



Professor Vivian Yam, the youngest academician of the Chinese Academy of Science award.

awarded "Academician of the Chinese Academy of Science". Professor Yam has kindly shared with us her precious experience as a research student and the confidence she has towards Hong Kong being a place for high-quality research and postgraduate education.

A MESSAGE TO RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

I entered the University of Hong Kong as a B.Sc. student in 1982. After graduation from my first degree, I did my Ph.D. studies in Inorganic Chemistry from 1985 to 1988. During my postgraduate studies, I was a Croucher Student, a Swire Scholar and a Li Po Chun Scholar. I spent my three years staying at the Robert Black College, which was quite an experience for me having the chance to meet scholars from different parts of the world. In those days, postgraduate students were not as fortunate as they are now, in terms of the support of the University to attend conferences, research facilities and infrastructure, library facilities and so on. There were no Graduate School, no Postgraduate Association, no electronic database, no electronic journals... There was also no funding for supporting postgraduate students to attend conferences. I was one of the more fortunate ones in that as a Swire Scholar, I was eligible to apply for a Swire Travel Grant to visit several universities in the United Kingdom in the summer of

As announced in the last issue of the Newsletter, Professor Vivian W.W. Yam, Head of the Department of Chemistry, was

1986. I also had a chance to attend training offered by Spectra-Physics Laser Company in Mountain View, California in May 1987 when my supervisor bought a nanosecond pulsed laser and it was so kind of him to send me there on my own for a short period training on installation, operation and maintenance, so that I could help in the setting up of the time-resolved laser system that was the first of its kind in the Department of Chemistry at that time. In those days, research facilities and support were fairly primitive. I remembered those days when we ran out of acetone solvents, when we ran out of tissue papers in the laboratory (Kimwipes were not affordable in those days), when we only had a 60 and a 90 MHz NMR machine, when there were no disposable dropping pipettes (dropping pipettes were homemade ones which had to be washed and re-used), when I had to travel to the Physics Department of Chinese University to perform time-resolved laser experiments, when my supervisor had to take the crystals to Chinese University for X-ray crystal structure determination...

Some of you may think that I would feel inferior but no, I did not. This is because through reading international journals, through visiting universities overseas, through discussing chemistry and my interactions with researchers from all over the world and from prestigious universities and most important of all, through the achievements of my supervisor and his inspiration as well as the long tradition of world-class research in Inorganic Chemistry at HKU, I learned that we have been doing extremely well in research that has been well recognized at the international level, and had the confidence and drive to strive for excellence in research. Even in those days when resources were not as plentiful, when facilities and support were not as good, when the research culture of Hong Kong was lacking, we could still work on important problems and projects that occupy an important position in the international arena if we could identify the right research problem, the right niche, our strengths and to work on projects that are feasible under the limited resources and constraints. There is no excuse for us now with the very much

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improved support and facilities not to work hard or not to strive for academic excellence and do well in your research studies. If Hong Kong could evolve from a fishing village to a metropolitan city, why then should you not believe in Hong Kong being a place for high-quality research and postgraduate education? We should have confidence, we should aim high and we should make full use of what we have to upgrade ourselves, to learn and acquire knowledge, to accept criticism, and to engage ourselves in high-quality research studies. If you have the confidence and determination, you will be able to make your postgraduate studies and life at HKU more enriched, rewarding and successful.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all the best in the years that lie ahead of you!

Professor Vivian W.W. Yam

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TLQPR EXPERIENCE AND CURRENT TRENDS OF RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE EDUCATION IN U.K

At a seminar tailor-made for supervisors on the topic of ‘TLQPR (Teaching and Learning Quality Process Review) Experience and Current Trends of Research Postgraduate Education in U.K.’ on 28 March 2002, Professor George Gordon shared with our supervisors the experience of the TLQPR in the U.K. and some good tips on how to improve the quality of our research postgraduate education.

Professor Gordon is the Director of the Centre for Academic Practice at the University of Strathclyde. He

participated widely in the development of good supervisory practice in the academic arena in Britain and has written widely on matters relating to quality assurance in higher education.

Professor Gordon handed out at the workshop the following skills training requirements for young researchers drafted by the Joint Research Councils in U.K. and it serves as a good reference for our teachers and research students.

Professor George Gordon is the Director of the Centre for Academic Practice at the University of Strathclyde.



SKILLS TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

(A) Research Skills and Techniques - to be able to demonstrate:

1. the ability to recognise and validate problems
2. original, independent and critical thinking, and ability to develop theoretical concepts
3. a knowledge of recent advances within one's field and in related areas
4. an understanding of relevant research methodologies and techniques and their appropriate application within one's research field
5. the ability to critically analyse and evaluate one's findings and those of others
6. an ability to summarise, document, report and reflect on progress

(B) Research Environment - to be able to:

1. show a broad understanding of the context in which research takes place
2. demonstrate awareness of issues relating to the rights of other researchers and of research subjects e.g. confidentiality, attribution, copyright, ethics, malpractice, ownership of data and the requirements of the Data Protection Act
3. understand relevant health and safety issues and demonstrate responsible working practices
4. understand the processes for funding and evaluation of research
5. justify one's own research to the funding bodies and able to promote the public understanding of one's research field
6. gain an understanding of the process of academic or commercial exploitation of research results

(C) Research Management - to be able to demonstrate good research practice by:

1. effective project management through the setting of research goals, intermediate milestones and prioritisation of activities
2. design and execute systems for the acquisition and collation of information through the effective use of appropriate resources and equipment
3. identify and access appropriate bibliographical resources, archives, and other sources of relevant information
4. appropriate use of information technology for database management, recording and presenting information

(D) Personal Effectiveness - to be able to:

1. demonstrate a willingness and ability to learn and acquire knowledge
2. be creative, innovative and original in one's approach to research
3. demonstrate flexibility and open-mindedness
4. demonstrate self-awareness and the ability to identify own training needs
5. demonstrate self-discipline, motivation, and thoroughness
6. recognise boundaries and draw upon/use sources of support as appropriate
7. show initiative, work independently and be self-reliant

(E) Communication Skills - to be able to:

1. write clearly and in a style appropriate to purpose, e.g. progress reports, published documents, thesis
2. construct coherent arguments and articulate ideas clearly to a range of audiences, formally and informally through a variety of techniques
3. constructively defend research outcomes at seminars and viva examination
4. effectively support the learning of others when involved in teaching, mentoring or demonstrating activities

(F) Networking and Teamworking - to be able to:

1. develop and maintain co-operative networks and working relationships with supervisors, colleagues and peers, within the institution and the wider research community
2. understand one's behaviours and impact on others when working in and contributing to the success of formal and informal teams
3. listen, give and receive feedback and respond perceptively to others

(G) Career Management - to be able to appreciate the need and show commitment to continued professional development:

1. take ownership for and manage one's career progression, set realistic and achievable career goals, and identify and develop ways to improve employability
2. demonstrate an insight into the transferable nature of research skills to other work environments and the range of career opportunities within and outside academia
3. present one's skills, personal attributes and experiences through effective CVs, applications and interviews

**THE ENGLISH CENTRE INVITES YOU TO
ATTEND A MULTI-DISCIPLINARY
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE:**

**“Knowledge and Discourse:
Speculating on disciplinary futures”**

Hong Kong, 25-29 June 2002

For details, visit

<http://ec.hku.hk/kd2/postgraduate.asp>

**THE CONFERENCE IS OFFERING
POSTGRADUATES**

- **free participation** in a set of pre-conference workshops being given by the plenary speakers, and
- a **special 50% discount** to participate in the conference itself (= \$450)

**THE PLENARY SPEAKERS AND THEIR PRE-
CONFERENCE WORKSHOP THEMES AND
SCHEDULE ARE:**

Tuesday 25th June: Morning session

- Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Title/Theme: **War of the worlds. What about peace?**
Presenter: **Bruno Latour**
Website: <http://www.ensmp.fr/~latour/>
- Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Title/Theme: **Interrogating “Popular Culture”**
Presenter: **Greg Lee**
Website: <http://www.ifrance.com/hacienda/leepage1.htm>
- Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Title/Theme: **Writing in the Academy: From focal response to dialogic responsiveness**
Presenter: **Paul Prior**
Website: <http://www.english.uiuc.edu/facpages/Prior.htm>

Tuesday 25th June: Afternoon session

- Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Title/Theme: **The Future of the University**
Presenter: **Steve Fuller**
Website: <http://www.infosoc.co.uk/contact/pen13.htm>
- Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Title/Theme: **Exploring discourses, cultures and voices**
Presenters and websites: **Claire Kramsch**
<http://www.uga.berkeley.edu/sled/dta00/kramsch.html>
Roz Ivancic
<http://www.ling.lancs.ac.uk/staff/roz/roz.htm>
Alastair Pennycook
http://www.education.uts.edu.au/ostaff/staff/alastair_pennycook.html

- Time: 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Title/Theme: **Whatever happened to class analysis?**
Presenter: **Beverly Skeggs**
Website: <http://les1.man.ac.uk/sociology/Staff/BSkeggs.htm>

Saturday, 29th June: Morning session

- Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 noon
Title/Theme: **An exercise in ‘discourse mapping’: the art of managing description, explanation and evaluation in workplace communication studies**
Presenter: **Srikant Sarangi**
Website: <http://www.cf.ac.uk/encap/sections/lac/staff/sarangi.html>

The conference will also feature a debate between Steve Fuller and Bruno Latour. For more information on the conference, see the main website at <http://ec.hku.hk/kd2>.

**TAUFIK ALI MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIPS
FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES TENABLE
IN 2002-2003**

Applications are invited from persons of *Muslim faith* born in Malaysia or in Hong Kong for the above Scholarships. The Scholarships are to be awarded to applicants reading a postgraduate programme at The University of Hong Kong during the academic year 2002-2003.

The Scholarships are renewable for a second year subject to satisfactory academic progress and will provide for tuition fees and a living allowance. One return airfare at the most economical rate from home country to Hong Kong may be granted for the whole period of study in the University of Hong Kong. Award of the Scholarships is conditional on the applicants' admission to a full-time postgraduate curriculum leading to a degree, diploma, or certificate from The University of Hong Kong.

Applicants must also hold a Bachelor's degree with honours (preferably First or Upper Second Class honours) from an approved university.

The closing date for receipt of applications is **June 14, 2002**. Further information and application forms are available from the Academic Services Enquiry Office, Room UG-05, Knowles Building, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong.

**POSTGRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION
(PGSA)
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 2002-2003
& AMENDED CONSTITUTION**

At the Annual General Meeting of the Postgraduate Student Association (PGSA) held on 27 March 2002, members voted in support for both the proposed amendments to the constitution and the new team of Executive Committee (Exco).

In the amended Constitution, the post of Ordinary Committee Members is abolished and three new posts are created. These include Vice-Chairperson, External Relations Officer, and Sports Programme Officer. The amendments reflect the gradual change in the direction of work of PGSA and better describe the nature of work for each officer. The amended Constitution is posted on the Internet Website <http://www.hku.hk/pgsa>.

Founded in late 1993, the PGSA is an organization run by and for postgraduate students in The University of Hong Kong. It is independent of the University and the Students' Union. The new Exco has the following aims and objectives for year 2002-2003:

The Aim:

To safeguard, promote, and strive for the interests of the HKU postgraduates.

Objectives:

1. To enhance solidarity and support among our postgraduates;
2. To introduce, facilitate, and put forward democratic reforms in the HKU institutional structure; and
3. To actively reach out to the community.

Not only does PGSA nominate representatives to sit on different university committees, it is also a body which the university would consult with regard to policies affecting the welfare of the HKU postgraduates. The types of activities organized by the Association encompass the realms of social functions, sports, and academic projects.

The Association is open to all postgraduate students, whether full-time or part-time, and regardless of the courses being undertaken. The PGSA Common Room is at Room 408, Level P4 of the Graduate House. Notices regarding the Association and its events are posted there, on the PGSA bulletin board near the University Bookstore, the computer news group <hku.pgsa>, as well as the Internet Website

<http://www.hku.hk/pgsa>. Any enquiries may be forwarded by email to pgsa@hkusuc.hku.hk, or at the PGSA Office at P407, Graduate House.

**PGSA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
2002 - 2003**

Chairperson	Li Jianhui Jeffrey <i>Civil Engineering</i>
Vice-Chairperson	Lee Chi-kwan Anita* <i>Comparative Literature</i>
Secretary	Koon Chui-min Yvonne <i>Comparative Literature</i>
Treasurer	Yang Zhengyi Steven <i>Mechanical Engineering</i>
External Relations Officer	Xian Weisheng Welson <i>Earth Sciences</i>
Membership Officer	Koon Hon Wai Michael <i>Institute of Molecular Biology</i>
Academic Programme Officer	Sheikh, Md. Neaz <i>Civil Engineering</i>
Publication Officer	Liu Xuejun Leo <i>Botany</i>
Sports Programme Officer	Bin Sheng Benson <i>Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering</i>
Social Programme Officer	Ho Man-suen Lisa <i>Real Estate and Construction</i>

Note: * Acting Chairperson if Chairperson is not available.

PGSA CONCERNED WITH PG ACADEMIC EXCHANGE AND FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

With the aim of promoting academic exchange and creating a channel for dialogue among postgraduates, PGSA is planning a series of salon discussions for postgraduates from among cognate departments, to discuss issues and topics that are of interest to them. You are most welcome to propose topics in your field for discussion and, if the topic is accepted, you will be invited to participate in a salon discussion with some other panel members. Such discussions provide opportunities for scholars of related fields within the HKU community to establish communication, a starting point for future cooperation in academic projects and mutual support. You may contact Anita Lee at anitalee@hkucc.hku.hk for details.

Concerned with the future of higher education in Hong Kong, PGSA is compiling a submission in response to the recently published UGC's Report on Higher Education in Hong Kong. Views of postgraduates on the report are being sought and can be submitted to the PGSA's e-forum. Further details are available at the Internet Website <http://www.hku.hk/pgsa>.

HONG KONG OXFORD SCHOLARSHIP FUND

The Hong Kong Oxford Scholarship Fund invites applications for a small number of bursaries of between GBP1,500 and GBP4,000, to students starting postgraduate study at Oxford University in October 2002.

Eligibility

To be eligible for consideration, a candidate should:

- a. be ordinarily resident in Hong Kong or in the People's Republic of China;
- b. have been accepted by Oxford University and by a relevant College for a post-graduate course and plan to return and benefit Hong Kong or the People's Republic of China on completion of studies.

Selection Criteria

The selection of candidates will be based on academic merit and financial need. Bursaries are not awarded to those who already have full funding from other sources.

Application Procedure

There is **no** application form. Candidates should send a letter of application by **ORDINARY** (and NOT registered) post to *the Hong Kong Oxford Scholarship Fund, P.O. Box 2755, G.P.O., Hong Kong* and enclose the following:

- a. A curriculum vitae;
- b. A statement of 500 - 1,000 words to explain how the proposed studies will benefit Hong Kong or China;
- c. Evidence of financial need (e.g. bank statements);
- d. Evidence of additional sources of funding (e.g. offers of scholarships);
- e. References from two academic referees; and
- f. Proof of acceptance or conditional acceptance by an Oxford College (this can be supplied later after the initial application).

Candidates may also be requested to attend an interview by the panel for the Hong Kong Oxford Scholarship Fund.

Applicants must apply separately for admission to Oxford University through the Graduate Admissions Office.

For further information, please contact:

Annie BENTLEY

Tel. No. : 2827 2131 Fax. No. : 2827 1337

e-mail : floratong@bentleyhk.com

OR

Sue LAU

Tel. No. : 2974 7000 Fax. No. : 2974 6999

e-mail : lauchesuen@yahoo.co.uk

Closing date for applications is July 31, 2002.

POSTGRADUATE VOLLEYBALL TEAM MEMBERS

The PGSA is going to set up a volleyball team soon

If you would like to improve your volleyball skills, to build up friendship and broaden your social network, please join the team by sending an e-mail to Mr. ZHANG Gengli (John), gzhang@hkusua.hku.hk, providing the following details: name, gender, height, preferred position, volleyball proficiency (proficient/medium/beginner) and your contact details.

There will be weekly volleyball skill training, matches with teams from within and outside HKU and friendly associations with the PGSA-CSSA volleyball teams of other universities.