



THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

NEWSLETTER



September 2011

No. 4



Centenary Distinguished Lecture by Professor Sir Andrew Motion



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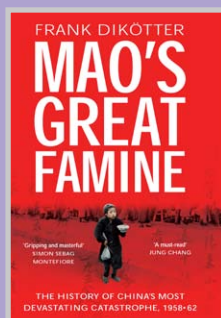


**Alumni and
Events**

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2011 BBC SAMUEL JOHNSON PRIZE FOR NON-FICTION

Chair Professor of Humanities
Frank Dikötter has been awarded the 2011 BBC Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction for his book *Mao's Great Famine: The History of China's Most Devastating Catastrophe, 1958-62*.



Mao's Great Famine, which beat five other short-listed titles to the award, reveals new details of the period from 1958-1962, providing fresh historical perspectives on Mao's campaign to increase industrial production during which tens of millions starved to death. The BBC Samuel Johnson Prize for Non-Fiction is one of the UK's most prestigious literary prizes.

NEW STAFF APPOINTMENTS

The Faculty was pleased to welcome the following academic and academic-related staff who took up new full-time and fixed-term appointments between January 1 and August 31, 2011.

School of Humanities

Dr David P. McCarthy, Associate Professor (Philosophy)

School of Modern Languages and Cultures

Dr Monica E. Chiu, Fulbright Visiting Associate Professor (American Studies)

Dr Adelyn L.P. Lim, Post-doctoral Fellow (Modern China Studies)

Centre for Applied English Studies

Ms Ashley A.L. Hazell, Language Instructor

Centre of Buddhist Studies

Dr Tsui Ching-hui, Teaching Consultant

EXISTING STAFF

The following existing members of staff took up new full-time and fixed-term positions during the same period of January 1 to August 31, 2011.

School of Humanities

Prof Xu Guoqi, Professor (History)

Dr Janet L. Borland, Research Assistant Professor (History)

Centre for Applied English Studies

Prof Agnes Lam, Professor

Mr Patrick D. Desloge, Senior Language Instructor

Dr Lillian L.C. Wong, Senior Language Instructor

Mr Hui Sai-ying, Language Instructor

Miss Lowana Phillips, Language Instructor

Miss Jane H. Stokes, Language Instructor

Ms Tse Po-ting, Language Instructor

OBITUARIES - FUMINOBU MURAKAMI

Our colleague and friend, Fuminobu Murakami, Associate Professor in the Department of Japanese Studies, sadly passed away on June 8, 2011, after a year-long battle with cancer.



Fuminobu Murakami

Born in 1951, Fuminobu Murakami received a B.Ed from Hokkaido University of Education in 1976 and went on to complete an MLitt and doctorate course (katei hakase) at Hokkaido University. He joined the University of Hong Kong in September 1988, where he remained as a dedicated teacher and provocative thinker for the next twenty-three years. He served as the mentor to scores of students, inspiring their studies on all aspects of Japanese literature and culture. He served as Head of the Department of Japanese Studies from September 1995 to December 1996, and was Deputy Head in charge of curriculum, teaching, and examination at the School of Modern Languages and Cultures from July 2006 to February 2011.

His research interests ranged from literary analysis of the 8th century *Kojiki* ("Record of Ancient Matters") and linguistic examination of the 11th century *The Tale of Genji*, to modern and contemporary Japanese literature. His publications include, most recently, *The Strong and the Weak in Japanese Literature: Discrimination, Egalitarianism, Nationalism* (Routledge, 2010), and *Postmodern, Feminist, and Postcolonial Currents in Contemporary Japanese Culture: A Reading of Murakami Haruki, Yoshimoto Banana, Yoshimoto Takaaki and Karatani Kōjin* (Routledge, Hardcover 2005, Paperback 2009).

Fuminobu Murakami is survived by his wife, Tomoko Kiyama, the Japanese Language Advisor to the Japan Foundation, and their daughter, Nanako Murakami. He will be greatly missed by colleagues and students around the world.



The University of Hong Kong's Centenary Celebrations will span two years, commencing January 2011 and concluding in the autumn of 2012 with the introduction of the new four-year curriculum and the opening of the Centennial Campus. Below are some of the Centenary events hosted by the Faculty of Arts in the first half of 2011.

CENTENARY DISTINGUISHED LECTURE: POETRY IN LIFE

On March 10, over 300 guests and members of the public attended the third Centenary Distinguished Lecture by Professor Sir Andrew Motion, Poet Laureate of the United Kingdom from 1999 to 2009. The lecture, entitled "Poetry in Life," was held in HKU's Rayson Huang Theatre, and was followed by a panel discussion moderated by Professor Douglas Kerr of the University's School of English, with Professor Leung Ping-kwan, Poet and Critic at Lingnan University; and Ms. Christine Loh, CEO of Civic Exchange, as guest panelists. The event was supported by The Hong Kong International Literary Festival 2011.

On March 11, a small group of senior secondary school students and university undergraduates exchanged views with Sir Andrew in an activity called 'Lunch with a Laureate', which was set up as an extension of the Centenary Distinguished Lectures. In the two-hour dialogue, students and Sir Andrew discussed various issues including how he first came to writing poems and the way in which poetry is taught in schools.



One of the secondary school participants from St. Mary's Canossian College shared her impressions of the event:

"Conversing with a poet laureate was a truly inspiring experience. I have learned to see the beauty and uniqueness in everything through the art of poetry as Sir Andrew Motion shared how even the dullest things in life can be decorated and transformed into subject matters of splendor and inspiration."

Videos of both the lecture and the lunch are available from the dedicated event website: http://arts.hku.hk/centenary_lecture/. The June 2011 issue of *Ming Pao Monthly* featured a Chinese translation of the entirety of Sir Andrew's speech.

PUBLIC LECTURE: FLY ME TO THE MOON

The moon landings are an iconic moment in the history of humanity. On March 28, 2011, Dr Tom Logsdon, a rocket scientist with thirty years experience in the engineering of large aerospace projects who was involved in the NASA mission explained how he and his colleagues used mathematical magic and simple, creative solutions to put twelve American astronauts on the moon.

PUBLIC LECTURE: WHEN HUMANITARIANISM GOES TO WAR

On May 11, the University hosted a public lecture by Professor Didier Fassin, James Wolfensohn Professor of Social Science at the Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton. Professor Fassin, who has just taken up a three-year Visiting Professorship at the Centre for the Humanities and Medicine at the University of Hong Kong, was, until 2003, Vice-President of Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders). His lecture focused on war scenes, from Kosovo to Iraq to Palestine, and on the role of non-governmental organizations, international agencies, and states in these contexts.

FSI-Stanford Humanities International Scholar in Residence 2011-2012

Dr Adams Bodomo, Associate Professor in the Department of Linguistics, School of Humanities, and Director of the African Studies Programme, has been chosen to undertake a four-month residency at Stanford as part of an international programme sponsored by the Stanford Humanities Center and the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies.

ACADEMIC ADVISORS TO SUPPORT NEW STUDENTS

The introduction of the new four-year curriculum will offer more choice to new students, representing a big change from the prescriptive secondary school curriculum. With that comes the challenge of ensuring students make considered academic choices.

HKU's new Academic Advisory System aims to help students in this by assigning them to teachers who can guide them through the new curriculum and the academic demands of university life. In the Faculty of Arts, a trial is now underway with 47 advisors appointed to advise this year's Year One students.

Professor Agnes Lam, Associate Dean in the Faculty, says the new system is particularly important for the Faculty of Arts because of the high degree of flexibility offered to students under the new curriculum. Students don't have to declare their majors until their second year and need only choose one Arts major – the second major can be outside Arts or they can declare up to two minors.



Professor Agnes Lam
Associate Dean of the
Faculty of Arts

"The more choice a student has, the more careful they have to be in their decision making. The Academic Advisory System will provide a temporary home for students who haven't declared their major yet, where they can get advice on academic matters. For example, the student may want to discuss whether to go overseas on exchange, or want advice on who to talk to about certain majors or minors," she says.

Students will have some choice in deciding which field their academic advisor comes from – a recognition that they may already have some idea of their preferred major. The advisors are drawn from six groups: Chinese, English, two humanities groups (one covering African studies, history, linguistics and philosophy, and the other comparative literature, fine arts and music), and two Modern Languages groups (one covering Asian languages and cultures, the other European languages and cultures and American studies).

Some 365 Year One BA students will be assigned to advisors this year and they will be required to meet with their advisor every semester during their first year of study. The advising system may continue into Year Two, although there will not be the same requirement to meet.

The decision to launch the pilot programme this year will enable any kinks to be ironed out before the first four-year cohort is admitted in September next year, a group that will be one year younger than the present intake and presumably need additional support.

Training has been provided to the advisors to ensure they are clear on the requirements of the new curriculum and of the Academic Advisory System, which is modeled on similar systems in other countries, in particular the U.S.

"Our main goal is to support students in the process of discovering their own academic interests and empowering them through such a process to enjoy their university studies even more," Professor Lam says.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS OF THE ARTS FACULTY

Chinese Art and Its Encounter with the World, Hong Kong University Press.
By David Clarke

Troubling American Women: Narratives of Gender and Nation in Hong Kong, Hong Kong University Press.
By Stacilee Ford

Pictures of Tilling and Weaving: Art, Labor, and Technology in Song and Yuan China, Hong Kong University Press.
By Roslyn Lee Hammers

Introduction to Critical Thinking and Creativity: Think More, Think Better, Wiley.
By Joe Lau

Ethics in Early China: An Anthology, Hong Kong University Press.
By Chris Fraser, Dan Robins and Timothy O'Leary

Introduction to Chinese Culture, Peking University Press.
By C.M. Si and Y.C. Si

《通識心要 — 緣起生命教育》, Centre of Buddhist Studies
By Ven Sik Hin Hung



NEW ACADEMY TO BOOST PROFILE OF THE HUMANITIES

Research success in the humanities can be a difficult thing for others to understand. Unlike science-oriented subjects, it is not based on citations or funding, but rather on the ideas and interpretations generated by individual scholars. How, then, to communicate its impact?

A new initiative hopes to offer some measure of guidance. The Hong Kong Academy of the Humanities (HKAH), founded in April this year, has members from all of Hong Kong's universities and promises to be a collective voice for promoting and recognizing excellence in the humanities in the city.

A major driver behind the Academy has been the Dean of Arts, Professor Kam Louie, who started discussions on the matter after arriving here from Australia six years ago. He was elected as the Academy's first President at its inaugural meeting on April 18, 2011.

"All the people involved in the Academy say they have wanted this for a long time – a group where they can talk to each other and work together, and where the rivalry between universities disappears. Most areas of the world have national academics backed by the government but Hong Kong doesn't, and for a long time the humanities have not been very prominent here," he says.

The Academy aims to change that. It will offer a platform to promote collaboration among researchers, and a formal recognition of excellence.

Thirty-nine Fellows, including Professor Louie and nine other HKU scholars, have been elected to the Academy by a founding committee composed of their peers. These 39 will in future elect two or three new Fellows each year.

They have started to identify events in which humanities can contribute to wider debates in Hong Kong. Later this year, for instance, they plan to organize a public forum on Humanities and the Knowledge Economy, and next year one on the Creative and Cultural Industries in Hong Kong.

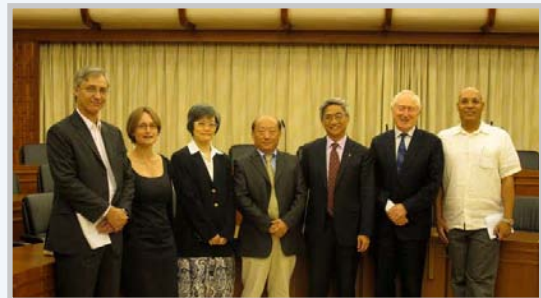
Bringing humanities scholars together will also give them a collective voice in dealing with the government, in particular the University Grants Committee (UGC), on funding and other issues of concern, without the risk of accusations of bias that would attach to a single university or scholar.

This united voice is particularly important in helping others to understand the importance and quality of humanities research – a crucial goal given frustrations about funding levels.

"Everybody has become frustrated – individuals, department heads, the UGC, are all frustrated. The UGC says, we don't know how you do your research, tell us. If we can advise them based on a territory-wide perspective, it will be much better," Professor Louie says.

Concerns about funding also extend to the Academy itself. It is now largely operated by the Fellows, but they hope to secure funding for secretarial and other support and eventually a permanent home. Professor Louie is hopeful that society will see the value of valuing humanities.

"Now that Hong Kong is no longer dominated by a refugee mentality, many people are looking for a good quality of life. I don't think other discipline areas can provide as much enjoyment or meaning from life as the humanities," he says.



Prof Louie (third from right) with members of the HKAH's Founding Executive

In addition to Professor Louie, the following nine distinguished academics from the University of Hong Kong have been voted Foundation Fellows of the newly formed Academy of the Humanities:

Professor John Burns - *Dean, Faculty of Social Sciences*
 Professor Daniel Chua - *Head, School of Humanities*
 Professor Frank Dikötter - *Chair Professor of Humanities*
 Professor Louise Edwards - *Professor of Modern China Studies*
 Professor Elaine Ho - *Professor of English*
 Professor Chris Hutton - *Chair Professor of English*
 Professor Ken Hyland -
Director of the Centre for Applied English Studies
 Professor Douglas Kerr - *Professor of English*
 Professor Maureen Sabine - *Professor of History*

The Faculty has had its most successful year in the government-funded research application exercise, securing approval for 21 projects valued at close to \$10 million in total, the most of any Hong Kong university in the humanities and creative arts category.

The approval came from the General Research Fund, which is operated by the government-appointed Research Grants Council and vets applications from all disciplines in Hong Kong's eight publicly-funded universities.

The Dean, Professor Kam Louie, said this year's result was particularly pleasing because it recognized the contributions of new staff. He also noted that the majority of recipients are women.

"Given the number of new/young staff who are successful, I am now even more assured that the Faculty can look forward to a very exciting future," he says.

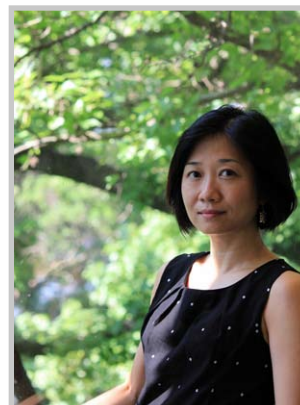
The Faculty received approval for proposals from all four of its Schools (Chinese, English, Humanities, and Modern Languages & Cultures), as well as the Centre for Applied English Studies and Centre of Buddhist Studies.

Among the recipients was Dr Youn Kim, Assistant Professor of Music, who joined HKU in 2007. She received funding approval for a study titled "Convergence and/or Dialogue: Music Theory and Psychology in Fin-de-Siecle Germany," and said the process of applying was useful to her work.



Dr Youn Kim
Assistant Professor
Department of Music

"My research project examines a discursive tradition in Germany between ca. 1890 and World War I, in which a number of scholars made conscious attempts to 'ground' music theory on the basis of the scientific psychology. The scope of the project was refined while preparing the GRF application, and the comments from reviewers put me in a better position to evaluate the project's significance in a larger context. Receiving the award provides me with momentum as well as support to pursue this rather extensive but meaningful project," she says.



Dr Katherine Chen
Assistant Professor
School of English

Dr Katherine Chen, Assistant Professor in the School of English, was another recipient, gaining approval for her project, "Coming home as strangers: A sociolinguistic ethnography of transnational bilinguals in Hong Kong."

"My colleagues and mentors have been wonderfully supportive

and encouraging throughout the application process, I'm very grateful to them and thrilled that our effort pays off. In the GRF proposal, I combined my long time passion for video documentary and a sociolinguistic ethnography on transnationals. This grant is timely for me to kick-start an exciting journey across continents," she says.

The RGC GRF 2011-2012 recipients are:

School of Chinese

Dr Wu Cuncun and Dr Yang Binbin

School of English

Dr Katherine Chen, Dr Wendy Gan, Professor Elaine Ho, Dr Lisa Lim

School of Humanities

Dr Ang Sze Wei (*Comparative Literature*), Dr Alexandra Cook (*Philosophy*), Professor Frank Dikötter (*History*), Dr Roslyn Hammers (*Fine Arts*), Dr Youn Kim (*Music*), Dr Gina Marchetti (*Comparative Literature*), Dr Robert Peckham (*History*), Professor Maureen Sabine (*History*), Dr Greg Thomas (*Fine Arts*), Dr Esther Yau (*Comparative Literature*), Dr Olga Zayts (*Linguistics*)

School of Modern Languages and Cultures

Professor Louise Edwards (*Modern China Studies*) and Dr Yoshiko Nakano (*Japanese Studies*)

Centre for Applied English Studies

Dr Tsang Wai Lan

Centre of Buddhist Studies

Ven Sik Hin Hung

Separately, Dr. C.M. Si, Associate Professor in the School of Chinese, has been awarded a substantial grant of HK\$2,414,700 under the Quality Education Fund 2011-2013 to support his project entitled, "A Survey on Humanities Education: Traditional Culture in Hong Kong as a Typical Case."



One of the great learning experiences for young writers and students is to hear how seasoned authors go about fashioning their art into a tangible form. The Writer-in-Residence Scheme in the School of Chinese offers that opportunity by basing writers here for two months at a time so a wide group of students inside and outside the Faculty can benefit.

The scheme aims to promote interest in modern Chinese writing. Invited writers typically give lectures to creative writing and Modern Chinese Literature classes, hold seminars for post-graduate students and give public talks at HKU and other universities.

They also help to judge writing competitions, such as the Hong Kong University Chinese Poem Writing Competition, that provide a forum for students to display their literary and creative talents.

This year's Writer-in-Residence was renowned Taiwanese poet, Professor Shui-shun Hsiao, popularly known as Hsiao Hsiao, who among other things gave a public lecture on "How to Elucidate a Modern Poem" that focused on the poem *Error*.



Professor Shui-shun Hsiao
Taiwanese Poet

Year 1 BA student Nigel Suen Cheuk Lam was in the audience and said the lecture was a "wonderful and rare experience".

"Professor Hsiao is such an articulate and humorous speaker and I was impressed by the details of his own experience which allowed him to interpret the poem in a sophisticated way. He concluded the lecture by saying that he is 'a passing traveller, not a homecomer'. I benefited a lot from his lecture and it has inspired me to approach my life differently," Nigel says.

Professor Hsiao, who was based at the School of Chinese from mid-March to mid-May, has published more than 100 books and usually teaches at Mingdao University, a position he took up after 32 years as a high school teacher.



Writer-in-Residence Public Lecture

瀟與蕭之感悟 —— 聽蕭蕭教授講新詩

偶有機會遇蕭蕭教授在港大講新詩，有幸一睹過詩人的風采。講的是鄭愁予的名作《錯誤》，歷時不久，卻自蕭蕭教授身上有一點似懂還非的感悟，無以名之，戲稱曰「瀟與蕭」之感悟。

其一「瀟」者謂瀟灑幽默。當非指形，是言行舉止所發，俱無嚴肅板直之氣，艱澀難明之論。侃侃而談，字字機峰，教人會心的微笑，俶爾眾人捧腹大笑，盡顯幽默。幽默誠是智慧。忘了誰說過，無論一個人怎麼有智慧，要是欠缺了機智幽默，那麼他擁有的一定不是最高的智慧。教授比詩人的浪漫更多了一點。

另一「蕭」者謂蕭瑟滄桑。亦非指形，是所講所思，所感所發，尤似磨練後的結晶。畢竟曾經滄海，踏遍江湖，遊行於桃源魏闕之垠，徘徊於濯纓濯足之間，究竟是目通天地，心存宇宙。可不要看輕一首情詩，不是慧眼看不穿世間纏人的男女情事。

講座臨終前一句「我不是歸人，是個過客……」思想頃刻凝滯。當夜深人靜，午夜夢迴；或獨對天地，面向繁星之際，吾等塵世之過客，想要尋覓一條歸途，到底心感蕭瑟還是瀟灑；抑或是仿那孤月，逍遙地度過漫長的夜，做個逍遙的過客。有誰知道。

Mr Suen Cheuk Lam, Nigel
Major in Chinese Language and Literature

The Writer-in-Residence Scheme is funded by an alumni endowment. Previous Writers-in-Residence include poet, painter and children's book writer Lin Fuan Chan (2008), and the acclaimed contemporary Chinese authors Chi Li (2009) and Chi Zijian (2010).

CLASSROOM EXPERIMENT SPANS THREE CITIES

Students at HKU are linking up via the Internet with students in Thailand and Korea for a credit-bearing course in Korean Studies.

The innovative programme involves lectures from Korea being broadcast live from a classroom at Ewha Womans University in Seoul to Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok and HKU.

The Faculty of Arts, which is providing all other teaching input for HKU students including seminars, the provision of additional materials and marking and grading according to HKU standards of assessment, has embraced the programme. Students in each location interact in real time with one another via the video-link.

Interest in Korean studies has intensified since a Korean language minor was introduced four years ago and saw enrolment double from 80 students in 2009-10 to 150 students last year. A Korean Studies major is planned to be introduced from next year.

“The Korea Foundation [a Korean government organization which is funding the course] and Ewha University are helping us diversify our Korean Studies courses and engage in a world class e-learning endeavour,” says Professor Louise Edwards of the School of Modern Languages and Cultures, through which the programme is being offered.

Two courses are currently operating – Understanding World Heritage in Korea and International Development and Co-operation in Korea. “The courses were selected because they give a global perspective on Korean issues and enable us to link our School’s e-learning strategy with our internationalization strategy,” says Dr Victor Teo, lecturer in the programme.

The lectures and weekly scheduled readings are in English, as are class discussions which involve students from all three universities participating simultaneously. Students will also participate in team projects and have access to Ewha’s cyber campus. The technical team from School of Modern Languages and Cultures ran multiple trials with Ewha during the summer to iron out technical challenges before classes began.

Kangsoon Lee, the Korean Programme Director at HKU, says the lecturers from Ewha are “outstanding” and get around the fact that there is not a very wide pool of academics globally who specialize in this area. “HKU doesn’t have to spend a lot of money to recruit people and we get these top lecturers,” she says.



From left to right: Professor Louise Edwards, Miss Kangsoon Lee, Dr Victor Teo

The Dean and Associate Dean of Ewha’s Graduate School of International Studies, Professor Kim Eun Mee and Professor Kim Young Hoon, are heading the teaching teams.

FACULTY EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

143 Arts students, representing 18% of eligible students, will go on semester or one-year exchange to institutions in Africa, Asia, Europe, and North America during the 2011-2012 academic year, versus 79, or 10% of eligible students, in 2010-2011, and just 8% in 2009-2010.

With the support of a generous donation in the amount of HK\$200,000 from Mrs Mona Wong, the Faculty was able to award four scholarships of HK\$30,000 each and ten travel grants of HK\$8,000 to students departing on exchange. These grants were in addition to those provided by HKU Worldwide to students with a CGPA of 3.0 or above. In all, over 95% of outgoing Arts students received financial support from the University for their studies abroad.

The Faculty will be launching the 2012-2013 round of exchange applications in December 2011 and holding an Information Session for all interested students. Details will be made available on the Faculty’s dedicated webpage: <http://arts.hku.hk/exchange/>.



Sally Lui gained far more than new knowledge in her second year as a Translation and Sociology double major. As the only Arts student selected to the University's Intensified Learning Opportunity Programme (ILOP) 2009-2010, she helped to organize a project to install light bulbs in elderly people's homes, met with NGOs and politicians to learn about the gaps between rich and poor, and spent two months on an internship in Beijing that opened her eyes to the opportunities available in China.

She also learned much from her fellow ILOP participants, who came from other faculties at HKU.

"We all had different angles on things and I got to see different points of view," she says. "This programme really got me to explore issues in society and the world, to understand my own strengths and weaknesses and interests and to step outside my comfort zone."



The ILOP is organized by the Centre of Development and Resources for Students (CEDARS) to develop students' service commitment, and Sally was selected in November 2009 after passing several tests of her leadership potential and character.

The programme began with a three-day adventure camp and was followed by a series of workshops, and several months of service activities. These included learning about the problems facing Hong Kong society, such as inflation, high property prices and racial discrimination, and taking up a service learning project.

"We walked through the streets and saw the gaps between the rich and the poor [that were being discussed] and how serious it was, so it became more real. Talking to political figures also gave us some insights on how to deal with these problems," she says.

Their service learning project involved helping elderly people in Sai Wan install environmentally-friendly light bulbs, a project they called Lights Up! The Caritas Hong Kong NGO identified those in need, but it was up to the students to organize fund-raising, publicity and logistics. They decided to recruit secondary school students as volunteers for the project and asked them to design a sculpture from the discarded bulbs to help spread a caring message in the community.

"I hadn't done any community work like this before. I'd been Internal Vice-Chairman of the Arts Association, but mainly the activities I organized were for Arts students," Sally says.

The final leg of ILOP was an internship. Students had the choice of going to several countries and Sally opted for the only offering in China – a posting with the Hong Kong government's office in Beijing. She helped to write a report on the development of the Yellow River Delta and Bohai Rim Region and organize activities in Beijing to celebrate the 13th anniversary of the handover, and she learned much from the director of the office, Mr Thomas Tso, about the rapid changes underway in China.



Sally Lui (left)

"People think if you get the chance you would want to go overseas instead of China, but even though I'd been to Beijing before, what I saw through the internship was very different. There are so many opportunities. I would recommend this choice," she says.

Overall, ILOP has opened her eyes to the world around her and linked her up with like-minded people.

"I have a group of friends now who share my values and we feel that we're responsible for society and making it better for everyone, not only the rich but also the poor. We keep trying to improve ourselves, too, and act as role models for each other. This is a group of friends that I treasure a lot," she says.

Two Arts students were selected for the Intensified Learning Opportunity Programme 2010-2011, Ms Li Po Chu and Ms So Hiu Yan.

ILOP provides participants with fourteen months of intensive learning opportunities including Personal Development, Service Learning & Volunteering, Overseas Internship, and Mentorship Scheme. For details and application forms, please visit: <http://cedars.hku.hk/ilop>. The application deadline for ILOP 2011-2012 is October 13, 2011.

A CREATIVE WAY TO EXPRESS LEARNING

Traditional teaching and learning require students to listen, absorb what they learn and reflect that back in essays and exams. But there are many other ways of expressing learning and in the Department of Comparative Literature, students are encouraged to do so using their creativity.

Films, photos, poems, online magazines and other materials have become their tablet, and their work was showcased in a one-week exhibition in March held at the Global Lounge for all to see. The main criterion was simply that students incorporate their learning into their work.



Creative Writing Projects

"Because we do not teach creative writing or film production, we ask them to translate their theoretical knowledge and critical views into creative expressions," says the Chairperson of Comparative Literature, Dr Esther Cheung.

The theme of the exhibition was "Amidst Interpretations" which reflected the students' motivation to make sense of the world around them.

For example, one group of students looked at the phenomenon of "kidults", which was tied to the representations of masculinity that they had been exploring in class. The group attended a Lego convention in Hong Kong and interviewed men there about whether playing Lego was manly or undermined their masculinity. The results were compiled into an online magazine.



Title: Traces 線索
Author: Chan Serene Chor See

"By asking them to express themselves creatively, we have been able to make this happen because they are no longer passively receiving information from us," Dr Cheung says.

Most of the students participating in the exhibition were in their second or third year of undergraduate studies. A total 37 projects were exhibited and Rachel Yan, an MPhil student who helped to organize the exhibition, said the Global Lounge setting provided ample space. Last year the projects were exhibited in a classroom in the department.

"Previously we tried to do it at the end of the semester, at the last lecture, but it was too rushed. There are too many great works and not enough time during a lecture to showcase them. This public exhibition has turned out to be a good way to display their work," she says.



Title: Glorified Mundan-eity
Author: Ahmed Shormi

The Global Lounge exhibition was funded by a Teaching Development Grant and future such exhibitions will depend on funding. In any event, a website is being set up to offer a permanent home for the students' work.

STUDENT AWARD

2010-2011 Migratory Journeys International Composition Competition

Mr Daniel Lo Ting-cheung has won First Prize in the 2010-2011 Migratory Journeys International Composition Competition hosted by the Chinese Fine Arts Society (CFAS), a non-profit organization based in Illinois. Mr Lo is an MPhil (Music Composition) candidate under the supervision of Dr. Chan Hing-yan.



IMPROVING PEOPLE'S THINKING SKILLS

The Critical Thinking Web is a remarkable resource that offers online tutorials and resources to anyone who wants to learn more about critical thinking and improve their skills in evaluating knowledge.

It's a live example of the concept of free and open education, offering the fun and the serious: the world's hardest logic puzzle, a quiz to test the consistency of your moral beliefs, self-learning modules on basic logic, scientific reasoning, strategic thinking, creativity and other concepts, a downloadable mini-guide on critical thinking, and many other materials.

Dr Joe Lau, Associate Professor in the Department of Philosophy, School of Humanities, launched the website in 2004 in collaboration with Dr Jonathan Chan of Baptist University of Hong Kong, and it now attracts up to 40,000 visitors per month from around the world.



Professor Lap-Chee Tsui presents the Faculty KE Award to Dr Joe Lau

Dr Lau says the website sprang from a desire to teach students more about logic and critical thinking, use information technology in teaching, and make learning resources available to the general public.

"I believe free and online education will completely change the way people teach and study, and this will particularly benefit developing countries and disadvantaged minorities. I wanted to contribute to this worthwhile cause and hence developed this project," he says.

Those goals have been readily met. Secondary schools, community colleges and universities in places as diverse as Mongolia, Uzbekistan, South Africa and Australia are using the materials. The top 10 countries using the site in 2010 spanned four continents and included developed and developing economies: the U.S., Hong Kong, the U.K., Canada, the Philippines, Australia, Malaysia, China and Singapore.

Business and professional communities have also been clicking on the pages. "They want to learn more about critical thinking to enhance their reasoning skills," says

Dr Lau. "Some of them have borrowed the material in their in-house training courses. The Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India has published some of the material in an anthology on critical thinking."

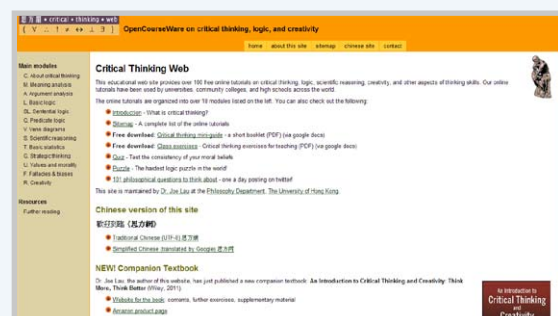
The quality of the site has earned praise from the University Grants Committee and reviewers of HKU's Department of Philosophy, while Dr Lau says the positive feedback from users has been the major factor in keeping the site going.

"I get emails from visitors saying they have found the material useful. It is gratifying to know for example that the website is helping students in Vanderbijlpark in South Africa to improve their thinking skills. The fact that everything is on the web and free makes the difference," he says.

The content on the website is updated by Dr Lau and the site is hosted by HKU. The website was one of the first in Hong Kong to make use of a Creative Commons license, which aims to balance copyright laws with the open nature of the Internet and the aim of providing universal access to knowledge.

The Critical Thinking Web can be visited at: <http://philosophy.hku.hk/think/>

Dr Joe Y F Lau received the Faculty Knowledge Exchange Award 2011 of the Faculty of Arts for the "Critical Thinking Web: OpenCourseware on Critical Thinking, Logic and Creativity" project.



Dr. Lau's Critical Thinking Web will be featured as part of a Poster Presentation at the upcoming Knowledge Exchange Conference in December 2011.

The Japanese earthquake on March 11 was met with an outpouring of donations and concern around the world. In the Faculty of Arts, Japanese Studies students were at the forefront in marshalling support at HKU.

The students were involved in raising more than \$70,000 through a March 18 charity concert and other activities held in connection with Japan Month at HKU 2011, the programme of which was adjusted to acknowledge the disaster.

While attending a forum on April 18 with Japan's Deputy Consul-General, Mr Daisuke Matsunaga, Pro-Vice-Chancellor S.P. Chow, and Senior Student Advisor Dr Albert Ko, the students mentioned that, in addition to their fundraising efforts, they also wanted to restore Hong Kong people's faith in the country.

Tourism to Japan, which was hit by a radiation scare as a consequence of the earthquake and tsunami, had dropped more than 80 per cent compared with the same period in the previous year, so the students decided to travel to the country and show Hong Kong people that it was safe to go there.

Echo Chan Sze-kuen, chairperson of the Japanese Society, A.A.H.K.U.S.U, helped to organize the five day trip in May with fellow students and Associate Dean Dr Yoshiko Nakano, and sponsorship from All Nippon Airways (ANA).



"We'd read reports that Japanese tourism was having a difficult time after the earthquake and we thought it was because people didn't know the real situation there. We decided we would try to go Japan and show Hong Kong people that it was safe," she says.

Thirteen students and Dr Nakano travelled to Tokyo and Hokkaido, eating traditional food, visiting the sites and taking lots of photographs that they posted on Facebook so people could follow their journey.

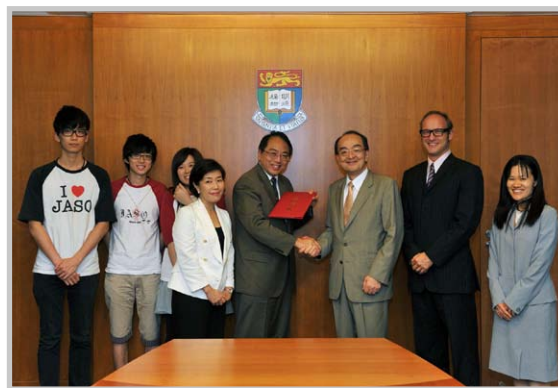
"I was most affected by the reaction of the Japanese people," Echo says. "When we went to Tokyo [which had been shaken by the tremor] I thought it would be in difficulty, but it was just like Hong Kong. People were leading a normal life – they were going to work, the railways were crowded, there were people on the streets, the shops were opened and the restaurants were full. Although they were still dealing with the consequences of the tragedy, they were getting on with their lives. They were so brave."

The students produced a report of their trip that was uploaded to ANA's website, and they received a lot of media coverage of their efforts, especially in Japan. Hong Kong's TVB followed their example and sent their own team on a similar trip to the country after the students returned.

The trip also had educational benefits.

"It was a different way of learning about Japanese culture because we were eating traditional food, going to traditional inns and learning the rules we needed to follow there. We also got to practise speaking Japanese," Echo says.

On July 14, the Japanese Consul General, Mr. Yuji Kumamaru, presented a letter of appreciation to Vice-Chancellor Professor Lap-Chee Tsui in recognition of the University's generous support of the earthquake relief efforts.



Japanese Consul General Mr. Yuji Kumamaru (third from right) presents a letter of appreciation to HKU Vice-Chancellor Professor Lap-Chee Tsui



Yip Wing-sie (葉詠詩), a renowned figure on the Asian orchestral music scene and now a University Artist, has lived and breathed music all her life so she is well attuned to its higher purpose.

“In pursuing art and music we are always looking for something that is beautiful. In pursuing that beauty, we see how it can apply to our own attitudes and lives. If we all have art inside us, it will be a better world,” she says.

That level of appreciation is something she hopes to inspire in students through the Faculty’s University Artists Scheme (UAS), which brings accomplished artists from various fields to HKU to meet with students and help nurture talent and an appreciation of the arts.

Ms Yip, who is Music Director and conductor of the Hong Kong Sinfonietta, has worked with such renowned artists as Fou Ts’ong, Anne-Sophie Mutter and Itzhak Perlman, and received international honours and recognition for her work.

But while she moves in lofty musical circles, she believes her work is also to communicate with people who engage in music at all levels – from those who aspire to a musical career, to those who have set musical ambitions aside for other professions, to those who just enjoy listening.

Her involvement in the University Artists Scheme enables her to do that and so far she has held a workshop on campus for 30 students from across the University and plans to do three more workshops, a public seminar and a performance.

Several students who aspire to be professional musicians played for her at the workshop and she offered them tips on their performance and preparing for their career.

“You must know how good your potential is and then you must work very hard. I also always encourage students to be flexible in choosing their subjects. If you’re exposed to many different subjects in the field of music, you’re better equipped for any options you may have on graduation,” she says.



Yip Wing-sie
(photo credit: HK Sinfonietta Ltd)

For those not pursuing a professional musical career, she urges them to keep up their love of music.

“Music can last for the rest of your life. If you have the capacity to keep playing, it’s a wonderful experience to be able to make music with friends,” she says.

“And for those who enjoy music but find it difficult to practise, why not be a good listener? Go to concerts and performances, it will enrich your life. Artists, no matter how well we play, need an audience that is well informed and well exposed to the art.”

She praised the UAS for helping to develop that appreciation in students – and also benefiting the artists themselves. Through the scheme, Ms Yip has for the first time met filmmakers Mabel Cheung and Alex Law and visual artist Gu Wenda.

“If not for this scheme, I wouldn’t have got to know Mabel Cheung. I’ve seen so many of her films but only now met her in person. Maybe in future we will have an opportunity to work together – we have started a conversation on this,” she says.



Ms Yip is welcomed to the University Artists Scheme by Prof Kam Louie, Dean of Arts

An inauguration ceremony was held on April 7, 2011 to welcome Ms Yip Wing-sie and three other highly respected artists to the University Artists Scheme 2011-2012: Filmmakers and HKU Alumni Ms Mabel Cheung (張婉婷) and Mr Alex Law (羅啟銳), and Visual Artist Mr Gu Wenda (谷文達).

The University Artists Scheme is hosted by the Faculty of Arts and generously supported by the Daniel Chan Fund.

HKU 3MT COMPETITION 2011

Two of the Faculty's research postgraduate (RPg) students were winners in the University's inaugural Three Minute Thesis (3MT™) Competition held on June 17.

Ms Selina Lai Suet Lin, PhD Candidate in American Studies, was the Competition's 1st Runner-Up for her presentation, "Was Twain White? The Translational Frame of Blackness in the Work of Mark Twain." Her prize consisted of a research travel grant or book prize of HK\$5,000.

The People's Choice Award, decided by the audience, went to Ms Li Yunzi, PhD Candidate in Literary Translation, for her presentation, "Translating 'Waiting'," for which she was awarded a prize of HK\$3,000.

Developed by The University of Queensland, 3MT is an academic competition that challenges RPg students to explain their research within three minutes to a general audience. This year's event was co-organized by the Graduate School and the Knowledge Exchange Office.

HKU CONCERT SERIES

The second semester 2010-2011 brought award-winning musicians to the campus for seven free, public performances organized by the Department of Music.

Highlights included a performance of baroque and Balinese music, as well as several John Cage compositions, by the HKU Early Music Ensemble, University Gamelan, and HKU Percussion Ensemble; a Lecture Demonstration on Contemporary Music and Film by the international touring group Bang on a Can All-Stars; and a recital by Master Yao Gongbai, held as part of the HKU Qin project, Qin Music of the Antiquity. Master Yao Gongbai excels in both qin research and performance, and was conferred the title of "Representative Inheritor of National Intangible Cultural Heritage" by the PRC Ministry of Culture in 2008.

The HKU Composers Showcase featured five Hong Kong and world premieres of compositions by the Music Department's postgraduates, including a piece that won the Special Prize for best chamber music in the 2010 International Antonín Dvořák Composition Competition.

A TASTE OF ZEN MEDITATION RETREAT 2011

A five-day meditation retreat co-organized by the Centre of Buddhist Studies and its Alumni Association was held from April 21-25 at the University's Kadoorie Institute – Shek Kong Centre. The Centre of Buddhist Studies' Acting Director, Venerable Sik Hin Hung, provided guidance to the close to 100 participants on the practices of Zen meditation.

SUMMER INSTITUTE 2011

The third Summer Institute in the Arts and Humanities (SIAH) was held from June 20 to August 13, 2011. The eleven credit bearing courses attracted 247 visiting and exchange students, over twice as many as in 2010, and the open courses for Hong Kong secondary school students 142.

The five-day residential programme offered to senior secondary students featured lectures by award-winning teachers from each of the Faculty's four Schools and a visit to the Public Records Office of Hong Kong led by the University's Archivist. During their stay, the students were mentored by members of the Arts Association, H.K.U.S.U. Among the 42 students who took part in the residential programme, 8 were from the University's new Academy for the Talented.



Dr Carolyn Muir with SIAH participants

A series of four musical events held in conjunction with the HellHOT! New Music Festival 2011, as well as a Writers' Forum featuring the celebrated British authors Nicholas Coleridge, Adrian Anthony Gill, Tom Parker Bowles, and David Starkey in conversation with Sir David Tang attracted over 1,100 attendees.

CULTURAL LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2011 – ARTS SPACES THAT WORK, AND WHY

The University's Advanced Cultural Leadership Programme (ACLP) partnered a three-day Summit co-presented by the Hong Kong Arts Administrators Association and West Kowloon Cultural District Authority. The Summit, which was held from June 1-3, featured international and regional cultural leaders exploring issues related to arts spaces – their set-up, operation, and inter-relation with programming and outreach.

Speakers at the Summit included Michael Lynch, Former Chief Executive of the Southbank Centre, and Wang Zhengming, Vice President, National Centre for the Performing Arts, Beijing. The event was supported by the Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, Hong Kong Arts Centre, and Hong Kong Arts Development Council.



A STUDY OF CONTRASTS

Betty Leong has had an unusual and illustrious career path since graduating in 1987 with a BA in English and Comparative Literature. Today she is the General Manager of Investment Property with the Mass Transit Railway Corporation (MTRC) – about as far away as you can get from the absurdist literature of Pinter, Stoppard and Beckett that she favoured as a student. Yet the benefits of her Arts degree still linger.

“The beauty of literature is that you have to come up with your own appraisal. When you start to write an essay, you never know if you are getting it right because there is no definitive right answer. That’s particularly relevant in the real world where things are changing so rapidly,” she says.

Ms Leong has applied that adaptability to her own career. She decided on an Arts degree because she wanted to study something she enjoyed and began MPhil studies once she finished her undergraduate degree. But she also realized she needed real world experience, so she joined the property developer Great Eagle.



Betty Leong

That led to jobs with the Airport Authority and the MTRC, and an MSc in real estate that she earned in 2000. Her responsibilities have included overseeing commercial and investment property development at the airport, on the mainland, and at Elements, amongst others.

“The Arts degree complements the rational, scientific side of my work because it has trained me to be more open-minded and look at different perspectives of the same thing, and to read between the lines,” she says.

One other thing she has learned is to take her time and think. Her thesis supervisor, Dr Vicki Ooi, once observed her writing an exam and afterwards gave her wise advice. “‘She said, in that three hours you were writing and writing, but you never stopped to think. You should stop and think before you write.’ That is still useful advice to me,” Ms Leong says.

We are pleased to announce that Mr Andrew Fung, who featured in the Alumni Sharing section of the January 2011 issue of our Faculty Newsletter, was named Justice of the Peace of the Hong Kong SAR on July 1, 2011.

FLYING OFF IN NEW DIRECTIONS

When Veronica Ho was hired by Dragonair as a management trainee straight after finishing her BA in Translation in 1998, she had one question for her bosses.



Veronica Ho

“I asked them, why me? I don’t have training in business – I’m an Arts student. But my bosses told me they were not looking for someone who was necessarily good in finance or accounts, but who was self motivated and had the insights and ambition to explore their potential,” she says.

These were qualities she felt she had gained through her training at HKU, not only in classes but also in hall life. “It’s a fundamental part of your tertiary education that you learn to identify what things you are really interested in and to look at the bigger picture versus the technical details.

“Hall life was also good preparation because you have to follow basic courtesies in the way you address people. I lived with more than 300 people and this was good training for where I am now, working in a company with thousands of employees.”

Ms Ho rose quickly through the ranks at Dragonair and by the time she was in her mid-20s, she was managing a team of 20 at their Xiamen office. She was then transferred back to headquarters to work on revenue management and marketing at a time when Dragonair was merging with Cathay Pacific.

Today she is Partnership and Communications Manager of The Marco Polo Club, seemingly far removed from an Arts degree. But she says her degree still benefits her. “With an Arts degree, you learn to formulate ideas, put them into perspective and deliver them to others. You also gain communication skills. Senior management appreciates that. You need to deliver your message in the right manner, with good language and writing skills, and have good presentation skills.”

These skills can lead to a variety of career options for Arts students, she says, adding that majoring in translation was also useful. It exposed her to Western culture and thinking, something that is particularly helpful in a multinational company like Cathay Pacific.

SEPTEMBER 30, 2011

Meeting Filmmaker Peter Chan:
Public Forum on Wu Xia
University Artists Scheme

OCTOBER 11, 2011

When Two Phoenixes Meet: Loo Sze-wang (sheng) &
Eri Ito (sho)
HKU Concert Series, Department of Music

OCTOBER 14, 2011

Arts Student Career Forum

OCTOBER 18, 2011

Public lecture by Prof Judith Farquhar
Centre for the Humanities and Medicine

OCTOBER 26, 2011

Public Lecture by Prof Wendy Larson
School of Modern Languages and Cultures

OCTOBER 29 & 30, 2011

HKU Information Days

OCTOBER – DECEMBER, 2011

Tung Lin Kok Yuen Buddhist Academic Lecture Series
Centre of Buddhist Studies

OCTOBER / NOVEMBER, 2011

German October 2011
Festival of Mediterranean Cultures
School of Modern Languages and Cultures

NOVEMBER 8, 2011

Contemporary Cello - Friedrich Gauwerky
HKU Concert Series, Department of Music

DECEMBER 3, 2011

Prize Presentation Ceremony
Faculty of Arts

DECEMBER 5-6, 2011

Knowledge Exchange Conference: Knowledge
Transforming Society
Featured Speaker: Ms Yuko Hasegawa
Chief Curator, Museum of Contemporary Art Tokyo,
Japan

DECEMBER 15-17, 2011

Legacies of Taste: An International Conference on Food
Narratives in China – School of Chinese

UNIVERSITY ARTISTS SCHEME VIDEO COMPETITION

In celebration of HKU's Centenary, the Faculty of Arts is organizing a Video Competition, with a jury including Mabel Cheung, Alex Law (University Artists 2011-2012).

Share memories of your University life through interactive media and make sure that you include the number "100" somewhere in the film as a reference to the University's Centenary Celebrations.

Each applicant or group of applicants will need to submit a short video of 5 to 15 minutes in duration. HKU students, alumni and staff are all eligible to enter.

Don't miss this chance to win the grand prize of an HDV Camera from Panasonic!

Application forms can be downloaded from
http://arts.hku.hk/uas/video_form
Deadline for submission: 20 January 2012 (Friday)

Further information can be obtained from the University Artists Scheme website:
<http://arts.hku.hk/uas/videocomp>

The University Artists Scheme 2011-2012 is hosted by the Faculty of Arts and supported by the Daniel Chan Fund. The video competition prizes are sponsored by Panasonic and the Shun Hing Group.



Arts Faculty Newsletter <http://arts.hku.hk/newsletter>

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