CityU books its place in history

At the CityU President Installation Ceremony, Professor Way Kuo officially announced the start of the University’s silver jubilee. A series of celebratory activities are being held, including the publication of a book on CityU’s history.

(continued on next page)
CityU is a young university full of vitality. Its growth has been closely linked with development in Hong Kong and on the mainland. For example, when business and manufacturing industries expanded rapidly on the mainland due to its open-door policy and the largest-ever infrastructure development project was launched by the Hong Kong Government in the 1980s, CityU, as a higher education institute, got involved by providing professionals to support the projects. As Hong Kong education undertook major reform, CityU’s status was upgraded from polytechnic institute to university. With more resources subsequently allocated, CityU was able to provide higher education to more young people by recruiting more quality staff, improving its facilities and enhancing its teaching quality.

The working group plans to publish the Chinese and English books on CityU’s history in September 2009. **Mr Chan Che-shing**, Senior Consultant of Community College of CityU, is responsible for the Chinese book. **Dr Rodney Hale Jones**, Associate Head of the Department of English, will head the English book project. They started compiling the book in September and are expected to complete the first draft next June.

Besides the Chinese and English books on CityU’s history, an album will also be published to visually outline the University’s development. The three books can be purchased separately, while a combined gift set will also be available.

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**Mr John Dockerill**

**Secretary to Council**

I’ve been with CityU since it was a polytechnic. I came to Hong Kong from London, where I had been an information technology teacher, which was the field that initially brought me to Hong Kong. It was my background in computing that led to my working here in planning and ultimately shaped my career and role within the University Senate. In the early days, we employed the use of computers to help with our planning and forecasting, which was really quite a pioneering approach for that era.

There are many special memories over such a long career. One of the most poignant memories of my time at CityU was the Tiananmen Square tragedy on June 4, 1989, which obviously came as a great shock to people. There was a road at the back of the University where all the staff and students had gathered and sat down to listen to speeches and show their support for the students in Beijing. The atmosphere was very solemn but that was a very moving time.

I think universities can sometimes become too absorbed with the minute details of rankings that are published from time to time but like most people I do of course hope that the future is bright for CityU. If the right systems are put in place, there is no reason we cannot eventually become one of the top 100 institutions in the world.
Applause for Chinese traditional art follower

Fiona Lo

It can be a real song-and-dance trying to manage work and outside pursuits but one CityU staff member has managed the balancing act with operatic flair.

Ms Frances Wong Po-fai, of the College of Business, joined the University in 1992. While working at CityU, she took Cantonese opera evening courses at the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts to further her love of the traditional art form. She even quit her job and studied a full-time Chinese opera diploma programme to fulfil her dream.

Since re-joining CityU two years ago, Frances has performed more than 40 Cantonese opera shows outside work hours. “I was delighted to have the chance to perform on stage with such celebrated actresses as Ms Lung Kim-sang and Ms Mui Shet-sze. It was also an unforgettable experience to have the opportunity to see in person the elegant performance of Ms Pak Sheut-sin,” said Frances with a smile. “I was recently excited to act in a full opera performance with the Hong Kong Young Talent Cantonese Opera Troupe. My colleagues are very supportive and watch my shows.”

Frances is a member of both the Hong Kong Young Talent Cantonese Opera Troupe and the Ming Chee Sing Chinese Opera, which is funded by the government to develop more young talent.

To become a well-trained Cantonese opera performer takes a tremendous amount of time. Detailed studies are required to master makeup, hair dressing, costume and many other related skills. “It takes much longer for the lead actress to finish makeup and hair dressing before she can go on stage for her performance. It takes me more than one hour,” explained Frances. “Also, different costumes and hand gestures are signs of different characters in an opera. The informed audience can immediately determine actors and actresses by their costumes and gestures.”

“As Hong Kong has become more of a westernised city, the development of Cantonese opera has become limited,” said Frances. “Yet I find the art very interesting, as there are many different roles to play in a show. I graduated to become the lead actress from the most minor role as a maid. Most lead actresses in Hong Kong have about 30 years of experience in stage performance but I only joined the league two years ago. There is still a long way to go for me to really master the art.”

Frances (right) with Ms Lung Kim-sang after a performance of Princess Cheng Ping on New Year’s Eve, 2006.

Frances in full make-up in a recent performance.

Frances obtained a diploma in Chinese opera.
Let the wind blow

The Nan Feng Newsletter (Nan Feng) was founded in 2005 by the Chinese Civilisation Centre (CCIV), with its name originating from the lyrics of a Chinese song written by the Emperor Shun: “The blowing of southern wind (the Chinese meaning of Nan Feng) can relieve my people from hot weather and make my people wealthy.”

Professor Cheng Pei-kai, Director of CCIV and Chief Editor of Nan Feng, hopes the magazine can help promote Chinese culture in Hong Kong and offer a perspective as fresh as a southern breeze. With a belief in focusing on Chinese culture and advocating humanities general education, Nan Feng mainly covers activities such as lectures, seminars and exhibitions hosted by CCIV.

“Nan Feng is published once a semester, with three issues each year. A total of ten issues have been published so far,” said Dr Qian Hua, Executive Editor of the magazine. The editorial work is shared by Dr Qian and Ms Florence Chan Wai-ching, CCIV Research Assistant. Besides editing, Dr Qian and Florence are also responsible for teaching and other CCIV publications. Nan Feng is supported by all CCIV teaching and administrative staff. Dr Ma Ka-fai, Assistant Director of CCIV, provides suggestions on the content of the magazine, Ms Winnie Lee Kwai-fong, Executive Officer of CCIV, with the support of Ms Condi Fung Chi-cha, is responsible for promotion and production, while teachers at CCIV organise and write about different kinds of activities.

Nan Feng can be accessed on CCIV’s website and there are plans for adding some English content next year. The comprehensive coverage includes Focus, Interviews, Student Column, Staff Bios and New Books. The Student Column, particularly the one titled “Thoughts on my CCIV courses”, publishes outstanding students’ reflections on CCIV courses. “This is my favourite section. The sharing by the students is sincere and natural. From uncertainty to enthusiasm, they gradually change their attitude about Chinese culture,” said Dr Qian. She said this is the best way to show the learning outcomes CCIV has achieved in the general education subject.

Nan Feng blows beyond CityU and has reached other areas of the community. A library staff member at the University of Hong Kong wrote a letter to CCIV, stating that he wished to receive and keep every issue of Nan Feng because he regards it as an invaluable magazine.
Exercise is clearly a healthy pursuit. However, it not only offers physical benefits but mental as well. This consensus is certainly well understood by two veterans of CityU’s team in the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2009, to be held next February. They are Dr Muammer Ozer, Associate Professor of the Department of Management, and Mr Kingston Sun Kin-sang, Acting Associate Director of the Facilities Management Office (FMO).

Dr Ozer loves hiking and he has trekked most major trails in Hong Kong. He has also climbed Hua Shan Mountain in China, Mount Fuji in Japan and the Kackar Mountains in Turkey. Even as such an experienced hiker, Dr Ozer is still treating next year’s marathon seriously and training frequently to prepare for his first 10km race. “I am mentally well-prepared for the race, and am now learning the best ways of getting physically ready for it. Once I develop a training plan, I will get myself in the best condition possible to complete the run,” said Dr Ozer.

Having participated in eight marathons, Kingston could comfortably handle either a 10 km race or a full marathon. Unfortunately, he was recently in hospital and needs longer to train for a long distance run. Undeterred, he is still taking part in the 10km event in February. “I was the Controller for the CityU Delegation and therefore missed the chance to run in the last Marathon. It will be my first time running as a member of the CityU Delegation. I am very excited and practice running every evening,” said Kingston. He is also a member of the Working Group for this year’s CityU Delegation supporting the event.

What exactly is the reason both men squeeze time into their hectic schedule to practice for the race? “The marathon is indeed an educational activity that bonds a group of people together and lets both the participants and spectators experience team spirit,” Dr Ozer said. “Apart from completing the race, as a member of the CityU Delegation I also wish to grab this opportunity to get to know my colleagues better and make new friends.”

“As an FMO staff member I am obliged to support all CityU’s activities,” Kingston said. “Whether you are CityU staff, student or alumni, you can be a member of the CityU Delegation and represent CityU in the marathon. Running together with so many CityU members, I am sure we will have a lot of fun.”

Headed by Professor Way Kuo, CityU President, the number of participants in the CityU Delegation has already exceeded the target of 625. Whether you participate in the event or not, let’s all get ready to run for the “City”! 

1. Kingston (left) was the Controller for the CityU Delegation in the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2008.
3. Dr Ozer
4. Dr Ozer climbed to the top of Hua Shan Mountain.
Science fun fair

CityU participated in the “Science in the Public Service” Fun Fair 2008 held in Victoria Park on 14-16 November, which aims to let people know more about applications of science and technology in providing services. The fair was opened by the Chief Executive of HKSAR, The Hon Donald Tsang Yam-kuen, and attended by Mr Wong Hon-yee, Director of the Technology Transfer Office. Two innovative projects were featured in the fair, including the Zigbee project developed by Dr Tsang Kim-fung, and the underwater robot project developed by Dr Robin Bradbeer, both Associate Professors from the Department of Electronic Engineering.

Staff Movement 人事消息

New Arrival 到任
Senior Staff 高級職員
Department of Applied Social Studies 應用社會科學系
- Cheung, Raysen, Wai-leung, 張偉良, Assistant Professor PhD, Loughborough University, UK

Department of Building and Construction 建築系
- Tse, Wai-leung, 謝偉良, Lecturer PhD, City University of Hong Kong

Department of Information Systems 資訊系統學系
- Lo, Frank, Man-wan, 羅文鶴, Instructor II MBA, North Texas State University, USA

General Staff 其他職級
Department of Electronic Engineering 電子工程學系
- So, Kwok-kan, 蘇國勤, Assistant Engineer Southeast Asia Research Centre 東南亞研究中心
- Wong, Mandy, Wai-man, 黃慧敏, Executive Officer II

Admissions Office 招生處
- Ng, Chi-han, 伍子健, Clerical Assistant External Liaison and Cooperation Office 對外聯絡合作處
- Lau, Catherine, Kar-ki, 劉嘉琪, Executive Officer II

Facilities Management Office 物業及設施管理處
- Li, Stephen, Heung-wing, 李向榮, Technician

Human Resources Office 人力資源處
- Leung, Wai-sze, 梁惠詩, Clerical Officer II
- Yau, Kitty, Shing-yan, 游尚怡, Clerical Officer II

Transfer/Promotion 調升及其他
College of Business 商學院
- Lei, Vivian, Wai-wan, 利慧雲, Clerical Officer II [BCH] to Clerical Officer II

Department of Building and Construction 建築系
- Lau, Prudence, Sue-tim, 劉雪薇, Clerical Officer I to Executive Officer II

Department of Electronic Engineering 電子工程學系
- Lim, Hi-yuen, 林穎恩, Executive Officer II to Executive Officer I

Department of Information Systems 資訊系統學系
- Lau, Tania, Yuen-kei, 劉婉琪, Instructor II to Instructor I

Department of Media and Communication 媒體與傳播系
- Leung, Kitty, Yin-fan, 梁燕芬, Executive Officer II to Executive Officer I

Chinese Civilisation Centre 中國文化中心
- Fung, Chi-wang, 馮志強, Instructor II to Instructor I

Qian, Hua, 蕭華, Instructor II to Instructor I

Academic Regulations and Records Office 教務處
- Chung, Fung-kam, 鍾金全, Office Assistant [SCOPE] to Office Assistant

Education Development Office 教育發展處
- So, Brenda, Nga-sze, 蘇雅詩, Clerical Officer II [SCOPE] to Clerical Officer II

Facilities Management Office 物業及設施管理處
- Ho, Mat, Sin-yee, 何倩儀, Clerical Officer II [HRO] to Clerical Officer II

Au, Kam-sui, 区金瑞, Senior Artisan to Junior Technician

Chan, Kam-tong, 陳錦堂, Senior Artisan to Junior Technician

Kwok, Chun-fai, 郭振輝, Senior Artisan to Junior Technician

Yip, Yiu-hung, 葉耀雄, Senior Artisan to Junior Technician

Human Resources Office 人力資源處
- Wong, Angela, Ming-yan, 黃明賢, Executive Officer I to Supervisory Executive Officer

Office of Vice-President (Research) 副校長（研究）
- Lam, Shirley, Yuen-ping, 林婉萍, Communications Manager [RO] to Communications Manager

Chan, Carol, Ka-yen, 陳嘉茵, Clerical Assistant [SCOPE] to Clerical Officer II
A few minutes with...

Ms Rebecca Yue Lok-man
Executive Officer,
Student Development Services

1. What did you start doing at CityU?
   July 2, 2008.

2. Describe yourself in three words.
   Dreamer, listener, thinker.

3. What would you like to be doing in 5 years’ time?

4. If you could spend a week in the shoes of HKSAR Chief Executive
   Donald Tsang, what would you try to achieve?
   Increase the tertiary education budget.

5. If you could live anywhere in the world, where would it be?
   Greece.

6. Do you participate in any sports? If so, what?
   Badminton, table-tennis, golf.

7. What book is on your bedside table?
   Tuesdays with Morrie.

8. Do you have a favourite restaurant to recommend?
   Lanciano Ristorante, an Italian restaurant in Tai Po.

9. What is your favourite dish?
   Clams.

10. If you could take any CityU course, what would it be?
    Creative Media.

11. What one music album/CD would you have with you if stranded on a
desert island (or a desert island that miraculously had electricity and a CD
player)?
    Soundtrack of The Little Prince.

12. If you could be a superhero, who would it be?
    Harry Potter.