

THE GRADUATE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER



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"Passion is the key to success in research!"

Vice-Chancellor advised Research Postgraduate Students in HKU

With a kind invitation from Prof. Lap-Chee Tsui, the Vice Chancellor, about thirty research students had an informal gathering at the University Lodge on 11th December 2004 (Saturday). Prof. Paul Tam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), Prof. Francis Chin, Associate



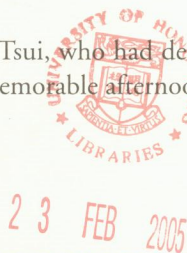
Dean of the Graduate School, Mrs. Yvonne Koo, Head (Research Services) and Ms. Aster Ho, Assistant Registrar of the Graduate School, also joined us that afternoon.

Prof. Tsui generously shared his own experience and gave valuable advice to us on how to be a good researcher. He emphasized that good communication and a sincere approach was important when working with people from different cultural backgrounds and disciplines. According to Prof. Tsui, only having communication with immediate supervisors or subordinates was not enough, we had to have good communication with people at all levels in the organization/institute for success. His other advice for success was: to adopt a positive and trusting approach when doing collaborative work with people from different disciplines. Moreover, he emphasized that to be a successful researcher, we must have passion for our research rather than treating it as a means to get another degree or a job. Answering to a student's question, he advised us to have more interaction with each other through social, sports and other activities to gain friendship and build up our network of friends. It would also be good for our own personal development. Besides, he gave some thoughts and clues on research developments and how to prepare for grant applications and how to succeed in getting research grants. The Postgraduate Student Association also raised some concerns about postgraduate studies and the provision of university accommodation etc, to the VC for his consideration. He had kindly given his assurance that he would look into those matters and communicate with PGSA.

We had a very friendly discussion with Prof. Tsui, who had demonstrated his success of good communication not only by words but also by his acts. It was a very memorable afternoon for all those attended the gathering.

Priyantha Edussuriya

Publication Officer, PGSA EXCO



Every participant had a great time with Prof. Lap-Chee Tsui, the Vice Chancellor, in the University Lodge.



The Graduate School Award Presentation Ceremony and Annual Reception

The Graduate School Award Presentation Ceremony and Annual Reception was successfully held on 17 December 2004 (Friday) at Rayson Huang Theatre. This year, three kinds of awards were presented:

- a) **HKU Foundation Postgraduate Scholarship for Outstanding Research Student**
- b) **Award for Outstanding Research Postgraduate Student**
- c) **Li Ka Shing Prize**

We were most honoured to have invited Prof. Richard Wong, Acting Vice-Chancellor, and Prof. Paul Tam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research), as our guests of honour. Many students, teachers and Department/Faculty staff members joined our award presentation ceremony to show their full support to the award recipients.

The award presentation ceremony was followed by the Graduate School Annual Reception, which provided a precious chance for research postgraduate students, academic and administrative staff members of the University to socialize and to have casual exchanges in a relaxed and informal environment. Most participants found the evening very enjoyable!

May we offer our congratulations to all award recipients again!

HKU Foundation Postgraduate Scholarship for Outstanding Research Student

The Scholarships were offered to students with an outstanding academic record, who came from overseas to pursue their PhD studies at HKU in the academic year 2004-05. Among the successful overseas applicants for our PhD programme, the Selection Committee received 10 nominations from Faculties. Only the following three PhD candidates with excellent academic records were selected for the award of the scholarships:

- a) **Mr. Toru HORIUCHI** (*Department of Politics and Public Administration*)

Country of origin: **Japan**

Academic qualifications:

- BA, Kyoto University of Foreign Studies, Japan, 1994
- MA, Georgetown University, U.S.A., 1999

- b) **Mr. Firew Kebede TIBA** (*Department of Law*)

Country of origin: **Ethiopia**

Academic qualifications:

- LLB, Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, 1999
- LLM, University of Pretoria, South Africa, 2002
- LLM, Kyushu University, Japan, 2004

- c) **Mr. Paul Barrie SPOONER**

(*Department of History*)

Country of origin: **U.S.A.**

Academic qualifications:

- BA, Columbia University, U.S.A., 1970
- MBA, University of Michigan, U.S.A., 1977
- MA, Yale University, U.S.A., 2003

The three winners were presented with a scholarship of \$20,000 each and an award certificate.



Award for Outstanding Research Postgraduate Student (2002-03)

The Award was newly set up this year aiming to promote excellence in research and award up to ten research students every year who submitted a thesis of exceptional quality. The awardees were:

- a) **Mr. FUNG Siu Leung**
(MPhil, Department of Mathematics)
Thesis: Higher-order Markov Chain Models for Categorical Data Sequences
- b) **Ms. GUO Hong** (MPhil, Department of Medicine)
Thesis: Effects of Anti-DNA Antibodies on Pleural Mesothelial Cells: in Vitro Studies to Explore the Pathogenetic Mechanism of Pulmonary Lupus
- c) **Miss HUNG Yu Yui, Ruth**
(MPhil, Department of English)
Thesis: To Be Worthy of the Suffering and Survival: Chinese Memoirs and the Politics of Writing
- d) **Dr. LAI Kam Yuk** (PhD, Department of Social Work & Social Administration)
Thesis: Improving the Quality of Life for Nursing Home Residents with Dementia: A Life Story Approach
- e) **Dr. LEUNG Chi Kam, Joseph**
(PhD, Department of Medicine)
Thesis: The Pathogenesis of IgA Nephropathy: the Role of IgA Molecule and the Nature of IgA Receptors
- f) **Dr. LU Mei** (PhD, Faculty of Dentistry)
Thesis: Allogeneic Bone Grafts Mixed with Basic Fibroblast Growth Factor: A Cellular and Molecular Study
- g) **Dr. LU Wei** (PhD, Department of Chemistry)
Thesis: Light-emitting Platinum(II) and Gold(I) Complexes Containing Cyclometalated and Alkynyl Ligands
- h) **Dr. Md. Motiar RAHMAN**
(PhD, Department of Civil Engineering)
Thesis: Revitalising Construction Project Procurement through Joint Risk Management
- i) **Dr. SHEN Lijun** (PhD, Department of Pathology)
Thesis: Immune Escape Mechanisms in EBV-associated Nasal NK/T-cell Lymphoma
- j) **Dr. WONG Siu Kei**
(PhD, Department of Real Estate & Construction)
Thesis: The Performance of Property Companies in Hong Kong: A Style Analysis Approach

Graduate School
Award Presentation Ceremony



All awardees were presented with a book coupon worth \$1000 each and an award certificate.

Putting Your Thesis Online

Recognizing the value of online theses, the HKU Senate made mandatory the creation of electronic theses by MPhil & PhD students entering from 1 January 2001. A page describing the creation and submission of electronic theses is at <http://etd.lib.hku.hk/>

Storing your printed thesis in the Library will mean preservation but if this is the only means of access, it will also mean that in most cases, after shelving, no other person will ever read your thesis. On the other hand, having an online thesis will allow researchers using Google, Yahoo, and other

search engines to find your thesis and read it. Your thesis will then be working 24 hours a day for you, introducing possible collaborators, employers, and publishers to you and your research. An online thesis in HKU Libraries, "HKU Theses Online (HKUTO)" <http://sunzi1.lib.hku.hk/hkuto/> will show everyone, including potential employers, that you are a bona fide graduate of HKU. It will showcase your knowledge and use of IT skills.

For professors, having students with online theses, means that this research will not leave with those students. This

Li Ka Shing Prize (2001-03)

In 1990, Dr. Li Ka Shing made a generous donation to the University of Hong Kong. It was agreed that a part of the investment income earned on the donation be used to establish the Li Ka Shing Prizes for the best research degree theses in recognition of academic excellence.

In each alternate year, four winners are selected. One PhD thesis prize and one MPhil thesis prize are awarded to graduates within each of the following two Faculty Groups:

Group A:

Faculties of Architecture, Arts, Business & Economics, Education, Law and Social Sciences

Group B:

Faculties of Dentistry, Engineering, Medicine and Science

Four prizes in the form of gold medals were awarded to the winners who graduated in 2001/02 and 2002/03.

a) Best MPhil thesis (Group A)

- **Miss DU Yingjuan**
(School of Business, Faculty of Business and Economics)
Supervisor: Dr. Z. Tao
Thesis: Protectionism and Regional Specialization: Evidence from China's Industries

b) Best MPhil thesis (Group B)

- **Ms. GUO Hong**
(Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine)
Supervisors: Prof. K.N. Lai & Prof. D.T.M. Chan
Thesis: Effects of Anti-DNA Antibodies on Pleural Mesothelial Cells: in Vitro Studies to Explore the Pathogenetic Mechanism of Pulmonary Lupus

c) Best PhD thesis (Group A)

- **Dr. Gregory Paul FAIRBROTHER**
(Faculty of Education)

Supervisors: Dr. G.A. Postiglione & Dr. W.W. Law
Thesis: Political Socialization and Critical Thinking: Their Influence on Hong Kong and Mainland Chinese University Students' Attitudes toward the Nation

d) Best PhD thesis (Group B)

- **Dr. JIANG Xiaohua**
(Department of Medicine, Faculty of Medicine)
Supervisors: Prof. S.K. Lam & Dr. B.C.Y. Wong
Thesis: Targeting Cell Signaling Pathway in Treatment of Gastric Cancer by Chemotherapeutic Agents

Two Li Ka Shing Prize awardees, namely Ms. Guo Hong and Dr. Gregory Paul Fairbrother, kindly shared their research experience at HKU with us. Let's see how they strived hard to attain academic excellence.



quality research will then attract more quality students to HKU, and collaborators for similar research. With online theses, the University can fulfill its mission for disseminating knowledge. These online theses contribute to the international community of scholars, and provide recognition to our outstanding HKU students.

David Palmer
Systems Librarian

Stipend Levels of Postgraduate Studentships (PGS)

The Policy Board of Postgraduate Education (PB) approved, at its meeting on 22 December 2004, the recommendation from the Dean and Associate Deans of the Graduate School that the current levels of PGS stipend be maintained for the academic year 2005-06.

Interview with Ms. Guo Hong

R: What are you doing now?

G: I am now a PhD student in Department of Medicine.

R: What's your future goal?

G: I would like to do something that really helps people and contributes to the society.

R: Did you have any unforgettable experience or great achievement during your MPhil studies at HKU?

G: During my MPhil studies, I had undertaken a project studying one of the important auto-immune diseases in Hong Kong and worldwide – systemic lupus erythematosus. The experiments were designed as in-vitro studies that could shed new light on the pathogenesis of the pulmonary manifestations of systemic lupus erythematosus; as well as in-vivo studies in lupus-prone mice that provided important new data to support the hypothesis that the pathogenesis of pulmonary lupus was associated with the increased production of pro-inflammatory cytokines. The work was presented

at the Annual Scientific Meeting of the British Society of Rheumatology in 2003. The data was then published as a full paper in the journal, *Rheumatology*, in 2004. Also, the paper on the animal data is now being assessed by another international journal, *Lupus*.

R: Do you want to say something to thank your supervisor(s) /family/ friends for their support to you during your research studies at HKU?

G: I would like to thank Mrs. Ivy Wu for her generosity in providing the Mrs. Ivy Wu Fellowship to clinicians in Mainland China and offering me an opportunity to have a half-year special training in the Department of Medicine at HKU. I am particularly grateful to her for introducing me to this famous university.

I wish to offer my sincere gratitude to my supervisor Prof. K.N. Lai for his invaluable advice and close supervision during the preparation of my MPhil thesis. I feel that I am very lucky and honored to be Prof. Lai's student.

Reporter (R) Guo Hong (G)

I am impressed very much by his personality and professionalism for academic research. His guidance has really helped me broaden my perspectives in the research area.

I am also grateful to Dr. Joseph C.K. Leung for leading me through the days of my special training as Mrs. Ivy Wu Fellow and giving me his helpful hands when I met problems during my MPhil study. I have benefited greatly from his constant guidance and support. I would express my thanks to Miss Loretta Y.Y. Chan and Miss Anita W.L. Tsang for their excellent technical advice and assistance. Special thanks go to my parents and my family for their love, understanding and encouragement throughout the study period.

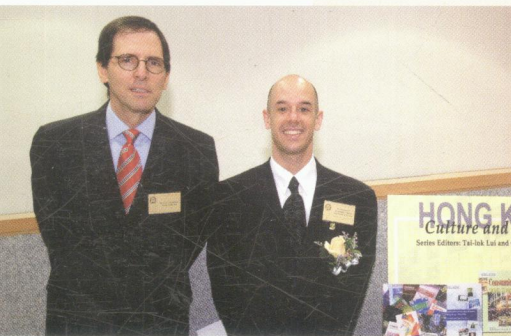
R: Would you say a few encouraging words to our fellow research students?

G: The training at the Graduate School is a valuable part of my experience. I have obtained a lot of nutrition from this academic garden which provides us with practical courses, useful training workshops, induction programmes and distinguished lectures.... I hope that fellow students who are currently pursuing research postgraduate studies at HKU would use our time in HKU actively and efficiently, make good use of the academic support, well-established teaching-learning system and invaluable resources in HKU and keep ourselves up-to-date with developments in our fields.



Ms. Guo Hong (centre) was awarded two prizes, namely the Award for Outstanding Research Student and the Li Ka Shing Prize. Prof. Paul Tam, PVC(R), and her friends congratulated her for her achievement.

Interview with Dr. Gregory Paul Fairbrother



Dr. Gregory Paul Fairbrother (right) shared his joy with his primary supervisor, Dr. G.A. Postiglione (left).

R: What is your present occupation?

F: I am a Research Assistant Professor affiliated with the Wah Ching Centre of Research on Education, in the Faculty of Education at the University of Hong Kong. I am continuing my research on citizenship education policy in China.

R: Did you have any unforgettable experience during your studies at HKU?

F: My research was about a comparative study of Hong Kong and Mainland China. I would say that part of what made my experience studying at HKU unforgettable was being able to talk with people around me on a regular basis about my research. Friends and colleagues from both Hong Kong and the Mainland

shared their views, insights, and opinions on the topics I was interested in. Even though they were not necessarily experts on the subject, these discussions really shaped my thinking, and helped to point me in a good direction for dealing with my research. It was through a fellow student here that I gained access to a secondary school in Nanjing where I carried out a period of fieldwork, which was also a very unforgettable experience.

R: What was your greatest achievement in your studies?

F: I started out my studies in comparative education, but it was not really until the final stage of my research and writing that I realized just how important comparison was for reaching my conclusions. My study compared Hong Kong and Mainland Chinese political education, students' political attitudes, and critical thinking. If I had studied only either the Hong Kong or the Mainland Chinese case, I would not have been able to get the same insight into the situations, and probably would not have derived the same explanatory concepts that I did, and without comparisons would certainly not have reached the same conclusions that I did in my research. This is not really a

Reporter (R) Gregory Paul Fairbrother (F)

great achievement, but rather a strong influence.

R: Do you want to say something to thank your supervisor(s)/ family/ friends for their support to you during your research postgraduate studies at HKU?

F: My supervisors were instrumental in helping me to complete a successful dissertation, in that they constantly challenged me, questioned me, and tried to point out weak points in my argument and presentation that I should deal with. So many other people helped me and provided support along the way that I hesitate to name them, except to say thanks to everyone. They know who they are.

R: Could you say a few words to encourage our research postgraduate students who are currently studying?

F: My one piece of advice would be to take advantage of any opportunity you have to submit your research to challenge, talking with others around you who are both familiar and unfamiliar with your area, presenting your ideas and insights to fellow students and colleagues, and attending local and international meetings where you can get as much external input as possible into your research.

Coming events....

Supervisory Workshop

Guest speaker: Dr. Richard James

Center for the Study of Higher Education, The University of Melbourne, Australia

The workshop will be held in the afternoon of 22 February 2005. Details will be announced soon.

Learning to Teach

Our flexible and popular 'Learning to Teach' programme, which is specially designed for postgraduate studentship holders who are required to teach and Teaching Assistants, will start in February 2005.

There will be an Information Session at 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. on 19 February 2005 (Saturday) in Theatre 5 Meng Wah Complex.

For more information, please go to: <http://www.hku.hk/caut/pgscourse/> where you can read about the programme and contact information. Download the Application Form, or pick one up from the Graduate School reception desk.

Applications will be closed at 4:30 p.m. on 22 February 2005 (Tuesday).



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