Concerted Efforts Aimed to Set New Students’ Expectations Right

In the morning of 13 August, 1,350 new students arrived at the campus to join the first official function as new members of the UST family in a partnership for their success. New students are entering an important stage of life, probably with anxiety and excitement – President Paul Chu shared with students that he too felt excited and anxious when he was a new student at Cheng Kung University and when he took up presidency at UST.

Faculty, staff and students in Schools and Departments put in great efforts in organizing activities for the morning session tailored for their students.

Science students met with Prof Shiu-Yuen Cheng and Dr York Liao in LT-A before they met on departmental basis. Dr Liao talked about what the future holds for Science students. He graciously agreed to come again for a follow-up session on 9 September to address concerns of students in planning for their undergraduate years. Engineering departments mobilized a large number of faculty and students for intensive interaction at the departmental level. Business students met with Dean K C Chan and Prof K Y Tam in the Sports Hall. Quite a number of alumni in the work force were nice enough to take time from their busy schedules to come back and share their experiences.

The afternoon program started with the welcoming speech of the President and the SU President. President Chu concluded his speech by asking students always to have a dream. In order to help students better understand what to expect and what is expected of them in the coming years, there was a talk by Prof X L Ding in the Division of Social Science, followed by a panel discussion. (A brief summary of Prof Ding’s talk is presented on p.8 of this Newsletter.) To help students locate other resources available to them, briefings by H&SS, the Language Center, the Library, ARRO, ITSC, SEPO and SAO were also arranged.

The Official Orientation is only the first step of our efforts in cultivating the young men and women joining the UST family. We will rely on all faculty and staff to carry through on the momentum of this occasion during the undergraduate years of the students, to give them proper guidance and encouragement to become mature and responsible young persons who will work hard for the future of themselves and the society.

Here are some topics touched on by various speakers which may be of interest to readers:

† Freedom and responsibility
There are plenty of choices and a great deal of freedom at the University. Yet they go with responsibilities. As a student leader, Kelvin reminded his fellow students that too many choices will sometimes make one feel lost and confused. Students therefore must know their role, their goals and their responsibilities well. Once basic goals are set and met, students can take the challenges in stride.

He also pointed out that there could also be collective responsibilities which may not be apparent. For example, if some students do not behave responsibly, the negative image perceived by the public may be projected onto all of the students.

Dr York Liao, as an industrialist and educationalist, felt that Hong Kong students definitely have a competitive edge by serving as the bridge between the world and China. The bridge is built on understanding of different cultures via exposure, mobility, and interpersonal skill built first and foremost on language and presentation skills.

† The future of HK and UST students - is it all gloom and doom?
President Paul Chu reminded students that they have no right to be pessimistic, given the fact that our conditions are much, much better than our parents’ and grandparents’ generations. In fact, we still have lots of strengths and are much better off than many places in the world.

The SU President, Mr Kelvin Chan, shared the view that one should not be overly concerned about the economic environment in the near future. Instead, one should hold firmly onto the belief that diligence will eventually bring success. Students should keep trying their best to upgrade themselves in the three years to come.

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A new set of procedures for students from the Mainland to obtain an entry permit has come into effect from mid-July 2003. Mainland students will now come over to UST for full-time studies using the Exit-entry Permit for Traveling to and from Hong Kong and Macau (issued by their local Public Security Bureau (公安局)).

The new process will now take about 8-10 weeks in total (compared to 3-5 months previously). The Admissions, Registration and Records Office (ARRO) on receiving from the student the duly-signed acceptance letter, the completed entry permit application and, if applicable, the appropriate tuition deposit, will apply to the HKSAR Immigration Department for the issuance of an entry permit on behalf of the student. ARRO will send the entry permit, in the form of a sticker label, to the student once it is received from the HKSAR Immigration Department. The student should then take this entry permit label (travel permit label) to the appropriate Public Security Bureau (公安局) for the issuance of the Exit-entry Permit for Traveling to and from Hong Kong and Macau (issued by their local Public Security Bureau (公安局)).
During 2002/03, a draft proposal relating to academic dishonesty and conduct in the classroom was circulated for consultation. The proposal aimed at empowering teaching staff to deal with misconduct by providing for academic consequences in the case of serious offenses.

The idea was generally welcomed by academic staff. The HKUST Students’ Union was asked to respond on behalf of the student body, and set up an online poll to solicit opinion. It requested additional time to gather information when the original deadline for consultation could not be met, and this was granted. Unfortunately, as a result of the disruption caused by the SARS crisis, no response from the Students’ Union was submitted. In late Spring, an updated version of the proposal was submitted to the Committee on Undergraduate Studies (CUS), to provide early warning that the matter was being moved forward. At that time, it was indicated that the issue would come to the CUS in the Fall for further consideration and recommendation to the Senate.

A draft of the required policies has now been sent to the CUS for consideration at its meeting on 24 September 2003. Student representatives will have an opportunity at that meeting to provide input, and student members of Senate may also present their views directly to the Senate when the matter goes before that body for discussion.

In summary, the proposed policy asks course instructors to clearly inform students at the beginning of the course what behavior is not permitted. It empowers each instructor to eject from the course a student who repeatedly and seriously violates these rules – the transcript would record the action as a forced withdrawal. To provide fairness, this action would have to be the culmination of a “progressive discipline” process that includes a verbal warning and written warning as prior steps. A student who received a written warning that he or she believed was unwarranted would be able to seek a review by the Department or Program head.

In the realm of academic dishonesty, the proposal clarifies that the University has “zero tolerance” towards cheating of any kind. Course instructors would be specifically empowered to award a failing grade in the course to any student who cheats. Such a decision could be appealed to the Student Disciplinary Committee. However, independent evidence other than a simple denial of wrongdoing would be required for a successful appeal.

The policy, with such changes as may result from the discussion at CUS, may be debated at the Senate as early as mid-October.

Cheaters Excluded from Course Evaluation
It has been decided that, at the request of the Department, any student penalized for cheating in a course can be excluded from participating in the end-of-semester evaluation of the course in question. This is intended to protect the faculty members from retaliation by students accused of cheating.

Each Department should provide to CELT a list containing the name, student number, and course code for each student to be excluded. As the evaluation is conducted in weeks 13-14 of the semester, it is necessary to submit the lists by the end of week 11 i.e. 15 November for Fall 2003. Courses that end early and have an earlier evaluation period should make a corresponding allowance for submission of such lists.

New TPG Intake which are No Longer Funded by UGC
As mentioned in a previous issue of AA Newsletter, the University had been advised that all existing UGC-funded taught postgraduate (TPg) programs of HKUST were recommended for conversion to self-financing beginning the 2004/05 academic year and finishing within the 2005-2008 triennium. UGC will no longer support the new student intake of the following TPg programs of the University in 2004/05, while continuing students of these programs will continue to be funded by UGC for the nominal duration of their study.

ENG
MSc CENG (PT) / MSc CIVL (PT) / MSc COMP (FT & PT) / MSc ELEC (PT) / MSc IEEM (PT) / MSc MECH (PT)
SB&M
MSc ECON (FT) / MSc Financial Analysis (PT) / MSc Information Systems Management (FT & PT) / MSc Investment Management (PT)
H&SS
MA China Studies (PT) / MA HUMA (PT) / MA SOSC (PT)
Administrative Appointments

School of Science
Nancy Yuk-Yu IP - re-appointed Head of the Department of Biochemistry, concurrent with her appointment as Professor of Biochemistry, from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2006.

H Benjamin PENG - re-appointed Head of the Department of Biology, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Biology, from 1 December 2003 to 30 November 2006.

Shiu Yuen CHENG - re-appointed Associate Dean of the School of Science, in addition to his duties as Head and Professor of Mathematics, from 1 June 2003 to 31 May 2004.

School of Engineering
Philip C CHAN - appointed Dean of Engineering, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, from 1 September 2003 to 31 August 2006.

Khaled BEN LETAIEF - appointed Head of the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2006.

Moe M S CHEUNG - appointed Head of the Department of Civil Engineering, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Civil Engineering, from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2006.

School of Business and Management
Kalok CHAN - appointed Head of the Department of Finance, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Finance, from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2006.

Kenneth LAW - appointed Acting Head of the Department of Management of Organizations, in addition to his duties as Professor of Management of Organizations, from 1 August 2003 to 31 December 2003. Professor Larry Farh, former Head of the Department of Management of Organizations, retreated to his academic position as Professor of Management of Organizations on 1 August 2003.

Wilfried R VANHONACKER - appointed Acting Head of the Department of Marketing, in addition to his duties as Professor of Marketing, from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004. Professor Gerald Gorn, former Head of the Department of Marketing, retreated to his academic position as Professor of Marketing on 1 July 2003.

School of Humanities and Social Science
Karl Sheng-Yung KAO - appointed Head of the Division of Humanities, concurrent with his appointment as Professor in the Division of Humanities, from 1 July 2003 to 30 June 2006. Professor Samuel Cheung, former Head of the Division of Humanities, retreated to his academic position as Professor in the Division of Humanities on 1 July 2003.

Alvin SO - re-appointed Associate Dean of the School of Humanities and Social Science, in addition to his duties as Professor in the Division of Social Science, from 1 January 2004 to 31 December 2004.

Professor Emeritus
The following faculty members have been conferred the title of Professor Emeritus upon their retirement from the University on 1 July 2003:
Jeffrey T F WONG, Professor Emeritus, Department of Biochemistry

Wu-Yi HSIANG, Professor Emeritus, Department of Mathematics

Ping CHENG, Professor Emeritus, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Pin TONG, Professor Emeritus, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Faculty Members on Board between 3 January 2003 and 2 July 2003

School of Science
Feng CHEN, Assistant Professor, BIOL & AMCE
PhD University of Texas at Austin

Peng LI, Assistant Professor, BIOL
PhD University of California, San Diego

Jianping GAN, Assistant Professor, MATH & AMCE
PhD McGill University

Tiezheng QIAN, Assistant Professor, MATH
PhD Chinese Academy of Sciences

Penger TONG, Professor, PHYS
PhD University of Pittsburgh

School of Engineering
Dennis Tak Kit TONG, Assistant Professor, ELEC
PhD University of California, Los Angeles

Moe M S CHEUNG, Head & Professor, CIVL
PhD University of Calgary

School of Business and Management
Bilian NI SULLIVAN, Assistant Professor, MGTO
PhD Stanford University
Visiting Faculty Members on Board
between 3 January 2003 and 2 July 2003
(Appointments for 2 months or longer are listed.)

School of Science
Pauline Po Yee LUI, Visiting Assistant Professor, BICH

School of Engineering
Vernon Ning HSU, Visiting Associate Professor, IEEM
Samar K Mukhopadhyay, Visiting Associate Professor, IEEM
Xiangwen LU, Visiting Assistant Professor, IEEM
Man Lung Sham, Visiting Assistant Professor, MECH

School of Business and Management
William Wai Yip CHOW, Visiting Assistant Professor, ECON
Alberto MOEL, Visiting Assistant Professor, FINA
Oliver P HEIL, Visiting Professor, MARK
James Russell LINCOLN, Visiting Professor, MGTO

School of Humanities and Social Science
Wai Man KWOK, Visiting Assistant Professor, HUMA

Adjunct Faculty Appointed
between 3 January 2003 and 2 July 2003

School of Science
Alexis Kai-Hon LAU, Adjunct Associate Professor, MATH, HKUST

School of Engineering
Edmond I KO, Adjunct Professor, CENG
City University of Hong Kong
L John ENDICOTT, Adjunct Professor, CIVL
Maunsell Geotechnical Services Ltd.
Heung-Yeung SHUM, Adjunct Professor, COMP
Microsoft Research Asia
C P WONG, Adjunct Professor, MECH
Georgia Institute of Technology

School of Business and Management
Sabrina Y S KWAN, Adjunct Associate Professor, ACCT
HKUST
Cheng HSIAO, Adjunct Professor, ECON
University of Southern California

Amnon RAPOPORT, Adjunct Professor, ECON
University of Arizona
Hilton K H CHAN, Adjunct Assistant Professor, ISMT
Hong Kong Police Force
Steve John DEKREY, Adjunct Professor, MGTO
HKUST
Lee G LAM, Adjunct Professor, MGTO
BOC International Holdings

School of Humanities and Social Science
Leo Ou-Fan LEE, Adjunct Professor, HUMA
(Distinguished Visiting Professor under the Y K Pao Visiting Chair Program in Cultural Studies)
Harvard University

Substantiations and Promotions
The following faculty members have been substantiated and promoted to Associate Professor effective from 1 July 2003 upon their successful completion of the academic review for substantiation and promotion:

School of Science
Wen-Xiong WANG, Associate Professor, BIOL

School of Engineering
Guanghao CHEN, Associate Professor, CIVL
Cunsheng DING, Associate Professor, COMP
Fugee TSUNG, Associate Professor, IEEM
Yongsheng GAO, Associate Professor, MECH

School of Business and Management
Joseph P H FAN, Associate Professor, FINA

School of Humanities and Social Science
Tik Sang LIU, Associate Professor, HUMA
Kam Ming YIP, Associate Professor, HUMA
Cecilia CHENG, Associate Professor, SOSC

Substantiation
The following faculty member has been granted substantiation upon his successful completion of the academic review for substantiation between 1 January 2003 and 30 June 2003:

School of Humanities and Social Science
Min ZHANG, Associate Professor, HUMA
Achievement Highlights

According to a survey by ORMS Today, our Business School ranks 12th among 1,692 academic units worldwide that specialize in the field. The study looked at research output from 1997-2002 in the four top journals in the field - Management Science, Operations Research, Information Systems Research and the INFORMS Journal on Computing.

Three MECH professors were newly named Fellows of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME). They are Prof Tongxi Yu, Prof Ricky Lee and Prof Yitshak Zohar. Prof Yu was also named a Fellow of Institution of Mechanical Engineers (IMechE) 2003.

Our SB&M executive education programs for companies are among the best in the world, according to a major international survey released by the Financial Times in May. Our Business School was placed 28th of 50 ranked schools, making it the best performer in Asia. In addition, the School ranked 19th in terms of “value for money” and “future use” and the faculty diversity was ranked fifth in the world.

Prof Ricky Lee (MECH) was appointed a Member-at-Large to the IEEE Components, Packaging & Manufacturing Technology Society (CPMT) Board of Governors (BoG) in March 2003. Prof Lee is the only CPMT BoG member from Asia outside Japan.

Prof David K Banfield (BIOL) and Prof Wa Hung Leung (CHEM) are recipients of the School of Science Teaching Award 2003.

A review titled “Calcium Signaling During Embryonic Development”, which was written by Dr Sarah Webb and Prof Andrew Miller of Biology, appears in the July 2003 issue of “Nature Reviews: Molecular Cell Biology”, a prestigious journal produced by the Nature Publishing Group.

Prof Wen-Xiong Wang (BIOL) received the 12th Biwako Prize for Ecology from Japan, for his contribution to the development of ecological research, particularly on the assimilation and discharge by organisms of essential trace elements and their transfer through food chains, as well as the excellent achievement on clarification of biological aspects of the movement of metals in water.

A review titled “Calcium Signaling During Embryonic Development”, which was written by Dr Sarah Webb and Prof Andrew Miller of Biology, appears in the July 2003 issue of “Nature Reviews: Molecular Cell Biology”, a prestigious journal produced by the Nature Publishing Group.

Prof Irene Lo (CIVL) was the recipient of Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) Peter Chan Best Paper Award for the technical paper entitled “Environmental and Landfill Operational Aspects of Co-disposal of Dewatered Sewage Sludge and Municipal Solid Waste” in June 2003.

Prof Charles Ng (CIVL) received the 2002 Young Mao Yisheng Award by the Chinese Institute of Soil Mechanics and Geotechnical Engineering.

Prof Long Quan (COMP) was awarded “The Outstanding Overseas Chinese Scholars Fund of Chinese Academy of Science 2001-2004,” and granted a total of RMB 500,000 from Chinese Academy Science for the research “3D modeling and motion understanding.”

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

We have put in place the new measure which enables departments or program offices to disallow the continued registration of research postgraduate students (RPgs) who fail to submit their Annual Progress Report by the stipulated deadline of 30 June. The Admissions, Registration and Records Office (ARRO) reported a significant improvement in the return rate of the reports this year. Of the 992 RPgs, 970 returned their Annual Progress Report on time, reflecting a 97.8% return rate. Those who failed to submit their report form on time were each followed-up by ARRO and a few were subsequently dealt with by AAO. All outstanding cases have been cleared, resulting in six students discontinuing their studies.

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**On the light side — Peter N Dobson**

While September is often very hot here in Hong Kong, I admit it is a bit late to qualify as part of the “dog days,” which refers to hottest part of the Summer in the Mediterranean. The dog days include the 20 days before and after the conjunction of the star Sirius with the sun. Sirius is the brightest star in the sky and is known as the “dog star,” since it is in the constellation Canis Major (Great Dog), the hunting dog that follows Orion the hunter across the sky. I know this stuff because as a young boy I fancied myself an amateur astronomer. I spent many an evening in my back yard with a modest refracting telescope, plotting the positions of the moons of Jupiter and trying to find interesting objects in the sky. This was no mean feat in the skies above Baltimore, home to the Bethlehem Steel mills and their attendant air pollution.

As a young boy, I also owned a dog; a faithful companion and playmate for a good number of the years of my childhood. She was named Pudgy, and was of indeterminate breed but an affectionate nature. She was a simple-minded pup, and was never happier than when chasing the occasional rabbit around and around our house. The rabbit, which was never in any real danger, would eventually tire of the game and streak off elsewhere; leaving Pudgy panting but sure that she had once again defended the homestead against a creature of the wild. I will spare you the sad details of Pudgy’s demise, but for the 50 years after it I was dogless. I developed a fondness for felines, and shared more than a few years of my adult life with a Siamese cat named for the eminent Indian astrophysicist (and Nobel Laureate) Chandrasekhar. Alas, she too passed on, quite a while before I came to Hong Kong.

During the first decade of our stay in Hong Kong, the campus rule against dog ownership in staff quarters meant that my wife’s desire to acquire a dog had to be kept on hold. When her children were young, she had owned a poodle that she became inordinately fond of. I have heard so many tales of his miraculous powers that I think of him as Jiffy, the Wonder Dog. Finally, though, HFS gave us the ticket to an off campus lifestyle, and Hong Kong Parkview, where we now live, not only permits dogs, but practically encourages them. So, when my wife retired from full time employment in the Summer of 2002, I was hard pressed to think of a reason why she could not get a dog. We began to visit the SPCA in Wanchai on weekends, looking for a suitable candidate for adoption. My wife kept putting her name on the list for dogs that already had several people lined up to take them, and so we made little progress ... until one day I went into the pen where they were keeping this white Pekingnese and picked her up. She looked me right in the eye and licked my face, and that was that. Love at first sight.

So now we share our lives with a demanding little creature that we have named Lulu (short for Honolulu, actually). Make no mistake, she knows she is my wife’s dog, and prefers her company to all others. But she is also my dog, and will come running to me when I return home. She is my companion and playmate in the morning sun, and that is what has made me so happy here in Hong Kong. I hope you will all have one animal companion as well to make your life more interesting.

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**RPg Annual Progress Report Turn In Rate**

**DOG DAYS**

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**Wanna keep a Pet?**

In May, the Government announced a “comprehensive program to improve cleanliness in public housing”. A penalty point system for hygiene-related offences was set up whereby the accumulation of 16 points over a two-year period will cause tenancy termination. Keeping pets inside leased public housing premises is classified one of those offences. Anticipating that a large number of pets will be de-registered, a group of 4 UST students, a fresh graduate, with the assistance of CELT, had set up the MatchYourPet website to help animals affected by the scheme to find new homes. If you are interested to adopt a pet, please visit this site: http://mpet.ust.hk.

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**Signing of Agreements and 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.
In the afternoon of the Official Orientation Day on 13 August 2003, Prof X L Ding in the Division of Social Science was invited by the University to deliver a talk to new students joining the UST family. Prof Ding began by introducing to new students the concept of a university and how the university model has evolved according to the needs of the society.

**How universities have evolved in response to changing societies**

In the 18th-19th centuries, the idea of a university was basically to cultivate young men (young women were not included at that time) to turn them into gentlemen. It began with what we today call the Liberal Arts College with which dissemination of knowledge at the Bachelor level was the main business. Not until the 20th century, did the idea of Research Universities, which originated from Germany, become more influential. These institutions focused on the creation of knowledge and programs were offered at the postgraduate levels. In mid-20th century, many types of professional schools came into the scene to serve the practical needs of the society. Today, we can find in a comprehensive university all three components – an undergraduate college, a graduate school and professional schools. UST is close to the comprehensive model and it has achieved a lot over the last 12 years.

**Why students are a core dynamic of university education**

As students are entering a new phase of life at UST, Prof Ding pointed out the major difference from secondary school life that they should anticipate.

Once students enter the university, they are provided with lots of choices and, most of the time, no longer have their teachers and parents constantly looking over the shoulders. They need to rely on themselves to search for, and seize and maximize the opportunities awaiting them. To locate and seize and maximize opportunities, students should take advantage of three types of important interactions that take place on the campus.

First, the faculty and student interaction. Faculty and students should learn from each other. Students are expected to carry to class more than a pair of ears and a passive mind. They need to have with them, the head for reflecting on messages they get from the professors; the mind to analyze; the passion to get engaged in discussions; and the mouth to ask questions in a skillful and constructive way. Always concerned about room for improvement and how one can contribute, students will then become part of the improvement of higher education. An excellent university differentiates from the rest by the readiness of her students to question and challenge the speaker in front of a large audience.

Second, the peer interaction. It is absolutely worth it to invest time to interact with fellow students with different backgrounds. This enables us to be more dimensional, mature and capable. Moreover, friendship established at the undergraduate years can mean a lot in one's future career and can bring miracles to one's life.

Third, interaction with visitors at UST. Students should take part in intellectual, social and professional activities, including those outside one's field – seminars, conferences, exhibitions and cultural activities, etc. All visitors brought in to our campus are unique and outstanding in their own field. They bring to us new sources of knowledge and new encouragements. Participation in these activities can open up a whole new world for young students’ growth and development.

**Expectations of the UST freshman class**

Prof Ding concluded his talk by urging the new students to be aware of the expectations of them. They are expected to be competitive at three different levels – at UST, in Hong Kong and in the region, and outperform their professors. Being competitive of course means more than academic achievements.

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**Important attitudes to be adopted**

- Be a good citizen
- Be able to learn by oneself
- Be able to understand one's role
- Be able to communicate and interact
- Be creative
- Be curious
- Be hardworking
- Be idealistic
- Be moral
- Be patient
- Be positive
- Be risk-taking
- Be self-confident
- Be skeptical