Crowdfunding Platform

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- 25 Years of HKUST – how, when & where to get involved in the anniversary celebrations!
- HK$25 million by 2017 – join the drive to reach the AEF’s ambitious target!
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Dear Alumni,

The year 2016 represents a landmark for HKUST – I am sure all of you are well aware by now that it marks our 25th anniversary! Over the past two-and-half decades, the University has evolved and developed into the internationally renowned tertiary institution it is today, and we have plenty to celebrate.

The global anniversary celebrations kicked off in London in November, and it was heartwarming to witness the close bonds that have been forged among alumni overseas. A good number of exchange-out and former exchange-in students attended, and we were honored to welcome Ambassador Liu Xiaoming, Ambassador to the United Kingdom of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Ms Priscilla To, Director-General of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London, to the event, along with guests from British universities and other institutions. A seminar entitled “Science – Vision into the Future” was staged prior to the dinner, and featured presentations by professors from the School of Science who shared with the audience their insights into their research disciplines.

Aside from London, I also got a rare opportunity to meet alumni and students in Toronto and Shanghai during university trips. And I encountered even more of you at the 10th-graduation anniversary homecoming reunion for the Class of 2005, as well as at the annual dinner of the HKUST Alumni Association in October.

Stay tuned for news on more 25th anniversary celebrations ahead, including the Distinguished Speakers Series, the HKUST team for the Hong Kong Marathon, global celebrations in San Francisco, Beijing and Singapore, and the gala banquet, to name a few. I look forward to welcoming you all to these special occasions!

In related news, I am extremely pleased to announce that Roger King, HKUST’s most senior PhD alumnus, has taken the lead in pledging to match the donations of alumni up to a total of HK$2.5 million to the Alumni Endowment Fund. The AEF currently stands at HK$19 million and we have set ourselves the ambitious goal of HK$25 million by 2017. So join with Roger in making a birthday gift to your alma mater, and help us reach this goal.

If I could highlight just one significant change in the past 25 years, I would say it is in the growth of alumni “going it on their own” as opposed to following the traditional corporate career path. Advancements in digital and mobile technology are behind many startups, and the cover story for this issue of Alumni News details the experiences of three alumni who are using crowdfunding platforms to market their products and companies.

Perhaps their interesting stories will inspire some among our fresh cohort of graduates from the Class of 2015 to pursue something similar! I offer my congratulations to them all – whatever path they follow. A total of 4,482 degrees were conferred, bringing our alumni community to over 58,000.

It just remains for me to wish every one of you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2016.

Best wishes,

Professor Tony F Chan
President
FOLLOW THE CROWD

Crowdfunding offers a new and exciting way to get business projects off the ground – not only is it a source of money, but it also provides validation, and some HKUST alumni are making the most of these advantages.
It is one of the buzzwords of 2015 – crowdfunding. This web-based platform offers an alternative way to raise money outside of the traditional financial system, so is particularly appropriate for startup businesses. Crowdfunding websites work by inviting people and companies to publish details of their products or services and appeal for donors to pledge cash. This innovative concept has been occupying the time and minds of three HKUST alumni in particular lately: one has an up-and-running e-commerce business, another has recently launched an innovative product, while at the time of publication the third was set to launch a UST-backed project on a crowdfunding site.

**Successful crowdfunding experience**

Roman Khan, 2011 BBA(MGTO), and his partner launched Linjer in 2014, selling high-quality leather goods online; the business became one of the first HKUST alumni startups in Hong Kong to make use of crowdfunding, successfully raising US$144,000 on Indiegogo in 2014. The second campaign, launched on the Kickstarter platform earlier this year raised more than US$350,000 in just over one month.

Jeff Chen, 2015 BEng&BBA(MEGBM), along with a fellow student at Harvard University, developed the idea of integrating LED lights into a cyclist’s helmet; following a positive reaction to the product, they co-founded Lumen Labs in Boston, and recently launched a crowdfunding campaign on Kickstarter, which has raised over US$800,000 to date.

Anik Dey, 2010 BEng(ELEC)-EP, 2015 MPhil(ECE), is a founder of Ivo Technologies, along with other HKUST graduates and ECE Professor Pascale Fung. They have developed a machine incorporating an artificial intelligence system that was set to be launched on Indiegogo.

Jeff says that crowdfunding was the only realistic solution if he and his partner wanted to take the helmet forward and launch it on the market. “We had the product but we needed money to kick start the business,” he explains. “We were able to raise some money from family and friends, but it was not enough, so we decided to use crowdfunding.” However, there is a second reason that crowdfunding made sense: “It validates the market for the product,” he says. They chose Kickstarter, and set their target at US$125,000.

For Roman, the reason to use crowdfunding was more complicated. “We could have raised the money traditionally, but we decided on crowdfunding because we wanted to maintain control of the venture – once you take investors on board, the clock starts ticking. Crowdfunding offered the opportunity to raise cash for the first purchase order – we can find out what colors and styles are going to sell before we place the order with the factory.”

Having decided to commercialize the AI technology, Anik and his colleagues obtained funding from HKUST through the Technology Start-up Support Scheme for Universities (TSSSU) as well as from angel investors sourced by Prof Fung. “More recently, we decided to use crowdfunding and we chose Indiegogo,” says Anik. “One of its most successful projects was JIBO, a social robot developed by MIT Media Lab – they raised US$3 million, so we could see that people were ready to invest in empathetic machines like ours.”

The process of getting listed on a reputable platform such as Kickstarter and Indiegogo is rigorous, as Jeff explains. “Kickstarter first verified our company’s identity and we then needed to convince them that our product could be manufactured, could go to market and is deliverable. Once you’ve got the green light, you need to produce your marketing material – this is very important as the video is the face of your product,” he says.

He and his partner put considerable work into building up
an email list of around 12,000 addresses of interested parties. They created a website, used Facebook ads to draw traffic, and hired a public relations company with contacts in online media. When Lumen achieved its goal within 10 hours, the public relations company then used this as a hook to generate another wave of interest.

**HKUST’s strong foundation**

All three are appreciative of their time at HKUST and the foundation it provided in giving them the skills to develop an idea. Jeff notes that studying a dual degree covering engineering and business was extremely helpful. “We are just two people, so we need to do everything ourselves. I prefer the engineering side, but it is necessary for me to get involved in marketing and running the business, too.” Both Jeff and Anik cited the classes on entrepreneurship offered by the University. “As an engineering student, to be able to take these sessions was impressive,” says Anik.

For Roman, who is from Norway, studying in Hong Kong proved to be very beneficial. “Hong Kong is a centre of trade, with the best suppliers in the world. And many HKUST alumni work in traditional industries in this region. It’s a big way to break the ice when you discover someone in a company you visit was also at the University!”

They highlight the alumni network. “Just meeting with Anik and Jeff for this interview has been very useful. I am really interested to hear about Jeff’s experience with email lists, for example,” says Roman. Jeff says he has really benefited from having Alvin Lam, 1998 BBA(FINA), Founder and CEO of the PacificLink Group and President of the Alumni Association, as a mentor: “He has given us advice, and provided a good benchmark.”

**Advice for would-be entrepreneurs**

All are adamant that students or fresh graduates with ideas for a business startup, be it a physical product or software, should simply seize the opportunity. “If you’ve got an idea and wonder if it will work – just try it. Prototyping is so easy now,” says Jeff. “Then interview people and ask them what they think – but choose strangers and not your family or friends! If you need help with marketing and raising funds, be it traditional or crowdfunding, there are lots of people at HKUST willing to help.”

Roman adds that if you have a solid idea but are not confident about going out on your own, find a job to earn money and build your idea in the evenings. Anik notes that HKUST’s Entrepreneurship Center can offer a lot of advice. “It’s a place for students to brainstorm ideas and get feedback,” he says.

And, of course, all three recommend crowdfunding, not only for raising money but also for validating the product and determining orders.

**What their crowdfunding business is about:**

**LINJER**  When Roman graduated and entered the financial world, he bought his first executive wardrobe – but couldn’t find a suitable laptop case. He teamed up with a friend who had the same predicament and together they started Linjer. Their online business is now up and running, producing high-quality, minimalist leather goods at prices much lower than luxury brands. They have since launched a second women’s collection, and will be introducing watches early next year.

**LUMEN LABS**  Eager to stay safe and visible while riding his bike, Jeff and a fellow MBA student at Harvard University developed the idea of integrating LED lights into the helmet. Success in a hackathon at MIT garnered lots of interest, leading them to develop the Lumos helmet with braking lights that automatically turn red when the cyclist slows down, and turning signal lights operated by a wireless control on the handlebars.

**IVO TECHNOLOGIES**  Moodbox is a beautifully crafted speaker with mood music and light, powered by emotionally intelligent software. It uses machine-learning algorithms to classify music into different mood categories, along with sophisticated AI to understand human speech and emotions. Ivo Technologies was founded by ECE Professor Pascale Fung and several HKUST graduates, including Anik.
China has the largest number of elderly people in the world. At the end of 2011, the country was home to about 185 million people aged 60 and over; the proportion of elderly is expected to rise from 12% in 2010 to 34% by 2050. “Population aging is a huge challenge to many countries, but in China it is particularly daunting because it has the largest elderly population in the world and is facing the associated problems at an earlier stage in development because of the one-child policy,” explains Prof Albert Park, Director of the HKUST Institute for Emerging Market Studies (IEMS) and Chair Professor of Social Science and Professor of Economics. Until recently there was a paucity of data on the issues facing elderly people in China, but that has now changed thanks to the establishment of the China Health and Retirement Longitudinal Study (CHARLS), established by Prof Park, along with Prof Yaohui Zhao of Peking University and Prof John Strauss of the University of Southern California.

RESEARCH METHODS
CHARLS provides a unique, high-quality dataset to support the scientific analysis of aging issues in China. “First, it follows people over time, so we can better understand the dynamic processes that affect aging,” says Prof Park. “Second, it is multi-disciplinary and recognizes that challenges occur in many different domains of life, so it covers health status, medical care, material well-being, family support, and work and retirement. Third, the data is publicly available for researchers to access. To date over 6,000 researchers have registered on the website.”

It kicked off with a pilot survey carried out in 2008, involving 2,685 people in two provinces – by design, the poorest and the richest provinces. The first nationwide survey was conducted in 2011-12, using multi-stage random sampling. A total of 10,287 households with at least one member of 45 years of age or older in 450 villages or urban neighborhoods in 150 counties and districts in 28 provinces were surveyed; the interviewees’ spouses were also included, bringing the
number of individuals surveyed up to around 17,000 people. “We started with age 45 so we can get information before retirement age, to help us understand the aging process,” says Prof Park. “We follow the same people over time, but with each wave we bring in younger people so we can have a representative sample of those age 45 and older each time. Attrition rates are modest, usually about 10% each time.” A second wave took place in 2013-14, and the third is currently underway.

SURVEY FINDINGS

When the findings of the first wave were released, they garnered plenty of attention from the international media, with some startling headlines. “The key influential finding uncovered in the first wave was that the elderly in China are very vulnerable across multiple dimensions, and their poverty rate is higher than for younger people,” says Prof Park. “Their physical health is very poor when compared with elderly in more advanced countries. They also are more likely to show elevated symptoms of depression, affecting 40% of the elderly population; for women only it rises to 48%.”

He notes that these outcomes reflect the fact that people aged 60 and over grew up in a poverty-stricken environment, lived through difficult historical periods such as famine and war, and were poorly educated. “The situation will improve for the younger cohorts, of course, but even though China is now richer, the early impacts have affected these elderly people and nothing can make up for this.” A large percentage of the elderly have physical health limitations.* As the country has developed, health issues have shifted from infectious diseases to chronic conditions. “We found that to a large extent, there is an under-diagnosis of chronic diseases, such as hypertension. These findings point to the need for more screening and prevention.”

Physical health has a huge effect on mental health, as does to a lesser extent education and income levels. “Women suffer from higher levels of depression than men because they are less educated and may have not been treated as well as men in poor communities,” says Prof Park, adding that the gender gap will reduce as the country becomes more developed.

In examining family relationships and support, the survey found that the maxim of East Asian families “taking care of their elderly” was something of a myth. “For some older people, especially the poorest, assistance does play a role, but generally the amount of material support from children is limited,” he notes. “Older people in rural areas don’t spend much on healthcare even though they are less healthy—either the elderly themselves don’t want to waste family resources on their health, or their children don’t want to.”

FUTURE DIRECTIONS

Prof Park and his team intend that, like the pioneering US Health and Retirement Study, CHARLS will run indefinitely. “With advancements in technology and survey methods, we will be able to include more innovations in the survey,” says Prof Park. “We definitely want to study dementia in more depth; currently mental health issues in China are at an early stage of understanding as is the design of policy responses. One of our partners is the Center for Disease Control under the Ministry of Health.” Last year, the group completed a massive survey of the life histories of all of the respondents, and Prof Park is looking forward to the results, “This will make it possible to do some very interesting research—these elderly people have gone through tumultuous changes politically, socially and economically.”

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PHYSICAL HEALTH STATUS OF THE ELDERLY, FULL SAMPLE

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25 Years of Achievement

Join the Celebrations!

The 25th anniversary is being marked with a wide and varied program of events – here’s how and where you can get involved.

HKUST has reached another milestone! The year 2016 is hugely significant for the University, as it achieves its first quarter-century.

Alumni are at the heart of these worldwide celebrations – so join in the fun and play your part in our silver anniversary program! The events are wide-ranging, taking place both in Hong Kong and overseas.

Milestone Gala The glamorous Gala Banquet will bring the HKUST community together on June 19, 2016 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. Many who have shaped, or have been shaped by the University, will be present – do witness this important milestone!

Running for Charity Putting their best feet forward at the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon on January 17 will be 900 alumni, students and staff members of the HKUST Marathon Team. The runners are encouraged to donate through the event’s charity program and contribute to the community!

Global Celebrations Following the huge success of the alumni dinner in London, the celebrations continue in San Francisco and Beijing in February and September 2016 respectively and in Singapore in January 2017. If you have the opportunity to join one of these get-togethers, it’s a wonderful way to keep in touch with your alma mater, to make new friends within the fast-expanding alumni network and to learn from professors at the seminar staged prior to each dinner. For those of you in the Bay Area, registration for the San Francisco event on February 13 is now open – we look forward to welcoming you to this special occasion!

Be Part of the Mosaic! Submit your pictures to be a part of HKUST’s mosaic to be launched in early 2016. It will be a reflection of everyone’s cohesive and concerted efforts in making the University successful. And you’ll be able to find your spot online, anytime and anywhere.

As well as the above, there are many more programs ahead, including the Young Entrepreneurs Series and exhibitions at the Library that welcome alumni to join in. Be a part of the 25th anniversary celebrations for HKUST.
Show Your Belief with a Birthday Gift!

The Alumni Endowment Fund (AEF) is aiming high with an ambitious target for 2017 – and with your help and the generous pledge from the University’s most senior PhD graduate, we believe it can be achieved!

It is an ambitious goal – but with the incentive of HKUST’s 25th anniversary, it can surely be reached with the alumni community pulling together! The aim is to raise the Alumni Endowment Fund to HK$25 million by 2017, from its current standing of HK$19 million, thanks to donations from alumni.

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS HELPS BOOST DONATION DRIVE

An added boost comes from the pledge given by Prof Roger King, 1996 PhD(FINA) and the most senior PhD graduate, to match donations from fellow alumni up to HK$2.5 million. A successful entrepreneur and renowned "corporate doctor", Roger is also Adjunct Professor of Finance and Director of two research centers of the Business School.

HKUST is blessed to benefit from the dedication of alumni in giving back to their alma mater. As the University reaches the important milestone of its first quarter-century, your continuous support is needed to ensure that all students can enjoy a holistic and fruitful university life.

So show your belief in HKUST and join Roger in presenting a birthday gift to the AEF!

COMMUNITY & LEADERSHIP

Two new categories are now recognized as AEF beneficiaries, as the scheme expands to incorporate more awards.

Corporate social responsibility and student-led initiatives are the two new sponsored items for 2015-16, designed to encourage students to take a more active role in taking care of the community and developing their leadership skills. The CSR initiative awards internships as civic fellows.

A total of around HK$700,000 in interest is available for students in support of different initiatives this year.

The two new categories join water sports activities; exchange scholarships and bursaries; sports scholarships for new undergraduate students; and overseas sports competition or exchange.
Global Horizons

London Kicks Off Celebrations

The first of a series of global celebrations for the University’s 25th anniversary, the London reunion saw an overwhelming response with special guests including Ambassador Liu Xiaoming, Ambassador to the United Kingdom of the Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and Ms Priscilla To, Director-General of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, London, as well as alumni, students and academic partners in the region taking part. Greeted by President Prof Tony Chan, Dr Eden Woon, Vice-President for Institutional Advancement and Prof Nancy Ip, Dean of Science, participants then attended a seminar entitled “Science – Vision into the Future”, presented by science professors, which was followed by the cocktail reception and celebration dinner. Big thanks go to DJI for its support and sponsorship of the celebrations. The next anniversary event will take place in San Francisco on February 13, 2016. Stay tuned!

Atlanta Activities

Pre-semester reunions are a tradition for the Atlanta Chapter, as many alumni and exchange-out students are pursuing further studies either at Georgia Institute of Technology or Emory University. To add variety to their activities, they organized a spring hike to Sweetwater Creek State Park and also a career sharing presented by Jeffrey Pope, a successful industrial leader and currently the senior director of a NGO.

First for Bay Area

In late July, the North California Chapter organized the first event following its inauguration in February 2015. Alumni from the Bay Area gathered for dinner at a German restaurant in San Jose for an evening of great food and music – and declared it to be a fruitful occasion.

Toronto Talks

Prof Chan and Dr Woon took the opportunity to meet alumni at a drinks reception in Toronto during their trip in October. They spent an enjoyable evening with alumni, who were delighted to be kept abreast of the astonishing developments at their alma mater.
Festival Festivities
With over 20 different nationalities from a broad spectrum of degree programs, members of the Singapore Chapter have been keen supporters of its fabulous activities. Apart from the monthly happy hour, which has been held since June, and the BBQ gathering, the joint-university Mid-Autumn Festival dinner was the highlight of the year, bringing together more than 120 peers from other universities in Hong Kong. Join them on their Facebook page to stay connected!

Cocktail Chat
It was a joyous occasion as Prof Chan and Dr Woon joined alumni and students at a cocktail reception in Shanghai in early November. Everyone appreciated this rare opportunity to expand their network in this bustling city. Monthly activities including yum cha, a sports day and music group sharing were among the most popular programs of the Shanghai Chapter, along with the distinguished alumni lecture series. They also extended their warmest welcome to student interns from the SOAR Mainland Internship Program at a dinner gathering in July.

Sharing Session
Members of the Beijing Chapter were delighted to greet a cohort of students who took part in the SOAR Mainland Internship Program, as coordinated by the Student Affairs Office, in June. During the dinner gathering, alumni from different professions had a cozy sharing with the students on their career development. On September 19, alumni came together again at a coffee house and welcomed many new members. All had a wonderful time connecting with each other.

Champion Fundraisers
The Shenzhen Chapter ranked number one by raising a total of RMB$360,000 as members joined the “Walk for Love”, organized by One Foundation. This year was the Chapter’s third participation in this charity campaign. Despite the tough route, all 34 teams conquered the huge challenge and completed the race.
What made you decide to study on the WBB program?
Sophia: Being born in Hong Kong but raised in Shanghai and attending an American-curriculum international school, I was conflicted about where to attend university — in Hong Kong at HKUST or in the US. By luck, a representative of WBB visited my high school and introduced the program — and I knew then I wanted this unparalleled experience! WBB grants students the opportunity to study in three elite universities - HKUST, University of Southern California and Bocconi University in Milan, where I am now studying Year 3.

What have been the highlights so far?
Sophia: Being a WBB student gives me international exposure, as well as three degrees from respected universities. I have enjoyed meeting and working with a diverse group of people, including a good mix of international students.

Why is community service important to you?
Sophia: Community service is a great way to learn about and appreciate the community, to talk to local citizens, and to experience the world from a different perspective. It is also the ultimate tool for character development, requiring all sorts of character traits: humility, diligence, teamwork, patience and leadership. You can’t just learn these in the classroom, you learn them through action.

What types of community service projects are you involved in?
Sophia: I’ve helped at orphanages, visited elderly homes, taught classes at rural schools, coached badminton at migrant school, and painted buildings. Behind the scenes, I’ve made quilts and stuffed animals for donations and done a handful of fundraising projects.

Tell us about a particularly memorable experience.
Sophia: Last January, I went to Myanmar with the Chinese YMCA of Hong Kong and University-YMCA. It was a great opportunity for me to meet HKUST students who were passionate about community service. The week-long trip involved cultural exchange and service work in orphanages, schools, universities, churches, and other affiliated organizations. For me, the highlight was learning the importance of leadership in service. As the assigned group leader, I was very disappointed in the first few days because I was always running around organizing events and I missed out on one-on-one interaction with the service targets. However, I soon learned that service as a leader meant getting that joy from helping others enjoy the service progress.

You recently took part in the Boao Forum – what did this involve?
Sophia: The Boao Forum is a political and business conference hosted annually at Boao, Hainan, China. I was nominated to attend as a messaging team member, which involved attending conferences, taking notes, and writing reports to upload to the forum website. I got to listen to what opinion leaders such as Bill Gates, Wang Feng, and President Xi Jinping have to say about our world today.

What does it mean to you to be an awardee of the AEF Community Service Award?
Sophia: Today many scholarships and awards are fixed on academic merit and neglect the importance of the personal development of students. Hence, I truly value AEF’s effort to focus on community service, because I love to quote Martin Luther King, Jr, “Intelligence plus character — that is the goal of true education.”
More and more HKUST alumni are building startups in a huge range of fields — and many of them are already achieving great success and becoming excellent role models. As the University enters its 25th year, one of the key goals is to take these achievements and use them to build a stronger entrepreneurial culture within the University community, both on and off campus. The HKUST Alumni Entrepreneur Panel Series was launched on October 8, 2015. With Professor Po Chi Wu from the School of Engineering as moderator, three alumni entrepreneurs, namely Alvin Lam of PacificUnk Group, Ken Law of MotherApp and Terry Tsang of Madhead, all of whom have attained outstanding achievements in different industries, shared their valuable insights with students and alumni on campus. The next panel on crowdfunding will be held in early 2016. Stay tuned!

Entrepreneurship Corner is one of the key sections of the alumni website, and showcases some of the success stories of HKUST entrepreneurs. Visit now to find out more about the challenges these entrepreneurs have faced and overcome.

Here are other initiatives at HKUST that share a common objective to boost the entrepreneurial spirit:

Entrepreneur Circle Team of HKUST Alumni Association
The Circle brings together enthusiastic and versatile entrepreneurs with rich experience. Networking events are held from time to time. The soon-to-be-launched A1 Startup Award will be another highlight recognizing the outstanding accomplishments of alumni.

HKUST Entrepreneurship Center
The Center provides a wealth of resources to nurture and support alumni, students, faculty and staff entrepreneurs in building up their own businesses. The HKUST Entrepreneurship Program provides technology-based startups with minimal-cost working space, office services, guidance from an Advisory Committee and more.

Student-led Project
Funded by the HKUST Entrepreneurship Center, Cafeology (1/F near lifts 29 & 30) is a newly opened café on campus operated by students. They gain invaluable experience that prepares them for running their own businesses someday.
Dear Alumni,

It has been my great pleasure to continue working with our Executive Committee, the A1 team, to carry out our vision of **ALUMNI INSPIRE ALUMNI**.

To cater to the diverse needs and interests of our alumni family, A1 has created an open platform whereby alumni may inspire and be inspired by one another through programs organized by our three pillars:

- **ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT TEAM** — helps alumni advance their personal and professional development
- **COMMUNITY SERVICE TEAM** — provides opportunities for alumni to give back to the disadvantaged in our society
- **ENTREPRENEUR CIRCLE TEAM** — helps alumni startups gain the connections and expertise they need to kick-start their businesses

A1 also works hard to negotiate exclusive benefits, ranging from dining offers to entertainment discounts for our members. If you have not done so, I urge you to join the A1 family today by submitting your application online at www.ustaa.hk/register. As a special incentive, the first 200 alumni to submit their completed application will receive a complimentary bottle of wine. For any inquiries, please contact Sharon Ching, Executive Vice President Membership Affair, at sharon.ching@ustaa.hk.

Going forward, alumni can expect more exciting events from our team, including an Alumni Startup Award program and a flagship project organized by our Community Service Team. We are also delighted to take part in the University’s 25th anniversary celebrations, the highlight of which will be a gala banquet in Hong Kong on June 19, 2016. Stay tuned for details!

Lastly, I would like to thank my teammates for their tireless efforts and dedication to the A1 family over the past years. My team and I look forward to your continuous support as we prepare for another fantastic year ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Alvin Lam
President, HKUST Alumni Association 2014-16

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**Supporting Startups**

In support of the University’s 25th anniversary, the A1 Entrepreneur Circle Team is launching an inaugural award program for alumni startups that have been operating for between one and five years. Other than recognizing the outstanding achievements of our entrepreneurial community, the awards program is also an opportunity for new and growing startups to gain valuable insight and feedback from experienced judges, including Dr Allan Zeman, Chairman of Lan Kwai Fong Group; Dr Samson Tam, former member of the Legislative Council (Information Technology) 2008-2012; Mr Herman Lam, CEO of Cyberport; and Professor Po Chi Wu, Adjunct Professor of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at HKUST.

Please stay tuned to the Facebook page for details!
Entrepreneurial Sharing

A highlight program of the Entrepreneur Circle Team this year was the A1 Entrepreneur Seminar, held in July, at which alumni congregated at Business Central and learnt a lot from Shih Wing Ching, Founder of Centaline Property Agency Limited and well known columnist. He shared not only his entrepreneurial journey but also his insights on social and economic issues with members.

Food for Thought

The A1 Annual Dinner 2015 on October 29 was a very joyous occasion. Among those in attendance were President Prof Tony Chan and Dr Eden Woon, Vice-President for Institutional Advancement. Association President Alvin Lam gave a detailed account of the accomplishments over the past year and listed out future plans.

Busy Agenda

The Alumni Engagement Team recently organized various specialty events for alumni. To kick start the series, the A1 Watch Appreciation Workshop introduced the luxury watch industry and recent trends in watch collecting to participants. The Portrait Photography Workshop brought together photography lovers who were able to hone their skills in composition and use of natural light in order to capture the best possible shots. Members also got the opportunity to tour the campus on a sunny weekend, when it looked its best!

Member Benefits

The Membership Affair Team has been responsible for bringing about 15 fabulous new and exclusive benefits to full members in the past year, including discounts and offers from The Commercial Press, Esso, Bossini and many more. Stay tuned for news on updates to the benefits, and register as a member now!

Alumni enjoyed a good discussion on education and career planning with secondary school students at a visit organized by the Community Service Team. The team took the lead to visit the schools and invited alumni to give useful advice. It was a very fruitful occasion for the students - and the alumni had a good time, too!
Top Talkers

The MBA Alumni Toastmasters Club achieved huge success at the Division K contest in late October. Yuki Wong, 2011 BBA (MARK) and the Club’s Immediate Past President, won the championship in the Evaluation Contest, while Raymond Leung, 2004 BBA (ECON) and the Club’s current President, was the second runner-up in the Humorous Speech Contest. Yuki and Raymond continued their success at the District 89 Speech Contest in Xiamen in early November — Yuki won second place in the Speech Evaluation Contest, while Raymond was third in the English Humorous Speech Contest. A special highlight following the Xiamen conference was a speech workshop delivered by World Champion of Public Speaking, Mark Brown and co-organized by the Club.

Catching Up with Old Friends

President Prof Tony Chan and Dr Eden Woon, Vice-President for Institutional Advancement, warmly greeted over 200 alumni of Class of 2005 and their families when they congregated on campus to celebrate their 10th graduation anniversary. It was the perfect occasion for them to reminisce about the good old days, and marvel at the tremendous development of the campus over the past decade. The day concluded with a tour of Hall 8, Hall 9 and the new Lee Shau Kee Business Building.

Keeping Their Eye on the Ball

Over 30 table-tennis lovers from Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Tianjin, Xi’an and Hong Kong have participated in the activities of the EMBA Alumni Table Tennis Club since it was established in early 2015. Members undergo professional training every week in Beijing to sharpen their skills and prepare for a number of competitions ahead, which will include the annual tournament for business schools in China.

Biochemists Recruiting

During its AGM on May 9, 2015, the Biochemistry Alumni Association invited its alumni to get together and offer valuable advice to the association. The association is now recruiting two new executive committee members. If you are interested to serve the alumni community, please write to bcaa.ust@gmail.com. Stay tuned for their updates!

Flying High

Members of the Engineering Enterprise Management Alumni Association got the valuable opportunity to pay a visit to Cathay Pacific City in mid-July. They were given a guided tour of its Flight Training Centre, In-flight Service Training Centre, Check-in Mock Up and Crew Lounge, and gained a good understanding of the different processes of Hong Kong’s largest airline.
Leading by Example

A total of 60 alumni and guests of the MBA Alumni Association had an enjoyable evening with Tony Tsoi (蔡東豪) at the Trailwalker and Leadership – HKUST MBAAA CEO Sharing in late October. Mr Tsoi shared many of his inspiring thoughts about Trailwalker, leadership and life planning; for example: “Your team cannot proceed faster than your slowest teammate”; and “Life is long. If you improve yourself day by day, you will accumulate a great achievement”. The response was overwhelming.

Tough Challenge

Successfully Completed

The first half of 2015 was particularly fabulous for the EMBA Alumni Association. A total of 28 EMBA alumni hikers took up the huge challenge in competing with 30 schools and more than 2,500 individual competitors at the Gobi Challenge from May 22-25. It took them 12 hours, 51 minutes to complete the 88km journey and secure 19th place. In recognition of their excellent spirit, the team was honored with the Shackleton Award. Following the success of the inaugural tournament between golfers from northern and southern China in Shenzhen in 2014, they again competed fiercely in Beijing and Shenzhen this year. Visits to enterprises of EMBA alumni were also organized from time to time.

International Success

Paddlers of the Alumni Dragon Boat Club participated in their fourth overseas race with flying colors – they finished first runner-up at the international invitation competition of the 2015 Kaohsiung Love River Dragon Boat Race in June! Over 50 teams with more than 200 paddlers took part in this annual Tuen Ng Festival gala, which attracted extensive media coverage. It was a joyous occasion in particular as paddlers dressed up and joined the costume and make-up competition.

Sizzling Team!

The Volleyball Alumni Team is continuing to take part in indoor and beach volleyball fun games. They had a wonderful time recently at the beach volleyball game at Discovery Bay even though the sun was blazing hot!

Cool Moves

A signature intra-university dance collaboration, the Joint-U Mass Dance 2015 – HKUST Station in November featured the Dance Alumni Society and Dance Society, as well as dance teams from other universities. Members got together and practiced amid their tight schedule. The audience was amazed by their marvelous performances!
Event Roundup

Family Fun
The annual Alumni Family Day of the School of Business and Management was held on October 21, 2015, for the first time at the Lee Shau Kee Business Building. Inaugurated by Prof Emily Nason, Associate Dean & Director of UG Programs, the Family Day provided the perfect occasion for alumni to visit the School with their families and to catch up with their teachers and classmates. On the day, the Business Building was turned into a playground—with a giant balloon, bouncy castle, inflated race track, face painting, creative coloring and handicraft workshops. Over 500 participants enjoyed a fun-filled afternoon.

Happy Reunion
Members of the Risk Management and Business Intelligence Alumni Association (RMBIAA) were brought together at a reunion in late August sponsored by the RMBI Program Office. It was a great opportunity for members to renew ties while enjoying great food and a wonderful atmosphere. They look forward to welcoming more alumni at the next gathering.

Future Directions
During the AGM of Master of Technology Management Alumni Association in early June, alumni, professors and guests from the Department of IELM had a good discussion on the future direction of its programs for members. They all agreed that specialized events, joint activities with other HKUST alumni associations and collaborations with industrial associations were top priorities. In mid-July, members were invited on a visit to Cathay Pacific, organized by EEMAA. It also collaborated with other organizations in supporting the Centaline Wine Charity Run Carnival 2015 in November.

Being Prepared
A series of professional examination preparation workshops was organized by the Civil and Environmental Engineering Alumni Association (CEEAA) from February to September 2015 with an objective to help candidates be well prepared for the professional assessments of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) and Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE). Students also gained fruitful insights from alumni as they joined the CV workshop and mock interview on October 5, 2015. April 2016 will be an eventful month as HKIE Civil Division, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and CEEAA will jointly organize a one-day seminar “Mega Infrastructure Construction Conference 2016”, while the Department will celebrate its 25th anniversary on April 29.

Mark Your Agenda
Following the success of the sixth AGM of Civil and Environmental Engineering Postgraduates and Scholars Association in Beijing, the next AGM, along with a conference and local visits, will be held in Sichuan from 25-28 March, 2016. Please email to evan.txiao@gmail.com or hkdleung@hotmail.com for more details.

Onsite Visit
In August 2015, the Mechanical Engineering Graduates’ Association organized a visit to the district cooling system at Kai Tak Development. Representatives of Hong Kong District Cooling Company Limited and the Electrical and Mechanical Services Department shared professional knowledge and information on operating the district cooling system during the site tour. It was a fruitful visit for members.
Tell Us Your News!

Let fellow alumni know what’s happening in your life, be it marriage, baby, career advancement, professional award, new business, sporting success, artistic achievements or anything else of note! Simply fill in the online form at alum.ust.hk/your-networks/share-your-news or email alumni@ust.hk.

- **Bernadette Kwok**
  - 2010 MSc(BIOT)
  - We are thrilled to let you know that our wedding took place on November 29, 2015.

- **Nelson Wong**
  - 2005 BSc(CHEM)
  - Iris and I got married on June 27, 2015. We are sure our lives will be full of color!

- **Elly Man**
  - 2008 BBA(S)
  - Wu Hing Shing
  - 2008 BSc(CHEM)
  - 2011 MSc(EVS/G)
  - We met each other during our university years and eventually tied the knot on November 17, 2014.

- **Miriam Tsang**
  - 2006 BEng(ELEC)
  - On the first day of 2015, Ben and I started our new life together.

- **Ssie So**
  - 2011 BEng(EEM)
  - Will Wong
  - 2011 BEng(EEM)
  - Our love story began when we met each other on campus. We are happy to announce that we got married on October 18, 2015.

- **Choi Yan Yan**
  - 2002 BEng(COMP)
  - David Cheng
  - 2002 BEng(CSIE)-NW
  - We got married in 2011!

HKUST Alumni News 2015
I am excited to share with you news of my marriage to Anum Tahir on January 8, 2015.

Our lives have been brought together since I married Eunice on November 22, 2014.

Mohammad Ali Muttaj
2013 BEng(ELEC)
2013 PhD(ECE)
I am excited to share with you news of my marriage to Anum Tahir on January 8, 2015.

Vincent Luk
2003 BEng(CPEG)
2013 PhD(EEIC)
Our lives have been brought together since I married Eunice on November 22, 2014.

Hui Chi Wai
2000 BEng(CPEG)
Erica and I had a wonderful wedding in Singapore on November 17, 2014. We have just celebrated our first anniversary!

Ho Ka Lok
1998 BEng(COMP)
Our large family: big brother Dick Dick, a seven-year-old poodle; second brother Marcus, who will soon be three; and the youngest brother Ivan, who is now one-and-a-half years old.

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After pursuing a region-wide corporate career for more than 10 years, I have reinvented myself to become a children’s book author and illustrator - thanks to the birth of my two lovely daughters! My new picture book Checklisted Beauty tells the tale of a 10-year-old girl in search of self-identity. Recognizing the global trend of valuing physical beauty over inner qualities, I believe it is important to help young girls break free from the societal expectations of beauty and take pride in their own natural talents and gifts!

Presently Executive Director of VoTra, a charitable organization I co-founded to promote global citizenship, it is my pleasure to receive The Hong Kong Youth Service Award 2015, organized by The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups. With the firm belief that it is not a few people doing great things, but many people doing small and meaningful deeds, I am also involved in international projects organized by the European Commission and UNESCO.

It was my honor to receive the 2015 University Grants Committee (UGC) Teaching Award and the Michael Gale Medal for Distinguished Teaching at HKUST in 2015. Having served my alma mater since 1997, I am the founding Director of the Center for Global & Community Engagement and the supervisor of HKUST Robotics Team. These awards recognize my aspiration in innovating and cultivating student holistic development through project work in courses, a very successful experiential learning program through robotics competitions and opening up new community-service opportunities for students and colleagues.

I am delighted to have obtained my PhD from the University of Cambridge, UK, in July 2015. I have been conducting research on a part-time basis since 2010 at the university’s Institute for Manufacturing (IfM), where I currently remain as an academic collaborator. I am now working with Amazon in London.
New Look Souvenir Shop

Next time you visit the campus, you’ll notice that our University Souvenir Shop has a completely new look! The refurbished and enlarged Souvenir Shop can be found at the heart of the Piazza, next to the Visitor Information Center. Select from a variety of HKUST premiums, clothing, accessories and some of the innovative research products developed by our professors for yourself or as presents for your loved ones!