Substantiations and Promotions

The following faculty members have been substantiated and promoted to Associate Professor effective from 1 January 2004:

School of Engineering
J-Ming HSING and David Chi-Wai HUI (CENG)
Philip KT MOK and Jianan QU (ELEC)

School of Humanities and Social Science
Charles Wing-Hoi CHAN, HUMA

New Faculty Members

School of Business and Management
Xueguang ZHOU - appointed Head of the Department of Management of Organisation, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Management of Organisation, from 6 January 2004 to 31 December 2006.

School of Humanities and Social Science
Alvin Y SO - reappointed Associate Dean of Humanities and Social Science, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Social Science, from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004.

International Case Competition

The University of Texas at Austin emerged as winner. Runners up came from Carnegie Mellon University, the National University of Singapore and the University of Washington.

International Talent Search

To make the HKUST International Talent Search a success, we would like to count on your assistance. In particular, we would really appreciate it if you could make as much effort as you can spare to:

(i) inform your friends and relatives overseas of our launching of the International Talent Search and the availability of scholarships for outstanding students that it includes;

(ii) keep colleagues and other people whom you know well overseas informed about HKUST's achievements in teaching and research.

Internationalization

Since its founding in 1991, HKUST has become one of the very top higher education institutions in Asia. Achieving so much in such a short period of time truly gives us reason to feel pride in what we have accomplished.

Our university has joined many of the world's leading educational institutions in establishing a digital repository that collects, makes available, and preserves in digital format the scholarly output created by the HKUST community. As of early February, there were 742 items in the Repository.

To help us target our efforts, we would like to hear from you on the following two matters:

(i) On which countries or institutions HKUST should focus to attract good students?

(ii) Would you be able to help directly, for example, by participating in education fairs, speaking before groups, contacting people or institutions that can assist us?

A Letter to You on International Talent Search

from Dr Lijing Zhu (Head, International Students Office)

Dear Colleagues,

As you may know, our University has launched the HKUST International Talent Search to prepare students for the era of rapid globalization. The main purpose of this initiative is to improve student quality in our diverse student body and to enhance our university's reputation in the world. For this reason, it is very important that you, our friends and colleagues, participate in this initiative. We would be grateful if you would help us spread the word about the HKUST International Talent Search.

The HKUST International Talent Search is a new initiative that we believe will benefit our students and our university. We hope that you will consider taking part in this initiative and that you will help us to make it a success.

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Lijing

Sugestions from the editor: To have a word with Lijing , you may drop by Room G012 near the Sports Hall entrance, or call him at 2358-8440, or send him a note at zhulj@ust.hk. Alternatively, you may consider having a chat with him at the coffee shop.

A TALENT SEARCH FOR OUTSTANDING STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The HKUST International Talent Search is an initiative to identify and recruit outstanding students from all over the world for undergraduate and graduate programs at HKUST. This is an opportunity to contribute to the university's internationalization efforts and to help shape the future of HKUST.

We are looking for students who have demonstrated exceptional academic achievement and leadership qualities.

We are particularly interested in students from the following countries and regions:

- United States
- Canada
- United Kingdom
- Australia
- South Korea
- Japan
- China
- Singapore
- Malaysia
- Hong Kong

We are also interested in students who have made significant contributions to their communities through volunteer work or other activities.

If you know of any outstanding students who might be interested in this opportunity, please contact Lijing Zhu (Head, International Students Office) at zhulj@ust.hk or by phone at 2358-8440.

Thank you for your support.

Best wishes,

Lijing

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ISSUE NO 1/04 Mar 2004
**Academic Program News Online**

You will now find updated UG and PG related information handily available online on the VPAOO website. Just click onto the UG Secretariat and PG Secretariat buttons.

**Early Admissions Scheme (EAS) 2004**

We received 387 applications for the EAS program. Among students’ top program choices are Global Business, the BEng/BBA Dual Degree Program, Quantitative Finance and Biochemistry. The selection interviews are scheduled for 27 and 28 March. Applicants and parents are also invited to attend a reception hosted by the President and a campus tour on the interview days.

**Postgraduate Studentship for 2004/05**

The Heads of Universities Committee (HUCOM) has delegated authority to the Postgraduate Administrators’ Circle (comprising representatives from 7 UGC-funded universities) to approve a recommended common band of studentship (PGS) rates for research postgraduate students (RPGs). The Postgraduate Administrators’ Circle has subsequently set the standard PGS rate for the 2004/05 academic year at HK$12,250 a month, allowing a 5% leeway for each. Our university has endorsed that RPGs admitted in 2004/05 may receive PGS up to HK$12,500 a month, and continuing RPGs may receive a monthly PGS ranging from HK$12,500 to HK$13,500. The actual amount will be determined by the home department.

Please visit www.ust.hk/~webaa/pgsec.home.htm to view the Terms and Conditions of Postgraduate Studentships (PGS) 2004/05.

**Degree Diplomas — Now Available to Fall/Winter Graduates as Early as in May**

Beginning this academic year, students graduating in Fall or Winter no longer need to wait until November to get the degree diploma after the Congregation has been held. About 350 students, who complete their programs between November 2003 and March 2004, can now receive their degree diploma earlier for job seeking, further studies or other purposes.

This new arrangement is made possible through having an additional session of the Congregation to be held in around May each year to coincide with the University Senate meeting. The Department. They are expected to assess and advise on the effectiveness of the department’s quality assurance and improvement efforts at these levels through their role at all three levels of the organization: departmental, school and university.

It was proposed that the Vice-President for Academic Affairs would formally appoint the External Assessors, upon nomination by the Department. They are mostly colleagues from the higher education community in Hong Kong who are familiar with HKUST and the Department. They are expected to assess and advise on the effectiveness of the department’s quality assurance and improvement systems and practices. Their advice is informed by their own experience with education quality work at their own institutions.

The proposal has been distributed to deans and department heads, and made available online for all faculty for consultation. Please send the DHs your inputs by 30 April 2004. The deans will forward the departmental reports, along with comments representing the School perspective, to the Vice-President for Academic Affairs in early June.

The consultation paper can be accessed online through the VPAOO website or directly at this URL: http://public.ust.hk/tpao/ob/index.html

**Quantitative Finance — a New UG Program**

We will offer a new program, BSc in Quantitative Finance, in September 2004. The program features the “Finance Practicum” in the third year in which students solve real business problems under the guidance of their professors. Students will have a unique opportunity to gain the technical and quantitative knowledge they need to work in the finance industry.

**Come and Join GNED 100A Talks by Community Leaders**

GNED 100A, Innovation and Leadership in the Twenty-First Century, is a lecture series primarily for UG students. Community leaders are invited to come onto our campus on Friday afternoons to deliver talks to the UST community. All faculty, staff and students are welcome to join in this one-hour talk. Please watch out for email announcements from VPAOO on details of each talk.

After the talk, students who are formally enrolled in the course have the privilege to chat with the speaker in a smaller group setting. They will also have to do an assignment of the topic.

**Minimum TPg Credit Requirement Lifted**

At its December 2003 meeting, University Senate endorsed the recommendation put forward by the Committee on Postgraduate Studies to lift the minimum credit requirement for taught master’s programs of the University, which was 30 credits of coursework. This change will allow program teams greater flexibility in determining the credit requirement of individual taught master’s programs, based on feedback from department and school advisors and also the practice at leading international and local institutions as references. These measures will help ensure the credit load of taught master’s programs adheres to an international norm.

**Appointing External Assessors for Further Quality Assurance & Improvements — Your Views Needed**

It is a major recommendation of the Second TLQPR Report that we “further develop QA&I [quality assurance and improvement] initiatives into a comprehensive, systematic and coherent system that integrates activity at the institutional, school and unit level” (¶3.2.1 of the Report). In response, the Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning Quality proposes to appoint External Assessors, who are expected to contribute to better integration of the quality assurance and improvement efforts at these levels through their role at all three levels of the organization: departmental, school and university.

It was proposed that the Vice-President for Academic Affairs would formally appoint the External Assessors, upon nomination by the Department. They are mostly colleagues from the higher education community in Hong Kong who are familiar with HKUST and the Department. They are expected to assess and advise on the effectiveness of the department’s quality assurance and improvement systems and practices. Their advice is informed by their own experience with education quality work at their own institutions.

The proposal has been distributed to deans and department heads, and made available online for all faculty for consultation. Please send the DHs your inputs by 30 April 2004. The deans will forward the departmental reports, along with comments representing the School perspective, to the Vice-President for Academic Affairs in early June.

The consultation paper can be accessed online through the VPAOO website or directly at this URL: http://public.ust.hk/tpao/ob/index.html

**The Teaching and Learning Symposium — Your Views Needed**

Mark your calendar now for the upcoming Teaching and Learning Symposium to be held on 17 May 2004. This is a biennial event co-hosted by the Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning Quality and the Center for Enhanced Learning and Teaching.

The theme of the Symposium is “Teaching Innovations: Continuous Learning and Improvement". The Symposium aims to nurture and showcase continuous improvement in the quality of teaching and learning at the University. Emphasis will be on collaboration of practices and innovations within the University community.

The symposium will be organized around four main sub-themes:

- Promoting the use of technology innovations and tools that enhance student learning
- Using visualizations and simulations to increase student understanding
- Implementing innovative active learning approaches such as peer learning and problem-based learning
- Implementing across the curriculum and across the community initiatives

The Symposium will be officiated by President Paul Chu. The biennial Teaching Innovation Awards will also be presented at the Symposium as the highlight of the event.

Details are available at: <http://celt.ust.hk/tsymp04/>
Achievement Highlights

- A team of biochemistry researchers led by Prof Hong Xue has identified a haplotype — a pattern of DNA sequence variations between individuals to be associated with predispositions to schizophrenia. Their new findings, published in the latest edition of the 'Molecular Psychiatry' journal, are of huge international importance and will give hope to anyone touched by the effects of the affliction.

- A paper by Prof Pengcheng Shi (ELEC), coauthored by Dr Huafeng Liu (postdoctoral research associate), has been awarded the biannual best paper prize by the Board of Information Processing in Medical Imaging, the longest running and prestigious medical imaging contest in the world. This paper is about meshfree particle method for heart motion analysis.

- A paper by Prof Raymond Cheung (IEEE) "A Time-window Sliding Procedure for Driver-task Assignment with Random Service Times" has received the Best Paper Award for IEEE Transactions on Scheduling and Logistics for 2002-03.

- A paper by Prof Fugee Tsung (IEEE) "The Dynamic T2 Chart for Monitoring Feedback-controlled Processes" has received the Best Paper Award for IEEE Transactions on Quality and Reliability for 2002-03.

- A paper by Prof Mitchell Tseng (IEEE) was appointed as Honoray Adjunct Professor of Management in the Business School at the Technical University of Munich (TUM) in 2003. He was also awarded the Distinguished International Research Fellowship by the University of Calgary in August 2003.

- The Survey Research Center of the Division of Social Science has been awarded an RGC Central Allocation Grant of $3.8M for its project of General Social Survey of China in the period from 1 March 2004 to 28 February 2007. Professor Yanjie Bian, Director of the Center, is the PI and PM of the funded project, and his 9 CIs are the senior members of the Center.

- In collaboration with the People's University of China and the Ministry of Education, China Science Association, National Youth League, and National Student Union.

- Several Civil Engineering students won the Institute of Civil Engineers - Hong Kong Section paper competition 2003.
  - Geotechnical Discipline: Leung Shun Cheong (Best Paper Award)
  - Environmental Discipline: Lam Ka Man (Best Paper Award) and Poon Wing Chi (Merit Award)
  - Highways, Railways and Transportation Discipline: Leung Kin Man (Merit Award)

- A paper by Dr W Y Szeto have claimed the Outstanding Paper award at Eastern Asia Society for Transportation Studies (EASST) 2003.
  - Dr W Y Szeto has received the Best Paper Award for IIE Transactions on Quality and Reliability for 2002-03.

- The final year project of Wong Chung Wai (MECH) — "AEOE Practice Test of Direct Methanol Fuel Cell" has been awarded the 2003 Best Final Year Project Award, Second Place — by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME).

- Our MBA team, along with teams from some of the world's finest MBA programs, joined the 2004 Marshall MBA Global Consulting Challenge in January 2004. Our team received lavish praise from the judges and emerged as the winners.

- Leung Tze-wing (FINA, year 2) won the China-Hong Kong Simulation Competition 2003-04 sponsored by the SHK Financial Group.

Please send good news in relation to the achievements of yours or your students to Betty Law of VRAO. (Tel: 2358 6132 email: abetty)
The learning technology device known as the Personal Response System (PRS) was invented and developed right here at UST. The inventor and chief proponent of this innovative tool is Prof Nelson Cue (Physics). We have a small group of dedicated users here, but PRS has recently been making quite a splash at universities overseas.

The September 3, 2003 issue of the Boston Globe, a major daily newspaper in Boston Massachusetts, ran an article headlined “On Campuses, Handhelds Replacing Raised Hands.” The article’s focus was the widespread adoption of PRS at University of Massachusetts in Amherst, where close to 6,000 of the 17,500 undergraduate students were using them in classes last semester. The article cites a number of endorsements by faculty and students at UMass, including this quote from a resource economics professor: “If you have to teach 340 people and you want to actively involve them, we have the technology to do that.”

The article goes on to note that the use of systems like PRS has been growing in “large public campuses, where classes of hundreds of students have long been standard fare.” The Boston Globe article goes on to quote a dean at the University of Colorado at Boulder, who said “If you have to teach 340 people and you want to actively involve them, we have the technology to do that.”

To benefit our students, the department of Continuing Education Business Plan Program has set up the Center for Fund Management. The Business School, in partnership with the Junior Achievement Hong Kong, hosted the Junior Achievement Business Plan Program in 2003. Sponsored by The Goldman Sachs Foundation, the program aims to develop participants with the ability to articulate ideas in an effective and logical manner. The program features a series of interactive seminars led by business professionals and culminates in a competition in which participants are required to create a one-page business plan and present it to a panel of judges.

Subsidies for HK Residents to take our Self-Financed Courses

The Government has set up a $5 billion CEF Fund since 2002 to subsidize Hong Kong residents with learning aspiration to pursue continuing education in a few selected areas. Eligible applicants will be reimbursed up to 80% of their course fees, subject to a maximum sum of HK$10,000, on successful completion of a reimbursable course or module(s) forming part of the course.

Who and What the CEF Scheme Covers: CEF currently provides subsidies to degree-holders and non-degree holders, covers the following sectors and skills domains:

1. Logistics
2. Business Services
3. Tourism
4. Design
5. Languages
   - English
   - Japanese
   - Written Chinese
   - French
   - German
   - Japanese

Reimbursable Courses that UST Now Offers: At present, we have 59 courses on the reimbursable course list, including Master’s degree, diploma, certificate and short programs offered by the School of Business and Management, School of Engineering, and the College of Lifelong Learning. A list of our CEF reimbursable courses can be found at: http://www.ust.hk/ocpe/CEF/CEF.htm

Adding CEF Listed Courses: To benefit our students, schools and departments are encouraged to submit existing or new self-financing programs for inclusion under CEF if they can meet the requirements of the CEF scheme, in terms of course duration and competency requirements for the respective sectors. Proposals for new CEF courses will have to be vetted by the Hong Kong Council for Academic Accreditation (HKCAA). The Office of Continuing and Professional Education (OCPE) in VPAAO has been coordinating the submission of CEF course proposals from all units of HKUST. Please contact Ms Cindy Yung at aaccindy@ust.hk or ext. 6139, for further information.

Useful Websites: You may also find information from the following websites useful:

- CEF website — http://www.in.gov.hk/ceaa/cef
- HKCAA website — http://www.hkcaa.edu.hk