



University News

HKIB Formally Opened

The newly completed building complex by the side of Tolo Harbour which houses the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology (HKIB) was formally opened by the Hon. Sir David Ford on 25th February. Other officiating guests included Mr. David Gairns, Steward of the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club; Sir Quo-wei Lee, chairman of the Council of The Chinese University; Prof. Charles K. Kao, chairman of the Board of Directors of HKIB and vice-chancellor of the University; Prof. the Hon. Wang Gungwu, member of the Board of Directors of HKIB; and Prof. Dominic Man-kit Lam, honorary director of HKIB.

In his welcoming address, Prof. Kao represented the Board of Directors of HKIB to thank all parties involved in launching the institute in 1988 and gave a brief account of the progress made by the institute to foster collaboration with business corporations and tertiary institutions on biotech-related pro-



HKIB formally opened by the Hon. Sir David Ford.



Guests tour the facilities in the new complex.

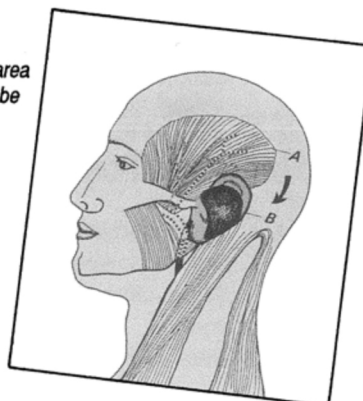
jects and to attract investments. He gave examples of various agreements signed with research institutes in the USA, mainland China and Taiwan to develop biotechnical products targeted at the world market, and stated that researchers had so far been concentrating their efforts on discovering new drugs based on oriental health concepts and materials, and on pollution control by bioprocesses. The institute, he said, had plans to expand into areas such as pharmaceutical and diagnostic agents based on genetic engineering, and high-nutrition food products.

After the ceremony, guests were invited to tour the facilities in the new complex and watch demonstrations performed by researchers and technicians. The function was attended by over 150 guests.

The Hong Kong Flap – A New Dimension in Ear Surgery

The Department of Surgery has successfully developed a new technique to help sufferers of cholesteatoma, a disease which causes cells to grow abnormally in the ear and which may lead to deafness, brain infection and even death. While doctors have long known how to remove the tumour-like growth between the middle and inner ear, the surgery will leave a cavity where dirt and unnatural

'A' shows the area of the issue to be harvested; 'B' shows the location of the unnatural hole in the skull created after removing the tumour-like growth.



discharge may accumulate and cause further hearing impairment.

Doctors have tried for years using a lot of artificial materials to repair the ear, but without much success. Surgeons from the Department of Surgery have now discovered a delicate piece of tissue close to the ear which is ideal for repairing the cavity. The tissue

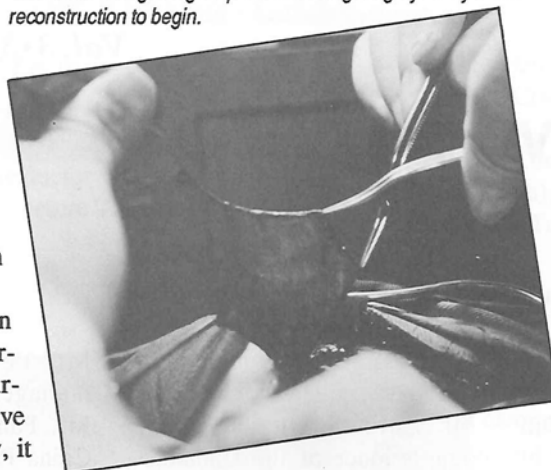
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has its own blood supply network. By keeping the network intact, doctors are able to use it to cover the hole, giving the wound a good surface to heal.

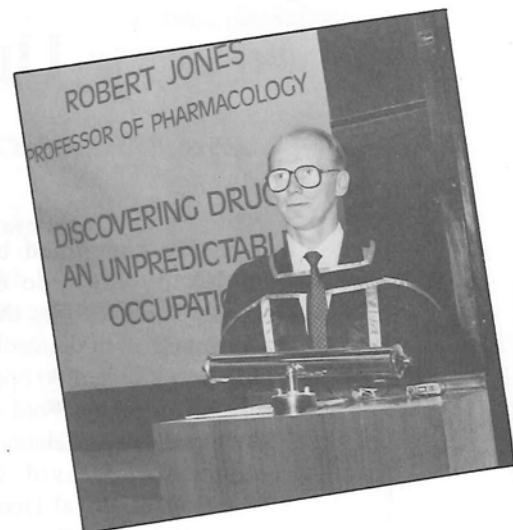
Over the past five years, more than 130 such operations have been performed at the Prince of Wales Hospital, with a success rate of 98 per cent.

The surgery has been highly commended by internationally renowned ear surgeons and as the reconstructive technique is developed locally, it has been named after the territory as the 'Hong Kong Flap'.

The viable 'Hong Kong Flap' raised during surgery ready for the reconstruction to begin.



Professor of Pharmacology Gives Inaugural Lecture



Prof. Robert Jones, professor of pharmacology, delivered his inaugural lecture on 28th February.

In his lecture entitled 'Discovering Drugs: An Unpredictable Occupation', Prof. Jones pointed out that the plant kingdom had historically been a rich source of useful drugs, and interest in medicinal plants was still high among pharmacologists. Progress in the research in natural drugs, he said, was closely linked to advances in synthetic and analytical organic chemistry. This has been well demonstrated by one broad class of drugs – the receptor antagonists, the best known examples being the β -blockers, which are important anti-hypertensive agents. Prof. Jones then drew on his research experience in relation to antagonists for the thromboxane A₂ receptor to explain how difficult it was to predict the relationships between chemical structure and biological activity.

University to Benefit from More UPGC Grants for Research

The Research Grants Council of the University and Polytechnic Grants Committee (UPGC) recently considered 21 proposals submitted by six local tertiary institutions to strengthen their research base, and decided to allocate grants totalling \$5 million to finance two schemes, both of which were proposed and supported by the University:

1. HK\$2.5 million to subsidize the cost of a Massively Parallel Computer to be installed at The Chinese University and managed by the University for research purposes. The University will make available the use of the equipment to other tertiary institutions, but users will have to pay a management fee.
2. HK\$2.5 million to subsidize the cost of a Transmission Electronic Microscope to be installed at the City Polytechnic. As a major supporter of this project, The Chinese University

shares the use of the microscope with the City Polytechnic, the Hong Kong Polytechnic and the Baptist College.

In addition to these two grants, the UPGC will disburse HK\$1.2 million to six institutions for the acquisition of personal computers for researchers in the fields of arts, the humanities, social science, and business. The Chinese University will receive \$0.2 million for the purpose, and the Research Committee will deliberate on how the money should be spent.

The Chinese University has been a major beneficiary of the research funds made available annually by the Government through the UPGC. In 1991-92 alone, CUHK received 35.4 per cent of its \$63 million budget for research projects costing over \$200,000, and 23.3 per cent of its \$30 million budget for direct grants to finance smaller projects costing less than \$200,000.

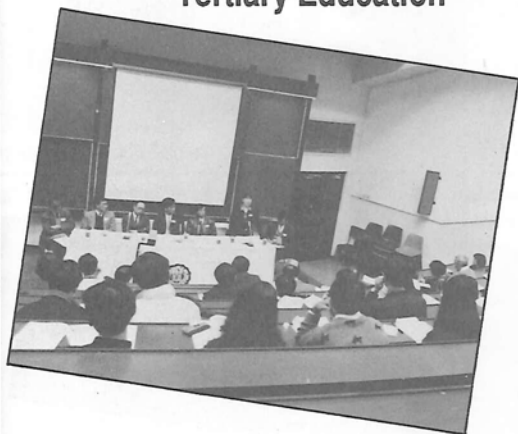
Open Day to introduce Postgraduate Engineering Programmes

The Faculty of Engineering staged an open day on Saturday, 15th February to introduce its postgraduate programmes to prospective applicants. A series of talks on individual programmes were

organized and guided tours of laboratories were arranged. Prof. Omar Wing, dean of the Faculty of Engineering, and departmental representatives were on the spot to explain the

planned development of the faculty, financial aid for students and application procedures, and to answer questions raised by the participants. The open day attracted some 150 visitors.

Scholars and Students Meet to Discuss the Expansion of Tertiary Education



United College held its annual workshop on 14th February to explore problems arising from government plans to rapidly expand the tertiary education sector. Entitled 'Expansion of Tertiary Education – Ideals and Realities', the workshop examined various pertinent issues such as student quality, allocation of resources, and principles of teaching. Participants exchanged views and made suggestions on the future development of tertiary education in Hong Kong.

The workshop consisted of group discussions by student and staff representatives, and panel discussions on three topics: 'Education without Discrimination', 'More Is Not Enough', and 'What Price a Degree?' Speakers included Dr. K. M. Cheng of the Department of Education, the University of Hong Kong; Mr. Y. T. Wong of the Department of Management, Lingnan College; and staff and students from The Chinese University: Dr. W. K. Tsang of the Faculty of Education; Dr. L. M. Ng, the Registrar; Mrs. Grace Chow, director, Office of Student Affairs; and Mr. Y. K. Lai, student senator. Prof. H. C. Kuan, dean of social science, delivered the concluding remarks for the function, which was attended by over a hundred people.

Seminars on Business Opportunities in the Asia-Pacific Region

The Chinese University's Asia-Pacific Institute of Business and Concordia University of Montreal in Canada jointly organized a series of seminars on business opportunities in the Asia-Pacific region from 27th February to 4th March.

A contingent of 36 executive MBA students, professors and alumni from Concordia participated in the seminars. Mr. Colin S. Russel, senior trade commissioner of the Canadian Commission, was invited to give a speech at the inaugural session on 'Hong Kong – Canada Links: Op-

portunities and Threats'. Other guest speakers included representatives from the Hong Kong and Chinese governments, professors from The Chinese University and senior executives from major local corporations. Among them were Miss Lily Chiang, executive director of Cheng Hsong Holdings; Mr. Peter Sau, assistant general manager of Hang Seng Bank; and Mr. Paul Lam, executive director of China Paint Manufacturing Co. Visits to two joint-venture companies in Shenzhen were also arranged for the participants.

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New Publications of the University Press

The following books will be sold at a 20 per cent discount to staff members at the University Bookshop, John Fulton Centre.

- *The Yellow Earth* (in English), by Bonnie S. McDougall, 283 pages, paperback, HK\$75.
- *Improvisation in a Ritual Context: The Music of Cantonese Opera* (in English), by Sau Y. Chan, 407 pages, hard cover, HK\$280.
- *Letters of Prominent Figures in Modern China* (《近代名人手札精選》) (in English & Chinese), compiled by Chan Sin-wai & Wang Erh-min, 191 pages, hard cover, in full colour, HK\$350.
- *Pre-Ch'in Archaeology* (《先秦考古學》) (in Chinese), by Lin Shou-chin, 186 pages, hard cover, HK\$120.
- *Children Art Education* (《兒童美術教育》) (in Chinese), by Lai Bing Chiu, 156 pages with 20 colour plates, paperback, HK\$40.
- *Basic Legal Knowledge: A Handbook for Students* (《學生法律常識手冊》) (in Chinese) edited by Chow, Grace Chan, 190 pages, paperback, HK\$35.



Bells on the Campus

Have You Ever Heard Them Ringing?

Many schools used to have janitors ring bells to signal the beginning and end of class but most of them have now installed electric bells to do the job.

How about the University's constituent colleges?

What kinds of bells do they use?

Tradition Reigns at United College

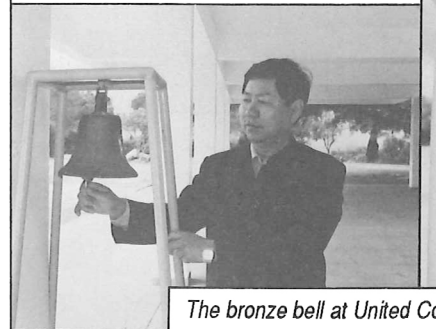
United College has hitherto been using a bronze bell to announce the time for classes. The bell that was moved with its stand to the Sha Tin campus from Bonham Road in 1971 has served the college for over 30 years, long enough to qualify itself for a 'long service award' from the University.

The college did consider replacing the bell by an electric one upon its relocation to Sha Tin, but the idea was finally dropped because of several reasons.

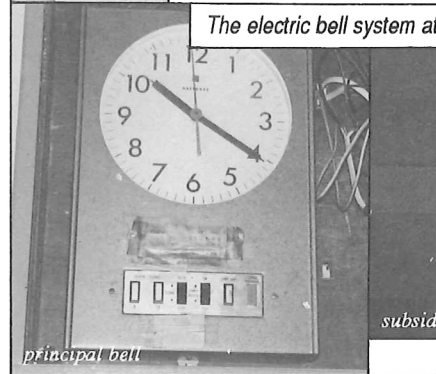
The first reason was a sentimental one: the bell had faithfully told time for so many years its voice had actually become part of the college. Both teachers and students had grown accustomed to its chime, which would be sadly missed if it was not to be heard again.

The second reason was a financial one: the bell was in good shape and functioning perfectly well. There wasn't any real need to spend money on a new system.

The last reason was a practical one: it was much easier to maintain one bronze bell than a system of many electric bells. Experience of other colleges showed that in case of power failure, technical



The bronze bell at United College



The electric bell system at United College

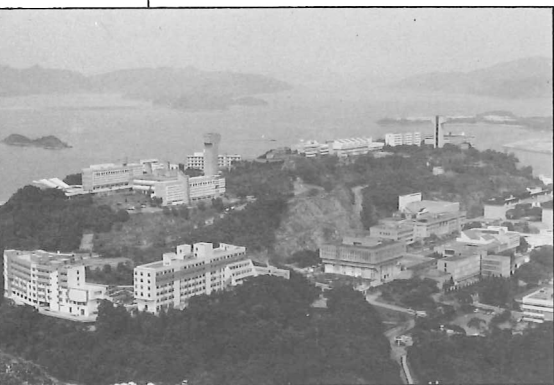
breakdowns, and unforeseen changes in teaching timetables, electric bells might cause more havoc. They were not necessarily a better substitute for the bronze bell.

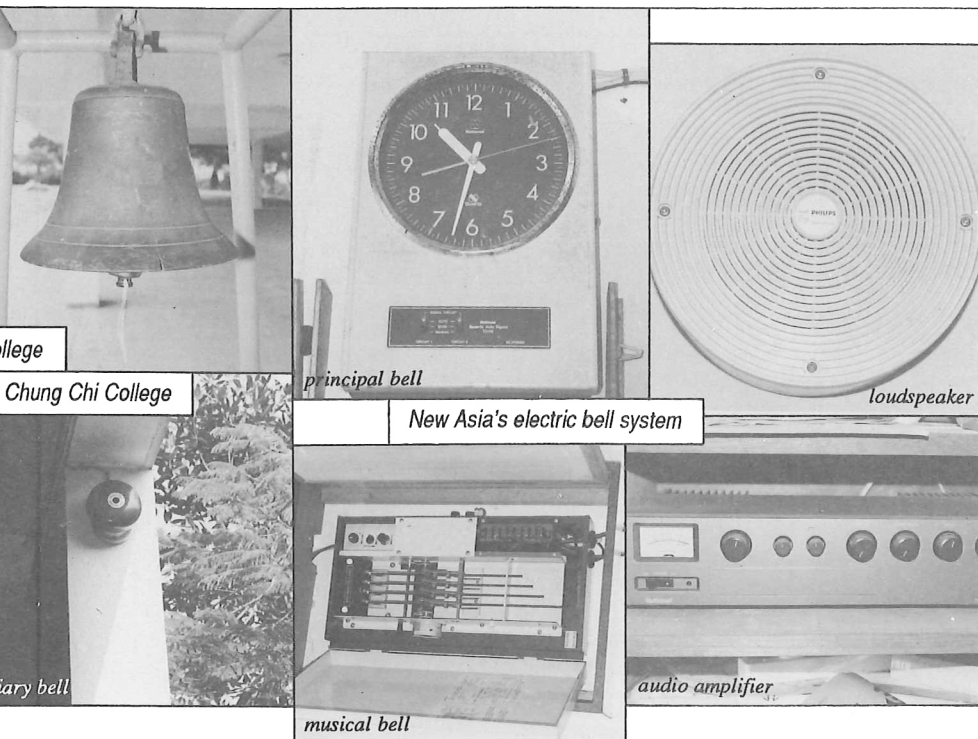
The bell is therefore still serving the college in a roofed passage built out from the T. C. Cheng Building. A janitor will dutifully show up at the right time and ring the bell, and its chime will resound through all the classrooms on the United College campus.

After years of hard work, the bell is beginning to show signs of ageing and fatigue. Two cracks have appeared on its body and the joint linking the bell with its stand has come loose. Reparation work has already been done to secure the joint but the cracks are irreparable. Perhaps it's time for the college to start planning for a successor in case the bell suddenly chooses to retire some day.

New Asia College Always after Improvement

At its old home on Farm Road, New Asia College also used hand bells to announce classes, but very soon they were replaced by electric bells. The system, however, was only 'semi-automatic'. A





College
Chung Chi College

principal bell

loudspeaker

New Asia's electric bell system

musical bell

musical bell

audio amplifier

janitor had to press a master button by hand to trigger off the electric bells, and he had to rely on his own wrist watch to keep time.

According to a senior college member, the electric bells never rang very punctually. He suspects that either the janitor was forgetful or his watch was capricious.

As a matter of fact, there was an electric clock in each classroom but annoyingly such clocks did not show a uniform time. To solve the problem once and for all, New Asia College installed a new set of fully-automatic composite bells, and thereafter classes were announced punctually.

Upon relocation to Sha Tin, New Asia College had to rearrange the system according to the location of classrooms. A 'principal bell' was installed at Cheng Ming Building, and it was linked to loudspeakers on every floor of major buildings on the New Asia campus. When the principal bell rang, its peal would be channelled to all the floors via loudspeakers.

One shortcoming of such a system was that the peal of bells that came through the loudspeakers was too loud. Passers-by were frequently startled and some elderly teachers simply couldn't

stand such 'excitement'. Complaints prompted the college office to add a musical bell, turning the continuous peal of electric bells to five melodious tinkling notes, similar to what we hear near the Star Ferry.

The New Asia system which comprises a principal bell, a loudspeaker network and a musical bell was originally designed and set up by one single company. When the company later closed down, the college was unable to find a single successor to be responsible for its maintenance, which was then contracted out to three different companies. Whenever something goes wrong and the problem cannot be identified, the college has to call in three companies for help. Such experience is what has deterred United College from installing a similar system for its classrooms.

The Old and the New Coexist at Chung Chi

In its early days Chung Chi College also rang bells by hand to announce classes. A bell slightly bigger than its United College counterpart was installed at Teaching Block Two for the purpose. With the increase in student numbers over the years and as more classrooms were

built on the campus, its voice was no longer loud enough to be heard everywhere. The college therefore decided to go electric.

The system at Chung Chi is less complicated than the one at New Asia. A principal bell is connected to three subsidiary bells at the teaching blocks and they ring like synchronized fire alarms.

Quite coincidentally, the electric bells at Chung Chi have also caused complaints from college members. Those living in college quarters have been roused from their sweet dreams by the faithful ringing of the bells on Saturday mornings and holidays. Upon popular request, the principal bell is now turned off on Saturday and when classes are not in session.

Since many teaching blocks on the Chung Chi campus are being redeveloped, bells ringing for lessons can now be heard only in classrooms at Block Eight.

The college has not yet decided whether or not to use the existing system when the new buildings have been completed. What it has decided, however, is that the old bronze bell will be retained permanently, both for contingencies and as an object of historical value.

Any Other Bells on the Campus?

At other locations on the campus, electric bells with ordinary doorbell sounds can also be found, e.g. at Wen Lan Tang of Shaw College, the Science Centre, and the Lady Shaw Building. In fact, similar bells were used at the Fung King Hey Building and the Y. C. Liang Hall as well for quite some time but they were later 'fired' by the Mall Buildings Management Office at the request of teachers who had been disturbed in the course of double lessons.

There are also a few seminar rooms and lecture halls at the Leung Kau Kui Building, the Choh-Ming Li Building for Basic Medical Sciences and the Prince of Wales Hospital. Not designed primarily as teaching buildings, these facilities are not fitted with electric bells. When attending classes there, teachers and students alike have to rely on their own watches to keep time.

Personalia

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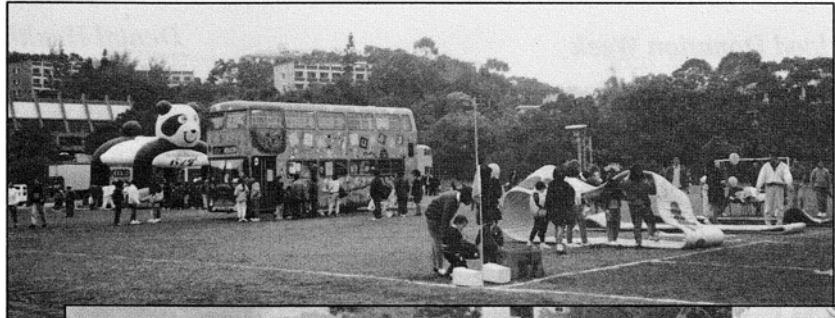
Side Lights

Chung Chi College 40th Anniversary Celebrations

Chung Chi College has planned a series of activities in 1991-92 to celebrate its 40th anniversary. The pondside carnival and the college concert are two major items on the celebration programme.

The pondside carnival took place by the side of the college's Lily Pond on 16th February. The opening ceremony featured a lively dragon's dance and a lion's dance. Many games were organized for children and there were different stalls offering beautiful souvenirs and delicious snacks. A special photo exhibition featuring the development of the college over the last 40 years was staged, and tours to student hostels were arranged. Over 2,000 students, alumni and their families had an enjoyable day on the Chung Chi campus.

The college's 40th anniversary celebration concert to be held at the City Hall Concert Hall on Monday, 6th April at 8 p.m. will have 'Celebration' as its theme. Excerpts from Handel's *Messiah* and Beethoven's *Mass in C*, as well as Mendelssohn's *Hymn of Praise* will be performed by the Chung Chi Choir and the Hong Kong Sinfonietta. The night's programme will also include a chamber work and overture composed by Jordan Tang and Richard Tsang, both



alumni of Chung Chi College. On the podium will be Prof. David Gwilt and Dr. Chan Wing Wah of the Department of Music and Dr. Daniel Law, another college alumnus. Tickets at \$25, \$40, and \$60 are now available at all Urtix Outlets. A small quantity of tickets are also available at the college office. Enquiries should be directed to Tel. Ext. 6450.

CUHK Medical Alumni Association Inaugurated

The University's Medical Alumni Association was formally inaugurated on 7th March 1992 with Prof. G. H. Choa as the association's honorary life president, and Prof. Charles K. Kao as its honorary patron.

The association has been set up to foster close liaison between the University and its medical alumni and to strengthen the bonds among the medical graduates themselves. It is also expected to contribute to the advancement of the medical profession and the improvement of local medical and health services.

The University's Faculty of Medicine was first set up in 1981, and has produced some 480 medical graduates over the last six years.

Cbo Yiu Hall Under Renovation

The Sir Cho Yiu Conference Hall in the University Administration Building has been temporarily closed for renovation work, which will be completed around April.

Sometime ago pieces of plaster on the ceiling of the hall started to fall off as a result of water seepage. The Building Office immediately repaired

the roof but had to postpone further renovation work until February because of the tight schedule of conferences to be held in the hall.

This is the hall's first major renovation in 20 years since its completion in 1971. Project cost is estimated to be HK\$250,000.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Professorial Inaugural Lecture

Prof. Ian H. Wilson, professor of electronic engineering, will deliver his inaugural lecture entitled 'Atomic Bullets, Silicon Chips and Semiconductor Surfaces' on Friday, 27th March at 5.00 p.m. in Lecture Theatre 1, Lady Shaw Building. All are welcome.

- Hall of Adam Schall, United College (17th March)
- Students' Common Room, New Asia College (18th March)
- Students' Common Room, ELG 104, Science Centre (19th March)
- Chung Chi Tang, Chung Chi College (20th March)

Blood Donation Week

The University has organized a blood donation week on campus from 16th to 20th March.

All staff members are encouraged to give blood to the Hong Kong Red Cross at the following places on the specified day between 10 a.m. and 4.30 p.m.:

- Room 103, John Fulton Centre (16th March)

Dental Health Campaign

The University Health Service has recently conducted a survey on students' knowledge about oral health and will launch a campaign from 23rd to 28th March to promote dental care. The campaign will feature an exhibition, special programmes for children, and a seminar to be held at the Health Centre. All are welcome.

■ Dr. Ho Hin-hung, senior lecturer in physics, has been appointed by HE the Governor as a member of the Council of the Hong Kong Baptist College from 1st October 1991 to 30th June 1992. Dr. Ho was also elected a trustee of the Tsimshatsui Baptist Church on 1st January 1992.

■ Dr. Walter W. K. King, senior lecturer in surgery, was admitted a Fellow of the Royal College of Surgeons (Edin.) in November 1991.

■ Prof. Charles K. Kao, the vice-chancellor of the University, has been appointed by HE the Governor as a member of: (1) the Steering Committee on the British nationality scheme from 18th January 1992 to 31st December

1993; (2) the Industry and Technology Development Council for the period up to 31st December 1992.

Services to the Community and International Organizations

■ Prof. Eden S. H. Yu, professor of operations and systems management, has been appointed to the editorial board of the *Journal of International Trade and Economic Development* published by Routledge in the UK and the USA, and *International Review of Economics and Finance* published by JAI Press, the USA. Prof. Yu also serves on the editorial board of *Southern Journal of Business and Economics* and the *Journal of Economics*, both published in the States.

■ Mr. Stephen Yam, lecturer in accountancy, has been appointed a member of the Communications Committee of the Hong Kong Society of Accountants for the year 1992.

■ Dr. R. E. Allinson, senior lecturer in philosophy, has been invited as a member of the board of governors of the American Community Theatre for 1992-93.

■ Dr. Chan Wing-wah, lecturer in music, conducted the Hong Kong Sinfonietta and Hong Kong Children's Choir to premiere four compositions by Hong Kong composers at the 1992 Hong Kong Arts Festival on 11th January 1992 at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre.

(All information in this section is provided by the Information Office)

We welcome your contributions

1. Items for the next issue (mid-April 1992) should reach the Editor by 27th March 1992.
2. All contributions and suggestions should be sent to the Editor, CUHK Newsletter, c/o the Publication Office, University Secretariat, The Chinese University of Hong Kong (tel. 6097297; fax. 6035503).
3. Contributions should bear the writer's name and contact telephone number, and may be published under pseudonyms. Articles without Chinese translations will appear in the English version of the Newsletter only. No anonymous letters will be published.
4. The Editor reserves the right to reject contributions and to edit all articles for reasons of clarity, length or grammar. Those who do not wish to have their articles amended should indicate clearly in writing.
5. No part of this Newsletter may be reproduced without the written consent of the Editor.
6. This publication has a circulation of 1,100 and is primarily intended for staff members of CUHK. Copies are also sent to local educational institutions and individuals associated with the University. Those who wish to be included on the mailing list please contact the Newsletter direct.

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