

The Community of Young Intellectuals

Students, staff and guests celebrated the grand opening of a new vibrant community of young intellectuals in May. Comprising three halls; namely Morrison Hall, Suen Chi Sun Hall and Lee Shau Kee Hall, the Jockey Club Student Village II is a small town for its 900 student residents from 23 countries, where dynamic cross-cultural experiences take place, visions and ideals are nurtured, and friendship built for life.



The Hon Ronald Arculli (centre), the then Chairman of the Hong Kong Jockey Club, receives first-hand experience of hall spirit in the Village.

A tradition of philanthropy has also been instilled into the Village's student culture with the Jockey Club Trophy. Over 400 residents of the HKU Jockey Club Student Village II competed for the trophy by participating in a walkathon on April 9. They walked from the Village to the Peak, and raised HK\$44,000 for St James' Settlement. This year, Lee Shau Kee Hall captured the title, raising the highest total donation amount of more than HK\$28,000.



For half a century, HKU has been in close partnership with the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, both striving for excellence in scholarship, research and contributing to society.



HKU-UBC House

A New Home for Exchange Students

The University of Hong Kong and the University of British Columbia (UBC) made a joint announcement to build the "HKU-UBC House", an international student residence and cultural centre. It provides some 200 hostel places, of which 100 will be reserved for HKU exchange students studying at UBC. An HKU office will also be set up in the new student residence.

The "HKU-UBC House" has been made possible with the donation of CAN\$4 million from Dr Simon K Y Lee 李國賢 (HonDSocSc 2006). "I am thrilled for the opportunity to lay the foundation for academic and research advancements



by two world-class post-secondary institutions," said Dr Lee. "I am convinced the academic and cultural exchange of our students and researchers will lead to many discoveries and a better understanding of the ever-changing world we share."

Dr Martha Piper (left), the then President of the University of British Columbia, presents a souvenir to Dr Simon Lee

Giant of Biomedical Science

Vice-Chancellor Professor Lap-Chee Tsui has been named one of ten "Giants of Biomedical Science" by the University of Toronto. Among the honourees is Sir Frederick Banting, who was awarded a Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 1923 for his discovery of insulin.

"It is a great privilege to be recognised by the University of Toronto alongside the truly great giants in biomedical science, like Banting and Best whose work saved so many people," said Professor Tsui, who is the only Chinese honouree.

A bronze sculpture, "Giants of Biomedical Science Sculpture", dedicated to the honourees, was unveiled in June in the Giants of Biomedical Science Hall in Terrence Donnelly Centre for Cellular and Biomedical Research (DCCBR). In addition, one floor of the DCCBR has been named after Professor Tsui.

Professor Tsui is a discoverer of the gene for cystic fibrosis and has made significant contributions to the mapping and annotation of human chromosome 7 and identification of many



other disease-bearing genes.

He is the Principal Investigator of the Hong Kong HapMap Group which contributed to the mapping of 2.5% of the whole human genome. The Hong Kong HapMap Group worked as a partner with the Chinese HapMap Consortium in the International HapMap Project.



New Fellow of Royal Society

Professor Malik Peiris, Professor and Chair in the Department of Microbiology, was one of 44 scientists who were recently elected to the Fellowship of the Royal Society, the UK national academy of science, in recognition of their exceptional contributions to science, engineering and medicine.

As a Fellow of the Royal Society, he joins the ranks of Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin, Stephen Hawking, David Attenborough and

Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor of the world wide web.

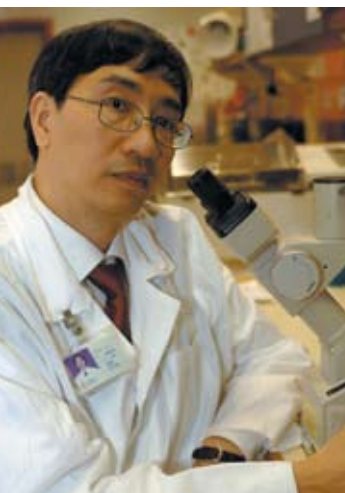
Professor Peiris is distinguished for his work on human viral infections which cause respiratory diseases. His team co-discovered the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) coronavirus and how the virus progresses in patients. He has also made immense contributions to the understanding of avian influenza, Dengue Fever and the West Nile virus.

Croucher Senior Research Fellowship Awards 2006

Two HKU professors received Croucher Senior Research Fellowship awards this year.

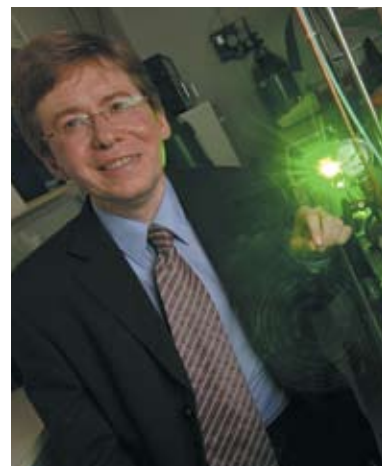
Professor Yuen Kwok-yung 袁國勇 (MBBS 1981; MD 1998), Henry Fok Professor and Chair of Infectious

Diseases of the Department of Microbiology, has the rare distinction of being a microbiologist, surgeon and physician. He played a key role in the discovery of the SARS coronavirus, which was crucial to containing the outbreak of this disease. He intends to conduct research on the bird flu virus and new viruses which infect humans and animals.



Professor David Lee Phillips, Reader of the Department of Chemistry, also Director of the Ultrafast Laser Facility at the University, plans to devote his time to developing research into chemical reactions relevant to problems such as chemical and photochemical damage of DNA.

Eva Tang 鄧凱澄, a current doctoral student at the Department of Pharmacology, was awarded both the Croucher Foundation Scholarship and the Croucher-Butterfield Award for her research on endothelium-dependent contraction cascade.



East Meets West at the Arts Faculty

Professor Kam Louie 雷金慶, Dean of Arts

Renowned sinologist Professor Kam Louie, who assumed the deanship of the Faculty of Arts last November, believes the University is well positioned to serve as a conduit in interpreting the cultures of both the east and west, and he aims to establish the Arts Faculty as a world leader in this area.

Prior to joining HKU, Professor Louie was Professor of Chinese and Head of the China and Korea Centre at The Australian National University. Professor Louie enjoys an international reputation in Chinese studies. He was elected to the Australian Humanities Academy and served as its international secretary.

"The reason I decided to come to HKU," he explained, "is because the University is well-placed to act as a gateway between China and the rest of the world. Even in Australia I saw myself as a facilitator for the interchange between Chinese and Western cultures

and I think that HKU is an ideal place to do that."

Professor Louie has a diverse education background. He gained a BA in Pure Mathematics and Philosophy before earning a Master in Chinese History and a PhD in Chinese Philosophy. His first two books explored the political uses of Chinese philosophy before he developed an interest in and published several books on Chinese literature. Professor Louie then investigated issues of gender relations in China and published the influential *Theorising Chinese Masculinity* in 2002.

As people's livelihoods improve in Hong Kong, Professor Louie sees the value of humanities increasing in Hong Kong. "Once people start demanding a better quality of life then the humanities will become progressively more important," he explained.



Courtesy of The University of Hong Kong Bulletin and sinopix photo agency

Heavyweight Scholars Join Faculty of Arts

New Chair Professors

After an intensive global search, the Faculty of Arts has invited two internationally renowned professors, Professor Bill Ashcroft and Professor Frank Dikötter, to join as Chair of English and Chair of Humanities respectively.

Professor Bill Ashcroft, Chair of English, is a founding exponent of post-colonial theory. His co-authored book *The Empire Writes Back* was the first to define this field, and since then he has achieved international renown in post-colonial studies. Prior to joining HKU, Professor Ashcroft was



Head of the School of English at the University of New South Wales in Sydney.

Professor Frank Dikötter, Chair of Humanities, specialises in modern China history and has published on a wide range of topics such as race, narcotics and sex. Prior to joining HKU, he was professor at the School of Oriental and African Studies of University of London. He obtained his bachelor's degree from the University of Geneva and his PhD from the School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London.

A New Arts Faculty

From July 1, the Faculty of Arts now consists of the following five schools:

- School of Chinese;
- School of English (encompassing the Interdisciplinary Programme in Language and Communication);
- School of Geography;
- School of Humanities (encompassing the Departments of Comparative Literature, Fine Arts, Music, History, Linguistics and Philosophy); and
- School of Modern Languages and Cultures (encompassing the Departments of Japanese Studies, American Studies, and European Studies Programme as well as the Language Centre and the planned China Studies Programme).

Leading Astronomer Grooms Young Scientists

Professor Sun Kwok 郭新, Dean of Science

Professor Sun Kwok, one of the world's leading astronomers, took up the position of the first appointed Dean of Science in February and has introduced a broader and more flexible curriculum for students in the Faculty of Science.

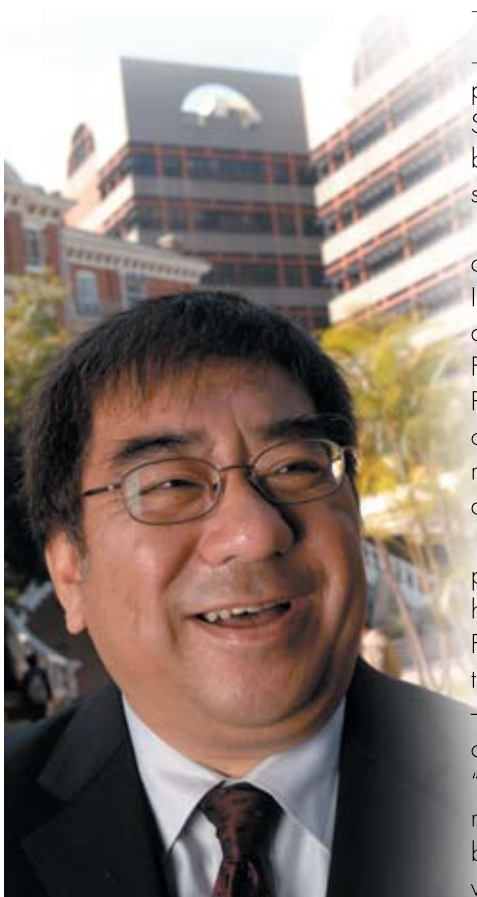
Professor Sun Kwok, former Director and Distinguished Research Fellow of the Institute of Astronomy and Astrophysics at the Academia Sinica, Taiwan and Faculty Professor in the Department of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Calgary, Canada, is a world-class researcher in the field of stellar evolution, astrochemistry, and space astronomy.

"We want to emphasise research as part of the education process," he said as he explained the plan for the future of the Faculty. Students can take advantage of the summer months and the upper years – the third and fourth years – when they can engage in lab- or field-work research. "This exposes them to a way of solving real problems, which serves as a good bridge between academic study and work in real life."

The programme ties in with the Faculty's other goals for the undergraduate curriculum as it moves from a three- to four-year degree programme. From 2007, the Faculty will implement a new admission policy and a common first year structure. Secondary school students interested in pursuing undergraduate study in any one of the science subjects at HKU may apply for admission into the new BSc programme. Students may decide to major in a specific subject upon admission or they may decide after the completion of their first year. The new curriculum will help broaden students' exposure to new areas of science and promote interdisciplinary learning and research.

Professor Kwok believes the new frontier of sciences is of a multi-disciplinary nature. "Most of our problems, such as the environment or global warming, are multi-disciplinary problems and cannot be solved by someone with training in one narrow area."

Courtesy of The University of Hong Kong Bulletin and sinopix photo agency



Energy: Past, Present and Future – HKU's Summer Science Institute for Secondary School Students



Over 140 upper-form science students from 73 local and overseas secondary schools joined the five-day Summer Science Institute (SSI) organised by the Faculty of Science from July 27 to 31, 2006.

With the theme of "Energy: Past, Present and Future", SSI this year featured three plenary lectures, specialist demonstrations, hands-on science workshops, and scientific projects on a variety of integrated science topics. Through these activities, students could learn about everyday science in an interactive and creative way and were given an opportunity to interact with University teachers and other students.



New Architecture Dean Sets a Course to the Top

Professor Ralph Lerner 亮華飛, Dean of Architecture

Chair Professor Ralph Lerner, FAIA, HKIA, began his Deanship at the Faculty of Architecture in February and is ready to take the Faculty to a higher level.

"In my view, there are ten to 12 top schools internationally," said Professor Lerner, "and it seems to me that not only is this Faculty poised to go in that direction, but it's time that schools in East Asia join that grouping."

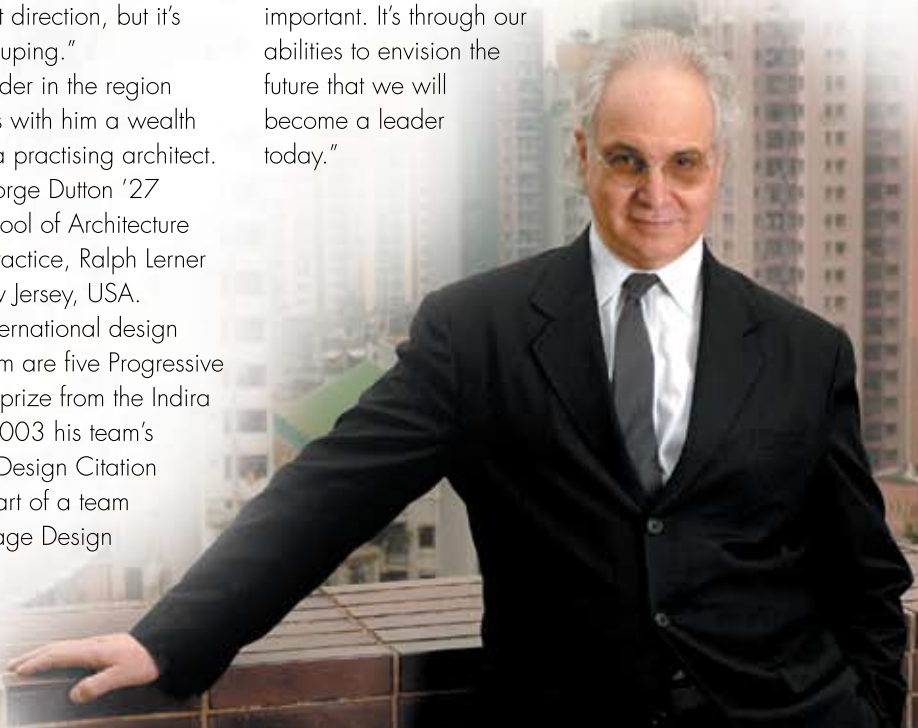
To his aim of making the Faculty a leader in the region and internationally, Professor Lerner brings with him a wealth of knowledge, both as an educator and a practising architect. Prior to joining the University, he was George Dutton '27 Professor of Architecture and Dean of School of Architecture at Princeton University. His professional practice, Ralph Lerner Architect PC, is located in Princeton, New Jersey, USA.

Professor Lerner has won numerous international design commendations; most notable among them are five Progressive Architecture (PA) awards, including a first prize from the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts. In 2003 his team's plan for Lower Manhattan received a PA Design Citation and, in the following year, his firm was part of a team of finalists of the NYC2012 Olympic Village Design Competition.

He intends to spend some of his early months here in listening. "Any new deanship is six months of listening very carefully to find out what the history,

customs and traditions of the place are, and to try and build on those to take the school to a higher level," he explained.

His plan now is to focus on improving the quality of staff, students and programmes. "The ability of our programmes to be anticipatory of where the discipline is going is very important. It's through our abilities to envision the future that we will become a leader today."



Courtesy of The University of Hong Kong Bulletin and sinopix photo agency

New Aspiration for Social Sciences

Professor Ian Holliday 何立仁, Dean of Social Sciences

Fresh on board for the new academic year is Professor Ian Holliday, who has taken up the post of the first-ever appointed Dean of Social Sciences on September 1.

Professor Holliday is former Dean of the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and Chair Professor of Policy Studies with the Department of Public and Social Administration at City University of Hong Kong.

Since coming to Hong Kong in 1999, Professor Holliday's research has focused on public policy in East and Southeast Asia. He has taken a particular interest in social policies within the region and a couple of years ago he began working on the problems of political reform in Burma (Myanmar).

With his substantial teaching and research records, as well as proven administrative, financial and personnel management skills, he is well qualified to help the Faculty to achieve its aspiration of becoming a leading world-class school in social and political science education and research.



Justice Head: Don't Settle for Second Best

Inauguration Ceremony for New Students

The Honourable Wong Yan Lung 黃仁龍, Secretary for Justice, was the officiating guest at the Inauguration Ceremony for New Students held at Loke Yew Hall.

Mr Wong shared with the new students his thoughts on university education. "I believe a passion for excellence is essential to bring out the full potential inside," he told the students. "Don't be content with just the mediocre. Do not settle for second best."

He urged students to go after their own aspirations and interests, to take risks and shun the more certain path. Apart from academic studies, he advised them to increase their general knowledge, keep abreast of current affairs both locally and internationally, and make many friends.



University Rankings

According to The Times Higher Education Supplement published in the UK, this year The University of Hong Kong climbed eight places to rank 33rd among the world's top universities.

<http://www.thes.co.uk/>



31	37	University of California, Los Angeles	US
32	26	University of Texas at Austin	US
33=	30	Edinburgh University	UK
33=	41	University of Hong Kong	Hong Kong
35=	44	Carnegie Mellon University	US
35=	38	Sydney University	Australia

Best IELTS Results

With an average score of 7.01, HKU students achieved the highest average results for the fourth consecutive year in International English Language Testing System (IELTS) in Hong Kong. Three LLB students and one BSocSc(Govt&Laws) student attained the maximum score of 9. Twenty-five HKU students achieved a score of 8.5, while 170 achieved a score of 8.



Two of the IELTS top scorers: Jocelyn Tsao 曹喬菱 (left) and Michelle Fung 馮奔奔

"Best Conference Paper Award" for Analysis on Hate Groups in Blogs

Dr Michael Chau 周昭瀧 (BSc 1998) of the School of Business received the "Best Conference Paper Award" at the 10th Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems (PACIS) 2006. His paper "A framework for locating and analysing hate groups in Blogs" defeated over 300 submissions from 25 countries. In his paper, Dr Michael Chau analyses the emergence of racist hate groups in blogs and identified their communication patterns and relationships by using web mining and social network analysis techniques.

<http://www.hku.hk/eroesite/html/PACIS.pdf>



Dr Michael Chau (left) and Dr Jae Kyu Lee of Singapore Management University at the PACIS.

Buddhist Studies Award

Ven Rangama Chandawimala Thero (MBuddhStud 2003; PhD student) was awarded first prize at the Korean Conference of Buddhist Studies organised by Tripitaka



Koreana for his paper on Bodhisattva practice in Sri Lanka. The title of the paper was "Bodhicitta in Theravada Buddhism with Special Reference to the Abhayagiri Fraternity in Ancient Sri Lanka".

HKU: The #1 Choice for Hong Kong's Best Students

Most of Hong Kong best and brightest students, who achieve the top academic results, choose HKU over other local universities. These students are admitted under the Joint University Programmes Admission Scheme (JUPAS) intake, the Early Admission Scheme (EAS), Mainland admission exercise and non-JUPAS intake.

Top Achieving Local Students

HKU's Actuarial Science and MBBS programme this year attracted the best students in town with an average Hong Kong A-Level scores of 4.9 and 4.8 respectively.

Among research-led universities in Hong Kong, HKU attracted the highest number of top quality students. Over 90% of the students who achieved 6As or 5As at HKALE (and over 60% of those with 3As or above) chose HKU.

Although students considered for admission under the Early Admissions Scheme (EAS) have to achieve at least 6As at HKCEE, offers are not made on exam results alone. To ensure the students will benefit from early admission, factors such as maturity, communication skills, creative and critical thinking, and powers of reasoning are considered. This year, 67% of students who achieved 8, 9 or 10As were admitted to HKU, including 12 of the 15 students who achieved 10As.

Best Students from Mainland Provinces

For several years we have been admitting students from the Mainland via direct application. The numbers of applications from such students has been steadily rising and the few hundred available places for this coming academic year received over 10,000 applications. This year, all Mainland students admitted to HKU had JEE scores above the cut-off scores for the key university in their provinces. Among them, six attained top scores in Guangdong, Yunnan, Fujian and Anhui provinces.

A Global and Diverse Student Mix

We have also seen a 31% increase of applications from non-JUPAS students over the previous year. This is a very diverse group comprising those who have taken examinations other than HKALE at Hong Kong international schools, applicants from abroad, transfer students, students who have already completed one undergraduate degree, and other mature students. These students give an international flavour and unique social mix to the student body.



And HKU's growing global reputation for excellence is reflected on campus. At the last count we had 3,072 students from around the world: Algeria, Brazil, Chile, Columbia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Ghana, Haiti, Iran, Liechtenstein, Mali, Mexico, Qatar, Russia, Tanzania and Venezuela. And, as we develop further as an educational hub for students from South East Asia, we are welcoming students from Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Laos, Macau SAR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, and Vietnam, and, of course, Mainland China.

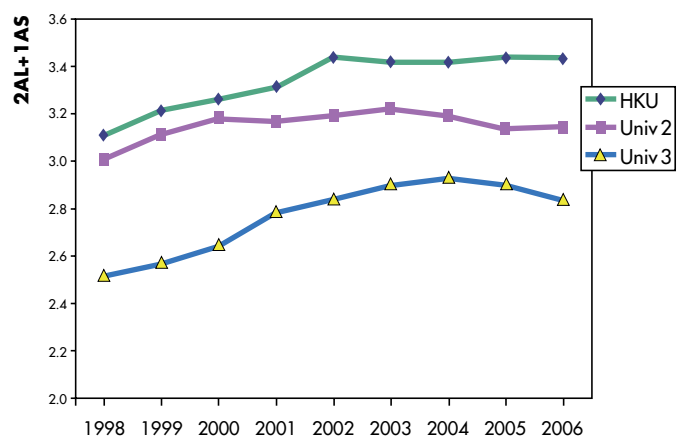
Challenges

However, success brings many new challenges. One such challenge facing HKU is that, to

fulfil our vision of being a leading international and world-class university, we must now compete globally for the most outstanding students. The education we provide must be on par with, or better than, that offered by the top universities from North America, Europe and Australia.

To add to our competitive edge, we need to be able to accommodate those outstanding international students who are discouraged by the high cost of housing in Hong Kong. With the right resources we could offer them the opportunity to integrate into HKU community of students and to experience hall life, of which they have heard such great things.

HKU continues to attract the top achieving HKALE students



The average scores are based on students' best two A levels and third best A or AS level scores.



Always Passionate to Serve

In the last issue, we told you of the Passion to Serve of our students, alumni and staff. The stories continue...

Focus on Equality and Equity – Project SEE

Forty HKU students, who joined Project SEE (Students for Equality and Equity) organised by the General Education Unit, made some bittersweet journeys to various service missions across Asia this summer.

During their travels they witnessed the

state of labour rights in Thailand, brought warmth to the tsunami-stricken of Sri Lanka, worked for women's rights and local issues in Cambodia, advocated rights for gays, lesbians, commercial sex workers and youth-at-risk in the Philippines and expressed concern for children's rights in India.

Humanity in Focus

Six students set off for Cambodia for a one-month journey that would change their lives and perceptions of the world. In this beautiful, but much neglected, country the young students came face to face with the stark reality of the effects of poverty, civil wars and invasion.

"Cambodia and its people have taught us so much about life and motivated us," they wrote in their motorcycle diaries about their trip. "We feel that it's time to give back now... to give back to the developing world, as well as to other youths in our world."

Back in Hong Kong, they established their own non-profit organisation to serve the youth and the poor. Humanity in Focus (www.humanityfocus.org) was formed in July with the mission: "By the youth, through the youth, and to the youth of the world".

"We hope to raise others' awareness of global issues and devote ourselves to assisting youth and children in impoverished countries, starting with South-East Asia and China," said HIF spokesperson Wendy Choi 蔡慧怡 (BSocSc 2006; MSocSc year 1 student).

The fledgling NGO organised a Poverty Experience and Sharing Night on September 16 at the Global Lounge. Mr Chong Chan-Yau 莊陳友 (BA 1981) and Mr David Begbie were guest speakers at the very successful fundraising dinner which provided funds for three projects focusing on children and education in Cambodia.



Team Sri Lanka

Student partner Jayampath Seneviratne (MPhil student in Oral Biosciences), nickname JAS, from Sri Lanka, led a team of students to help out in the tsunami-stricken areas of his homeland. Before coming to HKU, he worked for a Sri Lankan-based non-profit organisation called "SUCCESS".

During the five-week project, the team visited four schools and four camps where tsunami-affected people live. They taught basic computer knowledge and skills, some English lessons and songs, basic hygiene practice, first aid, and simple self-defence techniques to the young children. There was also time for a cultural exchange when the team's chef Patrick Ng (BSS(General) year 3 student) shared Chinese cooking tips with the women in the camps.

JAS considers Project SEE to be a revolutionary project. "Not only did it give extraordinary experiences of humanity to students, not only did it share the passion of social service among the HKU community, it significantly showed the passion and willingness of the people of HKU to serve the world beyond borders."

Education For Rural Children

Alumni and students joined hands to bring hope to rural children in Mainland China. Despite heavy rain on July 29, 850 alumni and students supported the Flag Day of the China Education Association (CEA). A total of HK\$320,000 was raised to subsidise schooling for underprivileged children in rural areas of the north-western parts of Guangdong province.

Besides, CEA will launch a new one-to-one subsidy programme for underprivileged students in the rural areas. The new programme aims to subsidise the schooling fees of the entire three-year senior secondary education course of each student. Upon joining the programme, each donor will be assigned a subsidised student with whom they may maintain communication through correspondence.

In August, CEA paid home visits to underprivileged students in the rural area of Huaji County, Guangdong to gain first-hand understanding of the difficulties they face. The expedition also helped CEA to finalise its list of subsidised students.

Reports on the Flag Day and programmes are available at www.hku.hk/hkusucec



Himalayas Challenge Hysan 2006

To support of preventing blindness worldwide, students at Lee Hysan Hall came up with many fun and innovative ideas to raise funds for ORBIS. Students who joined the ORBIS Student Ambassador Campaign between January and April this year launched a fervent promotion campaign in the Hall.

They successfully recruited residents from all 12 floors to participate in a fundraising



Denise Ho (centre) with the students

staircase race. The total distance amounted to 21,336 metres, well exceeding the height of Mount Everest, the highest mountain in the Himalayas.

At Lee Hysan Hall's High Table talk on April 28, ORBIS Youth Ambassador Denise Ho presented 13 fundraising awards to participating students, and shared her experience of visiting blind children in Hainan.



Starr Hall and the Community

“Contributing to the Community” was the theme of Starr Hall's 15th anniversary celebrations. Aspiring to be contributing members of society, Starrians planned a series of activities to reach out to different sectors of society.

These activities included visits to elderly centres in Western District - a new tradition of the Staff Hall Orientation, a fundraising bazaar, a Fun Day for the Elderly on the HKU campus and a Hunger Banquet in April. Dr Edmund Tse 謝仕榮 (BA 1960; HonDSocSc 2002), Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of AIA Co Ltd, also joined the Banquet and shared his views on “Social Responsibility and Volunteerism”.

“At a very fundamental level, social responsibility teaches us about ourselves; it challenges us to be better people by involving ourselves positively in the lives of our fellow beings,” said Dr Tse.



Left: Dr Edmund Tse; Below: Starr Hall students at an elderly home in Western District

