching
- Act now — nomination forms are available from VPAAO (<http://www.ust.hk/~webaa/nomination.pdf>)

Closing Date for nominations: 31 May 2002

Enquiry: Mrs Yvonne Leung, VPAAO (Tel: 2358-6135; Email: aayvonne)

First Graduating Class of Mainland Undergraduates

Under a cooperative agreement between the Hong Kong SAR and the Ministry of Education in China, HKUST admitted its first group of undergraduate students from the mainland in Fall 1998. Dr Louis Shen, Director of Planning and Coordination, organized the recruiting effort, which involved students initially admitted to three partner universities in China: Peking University and Tsinghua University in Beijing, and Fudan University in Shanghai.

Following a foundation year that included a program especially organized for them in Beijing in the Fall, and a semester at HKUST in the Spring, the students all began their regular degree programs in the Fall of 1999. Of the 19 original recruits, 17 will be completing their studies this year. All of this group went into their final semester with a cumulative grade point average of B or above; well over half had achieved an A average.

Dr Shen has compiled the results of a survey of these students' future plans. Five have firm plans to continue their studies at prestigious universities in the U.S. (Yale, Columbia, Cornell, UC-Berkeley, Illinois) and six others have been admitted to HKUST postgraduate programs. One has secured a job with Ernst & Young in Hong Kong, and several others are considering employment here. All in all, these capable students are poised for a bright future.

This pioneering group of students has demonstrated the value of the program, and paved the way for the three subsequent classes that have come to us. We are grateful for the generous support of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, which has provided scholarship support for the students. Thanks are also due to Dr Louis Shen, who has continued to handle the complex arrangements for recruitment, and has taken a personal interest in the students' careers at HKUST.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ Achievement Highlights ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

❖ The following project groups are awarded Teaching Development Grants of \$13.5M in total:

- Continuous learning and improvement through teaching innovation (PI: Dr Grace Au/CELT)
- Experiential based teaching for network economy (PI: Prof Rami Zwick/MARK)
- A teaching information management environment for university teachers (PI: Dr Grace Au/CELT)
- Virtual Language Adviser (PI's: Mr Richard Pemberton/LANG and Prof Derick Wood/COMP)

❖ Prof Nancy Ip (BICH) was elected Chair of the Gordon Research Conference (GRC) on "Molecular and Cellular Neurobiology" which will be held at HKUST on 2-7 June 2002. Prof Reinhard Renneberg (CHEM) was elected Chair of the GRC Conference on Bioanalytical Sensors held in California in March.

❖ Prof David Banfield (BIOL) was invited to join the "Faculty of 1000", a group of internationally renowned scientists who form a virtual faculty to review the latest topics in current life sciences research and assess the impact of recently published work.

❖ Prof Ping Sheng, Head of Physics, was named Leader of the Year 2001 in Hong Kong in the Technology area. This award recognizes his leadership in nanotechnology research.

❖ Prof Ka M Ng (CENG) was appointed as a Professorial Fellow of the National University of Singapore and as the Corporate Science and Technology Advisor of Mitsubishi Chemical Corp.

❖ In March 2002, Prof Delwyn G Fredlund (Adjunct Professor, CIVL) was presented with an award from the Brazilian Society for Geotechnical Engineering. The plaque read, "To Professor Delwyn G Fredlund for his great contribution to the technical, scientific and educational development of Unsaturated Soil Mechanics around the world".

❖ Prof Fugee Tsung (IEEM) has been certified by American Society for Quality (ASQ) as an ASQ Certified Six Sigma Black Belt - the first one ever in Greater China. It is a formal recognition by ASQ that an individual has demonstrated a proficiency of Six Sigma and its methodologies.

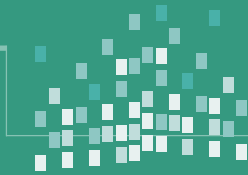
❖ Our team of three chemistry undergraduates, Ma Tsz Wah, Ng Kar Hung and Lau Sik Yung, claimed the championship at the 13th Hong Kong Chemistry Olympiad, the third time for the University since 1996. The team was given just 24 hours to put together a presentation on "Chemistry and Life: Chemotherapy" and has done a great job.

❖ James She (PhD student of ELEC), is the youngest recipient of "2001 Ten Outstanding Young Digi Person" awarded by Hong Kong Productivity Council, Hong Kong Junior Chamber, Innovation and Technology Association and Information Technology Department.

Please send good news in relation to the achievements of yours or your students' to Betty Law of VPAAO.

Tel: 2358 6132 email: aabetty

HKUST Forum on THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF HONG KONG



This three-part forum is part of the University's ongoing mission to help drive the social and economical development of Hong Kong. Faculty and students are invited to join in the forum at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Center and contribute to the informed discussions.

Faculty/students who are interested in any of the following sessions may approach Betty Law of VPAAO (email: aabetty) for complimentary admission tickets, distributed on a first-come-first-serve basis.

19 May Positioning HK: Pearl River Delta & Beyond
17 June High Tech Entrepreneurship
12 July The Government's Role in the Economy

Discussion panels on 19 May:

MANUFACTURING – How can HK and Pearl River Delta reposition themselves, formulate new strategy, strengthen the partnership, and enhance our overall competitiveness?

SERVICES – Who are our future customers? How can we create values for them? How can we foster competitive edges for HK and the Region?

INFRASTRUCTURE AND LOGISTICS – In the long run, what can HK and Pearl River Delta do together to improve its infrastructure and efficiency so as to build this region as the “dragon head” of the economy in South China?

JOBS AND HUMAN RESOURCES – How can HK create more jobs for its workforce and at the same time attract more talents to meet the needs of economic transformation? How should HK people better prepare for the challenges of working in the Chinese Mainland?

On the Light Side - It's Nice To Be the King

— Peter N Dobson, Jr

I don't remember the name of the film, but it was one of those wacky Mel Brooks comedies. In this one, he played a hapless monarch of some nation or planet, and delighted in making whimsical requests that sent his faithful minions scurrying around to satisfy them. I am reminded of this scene every time I get one of those last minute requests from “downtown” to provide information on some topic like “how many cooperative R&D programs on recycling used bubble gum do we have with the following three cities in the Lesser Antilles: St Georges, Long Bay, and Guadeloupe.”

The source of these questions is often obscure, although they usually reach us by a circuitous route that goes through the UGC. This ensures that by the time UGC gets the request, their deadline for response doesn't allow them to be generous with us. So we, and I assume the other seven dependents of the UGC, must scramble to find the required information in a few days at best. No doubt we are the only one of the lot which does not have all such activities cross-indexed in a massive database, so all they have to do is search on “bubble gum” AND “Antilles” to get a record set that is easily edited to exclude the Greater Antilles and any cities in the Lesser Antilles not on the list. I, on the other hand (and alas it is often I to whom these requests are directed), have to appeal to the better natures of my colleagues in the Deans'

offices, and what few friends AA has left in the R&D Branch, for help. Surprisingly enough, this process often yields results that, if not accurate, are at least plausible enough for the intended purpose. Which I assume is to demonstrate our willingness to ask not why they want us to jump, but how high.

You may wonder, as have I, what possible use is made of such information. Over the many years that I have seen such requests, I have been able to ferret out a few facts that lead me to believe it is mostly related to upcoming meetings between high level members of our own Government and representatives of the territories about which the question is asked. Since I am virtually certain that neither our folks nor theirs have the least interest in bubble gum recycling, and no desire to negotiate cooperative ventures on the subject if none yet exist, I conclude that the information is mostly used to give the HKSAR delegation the appearance of being knowledgeable about relations between Hong Kong and the target country. How one works this arcane knowledge into a conversation at a cocktail party is beyond me, but perhaps that skill substitutes for genuine knowledge in the upper reaches of the civil service. Or perhaps the real purpose of the exercise is to reaffirm one's own status by generating all that scurrying on the part of us minions. As Mel Brooks said in the film when his whims were being satisfied, “It's nice to be the king.”

Academic Personnel News

Professor Emeritus

Shain-Dow KUNG, former Vice-President for Academic Affairs, Dean of Science, and Professor of Biology - conferred the title of Professor Emeritus upon his retirement from the University on 16 October 2001.

Administrative appointments

School of Science

Chi Kwong CHANG - re-appointed Head of Chemistry from 1 February 2002 to 31 January 2005.

Ping SHENG - re-appointed Head of Physics from 1 March 2002 to 28 February 2005.

Nancy Yuk-Yu IP - re-appointed Associate Dean of Science from 15 February 2002 to 14 February 2003.

School of Engineering

Yeou-Koung TUNG - appointed Acting Head of Civil Engineering from 1 January to 30 September 2002. Wilson TANG, former Head of the Department, retreated to his academic position as Professor of Civil Engineering.

Tongxi YU - appointed Head of Mechanical Engineering, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Mechanical Engineering from 15 January 2002 to 14 January 2005. Ping CHENG, former Head of the Department, retreated to his academic position as Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

School of Business and Management

Ka-keung C CHAN - re-appointed Acting Dean of Business and Management from 1 January to 31 August 2002.

Gary C BIDDLE - re-appointed Head of Accounting from 16 December 2001 to 15 December 2004; re-appointed Associate Dean of Business and Management from 1 January to 31 August 2002.

Kuo-Chiang WEI - re-appointed Acting Head of Finance from 1 January to 31 August 2002.

School of Humanities and Social Science

William TAY - re-appointed Associate Dean of Humanities and Social Science from 1 January to 31 December 2002.

Yanjie BIAN - re-appointed Associate Dean of Humanities and Social Science from 1 January to 30 June 2002.

University Appointments and Substantiation Committee (UASC)

Membership of the new term of the UASC (2001/02).

Chairman: William TAY (Professor / HUMA)

Members: Yanjie BIAN * (Professor / SOSC)
Kalok CHAN (Professor / FINA)
Shiu Yuen CHENG (Head & Professor / MATH)
Hoi Sing KWOK (Professor / ELEC)
Francis T LUI (Acting Head & Professor / ECON)
H Benjamin PENG (Head & Professor / BIOL)
Yeou-Koung TUNG
(Acting Head & Professor / CIVL)

* Alvin So (Head & Professor / SOSC), serving in the place of Prof Bian from 1 January to 30 June 2002 when Prof Bian is on sabbatical leave.

Faculty members on board

between 4 July 2001 and 2 January 2002

School of Science

Allen MOY, Professor, MATH
PhD University of Chicago

School of Engineering

Yu-Hsing WANG, Assistant Professor, CIVL
PhD Georgia Institute of Technology

Ben YOUNG, Assistant Professor, CIVL
PhD University of Sydney

Long QUAN, Associate Professor, COMP
PhD INRIA-INPL

Qiang YANG, Associate Professor, COMP
PhD University of Maryland

Michael S BROWN, Assistant Professor, COMP
PhD University of Kentucky

Albert Chi-Shing CHUNG, Assistant Professor, COMP
PhD University of Oxford

Yi-Kuen LEE, Assistant Professor, MECH
PhD University of California, Los Angeles

School of Business and Management

Ching-to Albert MA, Professor, ECON
PhD London School of Economics

Jang-Ok CHO, Associate Professor, ECON
PhD University of Rochester

In CHOI, Associate Professor, ECON
PhD Yale University

Yi Lin WU, Assistant Professor, FINA
PhD University of Chicago

Albert Y HA, Associate Professor, ISMT
PhD Stanford University

Ying ZHAO, Assistant Professor, MARK
PhD University of California, Berkeley

Rongrong ZHOU, Assistant Professor, MARK
PhD Columbia University

Jaepil CHOI, Assistant Professor, MGTO
PhD Rutgers University

School of Humanities and Social Science

Sanghoon AHN, Assistant Professor, SOSC
PhD Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Daniel Yiu Fai LEE, Assistant Lecturer, SOSC
MA University of Warwick

Michelle S M YIK, Assistant Professor, SOSC
PhD University of British Columbia

Visiting faculty members on board

between 4 July 2001 and 2 January 2002

(Appointments for 2 months or more are listed.)

School of Science

Helen CHEUNG, Visiting Assistant Professor, BICH
International Medical University, Malaysia

School of Engineering

David M MOUNT, Visiting Professor, COMP
University of Maryland

Jules Marc VLEUGELS, Visiting Assistant Lecturer, COMP
Utrecht University

Sven Bertil AXSATER, Visiting Professor, IEEM
Lund University

King Wah PANG, Visiting Assistant Lecturer, IEEM
HKUST PhD Graduate

School of Business and Management

John Charles WOODERS, Visiting Associate Professor, ECON
University of Arizona

Christina Kwai Choi LEE, Visiting Assistant Professor, MARK
University of Auckland

School of Humanities and Social Science

Tsu-Lin MEI, Visiting Professor, HUMA
Cornell University

Kit Yee CHAN, Visiting Assistant Professor, HUMA
Chinese University of Hong Kong

Adjunct faculty appointed

between 4 July 2001 and 2 January 2002

School of Science

Shain-Dow KUNG, Adjunct Professor, BIOL

Shang Fa YANG, Adjunct Professor, BIOL (Re-appointment)

Paul R CARLIER, Adjunct Associate Professor, CHEM
Virginia Tech

School of Engineering

Ming FANG, Adjunct Professor, CENG
HKUST (Institute for Environment and Sustainable Development)

George BACIU, Adjunct Assistant Professor, COMP
Hong Kong Polytechnic University

Yiu-Wing MAI, Adjunct Professor, MECH
City University of Hong Kong

School of Business and Management

Brian Wallace SEMKOW, Adjunct Associate Professor, ACCT
HKUST (Visiting Scholar in ACCT)

Nai-fu CHEN, Adjunct Professor, FINA (Re-appointment)
University of California, Irvine

Hilton K H CHAN, Adjunct Assistant Professor, ISMT
(Re-appointment)
Hong Kong Police Force, HKSAR Government

Oliver Yue ZHAO, Adjunct Assistant Professor, ISMT
HKUST (Visiting faculty in ISMT)

Joseph C SALVACRUZ, Adjunct Assistant Professor, MARK
HKUST (Visiting Assistant Professor in MARK)

Substantiations and Promotions

The following faculty members have been substantiated and promoted to Associate Professor (B):

School of Science

Kani CHEN (MATH), Zi Kang TANG (PHYS) and
Ning WANG (PHYS)

School of Engineering

Dimitris PAPADIAS (COMP), Man Sun CHAN (ELEC),
Wing-Hung KI (ELEC) and Jingshen WU (MECH)

School of Humanities and Social Science

Xinyang WANG (HUMA) and Simon Man-Ho WONG (HUMA)

Promotions of substantiated faculty

effective from 1 January 2002

Tong-Yi ZHANG (MECH), T J WONG (ACCT) and Yiu-Ming
FUNG (HUMA) have been promoted to the rank of Professor.

Guochen JIA (CHEM), Shihe YANG (CHEM) and Danny H K
TSANG (ELEC) have been promoted to the rank of Associate
Professor(A).

Substantiation

between 1 July and 31 December 2001

Gary C BIDDLE, Professor of ACCT has been granted
substantiation.

Substantiation/Promotion Review

Spring 2002 timetable

This timetable has been announced via email on
15 January 2002.

January 2002	VP-AA to announce the review timetable to all faculty members; VP-AA will also send letters to remind those who are in the final year of probation and are due for a substantiation review.
15 February 2002	Faculty members to submit application to the Department/Division Head. A copy of the application must be sent to the Dean and VP-AA at the same time.
15 March 2002	Faculty members, who have submitted an application on or before 15 February, to submit the review dossier to the Department/Division Head. A copy of the covering memo transmitting the dossier to the Department/Division Head is to be sent by the faculty member to the Dean and the VP-AA at the same time.
15 July 2002	Completion of review at the Department/Division level.
30 September 2002	Completion of review at the School level, as appropriate.
31 October 2002	Completion of review at the University Committee level, as appropriate.
November/ December 2002	VP-AA/President to inform applicants the status of the review on their applications.
1 January 2003	Effective date of the substantiation and/or promotion.

Remark: Please note that the dates scheduled for the reviews at the department/division, school and university level are the normal expected completion dates. Variations may occur, for instance, in circumstances where a longer time is required.

Our first degree programs in the Mainland

- The Shanghai MTM program is approved by the Ministry of Education in March and it will start classes in September 2002.
- The self-financed MBA in Shenzhen is expected to be another degree program that we offer in the Mainland, also commencing in Fall 2002.

New PT MSc Programs

The following part-time Master programs are approved by Senate for introduction in the coming Summer/Fall:

- MSc in IC Design Engineering (self-financed) - may be offered in Hong Kong and/or the Mainland
- MSc in Microelectronics (self-financed)
- MSc in Financial Analysis

ENGG Strategic Alliance with UPenn

Our Engineering School has established a strategic alliance with UPenn's EMTM program to allow students from both MTM programs to take courses from the other program.

Time Limit on PhD Degree Completion

With effect from Spring 2001-02, the maximum duration of study for all PhD students is eight years, regardless of whether a student is in possession of a relevant master's degree.

The normative length of study for PhD students remains at four years for those who do not possess a research master's degree and three years for those who possess a research master's degree.

PRESIDENT'S CUP

We are pleased to have received 45 entries from our undergraduate students. The following twenty-five of them have been selected as the semi-final projects:

Ng Ping Kong, Leo *et al* (ECON)

The optimal border-opening hour: the case of Hong Kong and China

Yang Yong Fang, Francis *et al* (ISMT & FINA)

Wireless telecommunication: mobile data communication - the case of China and HKSAR

Cheuk Wing Yin, Gloria (MARK)

後殖民地啟示錄—末日的焦慮，徬徨與絕望

Sut Ka Shing, Royce *et al* (MARK & MGTO)

The rise & fall of Yau Ma Tei Theatre

Cheung Kwok Fai, Angus and YN Cheung (CIVL)

Pseudo-ductile cementitious composites for engineering applications

Lui Wing Man (CIVL)

Steel ratio effects on flexural stiffness of RC shear walls

Kenneth Chen *et al* (COMP)

Real time Internet-based audio language learning system

Hung Chi Ming, Frankie *et al* (COMP)

Chinese music recorder

Yiu Wai Pun, Ken and PT Leang (COMP)

Infrastructure for document transfer on different mobile platforms

Zhou Hao & SF Ku (COMP)

E-paying system for supermarket

Hau Hok Sum, Sam and MC Hui (ELEC)

Pseudo Wideband vocoder for wireless applications

Ho Sing Hei and YM Chan (ELEC)

Goggle based on silicon microdisplay

Wong Hiu King, Kyna (ELEC)

Comparison between the Christian and Confucian faiths — focusing on St. Paul and Mencius

Lai Chak Po *et al* (ELEC)

Smart home security system

Chow Ka Wai, Raymond *et al* (CPEG)

The "LawGame" Project ("SONY vs CONNECTIX")

Chan Hon Sun (IEEM)

3D map generator - an intelligent 2D to 3D map conversion system

Kwan Ying Kit, Simon and KY Chan (CENG)

Self-assembly patterning of polystyrene-block-polyacrylic acid dry micelles

LamKoon Fung, Louis (CENG)

Microfabrication method of micro-tunnels under zeolite membrane

Ma Wing Kui, Anson (CENG)

Incorporation of nanoporous zeolite in the design architecture of microfuel cell: improving the electrochemical selectivity of the fuel cell membrane

O Kin (MECH)

Analyzing engineering surfaces to identify manufacturing problems

Chiu Tsz Yeung, William (BIOL)

The neuronal identity gene, mab-21, is a common target of anesthetic response in *Caenorhabditis elegans*

Wong Hei Ling, Fion and Yam Fei (CHEM)

The study of stability of hexavalent chromium in cellulose filter paper

Ho Hoi Lam, Ken (PHYS)

A study on the impact of ENSO on tropical cyclone activity over the Western North Pacific

Liu Hon Yi *et al* (PHYS)

E-POP, the medical application of ER fluid

Mak Lai Shun (PHYS)

A novel glasses with capability of monitoring UV radiation

10th Anniversary English Writing Competition

The following students wrote on their experiences of 'Living and Learning in HKUST and were selected as the prize winners'.

First Place: Shou Zhen, Joseph (COMP)
"Memories of 1999"

Second Place: Vishaal Lalwani (BBA)
"The Real Dream Come True"

Third Place: Sut Ka Shing, Royce (BBA)
"Interview with Mr. Rolls K.S.
(Genesis Issue: HKUST's 40 Years Old)"

The consolation prizes go to Chan Ka Ying (BBA), Ho Yat Kwan, Ada (BBA) and Ng Nga Lee (ENGG). Full text of the winning entries can be found in the website: <http://lc.ust.hk/~sa/wc.html>.

Cooperative and Collaborative Learning - your support from CELT

Cooperative and Collaborative Learning (CCL) is a new ideas! Portal that CELT launched. CCL essentially provides a structured way of sharing responsibilities for learning in groups. Typically, students work in pairs or small groups in which they are expected to interact with each other, sharing ideas and resources, supporting and encouraging each other's learning through peer teaching and, most importantly, holding mutual accountability for achieving learning outcomes.

Our faculty are already incorporating CCL teaching methods into their courses as can be seen in the papers presented at our recent Teaching and Learning Symposium [<http://celt.ust.hk/tlsymp/>]. According to CELT staff who are happy to lend you their support, CCL is by no means exhaustive.

Professor Karl Smith from the Civil Engineering Department at the University of Minnesota will be conduct a workshop in on 31 May at HKUST. Please check the CELT website for detailed information.

Is it Practicable or even Fair to Hold Supervisors Responsible for Ensuring Safety of their Personnel?

The labour laws in Hong Kong, as with those in most industrialized communities, hold management/supervisors responsible for ensuring occupational health and safety of employees. In our academic setting, this responsibility is shared among first line supervisors, PIs, unit heads, Deans, etc. Often times, faculty members have expressed concern over having far too many items to manage and as such it is almost an insurmountable task to know every little detail of operations in their units to effectively ensure safety. This is especially true for those who are not closely involved in front line operations. Is it practicable or even fair to hold them responsible for ensuring safety of their personnel?

Specific safety management duties vary in accordance with the level of management. Senior management's duties include ensuring the establishment of a safety management system and proper allocation of resources to address safety issues. Unit management (department, center, lab, etc.) must assemble a safety compliance plan to include various safety policies and procedures, designation of safety personnel in the unit, monitoring for performance, collecting performance feedback on safety compliance, etc.

For PIs, the following items will be helpful in organizing effort to fulfill management responsibility and to ensure safe operations.

- Develop a safety management plan in line with the university's and department's safety policy
- Identify what specific safety risks are involved and determine who will be responsible for addressing them
- Develop a system for systematic management of risks associated with operations under their supervision
- Ensure that personnel are properly trained and will receive sufficient safety information prior to performing hazardous operations
- Monitor performance by collecting first-hand information through periodic facility tours and self-inspections
- Take part in accident investigation to identify immediate and root causes of accidents and recommend ways to prevent recurrence
- Work with first-line supervisors and DSOs to ensure that the safety management scheme will be continue to be enforced effectively

Safety cultures and practices can only be built and maintained with a coordinated effort of everyone involved. In the academic setting, PIs do play a very important role in the safety management scheme. Moreover, they are not alone in the quest for maintaining a safe work and study environment. Unit management must provide the necessary backup support and resources. SEPO will continue to assist by providing consultation, general safety training, performance feedback and other services.

Towards a Better Teaching Environment at HKUST

The Committee on Teaching and Learning Quality (CTLQ) commissioned the SOSC Survey Research Center to conduct an Undergraduate Teaching Experience at HKUST Survey. The survey report reveals that "Fostering critical thinking/academic reasoning among students" is in general the most important teaching goal of our faculty, followed by "presenting a body of knowledge to students". In the instructors' observation, students' poor study skills and poor standard of English, large class size and the need to spend a significant amount of time on other duties are among the factors that obstruct the realization of their teaching goals. (Please go to <http://www.ust.hk/~webaa/cover-page.htm> for the full report.)

With a better understanding of the current teaching environment at UST, an Open Forum was held on 15 May 2002 to discuss how we may improve. Members of the discussion panel, Dr David Lawrence (Humanities), Mr Keith Tong (Language Center) and Dr Rudolf Fleischer (Computer Science), shared with participants their views and reflections on the survey, and offered useful suggestions on how some of the obstacles in the current teaching environment could be tackled.

Prof S Y Cheng, the CTLQ Chair, said that this is a good start and that more forums of the type should be held in the future to encourage sharing of thoughts and ideas on teaching among faculty.

LEARN FROM YOUR PEERS

"What should I do if my students use mobile phones in class?"

"As with most things involving people's attitudes and behaviour, nothing works all the time. However, one thing I have found to have some impact is setting expectations on the first day of class; expectations students have of us and we have of them.

I explain to them that all mobile phones are expected to be turned off during the class (there are signs in each classroom indicating this) because using the phone during a lecture is disrespectful to both their peers and their teachers. I do mention that they may, under extreme cases such as a serious family illness, use the silent/vibration mode of the phone as long as they have obtained my prior agreement. As I say, this does not guarantee 100% compliance but it has gone a long way to reducing the frequency of these incidences."

Nick Noakes, Senior Instructor, Language Center

Code of Student Conduct – Consultation is now on

A model Code of Student Conduct has been drafted for the purpose of codifying the expectation of the University on proper student behaviors, and for providing the necessary policy base for acting against disruptive classroom behaviors and academic dishonesty.

The Code of Student Conduct is now being circulated widely among teachers and students to get views and comments. A copy is placed on the VPAAO homepage at <http://www.ust.hk/~webaa>. Any comments are welcome; please forward it to aao@ust.hk.

To better support Instructors in classroom management, CELT mounted the website "Learn from your Peers" for Instructors to share their experiences. The one on the left is an example of the sharing. If you have had some successful experiences before, please send an email to celt@ust.hk.

First SB&M Teaching Workshop

The first SB&M teaching workshop held in March featured an established scholar in decision science who is also a well-recognized expert in adult education. Prof Harvey Brightman is Regent's professor emeritus of decision sciences, Georgia State University.

He began the workshop by highlighting the importance of teachers refocusing their style in a way that students learn best. "Students must know where they are, have been, and where they are going in their learning process," he said.

According to Prof Brightman, the following are **the top five factors that most students consider helpful to their learning**

- course organization and presentation
- clarity of presentation
- relevance of the subject
- stimulation of interest
- encouragement of discussion / helpfulness and availability of a teacher