Focus

Nobels, knowledge and nights out mark anniversary

By Craig Francis

In celebration of CityU’s 25th anniversary, a host of exciting celebratory events have been staged to mark the milestone. Nobel Prize winners and Fields Medallists, choirs and artists have all played their part in acknowledging CityU’s quarter century of achievement and enriching the celebratory agenda. This special edition of Linkage rekindles our memories of some of the highlights of the silver jubilee and the events still to come.

The prestigious series of conferences under the umbrella of “Science for the Future: A World-class Summit” will conclude on December 14–15 with the final instalment of the summit, “Engineering Science and Technology: Trends and Frontiers” (co-organised with the Chinese Academy of Engineering). It follows the successful staging of three earlier conferences, namely “Frontiers in Bioscience: Learning and Memory”, “Where is Science Going in the 21 Century?” and “Energy and Environment: Crisis, Opportunities and Challenges”.

As we reflect on the enjoyable evenings spent at the Ocean Park Reunion (see page 5) and the Anniversary Concert, our attention turns to the Anniversary Banquet to be held on December 6. This special occasion brings together the CityU community for a night of solidarity and camaraderie.

Since the unveiling of the anniversary logo on November 11 last year, the 25th anniversary celebrations have served to highlight CityU’s emergence as a preeminent institution that is more than a quality supplier of education and research—it is part of the extended family of tens of thousands of students and staff members.

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1 The campus resounded with the cheerful notes of delightful music during the Anniversary Concert.
Highlights of Silver Jubilee Activities

1. Student Leadership Conference 2009
2. The 639-strong CityU Delegation in the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon 2009
3. “Heaven, Earth, Man” Silver Jubilee Anniversary Concert
4. “Frontiers in Bioscience: Learning and Memory” academician conference
5. Professor Sir Michael Berry delivered one of the distinguished lectures at CityU.
6. Distinguished academicians and local experts participated in the academician conference “Energy and Environment: Crisis, Opportunities and Challenges”
Volunteer historians capture 25 years of development

By Michelle Leung

“This is a good way to serve the university community and at the same time contribute to student learning.” This was the reasoning behind Dr Rodney Jones, Associate Head and Associate Professor of the Department of English (EN), accepting the challenge to produce a history book about CityU.

The year-long project, which provides a comprehensive history of CityU in the context of the social and economic development of Hong Kong, is more than just a written record. Interviews with the University’s senior management, long-serving colleagues, alumni and government officials were also videotaped and will be featured on a special website to add colour to our history annals.

The laborious task, including reading reams of newspaper clippings and documents and conducting countless interviews, was vital in examining the 25 years of university development. Dr Jones appreciated the support of the volunteer colleagues and student historians that made the mission possible.

The book’s title, Educating the CITY: The Making of Hong Kong’s Most Modern University, itself tells the story of where CityU was positioned and what it has developed into. As a long-serving staff member who joined CityU in 1993, Dr Jones found it a wonderful chance to look back and learn about how CityU has grown from a small polytechnic into a world-class university.

Among the many interesting moments in the production process, he was most moved by the interviews with long-serving staff and past students. “From their sharing you get a sense of all the hard work the colleagues have done and understand the impact of CityU on our students’ lives,” Dr Jones recalled.

Many of the interviewees were asked about their wishes for CityU and when Linkage asked the same question of Dr Jones, he wished for CityU to keep on moving ahead of the times.

“CityU earns credit as a modern university as it has been very proactive and ahead of government policies. We were the first to admit mainland students and because of our forward looking management strategy, we were not so badly affected by the economic crisis in 1997,” said Dr Jones. “I wish for CityU to continue being forward-looking in all aspects, including teaching, research and other areas.”

The English history book team

- Dr Rodney Jones, Associate Head and Associate Professor of EN
- Dr Alice Chik Hsia-hui, Assistant Professor of EN
- Professor Vijay Bhatia, Visiting Professor of EN
- Dr David Chan Kin-keung, Associate Professor of Department of Asian and International Studies
- Dr Jermain Lam Tak-man, Associate Professor of Department of Public and Social Administration
- Ms Christina Tai Siu-chong, Senior Research Assistant of EN
- EN students: Nikita Chan Lok-man, Gretel Chan Sum-yee, Patricia Poon Ka-pui and Joy Wang Yujue
Tribute paid to long service staff

By Eliza Lee

As a tribute to 355 dedicated faculty and staff members who have rendered 10 to 25 years of service to CityU, a Long Service Award Ceremony was held on October 20 to acknowledge their loyalty and contribution to the University.

In his opening remarks, CityU President Professor Way Kuo expressed appreciation for the support of these colleagues over the years. “Long service represents an untiring commitment to CityU. Without your contributions, CityU would not have become what it is today,” said Professor Kuo.

This year, 62 faculty and staff members received the 25-year service award, 139 the 20-year award and the remaining faculty and staff were rewarded for 10 or 15 years of service at the ceremony, which was organised by the Human Resources Office.

Professor Alex Kwan Yui-huen, Head of the Department of Applied Social Studies, has taught many young Hong Kong professionals during his 25 years at CityU. He took pride in the University’s achievements. “It makes me proud to see the presence of outstanding CityU graduates in every sector of society, and many of them have been my students.”

Professor Edward Yung Kai-ning, Chair Professor of the Department of Electronic Engineering and Director of the Wireless Communications Research Centre, said CityU’s research work has influenced the industrial and commercial development of Hong Kong and the mainland. “In response to changes in Hong Kong’s economic infrastructure, CityU has been asserting a prominent position within the industry’s advancement,” he said.

Mr Alex Ip Yum-fat, Technical Officer of the Computing Services Centre, also received the 25-year award. He used to work in the Facilities Management Office and is now mainly responsible for upgrading the University’s IP telephone system. As CityU improves its facilities in pace with the advancement of technology, he also continues to learn and add value for himself in order to make further contributions to the University.

Having served the University for a quarter century, Mr Wong Ping-sang, Senior Driver with the Facilities Management Office, has provided transportation services for many prominent figures and world-renowned scholars. He said his frequent services to and from the airport in recent years for overseas scholars visiting CityU was strong evidence of the University’s internationalisation. “Our efficient and diligent colleagues help CityU in so many ways. The hard work of our colleagues has led to such international recognition of CityU,” he added.

Ms Penni Cheng Kwan-ling, Library Assistant I, and Mrs Fanny Tam Law Yuet-mei, Library Assistant II, have worked together in the Run Run Shaw Library’s cataloguing team for 25 years. They both think that commitment and diligence are the guiding principles of their work, and always try their best to serve the readers and CityU.

At this silver jubilee, staff members wished for CityU to unite and work together to strive for a better future.
Night of laughter at Ocean Park

By Jenny Kwan

About 2,500 members from the big family of CityU, including its Council members, faculty and staff, students, alumni and their families, gathered at the Ocean Park Reunion on September 19 to celebrate the University’s 25th anniversary.

For many of the participants who already knew each other well, the event offered a delightful opportunity to have fun together at the amusement park. They enjoyed an array of fun-filled activities throughout the evening, which included rides at the park and a live music performance and magic show arranged by the University. In addition, guests captured their memories by taking photos with friends and family against a display board specially designed for the occasion.

It was a boisterous night, with more than 2,000 CityU members assembled at the Ocean Theatre for a simple formal celebratory ceremony. The joyous atmosphere reached its crescendo when President Professor Way Kuo appeared on stage to join the performance with dolphins and sea lions.

Dreams!
1 What would you buy CityU for its 25th birthday if you were free to choose anything? Any particular reason for choosing this gift?

假若不受任何限制，你會考慮買甚麼生日禮物送給城大，祝賀她25歲生辰？為甚麼要送這個禮物，有甚麼喻意？

2 Can you share your birthday wish for CityU’s 25th anniversary?

可否談一談，你對城大建校25周年的祝願是甚麼？

1 I would like to present the University with a Doraemon, the futuristic robot cat character in a Japanese cartoon, so that all its dreams will come true.

我會送一個哆啦A夢，讓所有夢想都能夠實現。

2 I wish for CityU to enjoy its young age of 25 forever with everlasting vitality, which means excelling in the education sector for many rounds of 25 years, and developing batch after batch of outstanding graduates.

我祝願城大年年25歲，永遠充滿活力，正所謂：學界輝煌廿五年，桃李滿門聲聲天。

1 A lawn. It would be a nice place for our young intellectuals to contemplate their future, exchange ideas, stay in touch with nature and enjoy the beautiful sunshine amid the hustle and bustle of their school life.

我會送一片綠草地，讓年輕學人於繁忙匆促的校園生活中，可以到那草地上，計劃未來、交流意見、緊抱大自然，並享受美好的陽光。

2 I wish CityU every success in the years to come.

我祝願城大年年成功。

1 I would like to give CityU a piece of land as a birthday gift, for it to build more student hostels, classrooms and offices, as we are so short of space now. I think hostel life is very important for university students, as it’s part of their lifelong memory. Adequate work space is also important as it can enhance our work quality.

我想送城大一片土地作為生日禮物，讓大學興建更多的宿舍、課室和辦公室，以解決現今校園的擠迫，宿舍生活對學生來說很重要，是他們人生的珍貴回憶。充裕的工作空間也很重要，可提升我們的工作質素。

2 I wish CityU healthy growth, a happy life as well as unity among all teachers and students.

我祝願城大健康成長，師生生活愉快，同心同德。
I would like to give an electronic photo frame for the University as a 25th birthday gift. As massive amount of photos have been taken during the celebratory activities held recently by the University, so the device’s large storage capacity would be a convenient way to display lots of photos in a pleasant way.

I will give CityU a digital photo frame, which stores the many precious photos of CityU’s people, events and memories over the past 25 years, which she can keep for future updates.

I wish for CityU to keep growing and excelling with the assistance of the concerted efforts of all of us. 祝愿城大群策群力，再创高峰。

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2. A new future created by CityU in 25 years
   “CityU廿五嶺秀無時窮”

1. My present is the message written in Chinese calligraphy (left).
   我的禮物：用中國書法寫的祝辭（左圖）。

2. My wishes are the content of the calligraphy: Rooted in Hong Kong and backed up by the motherland; The University faces the world with aspiration across the universe.
   我的祝福為祝辭內容：根植香港齊心向祖國
   面向世界志雲霄

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2. I wish for CityU to keep growing and excelling with the assistance of the concerted efforts of all of us.祝願城大群策群力，再創高峰。

1. Studying the past brings the present alive. Recording oral history for our faculty, students and alumni would be a meaningful birthday present to CityU! And we have already got it started in [Excellence 25] website! This is priceless!

2. Grow bigger and stronger! And I will stay here for another 25 years to participate in the [Excellence 50] oral history project!祝願城大更強大！而我也會繼續服務城大，並參與「優越50載」的口述歷史計劃！