

Academic @ Affairs

N E W S L E T T E R

UG Exchange A Great Leap Forward

Thanks to the hard work of colleagues in the Schools, we have set up exchange programs with a number of prestigious overseas universities for our UG students. In 2002-2003, we will see 180 of our undergraduates exchanging-out for a semester or a full year.

In view of the benefits of the student exchange programs to both the students and the University, we are now planning to expand the exchange programs with overseas partner universities. In addition, we are starting a Mainland UG Exchange Program.

The Mainland UG Exchange Program targets year-2 students. It is expected that about one hundred of our students will spend the Spring 2003 semester in one of the nine partner universities in the Mainland. At the same time, about a hundred selected students from

these universities will be exchanged-in and add flavor to the undergraduate life on our campus. Our Mainland Exchange Partners are as follows:

- Fudan University (復旦大學)
- Harbin Institute of Technology (哈爾濱工業大學)
- Nanjing University (南京大學)
- Peking University (北京大學)
- Shanghai Jiaotong University (上海交通大學)
- Tsinghua University (清華大學)
- University of Science & Technology of China (中國科技大學)
- Zhejiang University (浙江大學)
- Zhongshan University (中山大學)

Detailed information on the Mainland Exchange Program can be found at the website: <http://www.ust.hk/pco/ug-exchange>. Students should submit the application forms to the respective School UG Office by 24 October. Anticipating the difference in the

medium of instruction, academic curriculum and life style, it will be a challenging semester for those pioneering students who join the exchange in the coming Spring. They would certainly appreciate the extra encouragement, support and guidance from the faculty members during the planning as well as the exchange period.

Exchange students are to pay the home tuition for the exchange semester(s) and pay for their own travel and living expenses. Given that the UGC has allocated funding in the 2002-2005 period to support the enhancement of the UG exchange program, the University would be able to provide partial financial assistance to students joining the exchange programs, to overseas or Mainland universities. Exchange-out students can inquire at the School UG Offices.

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First Group of Early Admission Students on Board

The University launched the Early Admission program for Gifted Students (EAP) in March to enable gifted secondary school students to enter university after completing Form 6 and to keep talented young people in Hong Kong. We received over 200 applications. With the help of a group of dedicated faculty, an intensive selection exercise was conducted, and a six-week, broad-based intensive summer preparation program was offered to the first batch of EAP students prior to the start of their regular, 3-year program. We now have 17 EAP students with the School of Science, 23 with the School of Engineering and 14 with the School of Business and Management who have demonstrated to be excellent in academic and other pursuits.

The Second Round Teaching and Learning Quality Process Reviews

Many of the readers of this newsletter will not have been at HKUST in April 1996, more than six years ago, when we were visited as part of the first round of the Teaching and Learning Quality Process Reviews (TLQPR) conducted by the University Grants Committee (UGC). Those who were here at the time will recall that the outcome of our first review was not very favorable, but may not remember the details of how the review was conducted or what its purpose was. We are now in the process of preparing for the second round of reviews, which will culminate with a visit of the Review Panel in January 2003.

A Process-Focused Review Exercise

Just what is this process with the unpronounceable acronym TLQPR? (Editor's note: You'll find some clues on remembering this acronym by reading the "Light Side" column on page 7) To understand it, first note the word "Process" in the phrase. In principle, TLQPR is not designed to make judgments about the quality of the teaching and learning that takes place at the institutions being reviewed. Rather, it is focused on the processes that we ourselves have set up to assure that quality. In a way, this distinction can be frustrating, since there may be situations where we are sure that we produce good results, but find it hard to document the processes that led to those results. Nevertheless, this focus on process was chosen at the urging of the institutions, which were aware of just how intrusive a review of delivered quality has proved to be in parts of the world where such reviews are pursued with vigor.

Five Domains to look at

In this second round, the review will look at five domains of the work we do to assure quality — what the designers of the review process call education quality work. Three of these domains cover the processes by which we design our educational products: curriculum design, design of teaching and learning processes, and design of student assessment. The first relates to the content of the course or program, the second to how it is delivered, and the

third to how its outcomes are measured. The fourth domain is implementation quality, and is concerned with the processes we use to ensure that the course or program is achieving the desired outcomes. Finally, a fifth domain, commitment of resources to education quality work, looks at the extent to which the quality assurance and improvement framework has the means to operate effectively.

Visit by the Review Panel in January 2003

Since the first round of TLQPR we have done a great deal to develop and strengthen our teaching and learning quality processes, and we have documented this in several progress reports and a self-study submitted to the UGC this Summer. We have a number of further refinements in the works for the coming semester. In January, the TLQPR Review Panel will visit HKUST, and this will include sub-group visits to a number of Departments and other units.

How to get be Prepared?

There is a chance that you, the reader, may find yourself in front of one of these sub-groups in January, and how you perform can have a significant effect on the overall impression that HKUST makes at that time. How can you be prepared for that? Being able to report that you personally participated in some teaching and learning improvement activity, such as attending one of the workshops or lectures organized by CELT, will be a real plus in such a situation. As the time draws nearer, there will also be some specific exercises organized to get ready for the visit. At the very least, every concerned faculty member should make an effort to become better acquainted with the issues.

Sources of Information to get Better Acquainted

An excellent general source of information is the Teaching and Learning Quality web site, developed by the office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs, at <http://publish.ust.hk/vpao/tlq>. Many related resources can also be found on the CELT web site at <http://celt.ust.hk>.

A Brief Reminder on

Signing of Agreements & Contracts

The University enters into different types of agreements and contracts with outside organizations. Members of the University should note that, except under delegated authority, only an officer of the University is authorized to sign any contract or agreement that commits University resources. "Officers of the University", in such cases, are the President and the three Vice-Presidents, in their respective areas of responsibility.

For queries or clarifications, please contact Betty Law of VPAAO (ext. 6132, email: aabetty) or Julie Shing of VPRDO (ext. 6163, email: rdjulie)

Joining Hands with CELT to Build a Culture of Continuous Improvement

The faculty-CELT collaborative teaching development projects under the umbrella title of “Continuous Learning and Improvement (CLI) through Teaching Innovation” was awarded \$6 million of Teaching Development Grant (TDG) in the latest round. This TDG project aims to assist the innovation process in the University to move forward from isolated, *ad hoc*, innovations, through planned and pedagogically sound teaching initiatives, towards a spreading culture of teaching improvement throughout the institution.

This is an umbrella project which will involve up to 38 teaching innovations/adaptations, phased over a three-year period. Both the main Project and sub-projects will be continuously evaluated and adjusted within Action Research cycles. Significant outcomes will include a growing body of relevant pedagogical knowledge and expertise within the University community; an increasing number of instructors involved in planned and well-structured innovations; a collegiate approach to teaching innovation. These are the elements of a culture of continuous improvement.

Examples of faculty-CELT collaborative projects:

AMCE & BIOL (contact: Prof Pei-Yuan Qian & Dr Ice Ko)

Development of a multimedia-enhanced online course to provide a highly flexible learning environment for the students, especially part-timers, as well as to deliver course materials of diversified topics.

BIOL (contact: Prof Karl Tsim)

Development of software system to help students learn neuronal connectivity through 3D modeling.

PHYS (contact: Prof Tai Kai Ng)

Using computer animations, visualizations and video clips to help students learn abstract concepts and processes in physics, such as 3D geometry, or complicated time dependence phenomena.

PHYS (contact: Prof Michael K Y Wong)

Providing all-round education to Science students through project courses.

CENG (contact: Prof John Barford)

Developing multimedia tool for teaching - Metabolic pathways analysis.

COMP (contact: Prof Gary Chan)

To develop a wireless Internet system to allow students anytime, anywhere access to recorded lectures and to interact with the instructor.

COMP (contact: Prof Jogesh Muppala)

Action research approach to find out ways to help students learn using simulation and visualization.

COMP/LANG (contact: Prof David Rossiter)

Realtime and asynchronous discussion through voice between any two or more people via the internet, automatic recordings which are available for access by students.

FINA (contact: Prof Suren Mansinghka)

Online examination system.

ISMT (contact: Prof James Kwok)

Research into student learning in groups.

ISMT (contact: Prof Kar Yan Tam)

Problem-based learning through online interaction to train students in analytical skills in a business environment.

LANG (contact: Dr John Milton)

Online tool to help teachers to provide feedback to and annotate students' written works. The system also allows the tracking of students' mistakes in writing.

Getting Organized for Safety in the New School Year

As we start the new school year, let's not forget to implement established protocols to make sure our new and existing staff and students are aware of the potential hazards associated with their work and are familiar with all the necessary safety measures required to ensure safety.

Setting Up Safety Clearance Protocols

Safety clearance protocols already established in many departments help PIs to systematically manage safety of those under their supervision. It clearly identifies the hazards to be encountered in the course of performing the required work, specifies necessary safety measures including attendance of safety classes, familiarization with safety features and provisions associated with the work places concerned. Safety resources such as the HKUST safety and environmental protection manual, departmental safety requirements are also made known to the staff/student in the process. Through implementing this protocol, PIs would also have established documented proof of fulfilling their safety management duties stipulated by the law.

A Systematic Risk Assessment

Each PI should also have been provided by SEPO a copy of Workplace Hazard Evaluation Summary for the worksite he/she supervises. The summary is a record of a systematic

risk assessment of all the operations within the location concerned. It identifies the potential hazards associated with each work process, points out the people affected and specifies all the necessary engineering and administrative control measures and personal protective equipment. This document is not only useful for indoctrinating new comers on the nature of the hazards and the necessary safety measures, it is also useful for supervisors to monitor safety compliance by periodically verifying that the safety controls specified in the document are indeed implemented. Please contact SEPO if you do not have a copy or if the information needs updating.

Importance of Hazard Communication and Safety Training

Investigation of past accidents often revealed that the root causes of many campus accidents were attributed to poor hazard communication and lack of proper training. In this connection, thorough hazard communication and provision of safety training are not only keys to preventing accidents, they are also Government regulatory requirements under the Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance as well as University Policy requirements. Among all the important issues to tackle at the beginning of the school years, let's pencil these safety items in and accomplish them on a priority basis!

Academic Personnel News

Administrative appointments

Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs

Ting-Chuen PONG - appointed Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs with effect from 1 July 2002 upon the retreat of Prof Nelson Cue, former Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs, to his academic position in the Department of Physics.

School of Science

Shiu Yuen CHENG - re-appointed Head of Mathematics, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Mathematics, from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2005.

School of Engineering

Ka M NG - appointed Head of Chemical Engineering, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Chemical Engineering, with effect from 1 July 2002 upon the retreat of Prof Po Lock Yue, former Head of Chemical Engineering, to his academic position in the Department.

Lionel M NI - appointed Head of Computer Science, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Computer Science, with effect from 2 July 2002.

Chi-Ming CHAN - appointed Associate Dean of Engineering, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Chemical Engineering, from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2005.

Helen C SHEN - appointed Associate Dean of Engineering, concurrent with her appointment as Associate Professor of Computer Science, from 1 June 2002 to 31 May 2004.

School of Business and Management

K C CHAN - appointed Dean of Business and Management, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Finance, with effect from 1 July 2002.

Leonard CHENG - appointed Head of Economics, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Economics, with effect from 1 July 2002.

Kalok CHAN and John K C WEI - appointed Acting Head of Finance for the periods of 1 September 2002 to 31 January 2003 and 1 February 2003 to 30 June 2003, respectively

Kar Yan TAM - appointed Head of Information and Systems Management, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Information and Systems Management, with effect from 1 August 2002 upon the retreat of Prof Christopher Westland, former Head of Information and Systems Management, to his academic position in the Department.

School of Humanities and Social Science

TING Pang-Hsin - re-appointed Dean of Humanities and Social Science and Professor in the Division of Humanities from 1 July 2002 to 30 June 2004.

Yanjie BIAN - appointed Head of Social Science, concurrent with his appointment as Professor in the Division of Social Science, with effect from 1 July 2002 upon the retreat of Prof Alvin So, former Head of Social Science, to his academic position in the Division.

Alvin SO - appointed Associate Dean of Humanities and Social Science, concurrent with his appointment as Professor in the Division of Social Science, from 1 July 2002 to 31 December 2003.

Professor Emeritus

The following faculty members have been conferred the title of Professor Emeritus upon their retirement from the University on 1 July 2002:

Jerry Hsueh-Ching WANG, former Professor of Biochemistry

Dennis Paul Hsien-Tang HSIEH, former Professor of Biology

Tse-Yung Paul CHANG, former Professor of Civil Engineering

Hsi-sheng CH'I, former Professor in Social Science

Faculty members on board

between 3 January 2002 and 2 July 2002

School of Engineering

Lionel M NI, Head & Professor, COMP
PhD Purdue University

School of Business and Management

Yuk-fai FONG, Assistant Professor, ECON
PhD Boston University

Hiromi NOSAKA, Assistant Professor, ECON
PhD University of Wisconsin-Madison

Heli C WANG, Assistant Professor, MGTO
PhD Ohio State University

School of Humanities and Social Science

Jianhua CHEN, Assistant Professor, HUMA
PhD Harvard University

Visiting faculty members on board

between 3 January 2002 and 2 July 2002

(Appointments for 2 months or more are listed.)

School of Science

Dennis Paul Hsien-Tang HSIEH, Visiting Professor, SCIE
HKUST (Professor Emeritus and Adjunct Professor in Biology)

Jerry Hsueh-Ching WANG, Visiting Professor, BICH
HKUST (Professor Emeritus)

Michael HÖRNER, Visiting Associate Professor, BIOL &
Program Advisor in the German Center of the Europe Institute
University Göttingen

Boon K TEO, Visiting Professor, PHYS (May & June 2002) &
CHEM (July 2002)
University of Illinois at Chicago

Po-zen WONG, Visiting Professor, PHYS
University of Massachusetts

Gang XIAO, Visiting Professor, PHYS
Brown University

School of Engineering

Maria del Carmen CARLES, Visiting Assistant Lecturer, CENG
HKUST (Research Associate in BICH)

William Lee STEIGER, Visiting Professor, COMP
Rutgers University

Guoxiang GU, Visiting Professor, ELEC
Louisiana State University

Ka Nang LEUNG, Visiting Assistant Professor, ELEC
HKUST PhD Graduate

School of Business and Management

Scott SERICH, Visiting Assistant Professor, ISMT
George Washington University

Adjunct faculty appointed

between 3 January 2002 and 2 July 2002

School of Science

Dennis Paul Hsien-Tang HSIEH, Adjunct Professor, BIOL
HKUST (Professor Emeritus and Visiting Professor in SCIE)

Wendy W L HSIAO, Adjunct Assistant Professor, BIOL
HKUST (Visiting Assistant Professor in BIOL)

Yu-Fong YEN, Adjunct Associate Professor, CHEM
HKUST (Assistant Project Manager in CHEM)

Lam Lung YEUNG, Adjunct Associate Professor, CHEM
HKUST (Assistant Project Manager in CHEM)

Kung Ching CHANG, Adjunct Professor,
MATH (Re-appointment)
Peking University

Shou-Jun CHEN, Adjunct Professor, MATH (Re-appointment)
Peking University

C K CHU, Adjunct Professor, MATH (Re-appointment)
Columbia University

Zhong-xian ZHAO, Adjunct Professor, PHYS
Chinese Academy of Sciences

Man Kwong MAK, Adjunct Assistant Professor, PHYS
Hong Kong Institute of Vocational Education

School of Business and Management

Fletcher Orlan LEE, Adjunct Professor, ACCT
HKUST (Visiting Scholar in ACCT)

Yining LI, Adjunct Professor, ECON (Re-appointment)
Peking University

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

Paul M F CHENG, Adjunct Professor, MGTO (Re-appointment)
Lamex Trading Co Ltd

Steven John DEKREY, Adjunct Professor, MGTO
HKUST (Director of MBA/EMBA/MSc Programs)

Lee G LAM, Adjunct Professor, MGTO
BOC International Holdings

School of Humanities and Social Science

Lai CHEN, Adjunct Professor, HUMA (Re-appointment)
Peking University

Shaoyu JIANG, Adjunct Professor, HUMA (Re-appointment)
Peking University

Andrew G WALDER, Adjunct Professor, SOSC (Re-appointment)
Stanford University

Substantiations and Promotions

effective from 1 July 2002

Chung-Lun LI (IEEM) has been substantiated and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor (A) and the following faculty members have been substantiated and promoted to the rank of Associate Professor (B):

School of Science

David K BANFIELD (BIOL), Bradley Alan FOREMAN (PHYS)
and Xixiang ZHANG (PHYS)

School of Engineering

Guohua CHEN (CENG), King Lun YEUNG (CENG),
Chun-Man CHAN (CIVL), Mohamed Salah GHIDAOUI (CIVL),
Shing Chi CHEUNG (COMP), Bo LI (COMP), Howard C LUONG
(ELEC), and Christopher Y H CHAO (MECH)

School of Business and Management

Suil PAE (ACCT), David COOK (ECON), Vidhan K GOYAL (FINA),
James Yeong-Liang THONG (ISMT), Hongtao ZHANG (ISMT),
and Jaideep SENGUPTA (MARK)

School of Humanities and Social Science

Carsten Andreas HOLZ, Zhongdong MA, Gerald Roe
PATCHELL and Tian ZHU in the Division of Social Science

Promotions to the Rank of Professor

effective from 1 July 2002

Yung-Hou WONG (BICH), Jing Song HUANG (MATH) and Tai-Kai NG (PHYS), Ting-Chuen PONG (COMP), Matthew Ming-fai YUEN (MECH), Rami ZWICK (MARK), Kenneth S K LAW (MGTO), and David Stephen ZWEIG (SOSC)

Promotions to the Rank of Associate Professor (A)

effective from 1 July 2002

Mingjie ZHANG (BICH), Zongjin LI (CIVL), Charles W W NG (CIVL), Andrew HORNER (COMP), Li QIU (ELEC), Jiatao LI (MGTO), and Songnian CHEN (ECON)

Substantiations

between 1 January 2002 and 30 June 2002

Ka M NG (Professor/CENG), Kei May LAU (Professor/ELEC), In CHOI (Associate Professor(B)/ECON) and Albert Y HA (Associate Professor(A) / ISMT)

Implementation of the Revised Academic Review Procedures

The following revised and new policy papers incorporating the changes to the academic review procedures approved by Senate on 10 April 2002 have been announced in the email from the Vice-President for Academic Affairs of 4 June 2002 for implementation with effect from 1 July 2002:

AP20.0 - Policy on Academic Review

AP20.7 - References

AP24.0 - Appeal Policy and Procedure

AP30.1 - Promotion Review - Timetable and Subsequent Attempt

AP40.0 - Policy on Substantiation for Academic Staff

The papers of the revised procedures are posted on the web site of the AA Office: <http://www.ust.hk/~webaa/>.

Substantiation/Promotion Review Fall 2002 timetable

This timetable has been announced via email on 21 June 2002.

June 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.

1 September 2002

Deadline for faculty members to apply to the Department /Division Head. The review dossier with information as specified in the relevant review guidelines shall be submitted to the Department/Division Head at the same time together with the application. A copy of the covering memo transmitting the application and the dossier is to be sent by the applicant to the Dean and the VP-AA at the same time for record.

Note: If the application and the review dossier are not received by the Department/Division Head on or before this date, the applicants, including those who are in the final year of probation and have been reminded by the VP-AA, will be regarded as not interested in pursuing the review application. No action on the review will be initiated and contract for those who are in the final year of probation will expire at the end of the contract.

15 January 2003

Department/Division Committee to complete the review and submit its recommendation report to the Department/Division Head.

15 February 2003

Department/Division Head to complete his/her own review and submit his/her recommendation to the Dean together with the Department/Division Committee's report.

15 March 2003

School Committee to submit its review report to the Dean.

1 April 2003

Dean to review the application and submit his/her own recommendation to the VP-AA together with the review reports of the Department/Division and the School Committee, as appropriate.

30 April 2003

The University Appointments and Substantiation Committee to complete reviews and submit recommendations to VP-AA.

May 2003

VP-AA/President to inform applicants the status of the review.

1 July 2003

Effective date of the substantiation and/or promotion, as appropriate.

RPg & CEU Review along with TLQPRs

Please note that there will be a concurrent review of the RPg programs along with the 2nd TLQPRs for the first time replacing the UGC Postgraduate Education Sub-Group (PESG) Review which was last conducted in 1998. Programs offered by continuing education units (CEUs) will also be reviewed by another sub-group.

Re-Entry of Mainland Students to HK After Graduation for Employment

A new policy was put in place last year to allow Mainland students of ours to re-enter Hong Kong for employment after graduation. Recently, UGC had written to us to further clarify the policy. Graduates of ours from the Mainland should be allowed to re-enter Hong Kong under the following conditions:

- 1 Entry Status - They must be on "student" status when they entered Hong Kong for the studies at UST.
- 2 Program of Studies - Graduates of all our UG programs; graduates of all our full-time TPg programs (publicly-funded, mixed mode or self-financing) who have completed the entire program in Hong Kong; and graduates of all our RPg programs are eligible for this employment scheme.

Note that this scheme *does not* apply to the following groups of students/graduates:

- those entering Hong Kong on "visitor", "employment", "training" or "dependent" status
- graduates of programs offered by the Continuing and Professional arms of the University
- graduates of non-local programs, distance learning programs or professional courses
- exchange students and those attending short courses

For special cases in which Mainland residents entering Hong Kong on "student" status are not covered by the new policy, the Immigration Department will write to the University with a copy to the student clarifying the situation.

Countdown to the Rocket Launch

A rocket design competition at this year's Engineering Summer Camp for Honor Students proved a soaring success with 48 projectiles taking to the air. The multi-disciplinary project called on campers to utilize knowledge from a range of engineering disciplines and was the highlight of the camp held in July. In groups, students were asked to design an electronic music countdown system and a rocket, and integrate them with a chemically propelled launcher. Prizes were awarded in categories including Best Music Countdown System, Maximum Launching Distance, and Greatest Shooting Accuracy.

At the camp's closing ceremony, President Chu pointed out that the first rocket in human history was made by the Chinese, giving extra meaning to the competition.

English Proficiency Test for UG Students

The University Grants Committee (UGC) has announced in July this year to adopt the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) as the common English proficiency assessment for students graduating from UGC-funded institutions. The test assesses the ability to use English language in communications, covering students' skills in listening, reading, writing and speaking. It is hoped that the availability of the assessment will enhance awareness of the importance of proficiency in English generally.

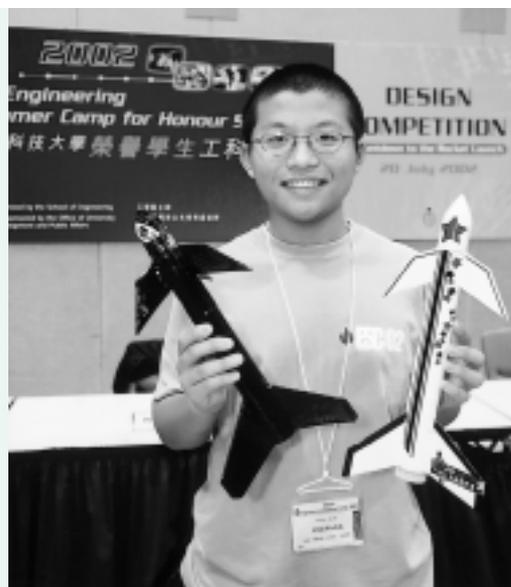
Final year undergraduate students are expected to take the test starting from early 2003, on a voluntary basis. UGC will reimburse graduating students for their test fee, each for once, provided that they agree to have the relevant results reflected in their transcripts. Scores are recorded in a band scale from 1 to 9 where 9 represents the score of an expert user and 1 represents that of a non-user.

More details about the assessment can be found on the UGC's website at www.ugc.edu.hk and the IELTS website at <http://www.ielts.org>.

Annual RPG Progress Reports

The Annual Progress Reports for research postgraduate students (RPgs) are official and systematic records maintained by the University to keep track of the annual study progress made by RPgs in terms of research and thesis writing.

The deadline for submitting the report to ARRO is 31 July every year. As of mid September, ARRO has received 87% of the reports. If the reports of your RPgs have not been forwarded to ARRO yet, please get them done now. The PG Secretariat of the VP-AA Office will be sampling the reports and make a brief report in the next issue of *PG UPDATE*.





Every Step Counts

Our first walkathon will be held on 20 October (Sunday) morning. We count on your support. Come and join JUST Walk with your family and friends and let's make this a memorable and successful event!

After the walk, take part in the Fun Day – a carnival of games and performances at the LG7 lawn area in the afternoon.

This walkathon will raise fund for the new student hostel due to be completed in 2004. It will add 527 places and enable

more students to experience campus life. The Government is providing 75% of the construction cost. The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust has also generously pledged HK\$19.5 million, with the University needing to raise the same amount.

JUST Walk sponsorship/donation forms can be downloaded at www.ust.hk/just_walk. For inquiries, please email to justwalk@ust.hk or call 2358-6308.

On the Light Side - It's a Mouthful

— Peter N Dobson, Jr

Elsewhere in this newsletter is a serious article on TLQPR, which I confess to having written myself. Still, to paraphrase Abraham Lincoln, "You can be serious about some things all of the time, and about everything some of the time, but you can't be serious about everything all of the time." In my case, the subset of things that I can be serious about all of the time is quite small indeed, and it doesn't include TLQPR.

For me, the most memorable thing about TLQPR is the acronym itself. It was deliberately designed so that you could determine how committed anyone was to teaching and learning quality by whether or not he or she could remember the sequence of letters. There is actually a secret scoring system, partially revealed here to the general public for the first time. If you mumble fewer than five letters, and one or more of them is not T, L, Q, P or R, then you flunk the test. Getting all five letters right, but in the wrong order, is good enough for a C. Those of us who can spit out T-L-Q-P-R with barely a pause between the letters are the honor students.

With the review coming up, I'd like to have more people here who can do better than a C at saying TLQPR. I know it gets a good laugh when someone stumbles over the spelling, but I am not

sure the TLQPR Review Panel will get the joke. I have a feeling that after the meeting, one of them will say, "Gee, guys, even knowing we were coming, they didn't talk about it enough to learn how to say it."

As I see it, the solution is to figure out how to pronounce it. Nobody ever forgets the acronym for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, because everybody just calls it NASA. And more people know how to say QANTAS than know that it originally stood for Queensland and Northern Territory Aerial Services. TLQPR is a bit more of a challenge, but if we permit a vowel sound between the consonants, and take the Q as a hard K sound, then TLQPR comes out something like "Talk-Purr." This is easy to remember - "talk" is something our students do in class, and "purr" is the sound a cat makes when it is happy. Try it out. If you say talk-purr every time you see TLQPR, you will find it easier to remember the spelling.

Of course, there is the danger of slipping up and using the pronunciation in front of the Talk-Purr Review Panel — a name some members of the Panel might think was intended to mock them. Oh well, surely these would have to be people who are serious about everything all of the time, and there aren't supposed to be any people like that.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖ *Achievement Highlights* ❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

❖ UST ranked 1st in the world in research articles published in the top five accounting journals in 2001, the second year in a row it has gained this prestigious place. We are one of only four universities to consistently rank in the top 10 in the last four years, together with Columbia, Pennsylvania and Stanford.

❖ Dr Chun Liang of Biochemistry is the first researcher from Hong Kong to have his research published in *Cell*. His research team have identified a protein that plays an essential role in the initiation of DNA replication. The findings were published in the 28 June 2002 issue of *Cell*.

❖ A BRI team has successfully integrated into a single silicon chip the micro processes of amplification and analysis of genetic material (DNA), and demonstrated that the technology could be applied in the genotyping of Chinese medicinal plants (July 1 issue of *Analytical Chemistry*).

❖ Prof Wilson Tang (CIVL) has been elected to the Offshore Energy Center's Hall of Fame as a Technology Pioneer in Reliability-Based Design of Marine Structures. Prof Tang's achievements in relation to the oil and gas industries will be included in the Ocean Star Offshore Drilling Rig and Museum on Galveston Island, Texas.

❖ Prof Albert Chung (COMP) is the winner of the 2002 British Machine Vision Association (BMVA) Sullivan Thesis Award for the best doctoral thesis submitted to a UK University in the field of computer or natural vision. Prof Chung, an expert in medical image processing and a PhD of Oxford, is in fact a UST alumni who received his MPhil degree here at our Computer Science Department.

❖ Prof Rashmi Adaval of Marketing won the 2002 Robert Ferber award for his paper "Sometimes It Just Feels Right: The Differential Weighting of Affect-Consistent and Affect-Inconsistent Product Information". The award is given to the best dissertation-based article in the Journal of Consumer Research during the previous year.

❖ Prof Katherine Xin (MGTO) was named Editor-in-Chief for Harvard Business Review - China March 2002.

❖ Prof Bian Yanjie (Head, SOSC) has been elected the President of the North American Chinese Sociologists Association (NACSA) for 2002-2003.

❖ Prof Tu Jow-ching of Social Science is recognized as a population expert: a council member of China Population Association (the first one chosen from the outside of the Mainland); a member of Population Expert Group of Central Policy Unit of Hong Kong Government; a council member of Taiwan Population Association; and an advisor of Population Policy Committee of Taiwan Government.

❖ Prof David Zweig (SOSC) was appointed to the Advisory Board, Universities Service Centre for Chinese Studies, CUHK.

❖ The final year project of Chen Pui Lam, Fan Wing Fai and Fung Hing Pui (ELEC) was selected as the first Runner-up in the IEE HK Younger Member Section Project Competition in July 2002.

❖ Lo Chi Chuen, a final year Mechanical Engineering student, was awarded the Integrated Display Technology Limited (IDT) Scholarship based on brilliant performance in industrial training, academic merits, creativity and leadership potential.

Please send good news in relation to the achievements of yours or your students' to Betty Law of VPAAO. (Tel: 2358 6132 email: aabetty)

The next issue of AA Newsletter will be published in March 2003.