The Graduate School

Newsletter



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INTRODUCTION OF THE NEW DEAN AND ASSOCIATE DEANS OF THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

We are pleased to announce that the Deanships of the Graduate School have been changed w.e.f. August 2002. We are under the leadership of our new Dean Prof. Anthony G.O. Yeh, who works closely with two new Associate Deans, Prof. John P. Burns and Prof. Francis Y.L. Chin, to foster further developments in research postgraduate studies in the University.

Are you familiar with our new Dean and Associate Deans? Here's a chance for you to know more about them.

PROF. ANTHONY G.O. YEH



Prof. Anthony Yeh is Chair Professor of the Centre of Urban Planning and Environmental Management and Director of the GIS Research Centre and Institute of Transport Studies. He received his B.A. in physical geography from our university before going to Asian Institute

in human settlements development and planning and Syracuse University in USA for his M.R.P. and Ph.D. in urban and regional development planning. He is a Fellow of the Hong Kong Institute of Planners (HKIP), Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI), Royal Australian Planning Institute (RAPI), British Computer Society (BCS) and Chartered Institute of Transport (CIT) and honorary professors in key universities and research institutes in China. His main areas of specialization are in urban development and planning in Hong Kong, China, and S.E. Asia and the applications of geographic information system (GIS) in urban and regional development and planning. At present, he is the Secretary-General of the Asian Planning Schools Association and Chairman of the Geographic Information Science Commission of the

International Geographic Union (IGU). Because of his training in both physical and social sciences and overseas experience in both the developed and developing world, he understands the needs of graduate students from different disciplines and countries. He was actively involved in the postgraduate education reform in 1998 and had been the Associate Dean of the Graduate School from 1998 to 2002.

Message from the New Dean-Prof Anthony Yeh

The University of Hong Kong has excellent staff, library and research facilities for doing research. It is up to our research postgraduate students to make full use of them to their maximum benefits by being more proactive in their studies. Finishing a thesis is only the beginning of a career. To face the rapidly changing world, students should not only focus on the thesis in their studies. They should also broaden their perspectives and prepare themselves for different types of work. Whether it is academic or non-academic, employers are often looking for people who are creative, self-motivated, cooperative and responsible, and have transferable skills in addition to their knowledge in their field of studies. If you want to be successful after you finish your thesis, you need to take initiatives in making good use of the teaching and learning environment of HKU in advancing your knowledge as well as developing your mind set and skills for your career. I hope one day when you return to HKU after graduation, you will be proud to say what our most famous alumnus, Dr. Sun Yat-sen, had said, "Hong Kong and the University of Hong Kong were the birthplace of my knowledge"..... and career.

Hung Du-to Memorial Cib (Main Cib) Jenny Wong

PROF. JOHN P. BURNS

Prof. John P. Burns is Chair Professor of Politics and Public Administration at the University, where he does research on civil service management, administrative reform, and party-state relations in China, including Hong



Kong. His most recent book is Civil Service Systems in Asia (co-edited with B. Bowornwathana) (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2001). His Ph.D. is from Columbia University in political science.

Message from Prof. John Burns

I wish to extend a warm welcome to all incoming research post-graduate students and returning students. I hope you have a fruitful and productive year at the University of Hong Kong. I am sure that when you finish your research you will look back on your years at the University as not only a challenge but also as a time for reflection, which I am sure you will agree is a luxury that should be cherished. Please let us know how we can improve graduate education at the University of Hong Kong. We value your views on our product and strive to improve in all areas. Good luck!

PROF. FRANCIS Y.L. CHIN

Prof. Francis Chin [B.Sc. (Toronto), M.S., M.A., Ph.D



(Princeton), FIEEE, FHKIE] has taught at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, University of California, San Diego, University of Alberta, Chinese University of Hong Kong, and University of Texas at Dallas. He is the Chair of Computer Science at the University of Hong Kong and

was the Head of the department from its establishment until December 31, 1999.

Prof. Chin has served on many government policy and advisory committees related to Technology and Education, member of program committees and conference chairman of numerous international workshops and conferences. He is currently serving as Manager Editor of the International Journal of Foundations of Computer Science, member of the editorial boards of the Information Processing Letters, the Computer Processing of Oriental Languages and the Chinese Journal of Advanced Software Research.

During 1997/98, Prof. Chin served as the Project Leader of a study commissioned by the Select Committee appointed by the Legislative Council to inquire into the circumstances leading to the problem surrounding the commencement of the operation of the new Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok (CLK). During 2001, Prof. Chin was on leave to serve as the CEO (interim) of Hong Kong Domain Name Registration Company Limited (a subsidiary of JUCC to help the launching of the new policy as proposed in the HK Government's consultative paper on the Review on Administration and Assignment of Internet Domain Names and Internet Protocol Addresses in Hong Kong).

Message from Prof. Francis Chin

As the Head and Chair of the Department of Computer Science for many years, many students have approached me with questions about their future plans upon the completion of their undergraduate education. The most frequently asked question was "should I do graduate work?" My answer invariably was: if you are very interested in learning and studying, go to graduate school.

In the Hong Kong education system, in primary school, learning is equivalent to rote learning and memorizing facts and simple rules. Secondary school demands some analysis and elementary logical thinking. Undergraduate education teaches students critical thinking and learning to learn, staying away from spoon-feeding education. It is in post-graduate education that students are asked to discover what is unknown.

Post-graduate work involves problem-solving, and in the case of the Ph.D., the work involves problem-defining as well. (A period of two years is usually too short for M.Phil. candidates to come up with a meaningful problem themselves, and thus problem-defining is usually left to the supervisor) The job of the supervisor is to give guidance to help students solve problems. I use the analogy of navigating through a forest. The supervisor gives initial directions. The student does the hard work of axing branches and crossing rivers in order to reach hidden treasure. The student reports back to the supervisor from time to time about his progress and what he/she has encountered and gets more guidance from the supervisor. Sometimes, if the student gets frustrated, the supervisor may have to go into the forest himself/herself to understand the situation.

In my view, to succeed in post-graduate studies, there are three Cs: students need to Communicate well their ideas, to think Critically, and finally to Commit to hard work.

GRADUATE SCHOOL

The Graduate School is both an administrative and academic unit, which co-ordinates University-wide activities related to research postgraduate education. We work closely with departments and faculties to ensure that the University provides the best possible intellectual training to our MPhil and PhD students. In addition to organizing basic research training to students of all faculties, we render different scopes of support and services to cater for the needs of all MPhil and PhD students.

1. Cantonese Courses

Cantonese is the mother tongue of Hong Kong people. There are many students enrolled in our research postgraduate programmes who are from Mainland China and overseas. In order to help them mingle with local counterparts and Hong Kong culture more easily and quickly, the Graduate School runs the following courses for non-native speakers:

I. Cantonese Courses for Social Purposes for Expatriates

II. Cantonese Courses for Social Purposes for Mainland Students
Schedules and details of the above courses are now posted on the Graduate School homepage (URL: www.hku.hk/gradsch/coursework/course_0001.htm).
Please kindly note that places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis and any application is subject to the availability of places.

2 Support Services

I. Graduate Student Writing Support Service

To supplement the language courses in our new curricula, the Graduate School, in collaboration with the English

CONFERENCE & TRAVEL GRANTS FOR RESEARCH POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

With effect from the 2002-03 financial year (i.e. 1 July 2002), the maximum level of conference support for research students has been adjusted to HK\$13,500 per student, the same level as that for teaching staff, so that more research students could benefit from the programme within the budgetary provisions.

In parallel, we are pleased to announce that a new Travel Grants Scheme for international exchange activities for research postgraduate students has been established. This new funding template would benefit more research students, in particular those from the arts and humanities disciplines, who would receive funding support to participate in various international programmes rather than conferences. As a pilot operation, a total of 20 awards may be made in each financial year. The maximum level of support is the

Centre, offers a one-to-one Graduate Student Writing Service to research postgraduate students. The service aims to give individual advice and feedback on academic writing.

Students are required to submit a substantial piece of writing, which is to be reviewed by a teacher in the English Centre. Writing problems will be diagnosed and pointed out and brought to the attention of each individual student. By raising the awareness of the language issues, it is hoped that students' writing skills can be improved as a better writer. It is however not a proofreading or editing service.

II. Statistical Advice Centre for Students (STACS)

The Statistical Advice Centre for Students (STACS), jointly run by the Social Sciences Research Centre and the Graduate School, is another one-to-one support service to give expert advice to research students and their supervisors on the problems that they may encounter in the design of experiments and the interpretation of data.

Each prospective user of this service will need the consent of his/her supervisor, and will need to provide a brief description of the problems that he/she has encountered.

The above Services are available throughout the academic year, and every MPhil and PhD student is eligible up to four hours of this consultation service for free. Details and application form are available in our Graduate School office (P403, Graduate House) and on our homepage (URL:www.hku.hk/gradsch/coursework/course_0001.htm).

For enquiry, please contact the Graduate School Office Tel: 2857-3470, Fax: 2857-3543 or E-mail: gradsch@hkucc.hku.hk

same as that for the conference grant, i.e. HK\$13,500. Applications will be considered twice a year, with 30 September 2002 and 28 February 2003 having been set as the deadlines for receipt of travel grant applications. Research students are advised to plan well ahead and are cautioned not to make firm travel arrangements until they receive approval for the award.

To be eligible to apply for a travel grant, a research student must be in candidature for an MPhil or a PhD degree at the University covering the entire period of the proposed exchange activities, and must not have received a conference grant. A research student can only receive one award, either a conference grant OR a travel grant, during his/her candidature.

For details on Conference and Travel Grants, please visit www.hku.hk/rss/crcg/main.htm.

RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIPS FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2003/2004 OFFERED BY THE GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE SERVICE (DAAD)

Have you dreamed of doing research studies in Germany? If yes, here is an opportunity for you to have your dream realized. The German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) offers the following scholarships to Hong Kong postgraduate students and young scientists for research at German institutions of higher education:

- Scholarship (1-3 years) for the completion of a full doctoral programme Application deadline: 1 November 2002
- Scholarships (1-6 months) for research projects to be carried out at a German institution
 Application deadline: 4 months prior to the planned beginning of the project
- 3. DAAD-Leibnitz-Scholarships Programme (max 3 years) for Doctoral Candidates and Postdocs for research projects or doctoral programmes at a Leibnitz Institute Application deadline: 1 December 2002
- Biosciences Programme for Doctoral
 Candidates and Postdocs for research projects
 (2 12 months) in specified fields of biotechnology
 Application deadlings 15 November 2002

Apart from these scholarships, the DAAD and other German organizations, such as the Alexander von Humboldt-Foundation (www.avh.de), make research grants available to young academics and senior scholars in Hong Kong.

For more information and advice, please check http://ibz.daad.de/hongkong or contact the DAAD-representatives in Hong Kong. Application forms can be downloaded at www.daad.de/download/html or obtained at the addresses below. The completed application forms have to be submitted to the German Consulate General, 21/F United Centre, Admiralty.

DAAD Information Centre
Mr. Michael Paulus
Hong Kong Baptist University
David-Lam-Building, 9/F, Rm.933
Kowloon Tong, Hong Kong
Tel.: 3411 5326
Fax: 3411 2749

Dr Bert Becker
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SWIRE/CHEVENING SCHOLARSHIP 2003-04 SWIRE/CATHAY PACIFIC SCHOLARSHIP 2003-04 I.K. SWIRE MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP 2003-04

John Swire & Sons (H.K.) Ltd. is offering to students, the above three postgraduate scholarships tenable at Oxford University for the 2003-2004 academic year.

The scholarships tenable for three years subject to satisfactory academic progress, are of the value of £8,350 each per annum (this amount is paid to the scholar) plus the full cost of the scholar's university and college fees. Free economy class air passages to and from London are provided to the scholar at the beginning and end of the period of tenure.

The scholarships will be awarded to permanent residents of Hong Kong who have completed the majority of his/her formal education in Hong Kong, and who have graduated from a university in Hong Kong, preferably with a First Class Honours Degree. Applicants with a good Second Class Honours Degree may also be considered. Applicants should normally be graduates of not more than four years standing who intend to return to Hong Kong to pursue a career in business, Government, academic life, or in a recognized profession.

Information on each of these scholarships and the application forms can be downloaded from the website www.swire.com. (When you reach the web page, a special announcement in orange frame will pop up. Click to that and you will see all the details.) Applications should be submitted by 4 October 2002 to John Swire & Sons (H.K.) Ltd. at the following address:

Assistant Manager, Group Public Affairs, John Swire & Sons (HK) Ltd., 35/F, Two Pacific Place, 88 Queensway, Hong Kong.

NEW BOOKS IN THE GRADUATE SCHOOL LIBRARY

The Graduate School has recently added 5 more books to its Library. Interested students and supervisors may borrow them from the Graduate School Office.

- 1. Case Study Research Methods
 Bill Gillham, 2000, Continuum 106pp
- 2. Developing a Questionnaire
 Bill Gillham, 2000, Continuum 93pp
- 3. The Research Interview

 Bill Gillham, 2000, Continuum 96bb
- Supervising Postgraduates from Non-English Speaking Backgrounds, edited by Yoni Ryan and Ortrun Zuber-Skerritt, 1999, Open University Press 1936b
- 5. Ground Rules for Good Research A 10 point guide for social researchers

 Martyn Denscombe, 2002, Open University Press 21944

The book catalogue of the Graduate School Library has been posted on the Graduate School homepage www.hku.hk/gradsch. There are many good reference books on 30-day loan to research students and supervisors.

