Foreword

Ambition knows no limits.

HKUST is celebrating its 20th Anniversary in 2011. Short may be our history, much has been achieved. With an undeterred determination and a dauntless ambition to pursue excellence, HKUST has grown in stature and prestige in a mere two decades. Today, our four Schools and many of our programs are among the best in the world, and HKUST has been named “the miracle university”.

In another aspect, we are also among the world’s best – internationalization. We pride to provide our students a truly internationalized education on a culturally diverse campus. Our ability to manage an extensive international exchange program has been commended in the 2010 University Grants Committee’s Quality Assurance Council Audit Report. As of 2010, 37% of our undergraduates have the opportunity to go for at least one semester exchange at HKUST’s over 150 overseas partner institutions. We will further strengthen our internationalization initiatives to groom graduates to be truly capable of meeting the challenges of a globalized era.

In this issue of UST LINK, we showcase our internationalization initiatives, our creative programs and courses, our students’ exciting life in and out of the campus, their marvelous achievements and contributions to the community, the numerous opportunities we provide and most important of all, the infinite possibilities ahead of them. You will be amazed at the remarkable creativity and brilliance of our students.

Prof Kar Yan TAM
Dean of Students
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Frog in a well knows nothing beyond the coping of its shallow well and the little patch of sky above.

When we say “sky is the limit”, it really depends on how much of a sky we see.

When we try to reach for the stars, sky is no longer the limit.

Half a millennium after Christopher Columbus discovered that “the world is round”, we are told “it’s a flat world, after all”. (Thomas Friedman, 2005)

New techno gadgets become dated the moment they reach the market and information transmits at lightning speed. The unstoppable trend of globalization accelerated by technological advancement has levelled the playing field and opened up a whole world of possibilities.
Opportunities are globalized. So is competition. The worldwide movement of highly educated people has intensified. Graduates of the 21st century are competing with talents from all corners of the world. Their future relies on his/her international competencies – global knowledge and understanding, international experiences, adaptability to different cultures and motivation to explore beyond their comfort zone.

“Today’s higher education must be international in character and quality, turning out students to be effective players in the global economy,” said Prof Tony F Chan, President of HKUST.

“HKUST responds to the changing educational landscape by making internationalization a major component of the University’s strategic plan. We strive to equip our graduates all the necessary knowledge and skills to fit into today’s global competition and opportunities,” said Prof Chan.

The University’s internationalization initiatives include actively pursuing collaborations with the world’s finest universities in academic research, shaping a curriculum to nurture fully-rounded individuals, providing ample exchange opportunities for student and faculty, participating in international competitions and introducing major effort to recruit international students. With our globally competitive programs, a most international campus (and expanding), a diverse and stimulating learning environment and an enriching student life, HKUST graduates are armed with experiences and confidence to take on today’s global challenges with ease and poise.

**HKUST**

No. 2, World’s Top 200 Asian Universities 2010  
(QS Asian University Rankings)

No. 41, World’s Top 200 University 2010  
(Times Higher Education Supplement)

**Our Schools/Programs**

| Natural Sciences | No. 1 in Hong Kong 2010  
(QS Asian University Ranking) |
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<tr>
<td>Computer Sciences</td>
<td>No. 1 in Greater China 2010 (Academic Rankings of World Universities by Shanghai Jiao Tong University)</td>
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| Engineering and Technology | No. 20 in the World, 2010  
(Times Higher Education Supplement) |
| Business School | No. 1 in Asia, No. 18 in the World, 2010  
World Business Schools Rankings Based on Research Contribution 2006-2010  
(University of Texas at Dallas) |
| Kellogg-HKUST EMBA Program | No. 1 Global, EMBA Rankings 2010 (Financial Times, the 3rd time in four years) |
| MBA | No. 6 Global, MBA Rankings 2011 (Financial Times, 3-year Average Rank - No. 10 Global) |
| Social Sciences | No. 1 in Greater China 2010 (Academic Rankings of World Universities by Shanghai Jiao Tong University) |

**Academic Excellence Internationally Recognized**

The University is celebrating its 20th Anniversary this year (2011). In a mere two decades, HKUST has received worldwide recognition as a leading education and research institution offering a wide range of internationally competitive programs in science, engineering, business studies, and humanities and social science. Our academic excellence is internationally recognized and we rank among the world’s crème de la crème.

The University’s speed ascent to international acclaim in higher education rests in large part on the extraordinary quality of our faculty. Our world class international faculty members are all-PhD qualified. Our scientific and scholarly distinction is evident in the numerous research, teaching and leadership awards won by our academicians over the years.

HKUST’s reputable faculty draw the most talented students – locally and internationally. There is a culture of healthy competition and a spirit to strive for excellence on the HKUST campus which help improve student performance in general.
Exchange – in and out

The international character of Hong Kong is a core attribute to its success in the past. Since the return of sovereignty to the PRC, it has become a necessity fundamental to the city’s future success.

“Young people today have to be outward looking and ‘global ready’. Overseas exposure is imperative in an increasingly competitive world. The University has been vigorously expanding international exchange opportunities for our students. It has now become our signature program,” said Prof Kar Yan Tam, Dean of Students of HKUST.

Today, HKUST is among the top universities in the world in terms of international experience. The University’s ability to manage a large student international exchange program was commended in the 2010 University Grants Committee’s Quality Assurance Council Audit. As of 2010, the University has established exchange partnerships with 156 institutes worldwide and the number of HKUST students going on exchange has been increasing steadily. More than one-third of our undergraduates go on international exchange for at least one semester (some may extend to one year) before graduation.

Students coming back after overseas exchange have enriched learning experiences, showed higher incentive for personal development, have enhanced self-confidence, improved language and communication skills, gained a deeper understanding of cultural differences - they are global citizens in the making.

In a recent alumni survey, participating in exchange program is ranked as one of the most beneficial and memorable learning experiences by alumni. Employers also prefer graduates with overseas exchange experience as they are more adaptable to new challenging situations.

Words from Abroad

Matthew Luk (Dual Degree Technology and Management Program) was an exchange student at the Harvard University in 2010, “The overseas experience is a step out of my comfort zone. Interacting with local students at the exchange university made me understand their culture better. The exposure and experience significantly broadened my horizons and taught me to think globally.”

3. The QAC commends the University for the effectiveness of the system of student advising and mentoring. [Page 13]

4. The QAC commends HKUST for the scale and management of the student international exchange programme. [Page 16]

5. The QAC commends the University for the effective induction and mentoring of new academic staff. [Page 22]

Matthew Luk at Harvard: 2nd fr right
Timon Lentz (BBA Operations Management, exchange student at Monterrey Tech University, Fall 2010) writes, “An exchange semester does not only give you a perfect platform to experience and live very new cultures; it also gives you the chance to take a few steps back from your pure academic career in Hong Kong and let you reflect about your future prospects after your undergraduate studies. I can only appeal to all of you to take this great opportunity of going abroad for one semester.”

SU Tianyi Sarah (minor in Humanities, exchange student at University of Virginia) said, “During my exchange at UVA, the most exciting thing is meeting new friends every day, which enables me to immerse myself into the American culture.”

Vera XU (minor in Social Science, exchange student at University of California, Los Angeles) writes, “It is a wonderful thing to be able to experience the great diversity and multiculturalism first-hand. The exchange experience is far more than study. It is a journey to explore the unknown and rediscover the self.”

The University targets at offering exchange opportunities to 50% of the UG student body by 2014 – a target already reached by the School of Business and Management in 2008. In order to encourage more students to participate in international exchange, the University has been providing financial support for needy students and we are prepared to invest more resources in exchange scholarships and bursaries.

Please visit http://ex-periences.ust.hk/ for more information about HKUST’s exchange program.

International Campus

Exchange agreements with overseas partners are on a bilateral basis meaning with that many HKUST students going on exchange at overseas institutes, the University hosts around 600 international exchange-in students from around the world every year. In addition to that, about 16% (around 300) of our annual undergraduate intake is non-local, making HKUST a very international campus in Hong Kong.

To help exchange-in and non-local students settle in, the University has a well established supportive network. The Peer Mentor Program matches entering non-local freshmen with current students (i.e. Peer Mentors) and the Buddy Program matches exchange-in students with current students who would help new-comers adjust to the new environment.

Credited as a vibrant and diverse cultural blend of East and West, we are proud of our multi-cultural community and a student body of 39 different nationalities. Students of different cultural and educational backgrounds inspire each other with different perspectives and innovative ideas, creating a dynamic learning environment.

International Partnership and Collaborations

The University collaborates with a number of the world’s finest institutes to enhance institutional cooperation in academic research, student and faculty exchange and develop join initiatives in undergraduate and postgraduate studies.
In March, 2011 HKUST Engineering School and Princeton University’s School of Engineering and Applied Science formed partnership to launch undergraduate summer research exchange program in engineering. HKUST is the first university in Asia to enter into such partnership with the Princeton University. The program combining hands-on research experience with international exchange seeks to provide engineering students an international research experience of the highest standard.

In 2010, HKUST signed a trilateral memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Peking University (PKU) and the University of Virginia in the United States to establish an institute at the PKU campus in Beijing to foster collaborative research, exchange of students and faculty, and paves way toward joint degree programs. Also last year, we formed partnership with the Ministry of Higher Education in Kuwait to encourage exchange of scholarships in both technical and professional education. It is a significant step in HKUST’s outreach to the Arab world.

Every year, the University brings in the world’s foremost scientists, scholars and community leaders to our campus so our students are stimulated and inspired by the most creative minds of today. Our picturesque seaside campus has been graced by Stephen Hawking, Bill Gates, Thomas Friedman, Oxford University Vice-Chancellor Prof Andrew Hamilton, to name but a few. This year, Prof Jean-Lou Chameau, President of California Institute of Technology and Prof Sir Leszek Borysiewicz, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Cambridge shared insights with the University community on “Global Higher Education Development – Changes and Challenges” at the “President’s Dialogue” hosted by HKUST President Tony F Chan.

At HKUST, we provide our students with a forward-looking, international curriculum and an enriching learning and teaching environment that would help them maximize their full potential in a globalized world.

Think Global

Drive on the golden opportunity of Hong Kong’s 334 academic reform, HKUST has re-designed undergraduate curriculum to further develop students’ global mindset. The University Common Core program – an extended version of general education requirements, offers over 200 courses providing a broad intellectual foundation that includes exposure to a wide range of academic fields. On top of imparting specialist knowledge, the curriculum incorporates a broad range of transferable competencies. Co-curricular elements like international exchange, internship and service learning are expanded to further enable students to see beyond the national, geographical or political boundaries.

In addition to service learning trips and overseas internships, HKUST students have ample opportunities to actively participate in local, regional and international competitions and conferences. The exposure and training give them a realistic understanding of the competitive environment. Sharing with students from around the world at these competitions also raise their awareness of global trends and helps to inculcate a sense of global citizenship.

With an unquenchable thirst for knowledge,
A zealous curiosity in the unknown,
A dauntless courage to explore and create,
Sky is not the limit.
There is no limit.
“Einstein in Hong Kong”

Partnering with the Consulate General of Switzerland in Hong Kong, swissnex China, Hong Kong Science Museum and the Education Bureau, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology presents “Einstein in Hong Kong” from April to August 2011 to promote fundamental sciences to the local community.

All programs feature Albert Einstein (1879-1955), the scientific genius and theoretical physicist. Special emphasis are placed on providing a vivid, overall introduction of his life and times.

As part of the all-embracing campaign, the Institute for Advanced Study of HKUST hosted an international conference on “Cosmology since Einstein” to address the latest scientific issues that are influenced by the work of Einstein. Speakers include 24 world-renowned cosmologists and relativists from Mainland China, Japan, France, Switzerland, U.K. and U.S.

The School of Science of HKUST (SSCI) staged an Einstein fair on campus to encourage the community to understand and appreciate Einstein’s work and great ideas through an array of games, book exhibition and public talks. To further engage the community, SSCI ran a series of scientific/mathematics interactive day camps and a science writing workshop inviting Dennis Overbye, author of “Einstein in Love: A Scientific Romance”, for primary and secondary school students. In order to enhance student’s learning experience, SSCI partners with the Education Bureau to host a science essay competition named “Letters to Einstein” to invite entries from local secondary school where winners may have a chance to recite what they want to say to Einstein at an award presentation ceremony.

As Einstein was a great lover of music and an accomplished violinist, the School of Humanities and Social Science of HKUST hosted a music workshop on “The Intimacy and Creativity”. Being first of its kind, the music workshop is devoted to promoting an intimate dialogue between world renowned composers and performers with “Arts and Sciences” as a major theme. Under the direction of Prof Bright Sheng, internationally-acclaimed composer, pianist and conductor, selected composers presented and, after in-depth discussions between composers and performers during on-campus rehearsals, revised their chamber music compositions. The revised compositions were presented in concerts at HKUST and at the Concert Hall of the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts.

A special feature exhibition entitled “Albert Einstein (1879-1955)” at the Hong Kong Science Museum exhibits over 200 objects and other documents depicting Einstein’s life and his contributions to science. Apart from shedding light on Einstein’s biography and putting it in the context of world history, the exhibition provides insight into his revolutionary ideas in modern physics. The exhibition was originated from the Historical Museum of Bern, Switzerland, commemorating the centenary of the theory of relativity in 2005.

In 1999, Time Magazine named Albert Einstein as “Person of the Century”. To date, Einstein is admired and revered as a genius in physics as well as an influential humanist. “Einstein in Hong Kong” is a golden opportunity for those who like to have a comprehensive understanding of this great figure whose scientific findings and inventions have had a profound impact on the society today.

For details about the event, please visit http://einstein.ust.hk/
Learning to Teach, Teaching to Learn
New Center to Drive Engineering Education Innovation

The first of its kind in Hong Kong, School of Engineering’s new Center for Engineering Education Innovation (E²I; pronounced as E squared I) sets to offer learning and development support to students and faculty by drawing on the latest findings in engineering education research.

As a leading engineering school in the world, the School of Engineering is building on its current strengths to make further advances in engineering education. Recent research has emphasized the importance of engineering learning in a rapidly changing world. Important questions related to learning have emerged: How do engineering students learn? What attributes does an engineering school want its graduates to have? How does the school help the students to acquire those attributes? Adopting a scholarship-driven approach, E²I seeks to bring the latest research findings to the School’s educational practice - what it does is informed by research scholarship and it will contribute to that scholarship.

E²I was established in Fall 2010 under the leadership of its Founding Director Prof Edmond Ko. The center has its initial focus on “helping people in transition”. People are “in transition” every time their environment is changed. Students undergo transition when they leave from their secondary schools to become university students – a transition that is known to be very difficult and at times stressful. The same holds for new faculty members who changed from being postgraduate students or post-doctoral researchers to faculty. The center is therefore targeting its support to first-year students and early career faculty members.

Empowering Students to Teach

To help the first-year students, E²I has introduced a peer mentoring program to provide support for incoming students admitted under the School-based Admission Scheme. This type of support is especially important in 2012 when all students in the first four-year cohort will be admitted this way.

Twenty Year 2 students, who were SBA students in the previous year, have been recruited and trained as peer mentors to support the 124 students. While traditional student development programs focus on creating experiences for the students, E²I’s program asks the students to come up with experiences that will be meaningful for their peers’ learning.

Through this interlinked teaching and learning process, not only the mentees, but also the mentors, benefit a lot.

Peer mentor Chris Mak (Year 2, Civil and Environmental Engineering) said that he hoped to use his experience in the first semester’s transition period to help the new students. “This is not just about how to select their majors, but to help them integrate into the university life and enjoy the overall experience.” Another peer mentor, Clair Mak (Year 2, Industrial Engineering and Logistics Management) said, “With the help of the program, it is encouraging to see that most mentees are able to identify their majors with confidence.”

As a people-oriented, humanistic and developmental unit, E²I promotes student learning and development by conveying to students the excitement of engineering practice and fostering good values among them. With the learning culture E²I is building, it is hoped that students will enjoy learning on their own and with their peers, thereby becoming effective lifelong learners.

More details: www.seng.ust.hk/e2i
International Games Night

HKUST Business School’s first-ever “International Games Night” was held successfully in the evening of 11 October 2010. Over 60 local BBA and exchange-in students participated in this fun-filled event organized by the Exchange Activities Committee (EAC). It was one of the Committee’s many activities to encourage cultural exchange and provide a gateway for exchange-in students and local students to mingle and foster stronger friendships.

On this very special International Games Night, students were first divided into groups of 10 and the excitement immediately kicked off with an icebreaking game “Tangram”, the oldest Chinese puzzle well-known to students from all parts of the world. The night filled with several rounds of Movie Charades, Chinese Chess, Flying Chess, Shuttlecock, Chinese Checkers, Texas Hold ‘em Poker and Blackjack. These games originate from different countries and each student had a chance to learn new games from group mates and in turn teach new friends games they know. It was a great opportunity for local students to improve English communication skills as well. After a series of games together, it was time for the students to show some team spirit! Highlight of the night was a “mummy wrapping game” which required group members to work together and wrap one of their group mates with toilet paper. Students had a lot of fun in this fast-paced game. Friendship strengthened, understanding deepened, the International Games Night ended with students leaving the room with big smiles.

Please stay tune with us at http://www.bm.ust.hk/ug, or visit our Facebook page at http://www.facebook.com/sbmu.hkust

In celebration of the University’s 20th Anniversary, the School of Humanities and Social Science has been organizing a series of public lecture seminars to encourage faculty-student interaction and engage the Hong Kong academic community. Since November 2010, the School’s 20th Anniversary Committee has already organized a number of successful seminars covering topics related to “Reassessing the dominant paradigm in humanities and social science: The Challenge of China”. World renowned scholars were invited to speak at the 20th Anniversary Distinguished Seminar Series. Prof Daniel Little, Chancellor of the University of Michigan-Dearborn gave a presentation on how system of power and class within which we live constitutes the basic framework within which our lives and purposes unfold. Prof Philip T. Hoffman of Caltech spoke on “China and the Global History of Long Run Economic Growth” in December 2010. In January 2011, Prof Lydia Liu of Columbia University gave a very interesting seminar on digital writing and its relations with our unconscious mind and how digital media alters the threshold of sense and nonsense for the mind. These seminars were well attended and attracted students from local universities, secondary schools and members of the UST community. A number of seminars with distinguished speakers will be organized in the coming months. Stay tuned.
LOHAS (Lifestyles of Health and Sustainability), is a recently growing trend of lifestyles that focuses on healthy and sustainable living. Being a part of the harmonious Sai Kung community, HKUST School of Science’s “LOHAS Sai Kung Community Service Program” encourages students to experience the LOHAS spirit and live out the LOHAS concept.

Co-organized by Sai Kung District Office, Sai Kung District Community Centre (SKDCC) and HKUST, the “LOHAS Sai Kung Community Service Program” revolves around serving the Sai Kung district. Through a variety of activities, students are expected to learn more about Sai Kung while having a chance to experience the LOHAS lifestyle.

The project spans across a period of 7 months from February to August 2011. Students may choose to participate in any service activities that fall under the 4 themes according to their own interests and strengths:

- **Cultural heritage** – through participating in Sai Kung Historical and Cultural Guided Tour Project and Dragon Boat Carnival, students will understand more about Sai Kung’s culture and help promote it.

- **Ecosystem conservation** – students will provide fixed point guided tour in Geopark, explaining the different landforms and geological features to tourists, while learning how to appreciate the environment and to protect the ecosystem.

- **Healthy city** – students will contribute to the healthy and happy living environment for Sai Kung citizens through acting as Safety Ambassadors for the Water Sports Safety Carnival, assisting youths in film production, and volunteering at the Tseung Kwan O Hospital.

- **Harmony and integration** – helping immigrant children from the Mainland to assimilate into local community, students will be providing English tutoring services to the children or taking them to orientation activities to explore the many sides of Hong Kong.

All students taking part in the project will attend an introductory workshop, in which they will have a clear understanding of what to expect from the project and set appropriate goals. The workshop is designed to increase students’ understanding of volunteering and encourage them to be more devoted to community services.

Using a points system, students with outstanding performances will be given recognition. Points can be accumulated in three areas: number of service hours, assessment of service performance, and self-evaluation. The event organizers will assess the students’ performance, attitude and contribution. Students will also complete a self-evaluation based on how much their knowledge of the community has increased and how well they have achieved the goals. Each student will receive a certificate upon completion of the project.

There will also be a volunteers sharing cum recognition ceremony at the end of the project period. The event provides an opportunity for students to share their experience and exchange insights on volunteering, at the same time allowing them to expand their knowledge about volunteering and building a solid foundation for future participation in community services.

LOHAS Sai Kung Community Service Program aims to increase students’ knowledge of the Sai Kung district, strengthen their communication skills, enrich their life experiences and encourage them to give back to society. Helping others not only yield great satisfaction, it also leads to a happier and healthier lifestyle, which is the essence of the LOHAS concept.
Robotics Reveals Way to Individual Enterprise and Team Spirit

With all-round development an integral part of a HKUST education, School of Engineering (SENG) students are encouraged to take part in a variety of activities outside the regular curriculum, including competitions. Such contests are important as they enable students to apply what they learn at HKUST, encourage independent thought and widen their perspectives by associating with peers in other local and overseas institutions.

The annual inter-institutional Robocon Hong Kong Contest provides students with real experience of a challenging project, including cooperating with others, problem-solving and time management. Each year at the start of the Fall semester, students who are interested in robotics are drawn to participate in the Robocon Team of the School. They are trained and coached by experienced team members through a series of tutorial classes. This tradition of old members teaching new ones not only helps the new students but also the old students on team management skills and personal development. In Spring semester, students are enrolled in the credit-bearing Engineering Special Project course, run by SENG professors, to further enhance their skills in robotics before they take part in the competition in June.

This year, the numbers of students signing up have shown a major increase and now encompass all SENG departments and the School of Science, an indication of the enthusiasm for robotics at HKUST and the benefits that participating in such contests can bring. To give students a taste of the competition and gain hands-on experience, an internal contest was held in November in the Atrium on campus. The event also captured the attention of other HKUST students and increased their interest in how to build robots.

Exchange Partners and Buddies

Having one of the most extensive exchange programs in Asia, HKUST Business School continues to expand its exchange network of 110 partners worldwide to provide invaluable opportunities for students’ academic and personal growth.

In an effort to create an effective channel for local students and exchange-in students to share insights and information regarding their own exchange experiences, the Exchange Partners Fair is held every semester. It is an important event for students who wish to go on exchange or are going on exchange providing information about the education, lifestyle, culture, accommodation, visa application for different exchange destinations worldwide.

The school’s Exchange Buddy Program pairs a local student with an exchange-in student to act as an ambassador to help non-local and exchange–in students to cope with living and studying in Hong Kong.

On a Buddy Kick-Off Activity on 12 Feb 2011, local students and exchange-in students spent a wonderful day playing games on campus and visiting famous scenic spots in Hong Kong - Stanley and Victoria Peak. The one-on-one Exchange Buddy Program has been successful in helping students from around the world to feel at ease at HKUST, as well as promoting Asian hospitality, culture and traditions. More information at: http://www.bm.ust.hk
Exploring Creativity Through Music

HKUST School of Humanities and Social Science offers a range of highly popular courses aimed at introducing classical music and encouraging music appreciation.

**Enjoyment of Classical Music**
From the power and beauty of the orchestra, to masterpieces from the church and concert hall, the goal of Enjoyment of Classical Music is to bring about a deeper understanding of music as an art form. Students gain an in-depth understanding of the history and theory fundamentals of western classical music from the Medieval period to the twentieth century. While previous music training is helpful, it is not required to take this course.

**Introduction to Music Composition**
The aim of the course is to encourage each student’s imagination and creativity through the process of music writing. Each student is required to write two substantial music compositions and have them performed by the composer himself/herself or classmates. Co-organized by the School of Humanities and Social Science and the Center for the Arts, students gave two successful concerts at the Tsang Shiu Tim Art Hall in December, 2010.

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**Building on Previous Success, Schmidt-HKUST Corporate Project Gets into Third Round**

Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) has become one of the most important emerging information technologies with diverse business applications. Is there any way that would better promote and facilitate the adoption of this new technology? Students of UST’s Dual Degree Program in Technology and Management (T&M) offered innovative and viable solutions that might help the industry generate new business opportunities.

Four teams of four elite T&M students joined the Schmidt-HKUST Corporate Project on RFID and Business Applications in Fall 2010. Over a three-month period, they analyzed and worked on research projects to advance their business understanding. They attended corporate seminars and conferences, conducted market analysis and screened and refined market strategies. By the end of the three months, each team offered an innovative and professionally prepared business development proposal for the company’s consideration.

The students presented their proposals and findings to a Panel of judges composed of senior executives from Schmidt & Co (Hong Kong) Limited and corporate professionals at the presentation cum closing ceremony held on 2 December 2010. The Panel was impressed by a team that had recommended using short range wireless technology to connect to social network with physical location information and they were selected as the champion.

**About Corporate Projects**
The Corporate Project is part of the Enrichment Program designed for T&M students to provide a well-rounded education with real life business exposure.
The VolTrateers (that’s how they call themselves) are celebrating VolTra’s 2nd anniversary this month (April 2011) which now has a membership of over 6,000, offering more than 3,000 voluntary opportunities in 100 countries.

Under the Mongolian Sky

Tagged as “a bird with no feet”, Bird Tang (BSc BIOL) is an obsessive traveler. He is also a dedicated volunteer. Doing both at the same time is a matter of course.

In 2008, he had the chance to work at an orphanage in Outer Mongolia for two weeks. “It was a different world,” he said.

Temporarily cut away from - some call it “civilization” – internet, mobile or high-tech toys and scarcely little electricity, Bird had the rare chance of immersing himself into the imperturbable serenity, and learnt to appreciate the astounding beauty of nature and the simple pleasure of innocent childhood games. Singing a quiet tune with children under the Mongolian sky filled his heart with joy.

“The experience was life-changing. I came to realize there are infinite possibilities before me to live an abundant life,” he said.

Working with volunteers from around the world and sharing history, culture, dreams with these passionate individuals taught him one thing - despite all differences we may have, we are all citizens of a global village, interconnected and interdependent.

“The idea fascinates me and I couldn’t stop preaching it to everyone I’ve since met. The world looks completely different if we use a wide lens – a global perspective,” Bird said.

At the time not many in Hong Kong had heard about international voluntary service (IVS). Joining overseas voluntary projects from Hong Kong could be painstakingly complicated. Bird once applied to work for a voluntary project saving baby turtles in Indonesia. He was unsuccessful as there was no proper intermediary in Hong Kong.

Bird shared his workcamp experiences and frustration with Kum Hiu Fung (BSc BIOL). The two were classmates at HKUST. And they came up with an idea.

“I knew there was a lack of IVS (and its NGO) in Hong Kong. I feel that it is the thing I would like to do and need to do,” said Kum.

“My idea is to set up a workcamp organization in Hong Kong? It will act as an official contact point providing match-making service for local enthusiasts who, like us, have problem accessing IVS opportunities?” Kum suggested.
They had fervent discussion with two other UST alumni - Henry and Billy (BBA), both frequent travelers who embraced the idea and they were quick to move the idea into action.

In April 2009, the four HKUST alumni, together with four of their friends, co-founded VolTra.

Citizens of global village

The very first VolTrateers had all joined international voluntary projects (workcamps they are called) themselves.

Henry Fong (BBA OM) participated in a Japan workcamp – Fukui Prefecture.
“As travelers, we are consumers of the place’s resources. But if we participate in local voluntary service (e.g. environmental protection), we are contributing back to the local community,” he said.

Billy Cheung (BBA MARK) participated in sea turtle conservation work in the south western coast of India in 2009. “If we adjust our attitudes and general habits regarding responsible travel and incorporate voluntary service into holiday arrangements, we can make a real difference,” he added.

“The best ways to really understand local cultures and traditions is through participating in local activities and there are many ways to add value to the local environment and culture – a carnival, or community service, for instance,” added Kum Hiu Fung (BSc BIOL).

“My experience in International Voluntary Service is peaceful and exciting. Before VolTra officially started, I was in Nepal mountain where I understand how small I am,” said Kum. There he realized one of the missions of VolTra is “Not only seek and work on the mission of yourself, but also help others to seek and work on their mission”.

Later he was put in charge of organising VolTra’s first, also Hong Kong’s first International Workcamp. An experience he described as “full of unprecedented excitement with friends from all over the world.”

Workcamps in Hong Kong

Other than match-making and managing applications, VolTra also organizes international workcamps in Hong Kong for both local and overseas volunteers to participate in community service and cultural exchange activities in Hong Kong. Three such workcamps have been organized so far and attracted volunteers from Asia and Europe.

When we think of overseas voluntary work, we think of Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders), ORBIS or Red Cross etc. – NGOs that welcome doctors, nurses or technical professionals.

“I had that impression too. But working at the Fukui Prefecture made me realize everyone can contribute to the IVS movement – just commit yourself, open up and get involved. Anybody aged 18 or above can join. Hardly any training is needed. It helps if you speak English but it is not a must.” Henry explained.
1. VolTra’s first international workcamp in Hong Kong was co-organized with the Fresh Fish Trader’s School in December 2009. 13 volunteers from five regions taught pupils of the school English, engaged in cultural exchange activities and helped renovate school facilities. The volunteers also visited elderly home during their two week stay.

2. A cultural-specific international workcamp was organized in the summer of 2010. Volunteers came for a weekend training camp in Peng Chau to promote the tradition of celebrating Tin Hau Parade.

3. In January 2011, the Warehouse International Workcamp focuses on promoting and appreciating the culture and tradition of the Lunar New Year was organized. 21 volunteers from Japan, Taiwan, South Korea, Russia, France and Hong Kong helped set up and run a flea market booth, renovated the living environment of the teenage club through planting and farm site formation.

More on: www.voltra.org

On alma mater

The VolTrateers thanked HKUST – their alma mater for the education which had greatly influenced their personal development.

Billy said student life at HKUST was so busy and he was trained to be efficient and better at time management. The six-month he spent in the United States as an exchange student turned out to be one of the most rewarding experiences he had.

Kum was a committee member of the Biology Students’ Society and SU Council at HKUST. “It provided me the knowledge and practice to set up and run an organisation,” he said.

Bird actively participated in community service during his UG years. He was Internal Vice Chairperson of a student residential hall and gained intangible rewards, e.g. communication skills and human relations skills. “That taught me how to cooperate with different people and parties which proved to be most useful when we started VolTra,” he said. It was also through the network he built then that led to the creation of VolTra – four of the co-founders are UST alumni.

Henry, also a BBA graduate, appreciated the University’s efforts in encouraging students to be creative, to come up with their own plans and help them implement their plans. He worked for a company run by students, guided by faculties and backed by the University in his Year 1.

“HKUST encourages students to come up with initiatives and materialize our dreams. Starting from ground zero is hard work, but we succeeded. It showed us that we can build something from scratch - just put ideas into action and work hark,” said Henry.
With today’s rapid technological advances and societal changes, students need to have an all-round development to increase their competitiveness. To help students acquire knowledge beyond their academic studies, the School of Science first introduced Knowledge without Border Seminar Series in 2009, covering topics on culture, politics, economics, environmental development and more. The seminars provide a platform for students to discuss and to reflect on issues that are closely related to their everyday life and increase their critical thinking abilities.

Recognizing that opportunities for whole person development are equally important to current and prospective HKUST students, the Knowledge without Border Seminar Series are open to UST and secondary school students alike. During the Fall Semester of 2010, some secondary school students had attended the seminars “Successful Leaders’ Book of Secrets” (「領袖秘笈」) and “Megatrends and The Shift of Powers between East and West” (「大趨勢與東西方勢力的轉移」), and used the chance to understand more about post-secondary education.

Students from St Paul’s Co-Educational College, La Salle College and Diocesan Boys’ School attended the “Successful Leaders’ Book of Secrets” seminar, for which Mr. Dick Lee Ming-Kwai, former Commissioner of Police, was the speaker. Mr. Lee shared with the students what a leader must do: have integrity, be a role model, and actively communicate. He inspired students on how to be a convincing leader: by having benevolence when they are in a top position (「居高懷仁」) and perform their best. Mr. Lee’s advice had benefited the students, especially those who were working for the student societies, where they could apply their leadership skills.

Famous Hong Kong financial columnist Mr. Cho Yan Chiu was the speaker of “Megatrends and The Shift of Powers between East and West”. Mr. Cho talked about the pattern of climatic changes and its influence on the economies around the globe. He then analyzed and explained in simple terms future economic development in the East and West.

To further facilitate exchange of ideas, the School of Science had also arranged for recommended students from the above-mentioned secondary schools to have dinner with the speakers after the seminars. Students used the opportunity to ask questions and shared ideas, gaining even more knowledge that adds to this valuable learning experience.

Knowledge is infinite; there is never a limit of what we can learn. School of Science will continue to organize Knowledge without Border Seminar Series in Spring 2011. This learning opportunity will be available for more secondary school students and more topics will be covered, including personal growth development, post-80s phenomenon and societal problems, environmental protection, and successful leaders’ sharing of experience. Students can use this chance to prepare themselves for university education, acquire knowledge of different areas, expand their horizons, and equip themselves for future challenges. Interested secondary school students may send an email to sungai@ust.hk for more information.
School-based Admission

HKUST will implement school-based admission starting in 2012. Students will be admitted to the four schools (Science, Engineering, Business and Management, Humanities and Social Science) instead of individual programs. They will be required to take foundation courses provided by the enrolled school and University Common Core courses covering various subject areas and a broad spectrum of knowledge. Students will choose their major discipline after getting an in-depth understanding of different specialties and finding out what suit them best and interest them most.

Credit distribution of the 4-year Program

Graduation requirement — 120 credits

Common Core Curriculum — 36 Credits, covering the following areas -
- Humanities
- Social Analysis
- Science & Technology
- Quantitative Reasoning
- Arts
- English Communication
- Chinese Communication
- Healthy Lifestyle

Students are expected to complete most of these 36 credits in Year 1 and 2.

Q&A

1. The last cohort of A-Level candidates and the first cohort of HKDSE candidates will be entering universities in 2012. Are they competing for university places with each other?

No. The two cohorts are not competing against each other. HKSAR Government has allocated additional resources and the provision of first year degree places will be doubled in 2012, with 15,000 for A-Level and another 15,000 for HKDSE candidates. A-level candidates will be admitted to three-year program while HKDSE candidates will be admitted to four-year program.
2. What is HKUST’s subject and level requirement for HKDSE candidates? Do different schools have different requirements?

HKDSE subject requirement for the 4-year program:
- 4 core subjects + 2 elective subjects (4+2X); or
- 4 core subjects + 1 elective subject + M1/M2 (4+1X+M1/M2).
- School of Business and Management (SBM) and School of Humanities and Social Science (SHSS) do not have specific elective subject requirements.

3. Does the University give preference to candidates who studied science subjects?

No. Modern society needs talents with a wide knowledge base and we aspire to nurture graduates with broad spectrum of knowledge. All elective subjects are important.

4. Do different Schools have different subject preferences?

Students need not worry. HKUST will be implementing school-based admission starting 2012. Students will be admitted to the four schools instead of individual programs. The 4-year program we offer is specifically designed to accommodate educational needs of students with different levels of subject/discipline knowledge and academic background. Students will have a wider selection of subject choices. The University also provides academic consulting services to (new) students, to help them choose the most suitable major discipline.

Assume the following students are admitted to HKUST School of Science via Jupas and they all wish to major in Physics:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Academic background (HKDSE electives)</th>
<th>Course Path</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Introductory Physics PHYS 000X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student A (Physics + Chinese History)</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student B (Combined Science: Physics and Biology + Economics)</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student C (Chemistry + English Literature)</td>
<td>Required</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Student will take different courses in their 1st year depending on the subjects they have taken in secondary school.
5. If a student takes more HKDSE elective subjects than required, how would the University consider the extra elective(s)?

When there are students with same scores competing for a place, the University will take additional elective subject into consideration – as tie-breaker.

6. Is it better to take pure science subjects (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) rather than Combined Science? Do Mathematics Extended Module 1 (M1) and Module 2 (M2) carry equal weight?

First Question: No; Second Question: Yes.

7. What happens if there are (a large number of) students getting the same HKDSE score?

Other than HKDSE results, the University uses the following to form a better picture of each applicant’s quality and caliber:

- School Reference Report (academic performance, personal and general abilities);
- Other Experiences and Achievements;
- Student’s 300-word personal statement;
- Interview performance

8. From 2012 onwards, there will be only one local public examination, how will the University screen candidates for interview without HKCEE results?

The University will rely on information and reference submitted by secondary schools to screen potential candidates for interviews. Students should note: for "other learning experiences and achievements", the University values quality over quantity and we appreciate students with a sense of social responsibility. Banding of students’ choice of HKUST Schools will also be considered.

9. Which curriculum (3-year or 4-year) will applicants with academic qualifications other than HKDSE (e.g. GCE A-Level, IB) be admitted to in 2012?

In 2012, students who have completed 12-year schooling will be admitted to 4-year UG program; students with IB, GCE A-Level, AP and students who have completed 13-year schooling will enroll in the 3-year program. Starting from 2013, all students will be admitted to the 4-year program, and the later group will be granted transfer credits (up to one year equivalent) toward the foundation requirement.

10. What would be considered a good personal statement (300 words, part of the JUPAS application)?

In general, we try to find out something about the applicant’s personality, aspirations, and motivation/suitability for the program applied. A good essay should tell a story and have a clear focus, reveal passion and expose personality, show creativity and independent thinking so that after reading, reader would form a unique impression about the applicant.
Working Hard and Flying High, Wonder Girls Get into Harvard and Columbia

From ore rocks to glittering gold is a process of roasting, smelting and refining.

In many aspects, teachers are like goldsmiths. They cultivate, inspire and develop students to reach full potential, to become shining young stars.

At HKUST, we often witness such magical transformation. “We encourage our students to set amazing goals and we are here to help them grasp every opportunity to achieve their goals,” said Mr Tony Lam, Head of Scholarships & Financial Aid Office at HKUST.

One of the University’s many endeavours is the ever increasing scholarship opportunities. In 2009/10 academic year, around 1,400 scholarships and prizes were awarded with a total value of $36.6 million. About 15% or our UG students received scholarships – a very high proportion compared to other local universities.

This year, we are particularly proud as three of the nine awards of the highly competitive HSBC Overseas Scholarship Scheme come to HKUST students. “We are the only university with all nominees awarded,” said Mr Lam.

Claiming full scholarship (totaling HK$1.2 million) to study one year at Ivy League universities starting this Fall, the awardees – Kristy Chiu Ka Ki, Pinky Wong Nga Ping and Sherwin Wong Po Yi, all BBA Global Business Year 1 students, have been dubbed as HKUST’s very own “Wonder Girls”.

Prof Emily Nason, Program Director of Global Business, was thrilled with these budding leaders’ achievement, “I am very proud of our students’ intellectual capability, admirable personal qualities, and their passionate pursuit of excellence. I wish them every success in their exchange year!”

Receiving scholarships usually denotes outstanding academic performance. When it comes to claiming full scholarship from vigorously competitive ones like the HSBC Overseas Exchange Scheme, it spells extraordinary qualities.

Sherwin has carefully studied the welfare of elderly in Hong Kong. “Prosperous as it may seem, Hong Kong remains home to thousands of elderly living in poverty,” she said. Sherwin has drawn up a plan to set up a social enterprise using a self-sustainable business model. She has chosen Columbia University as her exchange university mostly because of its famous Social Entrepreneurship Program.

Pinky will be majoring “Government” at Harvard. A keen observer of political climate, she found that limited information and knowledge may lead to misguided behaviour. Pinky will initiate a student association at HKUST to help improve students’ political awareness and participation when she comes back after the exchange. Pinky’s ultimate goal is to enhance the political awareness of Hong Kong people. “The change that I could make may be small, yet remarkable because great changes often stem from small thoughts,” she said.

Joining Pinky at Harvard’s “Government” program is Kristy. She is critical toward Hong Kong’s restrictive education system. “Hong Kong students need to think out of the box,” she said. She found the study tours she had been to most rewarding and is eagerly looking forward to the Harvard exchange. An active student leader, Kristy encourages young people to open up, reach out and explore the world.

Inspired by previous awardees, the Wonder Girls will take courses at neighbouring universities (e.g. MIT) as well as participate in community service there. “As exchange students, we are receivers. We want to be givers and contribute to the local community as well,” Kristy said.

Set you aim high and try your best is a HKUST culture. The University gives the confidence and offers opportunities for students to achieve their ambitions, and encourages them to make the most of the opportunities available.
Let’s for a second bring yourself back to the movie “The Matrix”...

Imagine your body is the Matrix, it’s under attack by numerous Agent Smith (harmful bacteria). You need to find Neo (a friendly bacteria) and transform him into “The One” (combat master who could eliminate Agent Smith) …

In this case, the Agent Smith of our body is *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*) - a species of bacteria that can cause a lot of serious health problems such as diarrhea, sepsis and toxic shock syndrome. If left untreated, the infection may be fatal. Until recently antibiotics still seemed to be the only effective treatment but unfortunately recent findings show that *S. aureus* has already formed resistance to antibiotics. It may turn into multiple antibiotics-resistant “superbug”.

After watching “The Matrix” one day, Rory Li, a first-year student of the Molecular Biomedical Sciences Program at HKUST, and a member of the University’s team in the International Genetically Engineered Machine Competition 2010 (iGEM 2010), came up with an alternative idea to treat *S. aureus* infection… He imagined human body was “the Matrix” and it was infected by the deadly *S. aureus* like Agent Smith. The body needs a superhero Neo to act as “the One” to eliminate the bad Agent Smith and ultimately restore the Matrix. The problem is - who… or more precisely, what, would act as Neo – the One?

Rory and the HKUST iGEM 2010 team comprising 15 undergraduate students from multiple disciplines, led by Prof King Chow from the Division of Life Science, sought to identify something that can cast as Neo in human body — and they found Lactobacillus - a friendly bacteria that you would find in some health drinks, like Yakult. Lactobacilli can live happily in our body and sometimes even supply us with health-potentiating (probiotic) effects. The team pondered the possibility of using Lactobacilli as Neo to eliminate Agent Smith - *S. aureus*, — a “super-bug elimination” project.

The HKUST iGEM team constructed a plan to transform Lactobacillus species with a similar detector capable of sensing *S. aureus* attacks. These Lactobacillus bacteria would in turn react by releasing an RIP (RNAIII-inhibiting peptide) — a small protein able to effectively put the *S. aureus* attack on hold and attenuate the infectious ability of *S. aureus* — to eliminate the deadly bacteria and treat infections.

Put it more simply, Neo tunes to Agent Smith’s channel and send him/them misleading signals. This will stop them from communicating with each other and disabled them from initiating any kind of attack. This novel idea was submitted to the iGEM 2010 committee under the medical track and the team won the Gold Medal at iGEM 2010 held at MIT in the US in November 2010.

HKUST has been participating the iGEM competition for three years, winning medal every year. HKUST will host iGEM 2011’s Asia Regional Jamboree on October 15-16, 2011. More information will be updated in: [http://2011.igem.org](http://2011.igem.org)
Leading by Serving - SLAM

A servant and a leader would normally be considered very different people, but those involved in the SLAM program tell us otherwise. Andrew Ma, one of SLAM’s co-organizers said, “If you want to lead, learn to serve first. True leaders always put others’ needs before their own.”

Servant Leadership

Now in its second year, UST’s Servant Leadership Application Module (SLAM2.0) is a unique leadership program that focuses on the qualities needed for a leader – servanthood, integrity, as well as a global perspective through a variety of interactive activities. For a period of 9 months, the program offers classroom training and experiential learning activities to develop students’ leadership abilities and mentalities.

Kittie Chan (Year 2, BBA IS and Management), Angus Luk (Year 2, BENG CS) and Jeff Pun (Alumnus, ECOF 2010) joined the program last year. They enjoyed the experience very much and decided to stay for a second year and are now serving as Assistant Coaches for SLAM. “Many people think that being a leader is equivalent to being a boss and others would have to follow. In fact, leaders need to give. It is through the act of giving that makes other people truly want to follow,” said Kittie. “We want others to accept our gifts, but it cannot be forced upon others. It’s easier if you really put your heart into it, and dictatorship is just not convincing,” added Angus.

Students’ SLAM Experience

Community service is an important component of the SLAM training, in which students can learn the true meaning of “leading by serving”. The program is merged with “Netbook Inclusion for Children Empowerment” (NICE) led by YMCA Hong Kong, which provides netbooks and networking services to underprivileged children. Abraham Chan (Year 1, BBA), a mentor of SLAM2.0 finds it a truly meaningful cause worth working for. “The program gives us the chance to be in touch with children from poor families with limited means and to develop close relationships with them.” As mentors, they not only teach computer skills to the children, but also meet with them regularly, allowing them to learn positive values through different social activities. “We are their role models,” said Angus, “little things we do can affect them.”

Other than community service, many successful leaders from various big companies were invited to share their insights to the mentors. Kittie says it’s very beneficial for her, “They shared their perspectives on work and on life and how to communicate with others.” Angus remembers meeting Mr. Erwin Huang, Deputy Chairman of TSL Jewellery, and decided to join SLAM. “[Mr Huang] pointed out that if the people living in poverty are not getting help, then they are very likely to remain in poverty. I’m moved by what he said,” Angus recalled. “I really wanted to help.”

Using what they’ve learned to communicate with their mentees makes the whole process more valuable. “What we learned from the workshops, we teach to the children,” said Kittie, who spent much time and effort in teaching the right values to the children. “The program teaches us the most useful skill sets that will benefit our career and academic development,” Jeff added. But it is through interacting with mentees that made him realize true and meaningful relationship requires cultivating. “Leadership cannot be learned in one or two classes,” said Angus. “It needs to be experienced.”

True leadership emerges when one is motivated by the desire to serve. Just as SLAM’s motto says – “Want to lead? Learn to serve!”

NICE SLAM won the “HK ICT 2011 Best Digital Inclusion Gold Award” and “HK ICT 2011 Best Digital Inclusion Grand Award”
So you’ve heard that entering university can be a scary experience – you leave the comfort zone in which you have been nestling into for the past decade in pursuit of higher education. You’re nervous about the challenges ahead while excited for all the fun you know you’re going to have. So, are you ready?

Here at the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology there is an orientation camp unlike any other. CAMPUS WRAP brings together first year students from all different majors, and ‘wraps’ them up in a fun-filled environment packed with activities that build social bonds, introduce different cultures, and give freshmen the survival skills needed for a fruitful university life – useful tips on time management, relationships, and even (gasp) table manners.

While most of the camps are subject-driven, CAMPUS WRAP is culturally focused and language-oriented. Students immerse themselves in an English-speaking environment while participating in a series of interactive activities. It’s a wonderful way to brush up our English as UST is a designated English-language university (so we might as well start speaking English now!)

Newly admitted students, “Buddies” (Year 2 & 3 university student helpers/mentors), and UST Staff from the Language Center spend 5 days together on campus and in the residence halls getting to know one another, building friendships that can last well beyond the university (yes, it’s possible to be friends with university staff!).

So, “Sign me up!” you say. CAMPUS WRAP runs in mid-August each year, and more information can be found on: http://campuswrap.ust.hk/
COMING FULL CIRCLE

Naubahar Sharif
Assistant Professor, Division of Social Science

Not everyone has the opportunity that HKUST has given me to return a favor. I earned my undergraduate degree from this university and I have been able to come back, PhD in hand, to teach new generations of undergraduates.

My experience earning a doctorate abroad provided me with a global outlook that dovetails perfectly with Hong Kong’s impending 3-3-4 Curriculum Reform. I benefited from HKUST’s growing internationalism as a member of its first class of undergraduates, and I embrace the university’s role in elevating Hong Kong’s higher education system to world-class standards. Although I was born and raised in Hong Kong I am not Chinese, but I’ve never felt more at home than I did in my UG days here. I’ve come home to give something back to the school that launched my career.

As students...

As one of HKUST’s first undergraduates, I experienced some of the university’s growing pains. When I wanted to make a phone call, for example, during my first orientation evening I gave up because of the long queues that would form by the one and only phone line in the entire student hall. How times have changed! These little inconveniences mattered little to me then because I felt privileged to have been admitted to any Hong Kong university to earn what was then the rare honor of a local undergraduate degree. I so enjoyed and prospered intellectually here at HKUST that I remained to earn an MPhil degree from the Division of Social Science before embarking on my doctoral program at Cornell University in the US. I bring to my teaching and scholarship a long-term perspective that spans the history of UG education at HKUST. As a teacher I now am able to extend the university’s best traditions of geniality and cooperation, which remain mainstays of the undergraduate experience, to my own students.

As teacher...

I so enjoy teaching here because the same values that enriched my undergraduate experience endure: academic excellence, a broad-based curriculum with an international outlook, and teamwork. The breadth of courses offered at HKUST shaped my career path, as I became interested in social science thanks to the undergraduate requirement to take general education courses outside of my home school (Business Management). My success as a teacher and scholar reflects a tradition of interdisciplinary learning at HKUST that not only remains but is a hallmark of the policies proposed by President Chan, who likes to say that you can have a ‘crossover’ education here. This crossover idea is especially characteristic of my field, science and technology studies (STS).

The things I like most...

One of the things I like most about this university is its tradition of warm relations among students and between students and faculty. I, for instance, had the privilege of personally knowing and being inspired by HKUST’s founding President, Chia Wei Woo, who left a deep impression on me as regards his vision for the development, mission and goals, of HKUST: a vision that strongly included the value of teamwork. It is enormously rewarding for me to create a culture of teamwork and civility in my classes.

I suppose I am able to do this because I remember what it was like to be a student here. I am able to put myself in my students’ shoes because I walked in them myself.
While I am dedicated to giving my students all the information they need to master my course material, it’s even more important to help them learn how to use that information wisely, both in and out of the classroom.

Educational Partnership

I therefore try to engage my students in an educational partnership, realising that cooperation—among the students and between them and me—is the key to learning. I want all my students to take lessons from my classes that they can apply throughout their lives. I try to instil in them a thirst for learning through which they acquire knowledge, practical skills, and an attitude that will help them succeed elsewhere at HKUST and in their post-graduate careers. In doing so I design my courses in a way that matches the current trend towards outcomes-based learning, an approach that is designed to increase the chance of success at the next level, whatever that is.

Hong Kong’s curricular reform, which takes effect in 2012, will position its universities for even greater international prominence than they now enjoy. I am privileged to have been a part of this educational system as both a student and a teacher/scholar and this perspective fills me with hope as I see Hong Kong responding to global trends that shape today’s knowledge-based economy.

Innovation and Technology

I study innovation and technology and I understand that HKUST, despite its relative youth, is poised to assume a leadership role on the cutting edge of education for the twenty-first century. That is why I am so dedicated to teaching students how society adopts to new technology. I turned down offers to join overseas faculties so that I could help HKUST, my alma mater, lead the way into the future. This is a dynamic university committed to continual renewal and transformation, which makes it a perfect fit for me, and a perfect fit for students aspiring to become global leaders.
About UST LINK

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