Internationalization initiatives make good progress

Internationalization is a key initiative of the HKUST 2020 Strategic Plan. This year, HKUST has admitted 176 non-local students. In terms of Mainland recruitment, not only did we see a 300% increase in applications, there is also a noticeable increase in the academic quality of the applicants. We are very glad that some of the top JEE score students have decided to further their studies at HKUST. On the international recruitment side, we also see an increase in the number of applications as well as in the national diversity of the applicants. With the strong support of faculty members and staff, our effort to internationalize the campus has started to bear fruit.

Until recently, Hong Kong has not been perceived as a major location for higher education and high school students in developed countries were not likely to consider Hong Kong as a place to pursue their future studies. This has started to change as China begins to play a prominent role in the world scene. Hong Kong has a unique role in this development because of her geographical location and established infrastructure. With its English-speaking curriculum and internationally accredited academic programs, HKUST expects to stand out as a preferred institution for overseas students, who want to link their education and careers with the rapid development of China.

Top performing non-Local students enrolled in undergraduate programs

In 2005, the University’s recruitment efforts have attracted interest from a growing number of outstanding students from outside Hong Kong. A group of 176 high quality non-local students were enrolled in our undergraduate programs.

These students include 13 from overseas: Denmark, Germany, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, UK, and US. Recruiting this group was the outcome of a major effort including publicity, information sessions, high school visits, exhibitions, and liaison with local leaders of the Chinese community in target places.

With the expansion of the scope of recruitment to 17 regions (provinces or cities), UST attracted close to 3,000 applicants from the Mainland. 160 students have joined our Year-0 through the University’s recruitment program and 3 were admitted to the regular program through direct entry. We are pleased to have 37 students whose scores in the Mainland Joint Entrance Examinations (JEE) qualified them for admission to Beida/Tsinghua, including three top score achievers in the JEE examinations of Beijing, Guangdong and Chengdu. Also, we have attracted 13 winners of National or Regional Subject Contests (in Math and Physics), who were qualified for admission to the highest ranked universities in the Mainland (Beida, Fudan, Shanghai Jiaoda, Zheda, Nanda andUSTC) with JEE exemption.

(...to be continued on p.2)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Number of Applicants</th>
<th>Number of Students Enrolled</th>
<th>JEE* Average</th>
<th>JEE Cutoff of Mainland Universities*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>655</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>608</td>
<td>470</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shanghai</td>
<td>552</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>538</td>
<td>469</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zhejiang</td>
<td>264</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>645</td>
<td>550</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shenzhen</td>
<td>424</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>791</td>
<td>632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guangdong</td>
<td>281</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>798</td>
<td>632</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sichuan</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>668</td>
<td>598</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chongqing</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>665</td>
<td>548</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jiangsu</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shandong</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>665</td>
<td>597</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fujian</td>
<td>134</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>628</td>
<td>542</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Henan</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>625</td>
<td>568</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hunan</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>633</td>
<td>544</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guangxi</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>636</td>
<td>530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shaanxi</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>679</td>
<td>567</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tianjin</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>626</td>
<td>458</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Others</td>
<td>69</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>632</td>
<td>558</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* JEE is the Mainland Joint Entrance Examinations
# The benchmarking score for students to be admitted to major universities in respective regions
Recruitment-related activities started as early as last summer when 30 top Mainland high school students (15 each from Shanghai and Shenzhen) were invited to participate in the Summer Studies Camp 2004 hosted by the 4 Schools. Students came to our campus for the China Math Star Summer Camp 2004 co-organized by our Math department and Nankai University. The Pan Pearl River Delta Physics Olympiad hosted by our Physics Department also attracted 148 top Mainland high schools students to the competition.

Meanwhile, the principals of major high schools in Beijing and Guangzhou paid visits to UST. With the joint efforts of MSPO and the three Schools, an Open Day was held in early May for prospective Mainland students and their parents. These events, focused on the top students of top high schools, proved very successful in attracting high caliber applicants.

Intensive promotional activities were staged in major cities through the joint efforts of MSPO and the three Schools. Faculty members of SSCI held additional recruitment talks in top high schools in Zhejiang, Sichuan, Shandong and Liaoning. Our existing undergraduate students from Beijing took the initiative to organize two information sessions at Tsinghua University, and students from Shanghai visited several top high schools in Shanghai during their Christmas vacation.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>City</th>
<th>Activities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shenzhen</td>
<td>Information Sessions on Recruitment and Scholarships hosted by MSPO (Jan, Feb and Jun, 2005)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guangzhou</td>
<td>Information Sessions hosted by MSPO (Feb and May, 2005)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beijing</td>
<td>Information Sessions on Recruitment and Scholarships hosted by MSPO (Dec, 2004, Mar and May, 2005)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shanghai</td>
<td>Information Sessions on Recruitment and Scholarships hosted by MSPO (Mar and May 2005)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fuzhou, Chengdu</td>
<td>Information Sessions hosted by SSCI and SENG (Mar 2005)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hangzhou, Jinan &amp; Qingdao</td>
<td>Information Sessions hosted by SSCI and SENG (Apr 2005)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Formation of the International and Mainland Students and Programs Office (IMSPO)

To plan for future expansion of the non-local student body, the VP-AA established the new International and Mainland Students and Programs Office (IMSPO) in August 2005. The new office integrates and replaces the former International Students Office and Mainland Students and Programs Office; and its mandate is to spearhead the internationalization initiative of HKUST by (1) recruiting quality international and mainland students (2) expanding international exchange opportunities to a significant portion of the student body, and (3) promoting a multicultural, multinational, and multilingual campus environment.

IMSPO consists of three units: the International Students and Programs (ISP), the Mainland Students and Programs (MSP), and the Outreach and Summer Programs (OSP). Working closely with ARR and SAO, these units will coordinate recruitment activities and provide student counseling services for international and mainland students.

HKUST is internationally recognized for its academic excellence. Building on this solid foundation, we are confident that HKUST can take a leadership role in positioning Hong Kong as a center for higher education in Asia and beyond. Success of the internationalization initiative depends critically on the support of the faculty and staff. I look forward to your continued support and participation in our upcoming events.

Kar Yan TAM
Associate Vice-President (Academic Affairs), and Director of International and Mainland Students and Programs Office

Doors open wider for non-local students

In late June the Educational and Manpower Bureau (EMB), jointly with the Hong Kong Immigration Department, advised institutions that steps would be taken from the 2005/06 academic year to relax immigration control for non-local students (NLs) pursuing degree-or-above programs offered by tertiary institutions. These new measures apply to locally accredited programs only.

Among the more significant changes in immigration control are:

- Relaxed admission for students from Taiwan and Macau to tertiary programs in Hong Kong, including the pursuit of a second higher level program of study on completion of a first program. Also tertiary students from Taiwan and Macau may now join exchange programs of degree level or above in Hong Kong for at most one year.

- Non-local students may not change their program of study without the prior permission of the Hong Kong Immigration Department.

- Non-local students may now enroll on locally-accredited, part-time, self-financed taught postgraduate programs, free from any quota. However, for self-financing programs at undergraduate level, the existing quota applies.

For details, please refer to the document sent to departments dated 30 June 2005.

HKUST will soon have its own learning management system, replacing WebCT which we have been using since 2000. The most important benefit of building our own system is that it will be able to better cater to the needs of the teaching community at HKUST. This is not just because we can build a system that is tailor-made to our own set of user requirements but, more importantly, we will be able to continuously enhance the system to meet the ever changing needs of the university community. Building a system that can cope with such requirements is a challenge. Fortunately, our initiative coincides with a major international effort of building an open-source learning management system, Sakai (http://www.sakaiproject.org/), led by many prestigious higher education institutions in North America.

The AMCE Program ran three courses this summer. One was Marine Microbial Ecology, given by Prof. Curtis Suttle of the University of British Columbia and Prof. David Kirchman of the University of Delaware. The ecology of marine viruses and bacteria is a relatively new research frontier for Hong Kong waters. The Summer Program was attended by 35 students. The other two courses on air pollution and sustainability were jointly offered by the University of California Los Angeles and HKUST, taught by Prof. Anthony Miguel (UCLA) and Prof. Alexis Lau (UST) and Prof. Jianzhen Yu (UST). These courses were attended by 17 students (7 UCLA students and 10 UST students).

Evaluations by the students at the end of the Program showed very positive feedback. Students found the Program to be challenging and meaningful. On a 7 point scale, the average rating for the academic component is 5.91; for program activities 5.4; for program arrangements 5.72; and for human factors (program staff, student leaders and program students) 6.28. Most students agreed that they gained a fuller understanding of university life at HKUST, and enjoyed both the lectures and the activities. They also indicated strong interests to pursue future studies at HKUST.

We would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt gratitude towards the course instructors and coordinators for their efforts, and we appreciate their hard work and initiative in taking up extra teaching load in the summer. Continued support from our faculty is vital to the success of the program, and we would like to invite faculty who are interested in teaching for next year’s program to provide possible topics or courses. Please send your suggestions to Tony Lam of the Outreach and Summer Programs (tony.lam@ust.hk).

The Summer@UST program was held on campus from 17 July to 5 August. Summer@UST is one of the University’s internationalization initiatives and the first credit bearing summer program for overseas senior high school students. The three-week program brought together sixty students from countries around the world, including the US, Canada, UK, Malaysia, as well as students who are enrolled in local schools and international schools based in Hong Kong. These students were joined by twenty Mainland students for a 1-week Experiential Camp.

The students had a choice of six courses offered by the Schools and the Language Center. Beside lectures and lab sessions, students also took part in various extra-curricular activities and competitions, including a Talent Show, Drama Show, City Exploration Race, Group Report Competition, and museum and corporate visits.

A new learning management system for HKUST

HKUST will soon have its own learning management system, replacing WebCT which we have been using since 2000. The most important benefit of building our own system is that it will be able to better cater to the needs of the teaching community at HKUST. This is not just because we can build a system that is tailor-made to our own set of user requirements but, more importantly, we will be able to continuously enhance the system to meet the ever changing needs of the university community. Building a system that can cope with such requirements is a challenge. Fortunately, our initiative coincides with a major international effort of building an open-source learning management system, Sakai (http://www.sakaiproject.org/), led by many prestigious higher education institutions in North America.

The new system has the acronym, LMES, which stands for Learning Management and Evaluation System. Version 1.5 of the system, which is already in production, is now piloting the Library’s online course on Information Literacy. A major effort is being made to collect feedback from all members of the teaching staff and students about the system. Such feedback is essential to our effort in fine tuning the system in terms of its functionality, usability, robustness and performance for production launch in spring 2006.

Members of the teaching community are invited to try out the new system and give their feedback. Those who are interested can contact Ms Lucia Yeung at e-mail: ctlucia, ext.8916.
New Appointments

Administrative Appointments

July / August 2005

Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs

Prof Kar Yan TAM – appointed on a half-time basis as Associate Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Director of International and Mainland Students and Programs Office (IMSPO) with effect from 1 August 2005. The IMSPO is a new office replacing the former International Students Office and the Mainland Students and Programs Office. There are three units in the new IMSPO, namely the International Students and Programs of which Prof Kar Yan Tam will also be assigned as the interim Head, the Mainland Students and Programs of which Dr Lijing ZHU is assigned as the Head, and the Outreach and Summer Programs which will be headed by Mr Tony W L LAM.

School of Engineering

Prof Chi Ming CHAN – appointed Acting Head of the Department of Chemical Engineering, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Chemical Engineering, with effect from 1 July 2005.

Prof Lionel M NI – reappointed Head of the Department of Computer Science, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Computer Science, with effect from 1 July 2005.

School of Business and Management

Prof Francis LUI – appointed Acting Head of the Department of Economics, concurrent with his appointment as Professor of Economics, with effect from 1 July 2005.

School of Humanities and Social Science

Prof Yiu Ming FUNG – continues to be the Acting Head of the Division of Humanities, concurrent with his appointment as Professor in the Division of Humanities, for six months with effect from 1 July 2005.

Prof Yanjie BIAN – reappointed Head of the Division of Social Science, concurrent with his appointment as Professor in the Division of Social Science, with effect from 1 July 2005.

Publishing Technology Center

Mr Thomas W K NG – appointed Acting Director of the Center with effect from 1 August 2005 upon the transfer of Mr Tony W L Lam, the current Director, to VPAAO as Head, Outreach and Summer Programs in the new IMSPO.

Regular Faculty Appointments

July 2005

School of Science

Hongbin LIU, Assistant Professor, BIOL (PhD, University of Hawaii)

School of Business and Management

Xinyu HUA, Assistant Professor, ECON (PhD, Northwestern University)

Ryo OKUI, Assistant Professor, ECON (PhD, University of Pennsylvania)

Peter Ian MACKAY, Assistant Professor, FINA (PhD, Purdue University)

Lancelot Fitzgerald JAMES, Associate Professor, ISMT (PhD, State University of New York at Buffalo)

Xuhu WAN, Assistant Professor, ISMT (PhD, University of Southern California)

Jinyu HE, Assistant Professor, MGTO (PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Emily Mung-Lam NASON, Assistant Professor, MGTO (PhD, University of California, Los Angeles)

June 2005

School of Science

Qiman SHAO, Professor, MATH (PhD, University of Science & Technology of China)

May 2005

Nil

Visiting/Research Faculty Appointments

July 2005

School of Science

William Francis BARRON, Visiting Scholar, DSCI (PhD, The Johns Hopkins University)

David Louis KIRCHMAN, Visiting Scholar, DSCI (PhD, Harvard University)

Kedong YIN, Research Assistant Professor, BIOL & AMCE (PhD, University of British Columbia)

Shmuel GURVITZ, Visiting Scholar, CHEM (PhD, Institute of Theoretical and Experimental Physics)

School of Engineering

Wei Chung HU, Visiting Assistant Lecturer, CIVL (M.S., University of California, Santa Barbara)

School of Business and Management

Frederick Douglas FOSTER, Visiting Professor, FINA (PhD, Cornell University)

Joong Ho AHN, Visiting Scholar, ISMT (PhD, New York University)

School of Humanities and Social Science

Nau Bahar SHARIF, Research Assistant Professor, SOSC (PhD, Cornell University)
June 2005

School of Science
Curtis Arnold SUTTLE, Visiting Scholar, DSCI (PhD, University of British Columbia)
Chih Yung WANG, Research Assistant Professor, BICH (PhD, Princeton University)
Dongxiao WANG, Visiting Scholar, MATH (PhD, Ocean University of Qingdao)
Jaw-Yen YANG, Visiting Scholar, MATH (PhD, Stanford University)

School of Engineering
Vincent Ming Cheong POON, Visiting Assistant Professor, ELEC (PhD, Chinese University of Hong Kong)

School of Business and Management
Sirkka-Liisa JARVENPAA, Visiting Professor, ISMT (PhD, University of Minnesota)
Viswanath VENKATESH, Visiting Assistant Professor, ISMT (PhD, University of Minnesota)
Ranjan DAS, Visiting Scholar, MGTO (PhD, Indian Institute of Management)

May 2005

School of Science
Dale Bruce HAIDVOGEL, Visiting Scholar, DSCI (PhD, MIT and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution)

School of Business and Management
Zheng ZHANG, Adjunct Associate Professor, COMP (PhD, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign)

Adjunct Faculty Appointments
July 2005

School of Engineering
Chi Wah KOK, Adjunct Assistant Professor, ELEC (PhD, University of Wisconsin - Madison)

School of Business and Management
Changqi WU, Adjunct Professor, DBM (PhD, Catholic University of Louvain)
William Wai Yip CHOW, Adjunct Assistant Professor, ECON (PhD, HKUST)
Weiming SHI, Adjunct Associate Professor, ECON (PhD, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)
Cassian K S CHEUNG, Adjunct Professor, MGTO (Master of Management, Northwestern University)
Stephen William NASON, Adjunct Associate Professor, MGTO (PhD, University of Southern California)

Substantiation and Promotion
Kim-chong CHONG (HUMA) has been substantiated and promoted to Professor with effective from 1 July 2005

Promotions
The following faculty members have been promoted to Professor on 1 July 2005.

School of Science
Karl Wah-Keung TSIM, BIOL
Guochen JIA, CHEM
Ben Z TANG, CHEM
Shihe YANG, CHEM
Zi Kang TANG, PHYS

School of Engineering
Christopher K Y LEUNG, CIVL
Andrew HORNER, COMP
Long QUAN, COMP
Ross David MURCH, ELEC
Qing-ping SUN, MECH

School of Business and Management
In CHOI, ECON

The information given here is extracted from the Academic Personnel website of the VPAAO as of 5 September. For the most current information, please visit this website: http://www.ust.hk/~webaa/AcademicPersonnel/.
The School of Business and Management was named Number 1 in executive education in the Asia-Pacific region for the third year in a row, through a major international survey that gives most credence to how company managers view the end-product. The Financial Times (FT) annual global rankings for these non-degree programs gives 80% weighting to responses from top corporate purchasers, usually a chief executive or a human resources director. The remaining 20% is allocated to an evaluation of the strength and diversity of the school itself. The FT reviews only schools conducting business worth US$2 million or more on packages tailor-made for companies to develop and train their executives.

This year 58 business schools were eligible, 50 were ranked and 445 purchasers of custom programs interviewed. In the world ranking, the School came in 27th, the same as last year. The Australian Graduate School of Management, at 44th, was the only other Asia Pacific representative.

The FT evaluation was based on programs conducted in 2004. During that year, the School organized custom programs for 39 companies and organizations, of which 43% were based outside Hong Kong and the mainland.

The Department of Finance has been ranked first in the Asia Pacific in research articles published in top academic journals, for the third time in four years. After topping the regional list in rankings by the academic journals, Financial Management in 2002 and Pacific Basin Finance Journal in 2001, the department has received a similar ranking from Arizona State University in the United States.

Arizona’s researchers based the ranking on the contents of the Journal of Finance, Journal of Financial Economics, Journal of Financial and Quantitative Analysis and Review of Financial Studies from 1991 to 2004. HKUST came 23rd globally and was the only Asian university in the top 25. The Chinese University of Hong Kong, the only other Hong Kong school to make the top 100, was 79th, Asia’s third representative, Korea University, ranked 72nd.

Three years ago, faculty members of the Division of Humanities participated in setting up a new international society in comparative philosophy, the “International Society for Comparative Studies of Chinese and Western Philosophy” (ISCWPF). The first ISCWPF international conference held in Beijing last Summer was the first occasion for interaction between Donald Davidson, one of the top ten philosophers in the world, and some of the first rate scholars in Chinese philosophy.

This summer, in cooperation with ISCWPF and the American Philosophy Association (APA), the Division of Humanities organized an international conference as another platform for dialogue between Chinese philosophers and one of the main figures in Western philosophy – John Searle of Berkeley. Prof. Searle was awarded the 2004 National Humanities Medal presented by President George W. Bush. The conference, entitled “Searle’s Philosophy and Chinese Philosophy: Constructive Engagement”, was very successful. A related book project is expected to be published next year in the USA.

Prof. Nancy Ip (Biochemistry) has received the Outstanding Women Professionals Award 2005 from the Hong Kong Women Professionals and Entrepreneurs Association. This award recognizes women who have made significant contributions to their professions and demonstrated high standards of integrity and ethical values. The Association also applauded Prof. Ip for her unceasing effort to promote science in Hong Kong, particularly in building Hong Kong as a world center for neuroscience research.

Prof. Andrew Miller (Biology) has been elected a “Visiting Fellow” at New College, Oxford University, UK, for the Michaelmas Term 2005, where he will spend his sabbatical leave. “New College” was founded in 1379 and includes amongst its current fellows, Prof. Richard Dawkins.

Prof. Jing-Song Huang (Mathematics) has been appointed the Cheung Kong Chair Professor at Nankai University.

Prof. Jian-shu Li (Mathematics) has been made a Distinguished Visiting Professorship at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Prof. Chung-Yee Lee (Industrial Engineering & Logistics Management) has been selected as a Fellow of the Institute of Industrial Engineers (U.S.).

A paper that Prof. Chung-Yee Lee co-authored with Sitong Tan and Houmin Yan, “Designing an assembly process with stochastic material arrivals,” IIE Transactions, volume 35, September 2003, has been awarded the Best Paper award for the focus issues on Operations Engineering for 2003-2004. Industrial Engineering & Logistics Management has won these best paper awards in the past two years from IIE Transactions, a flagship journal in industrial engineering.

Fu Ke, an advisee of Prof. Chung-Yee Lee has won the second prize award of US$1,500 for the SCALE (Supply Chain and Logistics Engineering) Dissertation Proposal Award sponsored by the SCALE Center at University of Florida.
Interested in offering JCAS courses?

In response to UGC’s call for institutions to develop strategic alliances and engage in deep collaboration, the Joint Centre for Advanced Study (JCAS) was formed by the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2004, offering a platform for joint teaching and research activities to be organized among the three institutions.

The bulk of the work of JCAS has focused on the joint offering of advanced postgraduate courses for research students from the three universities. In the past year, a total of 15 courses from four disciplines were offered through JCAS. The disciplines involved are Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Public Administration and Political Science. Students attracted to the courses valued the opportunities provided for them to interact with faculty members and students from other institutions. JCAS also provided a wider choice of courses to suit their needs.

In the 2005-06 academic year, more courses will be offered to research students through JCAS.

Consideration is also being given by the JCAS Committee of Management to provide students who need to commute to other campuses to attend JCAS classes with a travel subsidy. Details will be released as soon as the proposal has been endorsed by the partner institutions.

Departments who are interested in sharing courses with research students of the two partner institutions through the JCAS Course-sharing Scheme are welcome to contact either the Registration Section of ARRO, or the PG Secretariat of VP-AA Office for further information.

RAE Mock Assessment in Nov/Dec 05

As announced earlier in the year, the RAE will be conducted in the first quarter of 2006. To prepare ourselves for this important exercise, which will affect funding for the University in the next two triennia, briefing sessions and forums will be held later this semester to help academic cost centers understand the requirements of RAE and to better position themselves for the exercise. A mock assessment exercise will be held in November or December 2005, to allow cost centers to make adjustments to their research output submissions.

The final RAE 2006 Guidance Notes, just released on 12 September 2005, are available at http://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/ugc/publication/prog/rae/rae.htm. At this site, readers will also find the list of convenors and deputy convenors for the thirteen RAE panels, a Q-and-A section on general RAE issues, and the RAE 2006 Timetable. Please read through these documents carefully.

Tracking the whereabouts and the career development of our PhD alumni

To help the University and its academic departments understand the career development of our PhD alumni, an online survey was conducted between June and early August. Of the 554 PhD alumni approached, a total of 235 responded, a response rate of 42.2%. The survey collected information on the geographical distribution of PhD alumni, the nature of their employment, as well as their annual income range. A report is being prepared and will be released to departments and units of the University. It is hoped that the findings will help the units concerned better plan our alumni affairs, particularly those for our postgraduate students.

PG Studies and Academic Research

Interested in offering JCAS courses?

In response to UGC’s call for institutions to develop strategic alliances and engage in deep collaboration, the Joint Centre for Advanced Study (JCAS) was formed by the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in 2004, offering a platform for joint teaching and research activities to be organized among the three institutions.

The bulk of the work of JCAS has focused on the joint offering of advanced postgraduate courses for research students from the three universities. In the past year, a total of 15 courses from four disciplines were offered through JCAS. The disciplines involved are Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, and Public Administration and Political Science. Students attracted to the courses valued the opportunities provided for them to interact with faculty members and students from other institutions. JCAS also provided a wider choice of courses to suit their needs.

In the 2005-06 academic year, more courses will be offered to research students through JCAS.

Consideration is also being given by the JCAS Committee of Management to provide students who need to commute to other campuses to attend JCAS classes with a travel subsidy. Details will be released as soon as the proposal has been endorsed by the partner institutions.

Departments who are interested in sharing courses with research students of the two partner institutions through the JCAS Course-sharing Scheme are welcome to contact either the Registration Section of ARRO, or the PG Secretariat of VP-AA Office for further information.

RAE Mock Assessment in Nov/Dec 05

As announced earlier in the year, the RAE will be conducted in the first quarter of 2006. To prepare ourselves for this important exercise, which will affect funding for the University in the next two triennia, briefing sessions and forums will be held later this semester to help academic cost centers understand the requirements of RAE and to better position themselves for the exercise. A mock assessment exercise will be held in November or December 2005, to allow cost centers to make adjustments to their research output submissions.

The final RAE 2006 Guidance Notes, just released on 12 September 2005, are available at http://www.ugc.edu.hk/eng/ugc/publication/prog/rae/rae.htm. At this site, readers will also find the list of convenors and deputy convenors for the thirteen RAE panels, a Q-and-A section on general RAE issues, and the RAE 2006 Timetable. Please read through these documents carefully.

Tracking the whereabouts and the career development of our PhD alumni

To help the University and its academic departments understand the career development of our PhD alumni, an online survey was conducted between June and early August. Of the 554 PhD alumni approached, a total of 235 responded, a response rate of 42.2%. The survey collected information on the geographical distribution of PhD alumni, the nature of their employment, as well as their annual income range. A report is being prepared and will be released to departments and units of the University. It is hoped that the findings will help the units concerned better plan our alumni affairs, particularly those for our postgraduate students.
Orientation 2005 broke new ground for the University. For this year’s new entry students, AA office worked with the Schools and other units to provide an enhanced “academic” orientation, and to coordinate the information being provided to newcomers.

Four projects were undertaken for Orientation 2005.

SAO and VPAAO organized a two-part residential program for 37 students, comprising organizers of student orientation camps, student ambassador appointees, and students helping to launch the Summer@UST Program. Through games, classes, guest lectures, group discussion and a group project, participants worked on their communications, presentation, team building, project planning and executive skills. Students found that they had benefited from the program, and were able to apply what they learned in the activities they led during the summer.

An orientation website was created to provide a “portal” for new students to access the basic information they require, and links to other more detailed information. This website had registered 22,600 visitors by 8 September 2005. The website is still available at www.ust.hk/orientation. To complement the website and put key information and advice in the hands of students, a hard-copy folder was also prepared. Both the website and the folder were very well received.

Over the two days before the University Official Welcome, we offered an Academic Orientation Program. Six courses were offered, covering English listening skills, using others’ ideas properly in writing, an induction to computing facilities and library services, and time management skills. In total, about 30 class sections with 1,550 places were offered, attracting 1,250 new students. Induction activities offered by the University Library ran beyond the orientation period until 7 September; these classes and guided tours have attracted another 1,270 students.

Finally the “Official Orientation” was held on 31 August 2005, the day before classes began. About 1,000 new students attended the orientation sessions held by their School/Department in the morning, followed by The Official Welcome in the afternoon. In addition to a welcome from the President, Prof Paul Chu, and from Mr Kenneth Lo of the Students’ Union, the University was delighted to have the presence of Miss Cheung Man-Yee who delivered a very lively talk. The Official Welcome was followed by a tea reception in the Atrium where new students had the chance to mingle with faculty, while enjoying musical performances.

Many offices and many staff and students contributed to Orientation 2005. We believe that we achieved our major goal of providing a warm, well-organized welcome for the new class. There is still a long way to go before we can be satisfied that we are making the best use of this key event in the induction of new students to our community, but now we have a foundation to work from.

If you have any comments or suggestions as we work toward Orientation 2006, please contact David Mole (mole@ust.hk) or Yvonne Leung (aayvonne@ust.hk).