

A Model Graduate - Cheung Ki Shun, Antonio

2006 MPhil graduate, School of Humanities (Linguistics discipline)

In several aspects, Antonio is a model graduate. He began research while he was still an undergraduate, in his Bachelor of Cognitive Science dissertation. He developed the project into his MPhil topic and presented his work at a local conference during his candidacy. Subsequently, he applied what he learnt effectively and completed his MPhil two months early and won the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong Best Thesis Award. Antonio plans to pursue his PhD overseas and aims to return to HKU as a professor after that!

Doing academic research has been one of my dream careers as it provides what other careers cannot provide: the freedom to start pursuing right from the beginning what one is most interested in, and the joy of obtaining new knowledge and contributing it to the public. By all means, I am not an industrious student, as I have always detested reciting textbooks and preferred extra-curricular activities such as photography, computer games and Monopoly. I read actively on various topics and try my best to understand what was mentioned in class by thinking about the material, trying to integrate it with my current understanding of the world, and preferred discussing problems with others, especially after returning from a year away from Hong Kong being an exchange student representing Hong Kong for AFS Cultural Exchanges to Germany which was right after the HKCEE. I am also grateful for my experience of the International Baccalaureate (IB) at Li Po Chun United World College. Peer influence and an interest in what you are studying are in my opinion most important in learning.

How the mind works has always been intriguing for me. I am most interested in understanding how the language faculty, memory and language performance interact. Studying Theory of Knowledge for the IB was one of the major factors which inspired me to take Cognitive Science as my undergraduate study in Hong Kong. My undergraduate training in Cognitive Science (BCogSc) has also taught me a lot. I have identified my research area as psycholinguistics - how the mind processes language, although my courses span across Linguistics, Neuroscience, Philosophy, Programming and Cognitive Psychology. BCogSc at HKU provides a good training for potential researchers. For my final year project, I demonstrated how processing factors affect the choice of constructions in the Cantonese dative expressions. This proved to be a fruitful area as Chinese Linguistics has largely ignored language processing. Cantonese is also demonstrated to be a potentially rich source of knowledge to psycholinguistics as it has a typologically rare word order configuration. I have chosen to stay at the University of Hong Kong for my MPhil as this research project draws

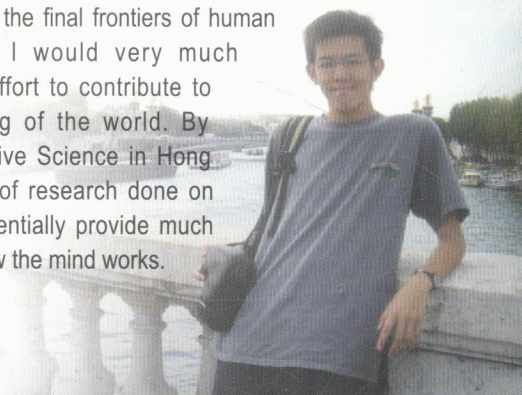
on Cantonese data.

This is an important stage of my research career, as it provided me with the liberty to pursue an interesting topic in psycholinguistics. Moreover, I have learned from some of the very best linguists at the 2005 LSA Linguistic Institute at MIT and Harvard, supported by the Chinese Linguistics Fellowship by the Chiang Ching-Kuo Foundation. There I have learned among some of the best students in linguistics attending the lectures of some of the best researchers such as Noam Chomsky, Anthony Kroch, Richard Kayne, Randy Gallistel, Ellen Prince, etc. I especially enjoyed the lectures by Professors Edward Gibson, Kay Bock and Adele Goldberg, and LSA provided me a good chance to get to know them and build up contacts in the field. For my MPhil research, I have explored the use of a dual-task paradigm. The novelty of the study lies in the application of a rarely-used dual-task paradigm on Cantonese, testing both language comprehension and production at the same time, and provided further evidence for the processing account of the rarity of languages of the Chinese type. The results were presented in a local conference last December and I am also awarded the 2006 Linguistic Society of Hong Kong Best MPhil Thesis Award due to this research.

I am currently a part-time demonstrator at the Department of Linguistics and a part-time research assistant at the Vision Lab of the Department of Psychology. I have been offered a place to read for MPhil at the University of Cambridge, with a possibility of going on for the PhD there. However, I am also attracted by the more systematic training for the PhD found in the US, as well as the greater funding opportunities. As a result, I am currently also applying to top US universities such as Princeton, Stanford and Brown for a PhD in Cognitive Science, Psychology or Linguistics. My topic will most likely be a combination of psycholinguistics, language typology and acquisition. Psycholinguistic research on Cantonese would potentially provide much insight to our language faculty. It would contribute much to understanding of how language works as well as the architecture of the mind.

My future plan involves returning to Hong Kong after my PhD and contributing to the field of Cognitive Science. Currently, the general public has little knowledge of it, yet the mind is one of the final frontiers of human knowledge, and I would very much like to make an effort to contribute to our understanding of the world. By developing Cognitive Science in Hong Kong, the results of research done on Chinese could potentially provide much new insight into how the mind works.

Antonio



2007 Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Awardee – Sheng Jin

PhD student, Faculty of Law

My name is SHENG Jin. I am a second-year PhD student at Faculty of Law. I am very happy to share the good news with you that I was granted the 2007 Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Award, which is jointly sponsored by the Australian Government and the Cheung Kong Group. Since 2004, the awards provide financial support for Asian postgraduate and postdoctoral students to undertake research in Australia for 4 to 6 months.

I applied for this scholarship to support the legal research I am conducting on China's corporate control transactions, which typically is an area of interdisciplinary and comparative study. This exchange program provides unique study perspectives and greatly improves my theoretical basis. The prestigious reputation of the University of Hong Kong was an important component of my successful application, along with the quality education provided by professors at the Faculty of Law. Particular thanks are due to Professor Christopher Sherrin, who has provided insightful guidance for my dissertation.

If you ask me any keys to successful application, I would say an appropriate academic background, practical legal experience, and a detailed research proposal were crucial. I greatly appreciate the generous financial assistance from the Australian government and the Cheung Kong Group, as well as the academic support from my host Australian university. I wish all my professors and my fellow students a new year that is happy, healthy and highly successful!

Jean



Sharing from Australia – Jiayan Pan

2006 Endeavour Cheung Kong Awardee, Department of Social Work and Social Administration



2006 was a very special year for me in my life because I won the 2006 Endeavour Cheung Kong Award to visit the University of Melbourne for half a year. The awards were highly competitive, only 20 students received the awards from more than 200 applicants. I greatly appreciate this award which gave me such a precious opportunity to experience a different culture in Australia.

When I got my staff card in the University of Melbourne and was told I was an academic visitor there, I suddenly realized I got a new title and I had to adjust to it in the following six months. My research topic is emotional resilience of university students in Hong Kong from mainland China. My task in Australia is to collect some data on Chinese international students in Australia to compare with the data I have collected in Hong Kong. After five months in Australia, I find that I have got more than what I had expected before I came to Australia.

The biggest benefit I got from this experience is self-confidence. On the two receptions hosted by the Australian

government in Canberra and the Victoria government in Melbourne, I was informed that the Endeavour award is a prestigious award in Australia and it is granted to high achieving scholars and students from all over the world. I was invited to present my study in the postgraduate seminar in the School of Social Work in the University of Melbourne. My supervisor congratulated me on my excellent work and my being able to give a presentation confidently using English which is my second language. After the presentation, I said to myself with tears in my heart, "I have made it!" I felt that I have undergone some kind of transformation, as a result of my resilience.

As a research student studying acculturation, this is a great opportunity for me to have a cross-cultural experience. Australia is a typical western country which is totally different from Hong Kong and China. When I first arrived Australia, I experienced great "cultural shock" due to its laid-back culture, low working efficiency and slow computer and internet. In the first month, I did not have an office and friends. I did not have an identity in the university. I felt like a passerby. I sat in the meadow on the campus crying and called my friends in Hong Kong telling them I wanted to go back to Hong Kong. Four months have passed, I met many new friends from all over the world and most of them have become the best friends in my life. My work is progressing well. I have traveled to Sydney, Canberra, Melbourne, Tasmania, Philip Island, the Great Ocean Road, and Ballarat. When I look back at my experience in Australia, I am so proud of myself that I am able to overcome the acculturative stressors and to be a happy and confident person on a foreign land.

The journey of PhD study is not only to get a PhD degree, it is far more than that. I dream and I have made it come true.

Jiayan, Australia

Fine Arts Student Wins Award!



Jane DeBevoise is an independent advisor and PhD candidate in Fine Arts at the University of Hong Kong. Prior to moving to Hong Kong in 2002, she was Deputy Director of the Guggenheim Museum, responsible for museum operations and exhibitions globally. She joined the Museum in 1996 as Project Director of China: 5000 Years, a blockbuster exhibition of traditional and modern Chinese art that was presented in 1998 at both the

Guggenheim Museum New York and Bilbao. Prior to 1996, Jane was Managing Director at Bankers Trust Company where she worked for 14 years in New York, Hong Kong, Tokyo and London. She has a BA degree in History and Fine Arts from Tufts University, and an MA degree in History of Art from the University of California, Berkeley. She is a Trustee of China Institute in New York and Chair of the Board of Directors of Asia Art Archive in Hong Kong.

Jane DeBevoise has received a Certificate of Commendation from the Secretary of Home Affairs of the HKSAR Government for making outstanding contributions to the development of arts and cultural activities. Jane has been contributing to Hong Kong's cultural development in a number of voluntary capacities since her arrival here, including as a member of the HK Government's Museums Committee, the Museums Advisory Group (advising the Government on policy concerning the West Kowloon Cultural District), and as a member of the board of the Asia Art Archive (and more recently as its Chair).

Please join us in congratulating Jane on her achievement!

The Best Master's Thesis Awardee – Mr Wong Sze Man, 2005 MPhil Graduate, Department of Civil Engineering

Thesis title: Seismic Performance of Reinforced Concrete Wall Structures under High Axial Load with Particular Application to Low-to-Moderate Seismic Regions

The Best Master's Thesis Award of the Hong Kong Section, American Society of Civil Engineers completed in 2005-06 was given to Mr Wong Sze Man for his thesis entitled "Seismic Performance of Reinforced Concrete Wall Structures under High Axial Load with Particular Application to Low-to-Moderate Seismic Regions". The

thesis studies the seismic performance of reinforced concrete shear walls, a common structural element adopted in the construction of medium-rise residential buildings in Hong Kong. Experimental and theoretical studies on the strength and ductility capacity of slender structural walls were conducted. The effects of axial load ratio and confinement on failure mode, ductility capacity, strength degradation and axial load capacity were investigated. It was found that ultimate drift ratios of shear walls can be significantly reduced under high axial load ratios.

Congratulations to Mr Wong on his achievement!



Music MPhil Wins International Scholarship

Wendy Wong, a current MPhil candidate in the Department of Music at HKU, has recently been awarded a scholarship by the Institute of International Education under the Starr Foundation Scholarship Program in the United States, which covers all her educational costs for the academic year 2005-06. In July this year, Wendy also presented a paper on the unpublished early piano works of Hungarian composer, Ernst von Dohnányi, at the 14th biennial International Conference on Nineteenth-Century Music in Manchester, UK, where she enjoyed a great success.

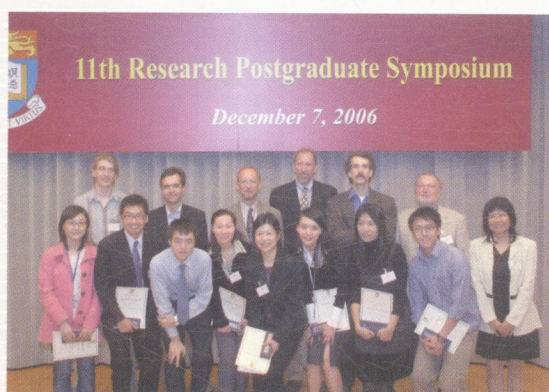
Wendy described her conference debut as "an extremely exciting, valuable and unforgettable experience". From writing the abstract through shaping the paper to finally reading it at the Conference, the process had been a difficult and relentless – if, finally, fulfilling – one.

Wendy said that the success at the Conference was not entirely her own, but a success she shared with her teachers at HKU. "I must thank my supervisor, Dr. Georg Predota, who has been continuously sharing with me his expertise and knowledge in manuscript studies, and giving me useful guidelines and tremendous support.

I should also thank Dr. Giorgio Biancorosso for proof-reading my paper, his comments and assistance in a variety of matters, and Dr. Chan Hing-yan for his spiritual support." Having spent two years at HKU as an M.Phil in Musicology, where she has conducted musicological research and taught undergraduates, Ms. Wong is planning to pursue a PhD degree in Musicology.



The 11th Research Postgraduate Symposium



The Research Postgraduate Symposium (RPS) has been an annual event of the Medical Faculty since 1996 which aims to broaden the horizon of our research postgraduate students and serves as an interactive platform for them to share with fellow students and teachers their research findings and experience. The 11th RPS was held on December 7, 2006. With the ever-expanding population of research postgraduate students in the Faculty, the number of presenters in this year's Symposium reached a record high. To cater for a total of 241 students to present their work, a poster presentation session was introduced for the first time for MPhil/Master of Research in Medicine (MRes[Med]) students, whereas PhD students were arranged to present orally in parallel sessions. Of the 241 presenters, 101 were MPhil/MRes[Med] students and 140 were PhD students.

Best Presentation Awardee – Lam Lai Kwan, Queenie

PhD candidate, Department of Pathology

It has been an enriching experience for me to pursue my PhD studies under the supervision of Dr. Liwei Lu at the Department of Pathology, with whom I have the good fortune to benefit from his invaluable guidance. I would describe the past two years of my studies as a journey of my heart and soul showered with a constant stream of generous support and insightful advice. This enlightening experience encompasses a substantial part of my scientific training which gave me much inspiration in preparing for my presentation at the 11th Research Postgraduate Symposium held by the Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine, where I had the great honor to receive the Best Presentation Award.

A successful painting is capable of communicating effectively through its colors, lines, shapes, textures and various other components. As someone who is passionate about art, painting has always been the major activity in my leisure. Therefore, in the same manner as I would approach a blank canvas with my paint brushes, I intended to portray my findings harvested at my bench onto a set of PowerPoint slides and describe them in an efficient way to the audience at my presentation. In order to achieve this, I carefully selected the most coherent set of data to put together into a story

The Symposium was organized along 4 areas broadly based on the strategic research themes of the Faculty, viz. Cancer, Healthy Aging, Infection & Immunology, Public Health and Reproduction & Development. It was the Faculty's great honour to have 7 renowned academics from all over the world to be the adjudicators at the Plenary Session of the Symposium. They included:

- **Dr James Briscoe**, MRC National Institute for Medical Research, UK
- **Prof Don W Cleveland**, University of California, USA
- **Prof Richard L Gallo**, University of California, USA
- **Prof Shibo Jiang**, New York Blood Center, USA
- **Prof Dr Stefan Mundlos**, Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics, Germany
- **Prof David Ron**, NYU School of Medicine, USA
- **Prof Dr Manfred R Schwab**, German Cancer Research Center, Germany

Among the impressive and outstanding oral presentations, Miss Lam Lai Kwan Queenie, a PhD candidate from the Department of Pathology was selected for the Best Presentation Award and was awarded an economy class return air ticket sponsored by the United Airlines for carrying out research-related activities. Other students who were awarded Certificates of Merit were:

Miss Lee Yuk Kwan Mary, PhD, Department of Pharmacology

Miss Wong Chak Lui, PhD, Department of Pathology

Miss Wong Oi Ling, PhD, Department of Community Medicine

Mr Liu Heong Fai Michael, MPhil, Department of Pathology

Mr Lau Chin Tung, MRes[Med], Department of Pharmacology

Mr Yip Ming Shun, MPhil, Department of Paediatrics and Adolescent Medicine

Miss Chan Ngan Shuen, MPhil, Department of Biochemistry



that comprised novelty and physiological relevance to the human diseases. I also paid a great deal of attention to preparing my slides so that they could be as artistically pleasant and self-explanatory as possible, let alone the substance they should embrace. In light of delivering an enjoyable and timely presentation for the

audience, I enthusiastically made numerous practices on the speech beforehand.

The comments and questions raised towards my presentation by all local and world renowned adjudicators were greatly insightful, which made me carefully re-examine the hypothesis that both my thinking and experimental research were testing. The Best Presentation Award gave me confidence and recognition on the story I told in that very evening, a moment I will remember for a long time in my life.

I owe my gratitude to my supervisor, my lab members and the staff in my department for their support and generosity which often manifested in helpful scientific discussions and a fun work environment. Lastly, I cannot express adequately my thanks to my family whose unwavering support has always encouraged my pursuit in every aspect of a motivated life.

Queenie Lam



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