



A Matter of Degrees

The Seventh Congregation, 10-12 November 1999

Temperatures at HKUST rose to 2,460 degrees — the total of undergraduate and postgraduate degrees conferred during the three days of the Seventh Congregation. This number of degrees was probably higher than what all our laboratories could produce. Indeed, it represented the collaborative hard work of all the Schools in the University.

For the 2,460 HKUST graduates, their parents, relatives and friends, as well as their professors, the Seventh Congregation was certainly an event to celebrate.

On the first day of the Congregation, presided over by the Vice-Chairman of the University Council, Dr Steven Poon, degrees were conferred on graduates in the School of Engineering. Likewise, Council Chairman Dr Vincent Lo conferred degrees on the second day to the School of Business and Management graduates. On the third day, Pro-Chancellor Dr the Hon Sze-Yuen Chung conferred degrees to graduates in the School of Science and the School of Humanities and

Social Science.

Also on the third day, Honorary doctorates were bestowed on Mr William Fung Kwok Lun, a global businessman; Professor Lawrence Lau, a world-renowned economist; Professor Arthur Li, Vice-Chancellor of the Chinese University of Hong Kong; and Professor Shang Fa Yang, a pioneering biochemist.

For the first time at HKUST's Congregation, two graduate representatives addressed the audience on each day, to share with all their thoughts at this important moment in their lives.



▲ Prof Arthur Li Kwok-cheung addressed the Congregation after receiving his honorary degree of Doctor of Letters. He said, "To a surgeon, the award of an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters is certainly a rare and delightful honor. I am very proud to have become a permanent member of this University."



▲ Founding Chairman of the University Council, Dr Sze-Yuen Chung, officiated at the Congregation for the first time in his new capacity as the University's Pro-Chancellor.



▲ Graduate representative Cheung Kwok Lung told his fellow graduates, "The University has conferred degrees on 8,600 undergraduate students. If we could all make a point of sparing two hours a year for our alma mater, we could provide the University with an additional 17,000 hours for enrichment activities."



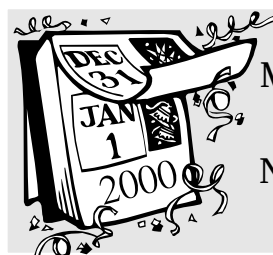
▲ Estate Manager Roger Davis and Chief Technician Albert Lam (EMO) are two of the masterminds behind the Congregation Ceremony. Every year, they work out the detailed logistics to ensure that the Ceremony runs smoothly — including a contingency plan of switching the venue from the Hong Kong Jockey Club Atrium to the S H Ho Sports Hall in two hours if the weather condition is poor in the morning.



▲ Ng Shiu Cho shared his joy of receiving the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering with his wife who gave him all her support throughout his postgraduate study. Dr Ng is now working at HKUST on his post-doctorate research.

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Merry Christmas
& Happy
New Millennium

Mutual Respect Wins the Day

“Respect the students and win their respect.” This is how Dr Chan Che-ting, winner of this year’s Michael G Gale Medal for Distinguished Teaching, sums up his teaching philosophy.

▼ Dr Chan Che-ting, winner of 1999 Michael G Gale Medal for Distinguished Teaching.



“To win the respect of students, you must first respect the students. You need to treat them as individuals, each with specific needs and aspirations,” said Dr Chan, Associate Professor in the Department of Physics.

Dr Chan joined HKUST in 1995. His students range from minor students seeking introductory knowledge about physics, to postgraduate students working on their theses. The bulk, however, are final year students reading computational physics.

“To give a good lecture, you have to make an honest effort to prepare it. This is the basic tool for winning the students’ respect. To prepare a one-hour lecture, a minimum of four hours is what I spend to gather and organize the materials,” he said.

Dr Chan feels that Hong Kong students are generally

more passive than their peers in other countries. They wait for the lecturers to approach them. And this is what he does. “I try to identify students in difficulty, and individually work out remedial measures.”

One of the common dilemmas among the faculty is the balance between teaching and research. “I am somewhat lucky in this respect, because prior to joining HKUST I had spent a number of years concentrating on research. With a corpus of research output to my credit, I am perhaps under less pressure than some of my peers, and I can devote more time to the students,” he said.

Dr Chan’s great popularity among his students is reflected in the fact that his lessons were often over-subscribed. A lot of students come purely to gain knowledge and understanding, rather than to amass credits.

Despite these solid proofs of his success in teaching, Dr Chan remains modest. “I was quite surprised to learn that I have won the medal. In fact, I think a lot of my peers are better teachers than me. I am just doing an honest day’s work!” he said.

Bridge Over Triumphant Waters

The HKUST Bridge Team had a most fruitful year in 1998-99 as they won all the group trophies they could possibly win in the three inter-university tournaments in Hong Kong. Their trail of glory even brought them to Singapore, where they also won the East Asia Inter-university Invitational Bridge Championship.

“We are really happy about the overwhelming success we have achieved this year,” said Team Captain Eric Tang (COMP Year 2). “Given the very competitive environment these days, it would indeed be a supreme challenge for us to maintain our ‘Grand Slam’ record next year, but we will try our very best to make this happen,” he said.

The three local competitions they won were the Convergence Cup (Overall Champion), Inter College Bridge Tournament Championship (Champion), and the AIA Open Team for Post Secondary Schools (Champion, 1st Runner-up and 2nd Runner-up).

“Our winning edge lies in our overall high standard, and our tough training program,”

said Eric Tang. “All members of the HKUST Bridge Team are required to attend at least four hours of regular training per week, under our coach. They are also given ample opportunity to take part in a range of competitions to gain experience and build up confidence.”

“Teamwork is of paramount importance in success in bridge tournaments. It is therefore the focus of all our practice,” Eric said.

“None of the trophies we won was easy. Subsequent to our success in Singapore back in July, we set our goal of winning all the local inter-university championships in Hong Kong. In the Convergence Cup Bridge Tournament, we were trailing behind another team until the final round. In the Inter College Bridge Tournament Championship, we won our long-lost trophy only after three long days of battle. Armed with all these accolades, our spirits reached an all time high in the AIA Open Team for Post Secondary Schools, and we snatched

all the top three places in the group competitions,” he explained.

A number of the 1998-99 HKUST Bridge Team members have since graduated. They agreed that the team’s success in the competitions represented the fulfillment of a long-held common dream.

Coach Leo Cheung had the last word. “Never blame your partner. Never blame your teammates. Reflect on your mistakes. Comradeship is the main ingredient of victory!” he said.



▲ The celebrated HKUST Bridge Team.

HKUST German Center Officially Opens

On 12 November 1999, the University celebrated the official opening of the German Center of the HKUST Europe Institute. Prof Dr Ernest-Ludwig Winnacker, President of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (German Research Council, DFG) and HKUST President Chia-Wei Woo officiated at the Ceremony. Other members of the official party included: Mr Wolfgang Gerz, Consul-General of Germany in Hong Kong, Mr Etienne Reuter, Head of Office of the European Commission in Hong Kong, and HKUST Council Chairman Dr Vincent Lo.

The ceremony was well attended by representatives of the Germany community in Hong Kong and guests from Germany. From the DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service), there was Dr Georg Neumann, Head of Department (Asia/Australia/New Zealand). The DAAD presence was strengthened by two other representatives currently based in Hong Kong. Also from Germany was Prof Reiner Buchholz of the Technical University of Berlin. The University of Karlsruhe was represented by Ms Irina Gassiot. The Göthe Institut, the German Chamber of Commerce, the Department of European Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the Department of Gov-

ernment & International Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University also showed their support by their presence.

To commemorate the event, Prof Winnacker announced that DFG will offer ten annual fellowships to HKUST graduate students for a three-month stay, including traveling costs, in a German university or research institute of their choice. The program will be for three years.

"Today's ceremony marks another step forward in the development of the Center," said Prof Winnacker. "The German Ministry of Education and Research and DFG are very much interested in the Center's activities and would like to contribute to its successful development."

In the last three years, the German Center had been actively engaged in academic exchanges and collaborative research projects. Student exchange programs have been established with the Technical University of Berlin, the University of Karlsruhe, and the University of Stuttgart. Partnerships have also been forged with a number of leading German companies including Bayer AG and Siemens. For instance, HKUST researchers have been working with Bayer AG on the development



▲ From left: Prof Chia-Wei Woo, Dr Vincent Lo, Prof Ernest-Ludwig Winnacker and Mr Wolfgang Gerz celebrate the official opening of the HKUST German Center.

of a Chinese herbal medicine-based anti-malarial drug. This September, Dr Jürgen Scherckenbeck, Bayer AG's Technical Manager, came to HKUST as a visiting scholar to work with Prof Richard Haynes (Chemistry) to develop a new bacteria-killing drug. Another example is the establishment of the Sino-German Nano-Analytical Lab (SiGNAL), headed by Prof Reinhard Renneberg (Chemistry), which brings German and Chinese academic and industrial partners together to develop innovative biosensors.

Bravo, Business Buddies!

A team of four HKUST Business School students, alongside teams from the Wharton Business School, University of California, Berkeley, and University of Texas, Austin, qualified for the final round in the UMCA 1999 International Business Challenge in the US in the last weekend of October. The competition was organized by the University of Texas.

This was the third time this year an HKUST Business School team scored well in direct competition with students from other major business schools around the world.

All final year students, the HKUST team comprised Maggie Chan (Marketing), Grace Chun (Information Systems), Lam Wai Nam (Finance), and Dennis Lai (Economics). They competed against more than 80 students from Asia, Europe, South America, Mexico, Canada, and the US. The other Asian teams were from the University of Hong Kong and

Thammasat University from Thailand.

The students were presented with a business issue involving Ford's strategic plans for the first five years of the coming millennium in the global automobile industry. They were asked to develop a solution and present it before a panel of business executives, business professors, and senior consultants from McKinsey.

The faculty advisor for the HKUST team, Dr Andrew Delios, Assistant Professor of Management of Organizations, said the team's overall performance was impressive. "They were an outstanding team and beat all the other competitors in their division, including the University of Hong Kong, the Norwegian School of Management, University of Southern California and University of Washington. They also did a great job in the final round, but the competition at that stage was even more intense," he said. The championship

went to the University of California, Berkeley.

Earlier this year, HKUST Business School teams made it to the final round at the Marshall International Invitational Case Competition in February (organized by the University of Southern California) and the Global Business Challenge in April (organized by the University of Washington).



▲ The winning team comprised (from left) Dennis Lai, Maggie Chan, Grace Chun, and Lam Wai Nam.

Scholarship Programs for International Exposure

Biology student Karen Ling Kar Yun and Computer Engineering student Tony Ting Chi Ho have benefited enormously from their international exchange program. Supported by the Zonta Club of Hong Kong East Scholarship—an undergraduate scholarship of HK\$100,000 for a female student in Science or Engineering to study abroad for one year, Karen Ling pursued a program at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) in the last academic year. Tony Ting received the Sohmen Foundation Austria Summer Program Award amounting to 29,000 Austrian Schilling (approximately HK\$16,860), and spent the past summer at the University of Vienna in Austria. They are both eager to share their experience with readers of *Genesis*.

Karen Ling's Experience:

"At UCSD, the Culture Night was, I think, the most direct mode of sharing amongst students of various national backgrounds. We had a European Culture Night in Fall, a

biology and biotechnology."

Tony Ting's Tale

"Before joining this program, I knew very little about Europe, especially Eastern European countries like Slovenia, Croatia and Ukraine. Now, I know more about their histories, cultures and customs.

This year was a special year for the University of Vienna's Summer School because it was their 50th Anniversary. The highlight of the celebrations was the Homecoming Weekend. Many former students who had participated in the Summer School came back and joined the occasion. Some of them even came with their families."



▲ Tony Ting (right) begins to consider studying abroad after a three-month exposure at the University of Vienna's Summer School.

Other Scholarship Opportunities

Besides the Zonta Club of Hong Kong East Scholarship and the Sohmen Foundation Austria Summer Program Award, there are three other international scholarship programs for HKUST students: the Shell Scholarships, Paul M F Cheng International Exchange Scholarships, the Hongkong Bank Foundation Overseas Scholarship Scheme, the Federal Express Exchange Scholarships for Overseas Studies, and the Salomon Exchange Grant for US Study. A number of European organizations also offer scholarships to sponsor HKUST undergraduate and postgraduate students to study in France or Germany. Scholarships for studying in France include: ENSCP Sponsorship, MENRT Postdoctoral Fellowships and MENRT PhD Studentships. Scholarships for studying in Germany are: DAAD/Siemens Scholarship Program ASIA 21st Century, TUB PhD Studentship, TUB Postdoctoral Fellowship, and Bosch Scholarship.



▲ Karen Ling (the girl at the right side of the photo) and her fellow classmates demonstrate a Chinese folk gambling kit, the "fish, shrimp and crab".

Latin American Culture Night in Winter, and an Asia Pacific Culture Night in Spring. Students representing their own countries set up information booths and prepared their national cuisine to share with fellow students.

Among the courses I took last year, the one in Visual Art was new to me since there was no such classes at HKUST. The class not only aroused my interest into aesthetics, but also gave me a lot of insight into preparing visual presentations. This forms a delightful supplement to my major subjects, molecular

Campus Calendar

Until 8 Dec
An Exhibition of Chinese Paintings by Au Ho-nien
Ping Yuan and Kinmay W Tang Gallery, Library

Until 9 Dec
ARX5: Hong Kong, Singapore and
Australia Artists Exchange
1-5 pm (Tue - Fri)
10 am - 6 pm (Sat, Sun & Public Holidays)
(Closed on Mondays)
Exposition Hall

Until 9 Jan 2000 7:30 am - 10:30 pm
Hong Kong Artists Series: Works by Chu Hing Wah
UC Gallery

2 Dec 1-2 pm
East Meets West Concert Series:
English Lute Music of Late Golden Age—
Franklin Lei Lute Recital
Exposition Hall

3 Dec 7:30 pm
East Meets West Concert Series:
Hong Kong Sinfonietta—
Chinese Sites and Sounds
Exposition Hall

9 Dec 7:30 pm
Beijing New Sound—
HuMaGe Concert
Exposition Hall

11 Dec 8 pm
University Choir—
Hong Kong Vocal Collection Gala
Concert Hall, City Hall

15 Dec 1999 - 17 Mar 2000
Gems of New Year Prints—
An Exhibition from the Shanghai Library Collection
Opening Reception: 14 Dec, 4:30 pm
Ping Yuan and Kinmay W Tang Gallery, Library

21 Dec 1-2 pm
Guangdong Exchange Concert Series:
Vocal Recital by Liu Dong and Liu Hai Yan
Multipurpose Hall, University Center

21 Dec 7 pm
The Sisters' Concert — Catherine & Tracy
Multipurpose Hall, University Center

20 Jan 2000 6 pm
University Choir—
Hong Kong Cultural Center Foyer Concert
Foyer, Hong Kong Cultural Center

Payday

Dec 1999 and Jan 2000 Salaries will be
paid on 23 Dec 1999
and 26 Jan 2000 respectively.

發薪日期

1999年12月及2000年1月份的薪金會分別於
1999年12月23日及2000年1月26日發放。

服務學業 相輔相成

訪張鑑泉卓越學生服務獎章得主鄭元山

第七屆科大學位頒授典禮最後一天的儀式中，首位上台領獎的學生是鄭元山同學；最後一位上台接受獎章的也是鄭元山同學。

這項殊榮，可以說是史無前例。鄭元山同學同時獲得學業成就獎和張鑑泉卓越學生服務獎章。

學業方面出人頭地，已經難能可貴，而同時在學生服務方面能夠有傑出的貢獻，究竟他如何兼顧？

鄭元山說：能夠同時兼顧學業與學生事務，是因為他很著重時間的分配。

“我特別珍惜課堂與課堂之間的空檔時間。當很多同學利用這時間小休、小食時，我會把握機會進行聯絡、溝通。到晚上，我就會專心讀書、學習，”他說。

“雖然如此，一天的時間始終很有限。我慶幸有機會入住宿舍，因為可以免卻舟車勞頓，專心讀書，但由於職責繁重，始終未能盡地享受宿舍生活的樂趣。這可算是個小小的遺憾，”他又說。

“學生活動與研究進修都牽涉到團隊合作，都關乎同學與同學之間如何各展所長，協力將一件事做到最好。所以兩者實在是相輔相成的，”他說。

由於1998-99年度學生會幹事會出現空缺，科大學生會評議會在這期間暫代了幹事會的一些行政工作。此外，鄭元山又在學生會的財政架構上作出了基本改革，使之更趨完善，為日後運作打好穩健基礎。這些貢獻都是鄭元山得獎的原因。

雖然以往這獎項的得主都是學生會的領袖，鄭元山卻覺得這獎項不應只是附屬於某個職位的榮譽。



▲ 接受過學業成就獎後，鄭元山同學再上台領受張鑑泉卓越學生服務獎。

“我覺得有很多同學都曾為學生活動作出過很大貢獻；他們也很應該得到嘉許，”他說。

舞蹈學會再傳捷報

科大舞蹈學會憑著該會導師陳紹傑先生所編的“袍”，在10月22日於高山劇場舉行的第三屆大專聯校舞蹈比賽中奪得四項大獎：全場總冠軍、全場最受歡迎大獎、學生組冠軍及最佳編舞大獎；這是該會連續第二年取得全場總冠軍殊榮。本港八所大專院校均有派隊參加這次比賽。

該會除“袍”外，還排練了另一隻名為“？”的舞蹈。舞蹈隊隊員最欣慰的是各隊員在比賽中都拼盡全力，將兩隻舞發揮得淋漓盡致，不枉辛苦排練了三個多月。

陸運會刷新多項紀錄

科大第八屆陸運會於10月30及31日在校內舉行。數學系成功衛冕全場總冠軍。

數學系的郭延迪刷新了三項陸運會紀錄（男子800米、1,500米及5,000米賽跑）；電機及電子工程學系的廖光美及組織管理學系的洪景英則分別打破女子800米賽跑及推鉛球的陸運會紀錄。

賽事的高潮是“大隊接力賽

跑”，每隊十人，每人跑200米。參加隊伍共八隊，分別代表不同社、學社、校友等。結果長跑隊及田徑隊的混合隊順理成章取得冠軍。



同學們努力投入陸運會賽事，務求創造更好成績。

最後，依照傳統，頒獎嘉賓理學院院長雷明德教授及學生事務處處長黃兆光先生帶領各參加者繞場一圈，陸運會在熱鬧歡樂的氣氛中圓滿結束。

第八屆陸運會成績摘要：

系際比賽

全場冠軍：數學系
全場亞軍：物理系
全場季軍：市場學系
男子冠軍：物理系
男子亞軍：數學系
男子季軍：生物系
女子冠軍：數學系
女子亞軍：市場學系
女子季軍：物理系

個人

男子個人冠軍：
李球新
女子個人冠軍：
廖燕菲

校園活動

展期至12月8日

歐豪年國畫展

圖書館唐炳源、唐溫金美展覽廳

展期至12月9日

地區藝術交流計劃(香港、新加坡及澳洲)

星期二至星期五：下午1時至5時

星期六、日及公眾假期：上午10時至下午6時

(逢星期一休息)

展覽廳

展期至2000年1月9日

上午7時30分至下午10時30分

香港藝術家系列：朱興華作品展

大學中心畫廊

12月2日 下午1時至2時

中西音樂薈萃：英國後黃金時期一

黎宗岐魯特琴演奏會

展覽廳

12月3日 晚上7時半

中西音樂薈萃：香港小交響樂團一

炎黃風情

展覽廳

12月9日 晚上7時半

北京新聲—胡嗎個音樂會

展覽廳

12月11日 晚上8時

香港科技大學合唱團—香港聲樂作品匯演

大會堂音樂廳

12月14日 下午3時至4時

藝術講座：中國年畫的歷史發展及其文化價值

講者：上海圖書館近代文獻部主任張偉先生

學術大樓七樓觀景廳7332室

1999年12月15日至2000年3月17日

年畫珍賞—上海圖書館館藏珍品展

開幕：12月14日下午4時30分

圖書館唐炳源、唐溫金美展覽廳

12月21日 下午1時至2時

港穗表演藝術交流系列：

劉東及劉海燕音樂會

大學中心多功能廳

12月21日 晚上7時

溫曼琪及溫曼琳鋼琴、小提琴演奏會

大學中心多功能廳

2000年1月20日 晚上6時

香港科技大學合唱團一

香港文化中心黃昏音樂會

香港文化中心大堂

互聘兼任教授 北大科大合作關係更上層樓

在11月12日，北京大學與香港科技大學聯合在科大校園舉行兼任教授互聘典禮，共有14位教授獲聘，任期為三年。他們都是在本身專業領域上卓然有成的傑出學者，多名更是院士。

科大校長吳家瑋教授在致辭時指出，北大和科大教授間的學術交流很早就開始，而且越來越多；為了進一步加強兩校的合作關係，雙方在去年差不多同樣時間，舉行了學術聯盟協議簽署儀式，而互聘兼任教授便是聯盟協議的內容之一。

北大校務委員會主任任彥申教授則表示，北大、科大和深圳市人民政府在今年八月達成協議，在深圳高新科技產業園區建設深港產學研基地，開展了另一項聯盟協議內容，這次互聘兼任教授，將使雙方的合作關係更為密切。

互聘典禮首先由科大學術副校長張立綱教授介紹科大聘任的北大教授，並宣讀各位學者的讚辭。獲聘的北大教授是：王陽元教授(計算機科學)、張恭慶教授(數學)、陳來教授(哲學)、陳受鈞教授(地球物理學)、楊芙清教授(計算機科學)、厲以寧教授(經濟學)、及蔣紹愚教授(中國語言及文學)。張副校長介



▲ 中國哲學專家陳來教授(左)從科大校董會主席羅康瑞博士手中接過兼任教授聘書。陳教授專長於儒家思想，對朱熹和王陽明的理學有獨到的心得。

紹過七位北大教授後，由科大校董會主席羅康瑞博士頒發聘書。

接著是由北京大學副校長陳章良教授介紹該校聘任的科大教授，並宣讀他們的讚辭。獲聘任的科大教授是：丁邦新教授(中國語言學)、余同希教授(機械工程學)、李龍飛教授(經濟學)、陳介中教授(海岸與大氣研究中心)、項武義教授(數學)、錢大康教授(計算機科學)、及張灝教授(中國歷史)。聘書則由任彥申教授頒發。

兼任教授的學術交流活動包括講學、進行合作研究項目，共同開發科研成果等，為兩校的合作關係打開新的一頁。

SOUVENIR SHOP INFORMATION CENTER



科大年曆及聖誕卡套裝
HKUST Calendar and
Christmas Card
(Two-in-One Set)



每套港幣5元
HK\$5 per set

GENESIS

Editors Ann Galpin, Ross Lai, Bosco Wong

Writer Lisa Li

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中西合流對抗老人癡呆症

老人癡呆症(Alzheimer's disease)是一種漸近型中樞神經系統蛻化的大腦病變。據專家統計，此病的發病率隨年齡增長而急劇增高。85歲以上的老年人中差不多一半有機會患老人癡呆症。在發達國家中，老人癡呆症與癌症、心臟病和中風並列為四大致死病因；花費於治療此病的金錢已超過其他疾病，高踞榜首。

越來越多的神經化學和藥物學的證據表明，老人癡呆症與大腦中缺少乙酰膽鹼有關，而這種物質的濃度又直接受到乙酰膽鹼酯酶的控制。

由美國食品與藥品管理局在1993年和1996年分別批准使用的兩種治療老人癡呆症藥物——他克靈(Tacrine)和Aricept，都是乙酰膽鹼酯酶的抑制劑，它們通過對乙酰膽鹼酯酶的抑制作用，減緩乙酰膽鹼的降解速度，維持它在大腦中的濃度及延長作用時間，從而減輕老人癡呆症的症狀。可是他克靈對肝腎毒性較大，Aricept則作用時間較短。

由中國科學院上海藥物所近年來研製的石杉鹼甲(來自天然中草藥石杉)，毒副作用輕微，且有較高的療效，可惜草本植物資源有限，有效成分含量極低，難以滿足日益增長的市場需求。

在香港政府研究資助局、科大—中科院生命科學聯合實驗室、和科大生物技術研究

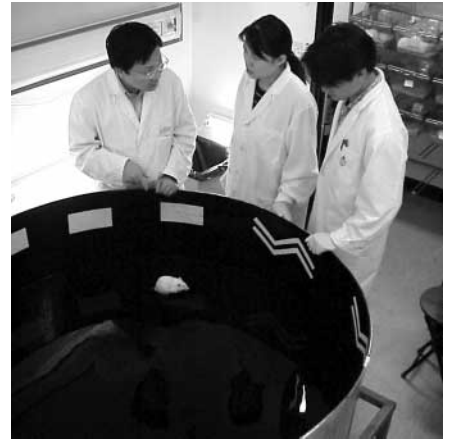
所的聯合資助下，科大化學系助理教授高保羅博士(Dr Paul R Carlier)和生物化學系助理教授韓怡凡博士首先應用他克靈與石杉鹼甲改良體為原料，成功合成一類新穎雙體衍生物。生化及藥理實驗顯示，此衍生物比原來單體更能增強乙酰膽鹼的傳遞能力，可望發展為減緩老人癡呆症狀的新藥物。

研究人員介紹說，這一新化合物的研製受到美國藥物化學家龐元平博士的“雙位點”的啟示。龐博士通過計算機模擬研究發現，在乙酰膽鹼酯酶的活性部位中，除了已知的位於基底部的催化位點外，在其開口端還有一個周邊位點。

以往治療老人癡呆症的藥物主要結合在催化位點，抑制作用較弱。如果一種藥物能同時結合在兩個位點上，是否會產生更強的抑制作用呢？從這個理念出發，龐博士首先合成了他克靈雙聯體。韓博士及其合作者發現，該雙聯體對乙酰膽鹼酯酶的抑制能力比他克靈單體強150倍到250倍；在多種動物記憶損傷模型的研究中，新藥亦比該單體的功效強12至25倍。

特別出人意料的是，這種新藥可抑制腦內的 γ 氨基丁酸甲型受體，從而提高大腦神經系統的整體興奮水平，這是目前已上市的各种治療藥物所欠缺的。

鑒於他克靈有較大的毒副作用，科大的



▲ 測試老鼠長期記憶的‘水迷宮’實驗設施。正常老鼠經過訓練，便能記住平台的位置，直接游向池中的平台。長期記憶受損的老鼠則只會胡亂游動；但當這些老鼠經過有效的藥物治療後，又能記住平台位置。

科學家們開始探索用其他的單體，製備出一系列“石杉鹼甲改良體—他克靈”的雙聯體。高保羅博士指出，這種新化合物的原料可以直接從市場購買，不再需要從自然界提取；同時製備方法簡單，價格便宜，其功效分別比他克靈和石杉鹼甲的單體為優。

韓博士形象地比喻說：“這種雙聯體的一端來自西藥，另一端來自中藥，是中西結合的範例。”韓怡凡博士、高保羅博士計劃與科大生物學系副教授詹華強博士等共同對該藥的作用機理及毒副作用進行深入研究。

科大經濟學者學術論文創作量雄踞東亞榜首

著名經濟學學術期刊《經濟研究》(*Economic Inquiry*)在1999年10月號的一篇論文中，把香港科技大學選為東亞區內經濟學學術論文創作量最豐富的大學；香港中文大學、香港大學、及香港城市大學則分別名列第二、第七、及第九。東亞區內著名的東京大學及台灣大學則分佔第三及第四位。

這篇由香港中文大學(中大)決策科學與企業經濟學系陳章天博士及邱敬賢博士合撰的論文，首先參考多位經濟學者建議的標準來量度不同學術期刊的論文頁數，選出36種世界一流的經濟學期刊。然後就這36種期刊，來分析東亞48所著名大學的創作量，以1990-96年間所發表的論文為準。在1991年才開學的科大，在這些刊物中所發表的論文被評為809.2頁；第二的中大為618.8頁；第三及第四位的東京大學及台灣大學分別為425.8頁及242.4頁；第七位的香港

大學為127.8頁；第九位的香港城市大學則為78.8頁。

此外，兩位中大學者又計算各校的每年平均產量，然後與美國的著名大學相比(根據各校經濟學系在1984-93年間發表的論文頁數)，發現科大(115.6頁)的表現與全美排行榜上第16位的羅徹斯特大學(119.6頁)及第17位的伊利諾大學(114.8頁)相仿，並遠超著名的“長春藤”學府康乃爾大學(85.4頁)。

科大經濟學系系主任鄭國漢教授對這項評選結果表示欣慰，他說：“科大一直以來非常重視高水平的研究工作，我們很高興可以吸引到世界各地的傑出學者加盟科大，並為年青的教師們提供優良的研究環境。”校長吳家瑋教授說：“香港這麼一個經濟金融重鎮，實在需要優秀的教師為社會創造新知，提供良策，並培育最優秀的人才。很高興看到國際上對科大教師所作出的評價。”



承先啟後 開創新元

第七屆學位頒授典禮於11月10、11及12日舉行，共有1,862位本科及598位高等學位課程畢業生獲頒學位。本屆畢業同學作為公元二千年前最後一批大學畢業生，肩負了承先啟後的使命，為香港、祖國和世界開創新紀元；《同創》誠意祝願他們鵬程萬里。

11月10日的典禮由校董會副主席潘國濂博士主持，獲頒學位的是工學院畢業生；校

董會主席羅康瑞博士主持11月11日的典禮，向工商管理學院畢業生頒授學位；副監督鍾士元博士則擔任11月12日典禮的主禮嘉賓，當天除了頒授學位予理學院及人文社會科學學院畢業生外，還有三位傑出學者及一位企業家獲頒榮譽博士學位：香港中文大學校長李國章教授(榮譽文學博士學位)、史丹福大學李國鼎經濟發展講座教授劉遵義(榮譽社

會科學博士)、利豐有限公司董事總經理馮國綸先生(榮譽工商管理學博士)、及台北中央研究院院士楊祥發教授(榮譽理學博士)。

在三天學位頒授典禮中，每天均有兩位畢業生代表致辭，他們分別是莊思勉及羅懿誠(工學院)、張國龍及楊世昌(工商管理學院)、馬寶兒(理學院)、及黃麗明(人文社會科學學院)。



▲ 工學院畢業生代表莊思勉在致辭時，除了向教授和父母道謝外，還特別向工場裡的“師傅”們致意。她說：“雖然在很多人眼中，他們是不顯眼的一群，不過他們往往為學生提供最直接的幫忙。”

四位獲頒榮譽博士學位的傑出人士：(前排左起)李國章教授、楊祥發教授、劉遵義先生、及馮國綸教授。



▲ 潘國濂博士首次主持科大的學位頒授典禮。他也是科大校友，兩年前在台上獲頒榮譽工商管理學博士學位。



▲ “還不望過來這邊！”滿心欣慰的家長們期盼了三年，自然很想把子女戴起四方帽的一剎那凝固在鏡頭後的膠卷內。

紀念品店今年特別為畢業同學預備了一批趣緻的維妮小熊，還為它們訂造了合身的畢業袍，令畢業活動增添一分樂趣。



▲ 林興武曾在課餘擔任《同創》的攝影師。在他的畢業大喜日子，自然要輪到他成為被拍攝的對象了。最令他喜出望外的是多位好友從上海來港，參加他的畢業典禮。



聖誕快樂
千禧康泰