



Miss Eva Tang – A Success Story

Miss Eva Hoi Ching Tang – a current doctoral student at the Department of Pharmacology, HKU has won a number of prestigious awards during the tenure of her PhD study. Why is she so successful? We are lucky to have her sharing her thoughts with us.

Commit to it

“To succeed, you have to have dreams! Where do dreams start? They start when we’re playing, when we’re free. That’s when we imagine we’re something bigger than we are. Once you find it, you must follow it and that takes courage, strength and imagination.”

Seek for encouragement

“It is very important to build relationships with people who have a genuine interest in you and appreciate your commitments. Seek for encouragement! You will need to have courage to say yes when others say no, or no when others say yes.”

Love what you do

“I try to make little distinction between my work and play. I simply pursue my vision of excellence at whatever I do, leave others to decide whether I am working or playing. Pursuit must become a daily routine, not a new year’s resolution or a once-a-year event. It is a constant exercise in listening, learning, preparing and acting.”

You own the outcome

“The worse mistake anyone can make is to believe things are impossible. Never accept the boundaries imposed upon you. The longer you wait in doubts, the more considerations will arise. Considerations will destroy your courage in achieving anything. Don’t just sit and wait, opportunities don’t come

flying free to you. Take calculated risks, be proactive and discover your own opportunities!”

Below are some of Eva’s achievements. These are the best proofs that what she tells us above can effectively bring success.

2006 ASPET Graduate Student Best Abstract Award

Division of Cardiovascular Pharmacology, American Society of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)

2006 ASPET Graduate Student Travel Award

Annual Meeting at Experimental Biology, American Society of Pharmacology & Experimental Therapeutics (ASPET)

2005 The Croucher Foundation Studentship

2005 The Butterfield-Croucher Award

The best local candidate in biological and medical science category

2004 Merit of Certificate, 9th Research Postgraduate Symposium

The best M.Phil candidate presentation at the 9th Research Postgraduate Symposium, HKU



Career Workshop for MPhil and PhD Students 2006 and the New Career Website for RPg Students

The Graduate School had organized a career workshop “How to Increase Your Opportunities for a Successful Career” for MPhil and

PhD students on 27 April 2006 (Thur). About 80 students attended the workshop. This year, we had invited Prof. Joseph Lee, Pro-Vice-Chancellor responsible for human resources planning and the Centenary Recruitment Plan, to talk to the students about how to prepare for academic jobs. Same as previous years, we had also invited Ms. Louisa Li, Director of the Careers Education and Placement Centre, to give us advice on how to find non-academic jobs.

The PowerPoint presentation by Prof. Lee is downloadable at:

<http://www.hku.hk/gradsch/web/news/events/career.htm>.

The Careers Education and Placement Centre has recently developed and launched a very informative website for RPg students. The website contains all information a research student needs to know about careers development and finding jobs. The webpage address is <http://www.hku.hk/cepc/rpg/>. If you have any comments about the website, please feel free to let the Graduate School or the Careers Education Placement Centre know.

Music M.Phils now at Princeton and Nottingham

Restaurants, concert halls and coffee houses might seem unlikely locales for your typical thesis-advisory meetings; yet according to recent M.Phil. in music graduate Samson Young, currently a doctorate candidate at Princeton University, these were locations where most of the advising took place during his stay at HKU.

“The students and faculties hung out a lot,” Samson recounts. “Chan Hing-yan (Samson’s supervisor at HKU) treated me as his academic peer: we went to concerts together, we wine and dined; a large portion of our personal interactions were actually outside of the classroom.” The size of the music graduate program and its intimacy meant that students were able to develop personal relationships with their supervisors, according to Samson: “moments of great insight, gems of wisdom and academic inspiration are more likely to surface in the midst of a casual conversation about, say, the general state of the field than inside of a stuffy office.”

Such informal style of supervision had proven to be extremely effective pedagogically, as apparent in the department’s outstanding graduate placement track record. Upon completing his M.Phil., Samson gained admission with full funding and tuition waiver into a handful of the most competitive Ph.D. music programs in the US, including Cornell, SUNY and Princeton – and Samson’s is just one of the many success stories of the music department in recent years.

Samson’s research output focuses on contemporary Chinese music and the politics of representation. A paper Samson had developed with Dr. Hing-yan Chan over many sleepless nights, with emails bouncing back and forth apparently until 3am in the morning, will soon be published in a major international journal. Samson lives a double life as both a composer and a musicologist: such practices are a common place in HKU’s music department, which encourages both creative and scholarly investigations that inform and compliment each other.



From right to left: Sharon Lu (Concert Manager), Samson Young, Dr. Chan Hing-yan, Angela Kang, Wendy Wong, and Alice Fu.

Only having resided in the US for a mere 6 months, Samson’s musical creativity already appears to be blooming. This summer, premieres of Samson’s new pieces will take him to New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia and the West coast. In addition, he is currently working on new compositions for the New York-based NOW ensemble, Philadelphia’s Network for New Music, and the Newspeak ensemble. While enjoying his new home in the US and the many exciting academic endeavors that await him, Samson still counts his HKU days and the personal relationship with his supervisor as the most formative.

Angela Kang graduated from Hong Kong University with an MPhil in Music in 2005. Angela’s experience in Hong Kong University shaped her research in a distinctive and unique way, forging a direct path to new research ideas. A raw passion for music and the strong desire to turn this into a working reality led her to apply for a PhD to one of UK’s leading institutions. After presenting her research ideas in extensive interviews, Nottingham University has given her an unconditional offer to read for PhD. The Department of Music ranked first in The UK Times University Guide 2005 and is one of the most distinguished centres for music research in the UK, a fact recognised by the award of the highest national research rating, grade 5*A, in the 2001 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).

Born and educated in England by Singaporean/Malaysian parents, she always wanted to study abroad at some point in her life. She shares the same birthday as her favourite composer – Mozart, and celebrated her 25th birthday in line with the joyous 250th anniversary of the musical genius. Perhaps some magic in the numbers has contributed to her determination to pursue a career in music!

Hong Kong University was the perfect place to delve into her specific research interests on musical Orientalism, more specifically, the influence of China on Western music in the early twentieth century. Living, studying and teaching in a completely new culture was a fantastic opportunity for Angela. The fully funded postgraduate studentship provided a comfortable set-up enabling her to immerse herself in student hall life at St Johns College, whilst enjoying and exploring the vibrant city life. Being so far away from her home country perhaps forced her to be that little more daring, more brazen, and embrace everything around her with a heightened awareness.

The department of music at Hong Kong University was a close-knit community. Performances, recitals, concerts and conferences are the very soul of all successful and thriving music departments. One of the most rewarding parts of being an MPhil student was Angela’s experience as a teaching assistant; here she enjoyed developing creative ways of teaching and building close relationships with the undergraduates. This has clearly fuelled her ambition to eventually pursue a career in higher education. She adds that the level of kindness and support from Dr Biancorosso, Dr Chan Hing Yan and Dr Predota was intrinsic to both her personal well-being and the successful completion of her degree.

Mr. Firew K. Tiba Awarded Scholarship from a World-class Research Institute

Mr. Firew K. Tiba, PhD candidate, Department of Law, has successfully awarded a scholarship from the Max Planck Institute, a world-class research institute attracting talents all over the world in all disciplines. Here, Firew would like to share with us how he applied for the fellowship and what made him a success.



Hi everyone;

I am Firew Kebede. I am from Ethiopia and presently the only person, certainly not the first, who represents my country at the University of Hong Kong. I am a PhD candidate with the Faculty of Law in the middle of the second year of my research. This time, I am pleased to share with you some information about a scholarship that I obtained from the Max Planck Institute of Comparative and Public International Law based in Heidelberg, Germany. The scholarship with the amount of 1200 Euros per month for three months is meant to assist me to work on part of my PhD thesis. Max Planck Institutes which are run by the Max Planck Society are world class research entities with nearly eighty institutes in all fields of studies across Germany. I am planning to leave for Germany in early May of 2006.

I applied for the visiting fellowship since I am aware that the Institute regularly receives visiting fellows from all over the world. My success is helped by favorable recommendations from my supervisor Suzannah Linton, Associate Professor and Director of the LL. M program in Human Rights Law and Simon Young, Associate Professor and Acting Director of the Centre for Comparative and Public Law of the University of Hong Kong. My gratitude goes to them as they have always taken their time in writing me recommendations when I needed them. I would also like to believe that being a student from one of Asia's top universities has helped me succeed. I am also grateful to the Faculty of Law and the Graduate School for putting in place streamlined procedures that enable research students to do part of their research at overseas universities and research centers.

My single most important advice for my fellow students is always to take the initiative to look for opportunities even when the opportunities do not clearly present themselves. I have learned to write to eminent professors in my field out of the blue with specific questions and demands and I am happy to report that in almost all cases I have managed to get the help I wanted from them. Go for it and you will be pleasantly surprised!

Firew K. Tiba
7 April 2006

Excellent Paper Award – Miss Bonnie Y.M. Lam

Miss Bonnie Y M Lam (Part-time MPhil under Prof. K.W. Chau's supervision) has recently won the excellent paper award in the 2nd International Conference on Intelligent Green and Energy Efficient Building & New Technologies and Products Expo (第二届國際智能、綠色建築與建築節能大會) for her paper "Intelligent Building Management: Meeting the Aspiration of Clients in the Changing World", co-authored with Mr. Lau Po Chi.

The conference is truly international with delegates and speakers from 14 countries (including Hong Kong). The theme of the conference is focused on intelligent, green and energy efficient building. Senior government officials from PRC and overseas were invited to officiate at the opening ceremony, including Mr. Zeng Peiyan (曾培炎), Vice-Premier of the State Council; Prince Andrew, Royal family of the Great Britain; senior government officers from India, Australia, and some other government officials from the Ministry of Construction and Ministry of Science and Technology, etc.

Miss Lam's paper was chosen to be one of the excellent papers published on Intelligent Green and Energy Efficient Building & New Technologies and Products in Year 2005. There are totally 18 papers which received such awards. The selection procedure firstly started from short-listing over 1,000 papers in different symposiums/ conferences in different provinces and cities in the year of 2005. Out of these 1,000+ papers, 118 papers were chosen to be re-published in the 2nd International Conference on Intelligent Green and Energy Efficient Building & New Technologies and Products Expo Proceedings. Out of these 118 papers, only 18 of them were selected to be given the Award of Excellent Paper.

Congratulations to Miss Lam on her achievement!





Wang Hui Receiving the "Best Poster Award"

Miss Wang Hui, PhD candidate, Department of Chemistry, received the "Best Poster Award" in the "5th National Conference on Coordination Chemistry and the 8th National Conference on Bioinorganic Chemistry" (第五屆全國配位化學會議暨第八屆全國生物無機化學會議), Guangzhou, China, 18-22 November 2005, for her paper entitled "Structure and Dynamics of Human Metallothionein-3: Towards Understanding the Function of the Human Inhibitory Factor". The competition was keen. There were over 500 participants and over 300 posters.

This conference is very important and famous in China. Almost all members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences had shown up, and gave informative talks about the latest development in this field.

The interest of Miss Wang's research work is structural biology, including the expression and purification of the metalloprotein--- human metallothionein-3, and the 3D structure determination of metalloprotein by multinuclear and multidimensional NMR spectroscopy in combination with the molecular dynamic simulated annealing approach.

Her research project attempts to obtain the whole 3D structure of human MT-3, which is not well known in the previous work. It will provide the first database for the structural study of MT3. Now the structure of the fN-domain of MT-3 was already determined by NMR spectroscopy. It would be of interest for further work to examine how this structure affects the metal uptake and release.

Miss Wang Hui said, "This work is very challenging. During the two research years, I had met many problems, such as my weak biological background, the difficulties to be familiar with some software to do the structure calculation, etc. However, these challenges also made me exciting and gave me lots of passion. When I solved one of them, I always felt happy and successful. All of this made me enjoy my research life and keep me going to make more progress. As Dr. Sun said, the award is very important for me. It is a wonderful memory for my Ph.D. study. I thank my supervisor, Dr. Sun, very much. Whenever I was puzzled, he always encouraged me and gave me lots of help."

New Executive Committee — PGSA

The Executive Committee of the Postgraduate Student Association (PGSA) for the year 2006-2007 was inaugurated at their Annual General Meeting held on 19 April 2006. The following new committee members were elected:

Chairperson:	Franklin H. Lu
Vice-Chairperson:	Jeff C.L. Cheng
Secretary:	Selina Z. Wang
Treasurer:	Xiaonan Liu
External Relations Officer:	Jo Y. Zhou
Social Programme Officer:	Michelle Y. Deng
Academic Programme Officer:	Eva Y.H. Lian
Publication Officer:	Angela Q. Ba
Membership Officer:	Eric K. Wang
Sports Programme Officer:	Zhiguo Zhang

Founded in December 1993, the PGSA has been a voluntary and non-profit making organization run by and for postgraduate students of the University. Over the years the PGSA has been following the principles of promoting the welfare of postgraduate students as well as consolidating communication channels between postgraduate students and the university administration. The new Ex-Co will continue to serve postgraduates and help them find a smoother and happier life with great achievement in the University.

Notices regarding the Association and its events are posted in the PGSA common room at Room 8, Level P4, Graduate House. Activities are sometimes held there too. Notices are also found on the PGSA bulletin board near the Bookstore, on the computer news group hku.pgsa, as well as on the Internet Website <http://www.hku.hk/pgsa>. The Association can be reached by sending an email to the address pgsa@hkusuc.hku.hk, or leaving a message in the mailbox inside the General Office of the Chong Yuet Ming Amenities Center, or at the PGSA Office in the Graduate House.





CIB Student Chapter

International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction - CIB

CIB previously stood for “Conseil International du Bâtiment” a French expression meaning “International Council of the built environment”

International CIB Student Chapters

A **CIB Student Chapter** is an organized group of students at a CIB Member University whose aim is:

- to enhance the respective students' skills as concerns international collaboration
- information exchange related to research and innovation in building and construction
- to introduce the respective students to CIB

Currently, there are 16 **CIB** Endorsed Student Chapters world-wide. **HKU CIB Student Chapter** is the fourth registered in Asia (The other three are Tsinghua University China, PolyU Hong Kong, and CTMC Malaysia).

Further applications are expected.

The **purpose** of CIB is to provide a global network for international exchange and cooperation in research and innovation in building and construction in support of an improved building process and of improved performance of the built environment.

The **scope** of CIB covers the technical, economic, environmental, organizational and other aspects of the built environment during all stages of its life cycle, addressing all steps in the process of basic and applied research, documentation and transfer of the research results, and the implementation and actual application of them.

The **objectives** of CIB are to be a relevant source of information concerning research and innovation worldwide in the field of building and construction, a reliable and effective access point to the global research community and a forum for achieving a meaningful exchange between the entire spectrum of building and construction interests and the global research community.

CIB can act as a platform for every person active in the field of building and construction research and innovation who is looking for possibilities to improve his or her own performance through international cooperation and information exchange.

CIB is a worldwide network of building and construction experts who improve their day-to-day performance through international cooperation and information exchange with their peers.

CIB at HKU

The HKU Student Chapter of CIB was established in September 2005 and wants to develop the desire, on

the part of students, to become more involved with the international construction research community. The Chapter is designed to provide a forum for sharing and discussing research-related issues.

As a student member of **CIB**, you can

- access the relevant source of information through the network with the **CIB**
- make contact with other researchers and research students at international level
- have a reliable and effective access point to the global research community
- improve your own performance through international cooperation and information exchange
- attend workshops and seminars organized by the **CIB Student Chapter**
- you may also have a registration fee discount when you register the **CIB Student Chapter** Symposium or conferences
- have an opportunity to bid for the **CIB** research fund

Members will also be informed of any latest information or activities organized by the Chapter through e-mail and newsletter.

The Honorary Advisors of HKU Student Chapter of CIB are:

Honorary Advisor & Faculty Representative:

Prof. K. W. CHAU, Chair, Department of Real Estate and Construction

Honorary Advisor:

Dr. B. S. JIA, Associate Professor, Department of Architecture

The provisional committee members are:

President: Jessica Junyan HE,

PhD student, Dept. of Architecture

Vice President: Alan Zengxiang JIN,

PhD student, Dept. of Real Estate and Construction

Vice President: Simon Yung YAU,

PhD student, Dept. of Real Estate and Construction

Internal Academic Coordinator: Felix Y.H. WONG,

PhD student, Dept. of Architecture

Internal Academic Coordinator: Benny Zhikun DING,

PhD student, Dept. of Real Estate and Construction

External Academic Coordinator: Afroza PARVIN,

PhD student, Dept. of Architecture

External Academic Coordinator: Matthias HAASE,

PhD student, Dept. of Architecture

IT Manager: Sam K.H. LAM,

PhD student, Dept. of Architecture

For the latest information, please visit our Home Page at www.arch.hku.hk/hkucib

By HKU Student Chapter of CIB

Research Postgraduate Conference 2006

Faculty of Social Sciences

The Research Postgraduate Conference 2006, organized by the Faculty of Social Sciences, was held on April 22, 2006 (Saturday) at the Main Building of the University. This annual multi-disciplinary Conference, in its fifth version, provides a valuable platform for research postgraduate students to exchange their views and experiences with teachers and fellows from different disciplines and universities. This year, the Conference has gained an unrivalled success with some 100 participants, not

only from HKU, but also from other local, Mainland and Taiwan universities, including Chinese University of Hong Kong, China Foreign Affairs University, Fudan University, National Chengchi University, Peking University, Sun Yat-sen University, Tsinghua University and University of Nanjing, attending oral/poster presentations and roundtable discussion on five themes. Awards, same as previous years, are presented to those with outstanding performance in the Conference and the awardees of this year are:

Theme	Awardee	Curriculum	University
Cognitive Processing	Mr. LI Wang On	PhD candidate	Department of Psychology, HKU
Cultural and Media Studies	Miss WU Jing	PhD candidate	School of Journalism, Fudan University
Global Studies and International Relations	Ms. SUN Jisheng	PhD candidate	Department of International Relations, China Foreign Affairs University
Public Health and Safety	Mr. IP Yee Ting, Brian	MPhil candidate	Department of Psychology, HKU
Social and Public Policy	Miss DENG Minling	MPhil candidate	Department of Social Work, Sun Yat-sen University
Poster Presentation	Miss LAI Yun	MPhil candidate	School of Journalism, Fudan University
	Miss SHU Tse Mei	MPhil candidate	Department of Psychology, HKU
	Ms. ZHAO Yu	PhD candidate	School of Journalism, Fudan University



Pro-Vice-Chancellor Paul Tam made an opening speech to the Conference.



From left: Dr. Yu Zhenwei (Executive Deputy Dean of Journalism, Fudan University), Dr. D.A. Plott (Deputy Director, JMSS, HKU), Dr. Zhao Kai (Dean of Journalism, Fudan University), Dr. S.K.M. Tsang (Associate Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, HKU) and Dr. G.H. Blowers (Acting Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences, HKU).

Dr. Zhao Kai, Dr. G.H. Blowers and Awardees



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