

An open letter on 334 PLANNING

Dear colleagues,

In the previous issue of the AA Newsletter, we have mentioned our planning ahead for the four-year degree. The so-called 334 will begin in senior secondary schools in 2009 and at universities in 2012. Our goal is to have top-notch degree programs specially designed for HKUST's role, a world class research-intensive university, and at the same time aligned with our HKUST Strategic Plan 2005-2020. The master plan for our new four-year degree and the transitional arrangement are being developed and will be enunciated in our Academic Development Proposals (ADP) for 2009-2012 to UGC. In other words, our master plan will be ready by the end of 2007. Implementation will then be our top priority for the few years that follow.

To successfully develop and implement our new degree programs, we have to rely on the collective wisdom of faculty members, staff, and students. In the past few weeks, I have met with almost all of you in your department faculty meetings and discussed with you on issues, challenges and opportunities concerning 334. We have also received valuable suggestion and insights from many of you in our 334 Brainstorming Sessions. As a result, a number of working groups have been formed and now in action. They include

- University Common Core Working Group, chaired by Prof Angelina Yee
- School of Interdisciplinary Studies Working Group, chaired by Prof K. Y. Tam

We will continue to run the 334 Brainstorming Sessions in the months ahead and to seek your views and support to ensure our success in the development of HKUST new four-year programs.

I sincerely hope we can join hands to work for the excellence of HKUST!

Warmest regards,

Roland Chin



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HOT SUMMER@UST

SUMMER@UST Program

As reported in the latest issue of e-Genesis, 146 students from around the world participated in the SUMMER@UST Program from 16 July to 4 August. Students took credit-bearing courses and participated in a wide range of challenging extra-curricular activities for leadership and personal development. At the end of the program, students also had the option of joining a 3-day trip to the Pearl River Delta to better understand the recent industrial and economic developments in the region, and to enhance their awareness of critical social, political and environmental issues related to these developments. The Summer@UST Program provided an opportunity for them to learn more about university life, and to become more independent young adults. Many students feel that it has been a worthwhile and meaningful experience for them to spend 3 weeks in UST, and some also indicated an interest in pursuing their future studies at UST.

The University community has been very supportive of the Summer@UST Program, with a number of faculty and staff sending their children to participate in the program. Colleagues from various administrative offices also rendered their help in technical and logistic arrangements to ensure a smooth and successful operation.

UCLA Global Studies Program 2006

Twenty-five undergraduate students from the US participated in the UCLA Global Studies Program organized for the second year at the UST campus from 25 June to 30 July. Students were enrolled in a course taught by a professor at the UCLA Center for Chinese Studies on globalization and its implications for China's economic and political development. Local field trips to the Legislative Council, the Airport and Disneyland, as

well as field trips to Macau and Shenzhen were also arranged to introduce students to recent developments in the region. Overall, the students enjoyed their stay in Hong Kong, and told us that the Global Students Program has been a positive summer study-aboard experience for them.

Georgia Institute of Technology (GIT) East Asia Study Program

A group consisting of 11 students and Prof John Garver, Professor of International Affairs at GIT stayed on the UST campus from 12 to 19 June for the final week of the GIT East Asia Study Program. Lectures and visits were arranged, including visits to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange, Hong Kong International Terminals, and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the PRC in the HKSAR.

AMCE Program - summer courses and autumn conferences

The Atmospheric, Marine and Coastal Environment (AMCE) Program conducted two courses this summer. 'Estuarine Ecological Processes: From Microbes to Man' was given by Prof Hans Paerl from the University of North Carolina and Prof Diane Stoecker from the University of Maryland enrolled over 30 students from UST, sister institutions as well as the Mainland and Taiwan. The second course was a summer camp in Marine Science co-sponsored by Education and Manpower Bureau and HKUST. The camp was held in the Coastal Marine Lab and hosted by Prof Pei-yuan Qian, assisted by PG students and post-docs. Twenty-six gifted students were selected from Forms 6 and 7 to attend this summer camp. In addition to lectures, they learned many techniques, went on a field trip to a mudflat and conducted a group project in the laboratory.

This Fall, the AMCE Program is hosting an International Conference on 'Contrasting Marine Environments' from 23-25 October, with an attendance of about 70 scientists from France and the Mainland and faculty members and students from Kong Kong. The conference will be followed by the Nansha Forum on 'Sustainability and the Environment in the Pearl River Delta (PRD)'. On the last day of the forum, colleagues from the AMCE Program and the Mainland will chair a round-table discussion on 'conserving the marine environment and improving water quality in Hong Kong and the PRD'.



2006

UST Student Orientation ended in success

With the 2006-07 academic year commencing on 4 September, the new undergraduate class of some 1,900 students open a fresh chapter of their life at HKUST.

Through the orientation package and website designed specifically for them, new students are provided with comprehensive information about HKUST, preparing them for a smooth head-start in this new learning environment. In addition, throughout August, students can join a variety of orientation activities coordinated under the New Student Orientation Program. These include student-organized orientation camps, School/Departmental orientation sessions, the University Welcome, and a variety of academic-orientation courses covering English listening skills, skills in using others' ideas correctly, time management, introduction to IT and library services, and induction tours around the Library.

The Program has been well-received by students. The website has received 25,000+ visitors since its launch on 1 August, and over 3,000 registrations for the orientation activities were accepted.

At the University Welcome held on 30 August, students were greeted by three Presidents: President of the University, Prof Paul Chu; President of the Students' Union, Mr Enrico Li; and President of the Alumni Association, Mr Sean Lin. They also got useful advice from the Distinguished Guest Speaker, Prof Jack Lau, on how to tackle challenges in their studies they may face in the coming years. Prof Lau is the first PhD graduate of HKUST, and has been a faculty member of the Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering since 1991. He is currently the Chairman and CEO of Perception Digital Ltd., a company that he founded in 1999.

New elements were added to the University Welcome this year. Led by Mr Sean Lin, an interactive activity 'Guess Who I am' created a lively environment in which students talked and mingled. Students also participated in the creation of a banner for each of the four Schools. Filled with students' signatures, warm remarks, and drawings and handiwork, all School banners were beautifully crafted encouraged a sense of belonging among the students.

Visit <http://www.ust.hk/orientation> for snapshots of these beautiful banners. You will be impressed by their talents and creativity.

Guideline on employment hours for UGs

In 1994, the University adopted a guideline on employment hours for undergraduates. Generally students with a full study load should not be employed by the University for more than 10 hours on average per week during the academic semesters.

Recently there has been an increasing number of students nominated for internships and other employment related to their academic programs, some of which may require students to work for more than 10 hours per week. Given that Departments and Schools have the best picture of the students' study load and the kind of enrichment activities that are suited to students' needs, the procedure for approving exceptions has been revised to allow Schools to approve

exceptions from this '10-hour-work' guideline upon recommendation of Department, taking into consideration:

- The value of this work as part of the student's educational experience;
- Student's academic performance; and
- The impact of the part-time work on the student's academic study

Internationalization

On recruiting UGs from

Overseas...

2006 is an exciting year in UST's international student scene.

This year, UST has extended offers to 66 non-local, non-Mainland applicants who mainly came from outside of Greater China. Of these, 34 applicants accepted the offer, with 18 given scholarships. Despite ample room for growth in terms of the actual application and intake numbers, the percentage change is quite remarkable (14 students accepted offers in 2005 vs. 34 in 2006).

Working toward increased diversity in UST's student profile, in 2006 UST received for the first time full-time undergraduate students from Burma, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Sweden, and Switzerland.

The quality of these students is high, with many of them receiving top scores in International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement exams. Not only are these students academically solid, they are also well-rounded individuals who are multi-lingual and active in sports, music, student organizations and volunteer work. The diversity that they bring is a definite asset to UST.

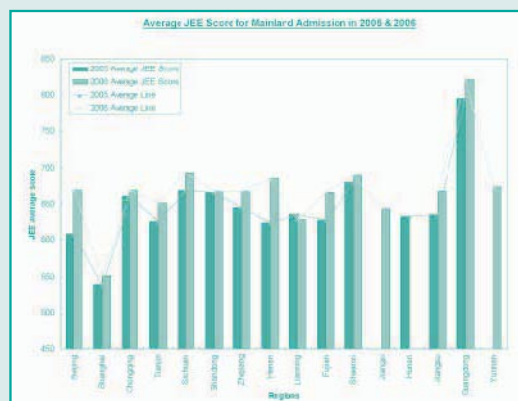
This achievement is the result of the contribution from many units, including Schools and IMSPO. Intensive recruitment and promotional activities were staged in Japan, Korea, Mainland China, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand. IMSPO invited and hosted the visits of 11 high school counselors from Bangkok, Penang, Kuala Lumpur, Shanghai and Beijing. This was well received and proved to be an effective means of raising awareness of UST abroad.

These achievements in internationalizing the student profile could not have been possible without UST's solid international reputation and the support of the community. Appreciation should thus be extended to those both within and outside the university who have worked so hard to make this possible.

The Mainland...

2006 is also another fruitful year for the University in Mainland UG recruitment.

A total of 153 Mainland students were admitted to the preparatory year program of the University this year. Despite a 22% increase in the total tuition fees for non-local students, we are pleased to see a further enhancement of the overall quality of the students admitted. The University has admitted five Mainland Joint Entrance Examinations (JEE) top scorers from Beijing, Guangdong and Sichuan; and over 40 first or second class winners of international or national competitions in mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology or informatics. Students admitted on the basis of JEE results all scored at least 74 points above the first cut-off scores for the major universities in corresponding provinces/cities. The graph below shows a comparison of the average JEE scores attained by students of respective regions admitted in 2005 and 2006.



About 1,000 students meeting the interview cut-off points set by the University were interviewed in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou in early July. Apart from academic excellence, the University wants all-round students with the potential and personal qualities needed to develop a capacity for professional success.

With the combined efforts of the three Schools and IMSPO, intensive promotional activities were staged in 13 major mainland cities from February to May. Appreciation has to be extended to our current mainland students for their strong support and active participation in our recruitment activities.

Academic Personnel News

Substantiation and Promotion

The following faculty members have been substantiated and promoted to Associate Professor on 1 July 2006.

School of Science

Zhihong GUO, CHEM

Shiqing LING, MATH

School of Engineering

Chii SHANG, CIVL

Kai TANG, MECH

School of Humanities and Social Science

Ngai PUN, SOSOC

Substantiation

The following faculty member has been granted substantiation upon his successful completion of the academic review in Fall 2005.

School of Engineering

Andrew Leong Chye LIM, IELM

Promotion

The following faculty members have been promoted to Professor on 1 July 2006.

School of Science

Andrew L MILLER, BIOL

Zhenyang LIN, CHEM

Yue-Kuen KWOK, MATH

Wei-Ping LI, MATH

Xiao-Ping WANG, MATH

Michael ALTMAN, PHYS

Michael K Y WONG, PHYS

Xudong XIAO, PHYS

School of Engineering

Chak K CHAN, CENG

Furong GAO, CENG

Mohamed GHIDAOU, CIVL

Xiang-song LI, CIVL

Zongjin LI, CIVL

Dimitris PAPADIAS, COMP

Li QIU, ELEC

Jang-Kyo KIM, MECH

Yang LENG, MECH

Tianshou ZHAO, MECH

School of Business and Management

Shaohui ZHENG, ISMT

Jaideep SENGUPTA, MARK

Jiatao LI, MGTO

Chair Professor

(appointed on 1 July 2006)

School of Science

Donald CHANG, BIOL

Named Professor

(appointed on 1 July 2006)

School of Science

Ping SHENG, Dr William M W Mong
Professor of Nanoscience

School of Engineering

Hoi-Sing KWOK, Dr William M W Mong
Professor of Nanotechnology

School of Business and Management

Gary C BIDDLE, Synergis-Geoffrey YEH
Professor of Accounting

Faculty Appointment

Regular Faculty

(on board between 1 February 2006 and 31 August 2006)

School of Engineering

Xiangru ZHANG, Assistant Professor, CIVL
(PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Xueqing ZHANG, Assistant Professor, CIVL
(PhD, HKU; PhD, University of Alberta)

Pedro Vieira SANDER, Assistant Professor, COMP
(PhD, Harvard University)

Daniel P PALOMAR, Assistant Professor, ELEC
(PhD, Technical University of Catalonia)

Weichuan YU, Assistant Professor, ELEC
(PhD, University Kiel, Germany)

Jie YUAN, Assistant Professor, ELEC
(PhD, University of Pennsylvania)

Qian LIU, Assistant Professor, IELM
(PhD, Columbia University)

School of Business and Management

Tai-Yuan CHEN, Assistant Professor, ACCT
(PhD, University of Texas at Dallas)

Jian XUE, Assistant Professor, ACCT
(PhD, Carnegie Mellon University)

Juanyi XU, Assistant Professor, ECON
(PhD, University of British Columbia)

Ilna BABENKA, Assistant Professor, FINA
(PhD, University of California, Berkeley)

Yuri TSERLUKEVICH, Assistant Professor, FINA
(PhD, University of California, Berkeley)

Xin XU, Assistant Professor, ISMT
(PhD, University of California, Irvine)

Xiaoquan ZHANG, Assistant Professor, ISMT
(PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Yi XIANG, Assistant Professor, MARK
(PhD, INSEAD)

School of Humanities and Social Science

Guanglin LIU, Assistant Professor, HUMA
(PhD, Harvard University)

Lisa Lai Ming WONG, Assistant Professor,
HUMA
(PhD, Hong Kong University of Science and
Technology)

Nau Bahar SHARIF, Assistant Professor, SOSC
(PhD, Cornell University)

Visiting/Research Faculty

*(on board between 1 February 2006 and 31
August 2006)*

School of Science

Hans William PAERL, Visiting Scholar, SCIE
(PhD, University of California, Davis)

Diane Barbara STOECKER, Visiting Scholar,
SCIE
(PhD, State University of New York at Stony
Brook)

Zhiming CHEN, Visiting Scholar, MATH
(PhD, University of Augsburg)

Samuel Robert EVENS, Visiting Scholar, MATH
(PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Lajos HORVATH, Visiting Scholar, MATH
(PhD, Szeged University)

Fanghua LIN, Visiting Scholar, MATH
(PhD, University of Minnesota)

Dragan MILICIC, Visiting Scholar, MATH
(PhD, University of Zagreb)

Yorck Immanuel SOMMERHAUSER, Visiting
Scholar, MATH
(Doctorate, Ludwig-Maximilians- Universitat
Munich)

Michel WALDSCHMIDT, Visiting Scholar, MATH
(PhD, Universite de Bordeaux)

Gisbert WUSTHOLZ, Visiting Scholar, MATH
(PhD, University of Freiburg i.BR.)

Jean-Michel ZAKOIAN, Visiting Scholar, MATH
(PhD, Universite Paris 9; Habilitation,
Universite Lille I)

Tian Wen CHEN, Visiting Assistant Professor,
PHYS
(PhD, Chinese University of Hong Kong)

Chi Wai LAI, Visiting Assistant Professor, PHYS
(PhD, University of British Columbia)

Bruce J ACKERSON, Visiting Scholar, PHYS
(PhD, University of Colorado at Boulder)

Jixing LIU, Visiting Scholar, PHYS
(PhD, University of Texas at Austin)

King-Ning TU, Visiting Scholar, PHYS
(PhD, Harvard University)

Si WU, Visiting Scholar, PHYS
(PhD, Beijing Normal University)

School of Engineering

Kwok Leung SHUM, Visiting Assistant
Professor, SENG
(PhD, Tokyo Institute of Technology)

Wei Chung HU, Visiting Assistant Professor, CIVL
(PhD, University of South Australia)

Wenwu LOU, Visiting Assistant Professor, COMP
(PhD, Hong Kong University of Science and
Technology)

Pengcheng SHI, Visiting Assistant Professor, ELEC
(PhD, Yale University)

Manohar Shrinivasan MADAN, Visiting
Associate Professor, IELM
(PhD, University of Tennessee)

Wenjing YE, Visiting Assistant Professor, MECH
(PhD, Cornell University)

School of Business and Management

Frank CHING, Visiting Scholar, SB&M
(MA, New York University)

Chandran NAIR, Visiting Scholar, SB&M
(MEng, Asian Institute of Technology,
Bangkok)

Steven Roy MATSUNAGA, Visiting Associate
Professor, ACCT
(PhD, University of Washington)

Jeffrey Arthur PITTMAN, Visiting Scholar, ACCT
(PhD, University of Waterloo)

Chenggang XU, Visiting Professor, ECON
(PhD, Harvard University)

Yan YU, Visiting Associate Professor, ECON
(PhD, Duke University)

Chi Wa YUEN, Visiting Associate Professor, ECON
(PhD, University of Chicago)

Filip VESELY, Visiting Assistant Professor, ECON
(PhD, Purdue University)

Francois-Serge LHABITANT, Visiting Associate
Professor, FINA
(PhD, H.E.C. University of Lausanne)

Ravi Anshuman VYAKARANAM, Visiting
Associate Professor, FINA
(PhD, University of Utah)

Sugato BHATTACHARYYA, Visiting Scholar,
FINA
(PhD, Harvard University)

Yuming FU, Visiting Scholar, FINA
(PhD, University of British Columbia)

Ahron ROSENFELD, Visiting Scholar, FINA
(PhD, University of Rochester)

Michael Douglas STAUNTON, Visiting
Scholar, FINA
(PhD, London Business School)

Viswanath VENKATESH, Visiting Professor, ISMT
(PhD, University of Minnesota)

Javier Fernandez CABRERA, Visiting Scholar,
ISMT
(PhD, Princeton University)

Se Joon HONG, Visiting Scholar, ISMT
(PhD, Carnegie Mellon University)

Weiyin HONG, Visiting Scholar, ISMT
(PhD, Hong Kong University of Science and
Technology)

Marnik G DEKIMPE, Visiting Professor, MARK
(PhD, University of California, Los Angeles)

Yigang PAN, Visiting Professor, MARK
(PhD, Columbia University)

Ganesh Krishna IYER, Visiting Associate
Professor, MARK
(PhD, University of Toronto)

Arieh GOLDMAN, Visiting Scholar, MARK
(PhD, University of California, Berkeley)

Joseph Timothy MAHONEY, Visiting
Professor, MGTO
(PhD, University of Pennsylvania)

Johannes Martinus PENNING, Visiting
Professor, MGTO
(PhD, University of Michigan)

Jeroen Gerwin KUILMAN, Visiting Assistant
Professor, MGTO
(PhD, Erasmus University Rotterdam)

Gilad CHEN, Visiting Scholar, MGTO
(PhD, George Mason University)

Rongxin CHEN, Visiting Scholar, MGTO
(PhD, University of Texas at Dallas)

Ranjan DAS, Visiting Scholar, MGTO
(PhD, Indian Institute of Management
Ahmedabad)

Xiaofu Steven SI, Visiting Scholar, MGTO
(PhD, Washington State University)

School of Humanities and Social Science

Wei HUA, Visiting Professor, HUMA
(PhD, University of California, Berkeley)

Ching Shing CHAN, Visiting Scholar, SOSC
(PhD, Hong Kong University of Science and
Technology)

Anita Ching Hua KOO, Visiting Scholar, SOSC
(MPhil, University of Hong Kong)

Adjunct Faculty

*(appointed between 1 February 2006 and 31
August 2006)*

School of Science

Yuk Shan WONG, Adjunct Professor, BIOL
(PhD, McGill University)(Also VPAB of HKUST)

Todd Benjamin MARDER, Adjunct Professor,
CHEM
(PhD, University of California, Los Angeles)

School of Engineering

Terrence Fu YEE, Adjunct Associate Professor,
CENG
(PhD, Carnegie Mellon University)

Arthur Pui Sang LAU, Adjunct Assistant Professor, CENG
(PhD, HKUST)

Yupo CHAN, Adjunct Professor, CIVL
(PhD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Za-Chieh MOH, Adjunct Professor, CIVL
(ScD, Massachusetts Institute of Technology)

Vijaya Kishore BHARGAVA, Adjunct Professor, ELEC
(PhD, Queen's University)

Jianquan YAO, Adjunct Professor, ELEC
(PhD, Tianjin University)

School of Business and Management

Jonathan Andrew BATTEN, Adjunct Professor, FINA
(PhD, University of Sydney) (Also Visiting Scholar of FINA)

Ahron ROSENFELD, Adjunct Professor, FINA
(PhD, University of Rochester)

Yeung Lewis CHAN, Adjunct Associate Professor, FINA
(PhD, Harvard University)

Veronique A. LAFON-VINAIS, Adjunct Associate Professor, FINA
(Master, HEC; MLaw, Universite de Paris I)

Desmond Wing Ping LI, Adjunct Associate Professor, FINA
(MSc, London Business School)

Lynn Kin Fan PI, Adjunct Associate Professor, FINA
(PhD, Georgia State University)

Garvin Percy DIAS, Adjunct Associate Professor, ISMT
(PhD, Fudan University)

Amnon RAPOPORT, Adjunct Professor, MARK
(PhD, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

Charles Arthur BRIAN-BOYS, Adjunct Assistant Professor, MARK
(EMBA, Kellogg Northwestern-HKUST)

Administrative Appointment

(appointed between 1 February 2006 and 31 August 2006)

Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs

Ting-Chuen PONG - reappointed Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, with effect from 1 July 2006.

School of Science

Yung Hou WONG - reappointed Associate Dean of Science, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Biochemistry, with effect from 15 February 2006.

Nancy Y IP - reappointed Head of the Department of Biochemistry, concurrent with her appointment as Chair Professor of Biochemistry, with effect from 1 July 2006.

School of Engineering

Chi-Ming CHAN - reappointed Acting Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, concurrent with his appointment as Chair Professor of Chemical Engineering, with effect from 1 July 2006.

Moe M S CHEUNG - reappointed Head of the Department of Civil Engineering, concurrent with his appointment as Chair Professor of Civil Engineering, with effect from 1 July 2006.

Khaled BEN LETAIEF - reappointed Head of the Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, concurrent with his appointment as Chair Professor of Electronic and Computer Engineering, with effect from 1 July 2006.

School of Business and Management

Rami ZWICK - appointed Associate Dean of Business and Management, concurrent with his appointment as Chair Professor of Marketing, with effect from 1 July 2006.

Jiatao LI - appointed Head of the Department of Management of Organizations, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Management of Organizations, with effect from 1 July 2006.

School of Humanities and Social Science

Alvin Y SO - appointed Acting Dean of Humanities and Social Science, concurrent with his appointment as Chair Professor in Division of Social Science, with effect from 1 September 2006.

Yiu-Ming FUNG - reappointed Acting Head of the Division of Humanities, concurrent with his appointment as Chair Professor in Division of Humanities, with effect from 1 July 2006.

Emeritus Professor

(titled conferred on 1 July 2006)

Kunrui YU, Department of Mathematics

Howard Ju-Chang HUANG, Department of Civil Engineering

Derick WOOD, Department of Computer Science and Engineering

Karl Sheng Yung KAO, Division of Humanities



Academic Prizes and Achievements

- ❖ **Prof Mohamed S. Ghidaoui** (Civil Engineering) has been awarded the prestigious Erskine Fellowship, University of Canterbury, New Zealand. The Erskine fellowship is awarded to distinguished, international academic visitors who are already advanced in the learning of any subject taught in the Faculties of Commerce, Engineering or Science.
- ❖ **Prof Junshang Kuang** (Civil Engineering) has been elected Fellow of the Institution of Structural Engineers (I.Struct.E.) UK in June 2006, in recognition of his contributions to the structural engineering and design.
- ❖ **Prof Fangzhen Lin** (Computer Science and Engineering) has been awarded a Croucher Senior Research Fellowship for his outstanding contributions to artificial intelligence (AI) research. An expert in AI, Prof Lin is known for his important contributions to the theory and implementation of knowledge representation and reasoning. Among his many achievements, Prof Lin has developed a methodology for 'Computer-Aided Theorem Discovery', which he is applying to find theorems to help analyze and predict computer program behavior. This will assist the design of reliable software, one of the key problems in computer science. He has also made important contributions to Answer Set Programming, a new paradigm of constraint-based programming that has found applications in semantic web, evolutionary linguistics, scheduling and others. His work includes a novel theory that led to the implementation of answer set logic programs using standard satisfiability solvers.
- ❖ Representing Shanghai Jiaotong University (SJTU), **Prof Lionel Ni's** (Computer Science and Engineering) 973 project application was recently approved by the Ministry of Science and Technology of China. HKUST, SJTU, UST of China and Harbin Institute of Technology are the four major participating universities with equal share of the project budget.
- ❖ **Prof Ngai Pun** (Social Science) has won the prestigious C. Wright Mills Award for her 2005 book *Made in China: Women Factory Workers in a Global Workplace*. She is first Asian winner of the award since its establishment in 1964.
- ❖ **Prof Ning Wang** (Physics) has been awarded the 2006 Achievement in Asia Award for his research in nano-technology. The annual Award, made by the Overseas Chinese Physics Association to Chinese scientists below 50 years of age working in Asia, recognizes outstanding achievements in the field of physics.
- ❖ **Prof Hong Xue's** (Biochemistry) research group has recently discovered a gene expression changed in the brains of schizophrenia patients. The discovery has been accepted by Nature Publishing Group for publication in *Molecular Psychiatry*.
- ❖ **Wu Wen**, a PhD student in Electronic and Computer Engineering, has been awarded the prestigious IEEE Electron Devices Society (EDS) Graduate Fellowship 2006, in recognition of her outstanding publications and potential contributions to research in the field of semiconductor. She is the first student in Hong Kong to receive this honor since IEEE EDS started to award the Graduate Fellowships in 2001.
- ❖ First year Computer Science and Engineering MPhil students **Ting Cham-Ho and Chan Kin-Kong** have won this year's prestigious Microsoft Server Championship. The student track competition is open to those under 24 years of age. A total of 39 teams from institutions in Hong Kong, including seven from HKUST, competed for the award.

Academic Prizes and Achievements

(...continued from p.9)

❖ In recognition of her significant contribution to and outstanding achievement in the engineering profession, **Jenny Yeung** (1995 BEng (Civil & Structural Engineering) graduate), received the Young Engineer of the Year Award 2006 from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers on 14 March 2006. Currently a Geotechnical Engineer at the Geotechnical Engineering Office of the HKSAR Civil Engineering and Development Department, Ms Yeung makes a major contribution to the Hong Kong community through her expertise in slope safety and other geotechnical issues.

❖ A team of four students in the Dual Degree Program in Technology and Management (T&M) **Angela Hung, Mary Lau, Ivy Leung, and Brian Wah** won the Business Proposal Champion of the OOCL-HKUST Corporate Project. The project was part of the Enrichment Program designed for T&M students to provide a well-round education with real-life business exposure. The team did extensive studies and wrote a proposal on 'Shanghai enters into spirit' after the visit, suggesting to OOCL possible business opportunities with the use of RFID (Radio Frequency Identification) and GPS (Global Positioning System) technology.

❖ A select group of competitors from some of the world's topflight universities, including Stanford, Wharton, Duke, UC Berkeley, the National University of Singapore, University of San Francisco, London School of Economics, Dartmouth, Institute of Marketing Kumasi, University of Waterloo and HKUST competed in the inaugural HKUST International Business Plan Competition. HKUST's MBA team was first runner-up. Duke University won the top honor. The other two finalists were National University of Singapore and University of Waterloo.

❖ A team of first-year MBA students (**Birgit Vagani, Neha Bhatia and Carl Li**) - which was the only team from outside of the U.S. - edged out teams from Harvard, Duke, Chicago, Carnegie-Mellon, Michigan and nine other leading American universities and won first place in the prestigious Wake Forest MBA Elevator Competition. Students were asked to imagine they were in a lift with a venture capitalist and had two minutes to pitch their ideas.

❖ An examination of the nutraceutical industry earned **Fritz Chen, Rebecca Chan, Tejasvi Devaru, Murli Madamsetty and Jenny Shih**, a team of first-year MBA students, top marks for industry analysis at the Marshall MBA Global Consulting Challenge 2006. The Challenge required teams to assess the prospects of newly-listed Herbalife International and the global nutritional-pharmaceutical industry in general.

❖ Three first-year Global Business undergraduate students (**Wong Kin Kei, Lin Yiu Man and Lau Wing Sheun**) teamed up to pitch a Virtual Instructor of Piano, which uses music recognition technology to help learners improve their performance. The team won a silver award in the local round of the HSBC Young Entrepreneur Award among 330 teams.

❖ **Katherine Mok, Ewin Cheung and Julia Cheong**, SBM undergraduate students, took a creative turn as brand managers and were placed runners-up in the Hong Kong leg of the L'Oreal Brandstorm International Marketing Competition 2006. The winning team was tasked with developing a new line of body care products and a marketing strategy for Lancome, a brand owned by L'Oreal.

Continuing & Professional Education

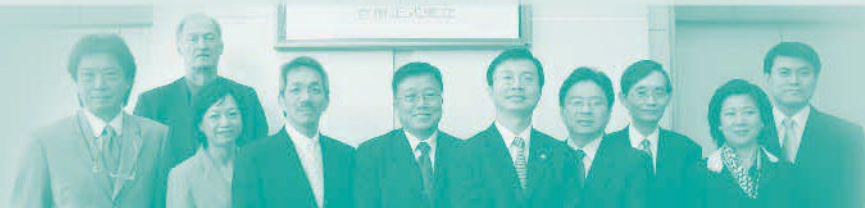
JQRC to review self-financed sub-degree programs

To address issues related to the quality assurance of sub-degree programs offered by various units of self-accrediting UGC institutions, the Heads of Universities Committee, with the support of the Education and Manpower Bureau of Government, agreed to establish a body jointly owned by the UGC institutions to help oversee quality issues of these programs. In August 2005, the Joint Quality Review Committee (JQRC) was established to achieve this by providing a framework for peer review of the quality assurance processes for their self-financed sub-degree programs.

As a first step, JQRC will be conducting a two-stage peer review, including a Preview and a full-scale Institutional Review, of the continuing

education units and departments of its member institutions. The Preview stage, which is a stock-taking of the quality assurance systems for these programs based on self-declaration by institutions, began in July 2006. The full Institutional Review involving site visits to individual institutions will begin in 2007.

The HKUST College of Lifelong Learning and other schools/departments offering self-financing programs at sub-degree levels will be covered by the JQRC Review. The Office of Continuing and Professional Education of VPAAO will be working closely with the units concerned to prepare for the Review. For further information on JQRC, please visit the website <http://www.jqrc.edu.hk/>.



CERB reconstituted under Senate

The Continuation Education Review Board (CERB) was established in 2001 as a board of study under VPAAO for approving self-financing programs offered by the HKUST College of Lifelong Learning (CL3) and units other than Schools and academic departments of the University.

With the recent establishment of the Joint Quality Review Committee (JQRC), it is a requirement that programs offered through the continuing education units of member institutions must be approved by the University Senate, or by an 'academic board' with delegated authority from the Senate. This is relevant to the University as CL3 is planning to offer some full-time sub-degree programs for Form 5 to Form 7 graduates. These programs must obtain internal accreditation status from the University in order for students to be eligible to apply for

Government's grants and loans. In view of these developments, the University has decided to strengthen the review and approval mechanism for CL3's programs.

Since April 2006, CERB has been reconstituted as a standing committee of the Senate, with its membership drawn from senior members from all four Schools and the Language Center. The Senate has formally delegated authority to CERB to review and approve new sub-degree programs and proposed changes to these programs on its behalf. Such approvals and enrollment statistics and evaluations on the programs will be reported to the Senate on an annual basis.

More information on the roles and membership of CERB can be viewed at https://www.ab.ust.hk/ccss/Senate_Committee_CERB.htm.

PG Studies



Introducing the Overseas Research Attachment Program for PhD students

With a view to enriching the research experience and strengthening the cross-cultural understanding of PhD students, an 'Overseas Research Attachment Program for PhD Students' was introduced this September. The scheme enables a select number of PhD students who are in their senior years of study to experience a

different research environment and to work with a different group of researchers

in a foreign environment. The number of these Attachment Program places is very limited. The administration of this scheme rests with the Dean's Office of each School.

The birth of a new student category - Associate PG Students

In late June, the launching of a new student category 'Associate PG Student' was announced to Schools and academic departments. The main purpose of the scheme is to provide an opportunity for HKUST alumni and working professionals to meet lifelong learning needs by enrolling on individual, self-financing, credit-bearing PG courses without having to register for a degree program. It is not the intention of the scheme for academic units to actively recruit students to enroll as Associate PG Students. The

number of this category of students in any one PG class should be small, as a significant presence of these Associate PG Students may affect class delivery.

The admission of Associate PG Students will be centrally administered by ARRO, including the receipt of applications, issuance of offer letters, collection of tuition fees, and course registration matters.

Academic Research



Update on RAE

It has been six months since the University submitted its Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) inputs to UGC. According to the schedule of work of the UGC, the 13 subject panels are currently meeting to consider the assessment of the submissions received. This round of meetings should finish by the end of October. The panels will be submitting their reports in November.

Preliminary results of the RAE will be presented to UGC in January 2007 and the final RAE results are expected to be endorsed by UGC at its meeting in April 2007. Final results of the RAE should be released to Heads of Institutions around May/June 2007.