



THE PEARL TO GOLD QUARTERLY

Newsletter of HKUAA-Northern California Chapter

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Second Issue 2018

Spring Picnic

Our alumni group held a joint spring picnic with alumni from HKUST and Chinese University Silicon Valley at Cuesta Park in Mountain View. Because the nice weather, the turnout was great. Everyone had a good time making new friends, seeing old acquaintances, playing games like Bingo, and had a enjoyable lunch. Thank you Carey Lai for making the arrangement.



Visit to GRAIL Inc.

Alumna Charissa Wong who is a technical writer at GRAIL, Inc. was very kind to take us on a guided tour of that company campus in Menlo Park. The company's CEO is Dr. Ken Drazan who is liver surgeon. The company's mission is to detect cancer early when it can be cured. It was an eye-opening trip for many of us. Alumna Wong is a graduate in medicine and journalism at the University of Hong Kong. She will take her qualifying examination to be a physician in the United States soon. May we wish her the best of luck.



Alvera's Birthday

When Bernadette Tsui, Director of Development and Alumni Affairs Office of HKU, visited the Bay Area in March, she invited Dr. K.W. Kan and his wife, Alvera, to dinner at One Market Place. That day also happened to be Alvera's birthday. So there was a small celebration. Larry Ng was also included in the event.



Conversation with Cheng Pei-Pei

The famous movie star in Hong Kong, Cheng Pei-Pei, recently flew to San Francisco to be the "Spotlight Honoree" at CAAMFest. A special reception was organized by CAAM and HKETO at China Live which is a new marketplace and restaurant on Broadway. Christina Leung and Larry Ng were able to attend the gathering and met with Cheng Pei-Pei.



New Vice Chancellor

Prof. Xiang Zhang whom many of us had chance to meet at our Spring Banquet has assumed the position of Vice Chancellor and President of the University of Hong Kong on June 17, 2018. The following was the message he sent to HKU colleagues, students, alumni and friends.



Dear colleagues, students, alumni and friends,

I hope you are enjoying a nice summer. I am very pleased to begin my role as the 16th President and Vice-Chancellor at HKU and am looking forward to meeting the University community. It is my privilege to serve this great institution. In the coming weeks and months, I will be taking the necessary time to meet and listen to you, and I wish to work closely with you.

Let me first thank Professor Paul Tam and the Senior Management Team for their leadership and support during the transition period. Indeed, I am grateful to all colleagues who have helped HKU continue our operations and endeavours seamlessly over the past few months.

HKU has outstanding students, faculty, staff and alumni who have contributed significantly to the prosperity of Hong Kong and beyond.

My experience allows me to appreciate the great potential of HKU. I believe and have confidence in the University because of the many distinctive strengths of the University that I have seen, such as our unique

history and culture; our excellence in teaching and learning, in research, and in knowledge exchange; the great diversity and vibrancy on campus; the dedication of our staff, students and alumni; and broad support from the community.

As you all know, in the 21st century, higher education faces tremendous challenges in preparing our students for success as future leaders in a rapidly changing world. I also see the many challenges that we may face here, such as those arising from limited resources and global competition. But there are many opportunities when we look beyond HKU and Hong Kong. I am pleased to see the recent willingness of the HKSAR Government to invest more in research, and the growing culture of educational innovation and nurturing entrepreneurship.

I envision HKU as a leading global university that not only inspires our next generation of leaders but will also lead in intellectual, economic and societal transformations in greater China, Asia and the world. For that, we must be visionary, innovative and bold. Exceptional academic scholarship is key. We must aggressively recruit and retain the best faculty members from all over the world. We need to further enrich our student learning experiences. We will continue to build strategic partnerships with top universities around the world as well as industries. Our goal can best be achieved by working closely with our diverse stakeholders including students, faculty, staff, alumni, as well as local communities and government, to build cohesive and sustained momentum and support.

I am excited about the opportunity to

work with you for the best interests of HKU, and to take the University to even greater heights of excellence and impact.

I wish to assure you that I am indeed ready to listen; I welcome advice, and look forward to meeting you on campus soon.

Xiang Zhang President and Vice-Chancellor Family Bridges Gala

A few of our alumni were invited to attend the 50th Anniversary Gala Celebration of Family Bridges at Marriott Hotel Oakland City Center. Ivanhoe Chang, Director of Hong Kong Economic & Trade Office (San Francisco) and his wife, Yvonne, were also guests. That non-profit organization was started in Chinatown as Oakland Chinese Community Council in 1968 to help new Chinese immigrants to settle down in the United States. It now serves all people of need from children to seniors. The current president of their board is alumnus Arden Kwan.



Canadian Alumna's visit

A few board members had dinner with visiting alumna from British Columbia, Priscilla Wong. We had a nice discussion about joint events.

