



## Message from the Vice-Chancellor

For those of you pursuing postgraduate studies at this University, the Graduate School is a valuable part of your experience. It provides support and advice, keeping you up-to-date with international developments, providing training workshops and induction programmes and inviting distinguished academics to visit and interact with you.

Looking back on my own days as a postgraduate student I recall them with much fondness. It was the first opportunity I really had to develop my own ideas freely and to test bold new hypotheses.

Your postgraduate years offer you the chance to expand your creative capacities, to formulate your own ideas and to see the seed of a new thought grow to full fruition. This is a time for trial and error. It is also a time for the occasional wild goose chase.

At times you may come up against a brick wall and feel your research is doomed to failure. But do not despair, keep going at it. If you are passionate about your work, and you continue to put in long hours and hard work, you will ultimately see the results you want.

I would encourage you to take advantage of all the Graduate School has to offer. Indeed, take advantage of all the University has to offer postgraduate students.

In addition to the university libraries and other facilities, I encourage you to seek solutions and new ideas from teachers and fellow students outside of your immediate surroundings.



What I have learned in many years of research is that it calls upon all your problem-solving skills and your ability to communicate ideas clearly and succinctly. I would encourage you to sharpen these skills and build on them over the years you spend with us at HKU. They will serve you well whatever career path you choose to follow in the future.

## Learning To Teach

In September 2002, 25 Postgraduate Studentship holders took part in the "Learning to Teach" programme, offered by the Centre for the Advancement of University Teaching (CAUT) in co-operation with the Faculty of Education. There were over 200 applications for the 25 places on the first course. Those chosen (on a first come-first served basis) to participate came from a wide range of disciplines. They attended the two-day workshop and took part in a variety of activities to develop some basic teaching skills. After Day One, they had to adapt some of the ideas and prepare a 'lesson' which they would give on Day Two. They had a week to prepare for this. Those who attended both days received a Certificate of Attendance from the CAUT.

Day One: The group worked through some of the challenges that university teachers face, for example, teaching in English, planning lessons, motivation, and using group work.

Day Two: A week later, the students worked in small groups and 'taught' a simulated lesson to the group. They had to remember that the rest of the group did not know anything about their subject, and modify materials from their subject for the range of abilities in the group and for students with no prior knowledge or interest in the topic. Each presenter received feedback, from the group and the facilitator, who provided written feedback as well.

After their micro-teaching session, many students commented on the amount of work that goes into a 15 minute presentation. Right! This is exactly what happens in real-life university teaching. But, according to the facilitators, they all did extremely well. Everyone was nervous about micro-teaching, but once they relaxed with their groups, they had a lot of fun, whilst learning to give and receive feedback. Afterwards, the class and their teachers had lunch together.

At the end of the course, the students requested 'more, please', and we are trying to meet their needs. Some of them have formed an Advisory Panel, to help plan the next series of 'Learning To Teach' courses, which will be offered in Semester Two, and will be advertised through the Graduate School and the CAUT. But what about those who applied but could not be offered a place? Or those who might like to take a course in the future?

All of those who applied were entered into our database, and will have the opportunity to participate in future programmes. They will receive details through email. If you are not in our database, and would like to receive information about future events, please check out our website <http://www.hku.hk/caut/> and register your interest. Look forward to seeing you in the future.

**Catherine Robinson**  
*Course Director*



## How to Prepare for Academic and Non-Academic Jobs

Have you ever puzzled over how to prepare yourself for entering into the job market? Career planning does not start just before or after you have submitted your thesis. It should start much earlier on.

The Graduate School is going to organize an informal workshop for research postgraduate students to help you prepare for your future career. Details are as follows:

**Date** 21 January 2003 (Tue)  
**Time** 5:30pm  
**Venue** T6, Meng Wah Complex  
**Speakers** **Professor John Malpas**  
*PVC & Deputy Chairman of the Committee for the Selection of Senior Teachers*  
**Ms. Louisa Li**  
*Director of the Careers Education and Placement Centre*

Both academic jobs and non-academic jobs will be covered. If you would like to attend the workshop, please send the following information by email to [gradsch@hkucc.hku.hk](mailto:gradsch@hkucc.hku.hk)

Name  
Department  
Study Programme  
Contact Telephone Number  
E-mail Address

*All Are Welcome!*



## Before the 10th Anniversary of PGSA

By Jeffrey J.H. LI\*

"When you drink the water, think of those who dug the well." Just as this Chinese proverb has said, I often sat by the window of my office and asked myself, "Who launched and founded the PGSA ten years ago? And what has PGSA experienced over these years? How have our predecessors tried their bits by relays, one after another until this year, 2002, I stuck out my hand and accepted the heavy relay baton which is deeply engraved with "PGSA".

It was late winter of 1993 when the weather was a bit chilly. The trees, grass and flowers tightened up their brown suits in case they might get a cold. Birds' laughter was gone. Maybe they were curling up under their warm quilt. There were few people walking in the street. And only from time to time, shadows of people with their hands in their pockets passed by the window. Having no time to attend to these, Mr. Fraster and his friends devoted whole-heartedly to a heated discussion. Sometimes they talked in loud and sonorous voice, sometimes in whispers, and sometimes they just kept quiet and still. Through the window, you could see people standing up, writing at the desk or thinking and



## PGSA Activity: "One-day Visiting Shenzhen"

With the great help of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, the Shenzhen Science and Technology Bureau and the Office of Student Affairs, as well as the generous funding from the Hong Kong Bank Foundation Fund, the one-day trip to Shenzhen was successfully held on 6 September 2002.

The activity, organized by the Postgraduate Student Association (PGSA), aimed to provide an opportunity for students to know more about the development of Mainland China and enhance their understanding of the economic situation and working condition in Shenzhen.

cupping chins in their hands. After a long period of time, Mr. Fraster stood up, released the pen in his hand onto the desk and said in a sonorous and determined voice, "OK, let's call it a deal. Remember, today is December 20, 1993. And the PGSA of HKU is founded."

Then everything began from the scratch: selecting logos, designing application form for membership, writing up rules and regulations, applying for the Government's permission of establishment, holding the first annual meeting, striving for the space for activities and the use of facilities, appealing for sponsors, organizing varieties of activities, founding all kinds of ballgame teams and clubs, and sending representatives to all the committees of the University. It is in this way that all the presidents have been doing their best devotedly and enthusiastically for the existence, development and prosperity of the PGSA. And let's remember them forever! They are Mr. Stuart Fraster (2 terms), Mr. Park Ng (3 terms), Mr. Ng Man Hung (2 terms), Mr. Michael Koon (1 term) and Mr. Napo Lee (1 term).





52 postgraduate students participated in the tour. We arrived in Shenzhen at 10:00am on 6 September 2002. Our itinerary included visits to Shenzhen Science and Technology Hall, Shenzhen Virtual University Park, Hi-tech Park, Overseas Student Pioneer Park as well as Zhongxing Telecom Corporation.

During the trip, the Shenzhen Government's preferential policies on the employment and investment of returned talents from overseas were introduced, which ranged from taxation, accounting, facilities and so on. What's more, the general development of the 120 enterprises in Overseas Student Pioneer Park was presented. The visit to the Hi-tech Park was really exciting and instructive. There we not only witnessed the short but progressive history of China's Hi-tech industries, but also exclaimed at their great potentialities in the future. Later, the visit to one of the top IT enterprises in Mainland China, Zhongxing Telecom Corporation, drew an end to our one-day visit to Shenzhen.

"I must say the trip to Shenzhen was eye-opening! Through the trip, I've realized that China is indeed catching up with full speed in Hi-Tech development areas. It's also exciting to know that



our Chinese Government is doing her best to encourage returning Chinese scholars to set up companies as well as to welcome them to contribute their R&D experiences and knowledge," one of the participants said.

The one-day trip to Shenzhen has not only widened our eyesight to the rapid progress of Shenzhen, but also enriched our knowledge on the development of Mainland China.

*Reported by Ellen Zhang Yuefeng, MPhil student, Faculty of Education*



Now it is November 3, 2002 and winter again. I stand in front of a blackboard in the office of PGSA, Rm. P407 of the Graduate House, habitually cupping my chin in my left hand and touching my lips with my index finger. This is my usual posture when I am thinking. Since I became president of PGSA of HKU, I have founded six ballgame teams and one English Club and organized many large-scale visiting trips in Hong Kong and to Mainland China. And I am making step-by-step progress according to my plan. But a question comes to my mind suddenly, "Am I satisfied with that?"

No, I will also continue to improve the internal structure of PGSA and organize activities of larger scale and more influence. Yeah, a great idea! Next March we will hold an exchange forum for all the local universities. Thus I will make the PGSA of HKU more influential, make it go beyond our campus and play a leading part among all the PGSAs in Hong Kong.

Taking up the pen, I wrote swiftly on the blackboard – "Take the lead!"

\* Chairman of PGSA



*Founded in 1993, the Postgraduate Student Association (PGSA) aims to enhance postgraduate life at HKU by encouraging members to take an active role in their welfare and to participate in academic and social activities. Independent of the University and the Students' Union, PGSA is an organization run by and for postgraduate students, both full-time and part-time.*

*We invite you to join our warm family. Come and visit us at <http://www.hku.hk/pgsa/>*





## The Graduate School Library

The Graduate School Library has a collection of very useful books specifically targeted on research students. All research postgraduate students (both part-time and full-time) can borrow up to 3 books and the maximum loan period for each book is 1 month. Our collection covers a wide range of topics, including

- how to write research proposals, essays and theses;
- how to improve your oral presentation skills; and
- how to prepare for jobs.

No matter what your discipline is, be it Arts, Science or Social Science, you will find something useful for you in our library. You can find the catalogue at the Graduate School website, at <http://www.hku.hk/gradsch/libcat/libcatindex.htm>

If you would like to borrow any books, no pre-registration is necessary. Just come to our counter!

**“Books are teachers.  
Good books go right on  
instructing in odd  
moments when the  
teachers and parents are  
not on duty.”**

*-Anonymous*

**“The first key to wisdom  
is this – constant and  
frequent questioning...  
for by doubting we are led  
to question and by  
questioning we arrive at  
the truth.”**

*-Peter Abelard*

**“Why – why – why!  
...Ask it of everything  
your mind touches, and  
let your mind touch  
everything!”**

*-Ann Fairbairn*

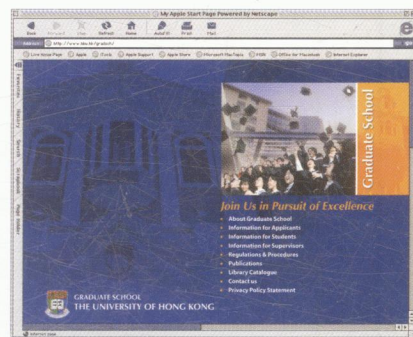
## Our New Website

The Graduate School is delighted to announce the launch of our new website. In addition to the fully refurbished design, we have added some new sections:

- **FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) from Students**  
Got questions about coursework, thesis examinations, study period, candidature or leave of absence? Find the answers here!
- **FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) from Applicants**  
What is the deadline for application? What is the English requirement? Visit this section to find out the answers.
- **Useful Links to Scholarships, Studies and Employment**  
Do you want to study abroad? Need help finding a job? We have some useful links here for you to explore.

Come and visit us at

<http://www.hku.hk/gradsch/!!!>



## The British Chevening Scholarships for Postgraduate Study in the UK 2003-2004

The British Chevening Scholarships Scheme is a global programme funded by the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office, international and local sponsors. The scheme in the Hong Kong and Macau region is designed to support areas of commercial, social and economic interest. The scholarships shall cover tuition fees up to £14,000, the airfare to and from the UK, and a substantial contribution towards living costs.

There are two types of awards:

- Postgraduate scholarships for a one-year taught masters degree in any subject area
- Specialist scholarships for 3-6 months intensive studies in designated fields in Business Leadership, Journalism, Manufacturing Management, and Healthcare.

There are approximately 50 awards this year. Applications are invited from dynamic, forward thinking permanent residents of Hong Kong and Macau who are at a formative state of their career. Postgraduate students and fresh graduates will also be considered. Applicants should have a sound level of English, a good first degree, and work experience in a relevant field.

The deadline of the application for the British Chevening Scheme is on 27 January 2003. For further information, please contact:

### The British Council

Tel: (852) 2913-5263

Email: [chevening@britishcouncil.org.hk](mailto:chevening@britishcouncil.org.hk)

Website: <http://www.britishcouncil.org.hk/chevening/>

Please note that the application form for this scholarship can be downloaded at <http://www.britishcouncil.org.hk/chevening/> and brochures are available for perusal at the Academic Services Enquiry Office, Room UG-05, Knowles Building, HKU.



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