

Newsletter



2011年春節 第38期

Issue 38, Chinese New Year 2011

Happy New Year!

We wish you the best in the Year of the Hare.

With warm wishes,
Faculty of Science



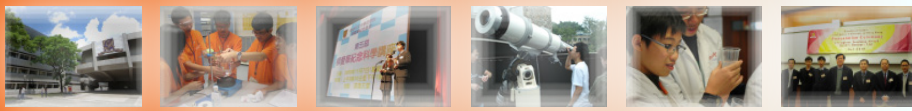
Faculty Exemplary Teaching Award *cum* Dean's Honours List 2009/2010 Award Ceremony



Staff and students take a photo following the award ceremony.

On Saturday, 15 January 2011, over 200 staff, students, and friends and family gathered to celebrate the achievements of their loved ones at the Faculty Exemplary Teaching Award *cum* Dean's Honours List 2009/2010 Award Ceremony. During the ceremony, six outstanding teaching staff were recognized for their excellence in teaching, and over 160 students from various undergraduate degree programmes of science were awarded for their academic achievements in 2009/2010. The occasion was also taken to congratulate the team of Biochemistry students who ventured to represent the CUHK at the iGEM 2010 Competition organized by





the MIT in November of 2010. The team was led by three instructors – **YU Chi-shing**, **LI Jing-woei** and **YIM Kay-yuen Aldrin**, and was composed of eight students – **LOO Fong-chuen Jacky**, **CHOI Ricky Thomson**, **CHU Tin-yi**, **WONG Kit-ying**, **CHIU Wai-yin Vivien**, **MAK Ka-yan Cathy**, **LIU Si-si Sophie** and **WONG In-chun Ada**. Three faculty members - **Prof. CHAN King-ming**, **Prof. CHAN Ting-fung** and **Prof. KONG Siu-kai** - from the Biochemistry Programme of the School of Life Sciences supervised the team. Following the ceremony, staff, students, and friends and family mingled and exchanged greetings at the tea reception.

Congratulations again to the students and teachers on their excellent achievements. For a complete list of the honoured students, please click [here](#).

The recipients of the 2010 Science Faculty Exemplary Teaching Award are as follows:

| Recipient | School / Department |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Prof. LEE Sau-tuen, Susanna | Life Sciences |
| Prof. WONG Chong-kim | Life Sciences |
| Prof. XIA Jiang | Chemistry |
| Dr. WONG Chak-fu | Mathematics |
| Dr. PANG Kam-moon | Physics |
| Prof. CHEUNG Siu-hung | Statistics |



Faculty Dean Prof. NG Cheuk-yiu (centre, back row) takes a photo with the gold medal recipients of the iGEM 2010 Competition.

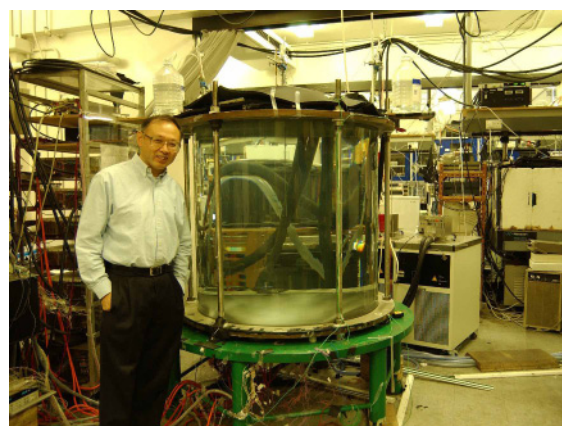


Faculty Dean Prof. NG Cheuk-yiu (third from left) takes a photo with the award-winning teachers (from left: Prof. XIA Jiang, Dr. WONG Chak-fu, Prof. WONG Chong-kim, Dr. PANG Kam-moon, and Prof. CHEUNG Siu-hung).

Prof. XIA Keqing Elected Fellow of American Physical Society

Prof. XIA Keqing, chairman of the Department of Physics, was elected a fellow of the American Physical Society for his tremendous contributions to experimental knowledge and understanding of turbulent Rayleigh-Benard convection. Prof. Xia said, "The fellowship is a great laurel. It signifies recognition of the hard work of our research team and myself by our professional peers."

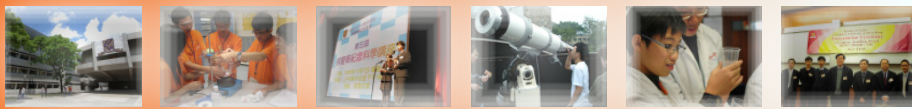
Prof. Xia is an expert in the studies of fluid turbulence. Turbulence is everywhere around us, and plays a key role in motions involving fluids. It also influences the way heat is transferred. Turbulent thermal convection is an advanced scientific topic that provides insight into the understanding of complex natural phenomena, such as polarity reversal in geomagnetic field, atmospheric



Prof. Xia and his research team have been working on understanding turbulent Rayleigh-Benard convection.

circulation and oceanic circulation.

Prof. Xia discovered that thermal plumes are responsible for the initiation and



sustentation of large-scale circulation (LSC), and that LSC is driven by the buoyancy of plumes. LSC in turbulent convection also shares certain characteristics with convections in the mantle and the outer core of the Earth.

Prof. Xia's group is the first to systematically study the azimuthal motion of LSC. Their study also reveals

that the flow reversal of LSC shares some statistical properties with the polarity reversal of the magnetic field. As the Earth's magnetic field is believed to be generated by the turbulent thermal convection of its liquid outer core, these results provide insight into the reversal phenomenon of the geomagnetic field.

Honours and Awards

- Staff

Prof. CHEN Zhenyu of the Biochemistry Programme, School of Life Sciences, has been awarded the Ministry of Education of China (MoE) Higher Education Outstanding Scientific Research Output Award - Second Prize, for his work in trying to understand the effects of natural products on the cardiovascular system.

Prof. WEI Juncheng of the Department of Mathematics has been awarded the Ministry of Education of China (MoE) Higher Education Outstanding Scientific Research Output Award - First Prize, for his contribution to our understanding of elliptic equations. He has also been awarded the Morningside Silver Medal of Mathematics in recognition of his outstanding achievements in mathematics.

Prof. LEUNG Nai-chung Conan of the Department of Mathematics has been awarded the Chern Prize in recognition of his exceptional contributions to the field of mathematics.

Miss HON Wai-lai Carmen, Learning Enhancement Officer of the Faculty of Science, has been awarded the Exemplary Service Award 2009/10.

- Students

CHAN Kwok-wai, 2008 PhD graduate of the Department of Mathematics, has been awarded the 2010 New World Mathematics Awards Doctor Thesis Award - Silver Prize.

FAN Sin-tsun and **NG Ka-shing**, MPhil graduates from the Department of Mathematics of 2009 and 2008 respectively, have each won the 2010 New World Mathematics Awards Master Thesis Award - Silver Prize.

HUI Heung-shan (Year 4, MATH) and **LAM Ka-kit** (Year 4, MAIE), have each been awarded the 2010 New World Mathematics Awards Bachelor Thesis Award - Gold Prize.

YEUNG Wai-kit (Year 3, MATH) has been awarded the 2010 S T Yau College Student Mathematics Contests Chern Medal - Bronze Medal.

*Hearty Congratulations
to All!*





School of Life Sciences Office Officially Opened



Prof. CHU Ka-hou (left), Acting Director of the School of Life Sciences, and Prof. NG Cheuk-yiu, Dean of Science, officiate the Opening Ceremony of the School of Life Sciences Office.

On Thursday, 27 January 2011, the School of Life Sciences Office was officially opened. At the Opening Ceremony, **Prof. CHU Ka-hou**, Acting Director of the School of Life Sciences, expressed gratitude for the collective efforts of colleagues to make possible a smooth amalgamation of the six Life Sciences Programmes into the School of Life Sciences. Many members of the Faculty gathered to witness the ceremony, wishing the School success in the years to come.

The School of Life Sciences Office is now located in:

Room 132,
Charles Kao Building,
Science Centre.

Upcoming Events

Open Seminar by Prof. ZHANG Jianhua

World renowned biologist **Prof. ZHANG Jianhua** of the Hong Kong Baptist University will be giving an Open Seminar at our University on Wednesday, 9 February 2011. Prof. Zhang has made outstanding achievements in plant physiology under environmental stress and crop production under water-limited conditions. In December 2008, Prof. Zhang was featured by *Nature* as one of "Five Crop Researchers Who Could Change the World." (*Nature* **456**, 563-568)

How can the crop water use efficiency be increased further?

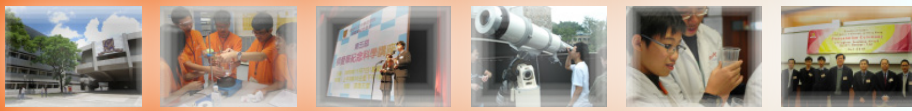
Prof. ZHANG Jianhua
Chair Professor and Department Chair
Department of Biology
Hong Kong Baptist University

Wednesday, 9 February 2011
9:45a.m. - 11:15a.m.
LT1, 7/F, Mong Man Wai Building, CUHK

Annual Survey on Office-Bearers

The annual survey on Faculty Dean, Associate Deans, Department Chairmen and Programme Directors will be conducted in the week of 21 - 25 February, 2011.

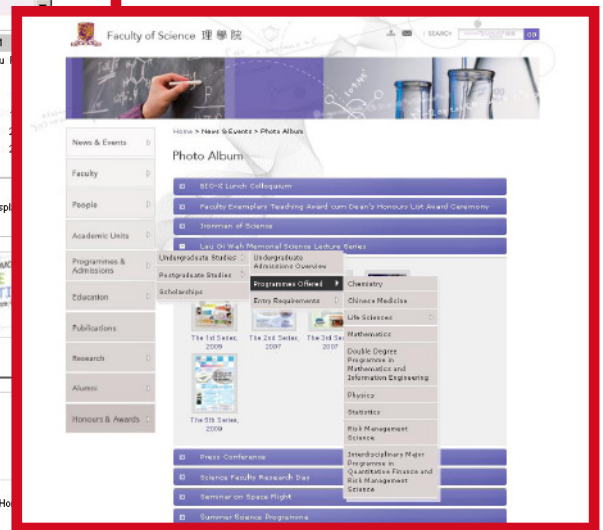
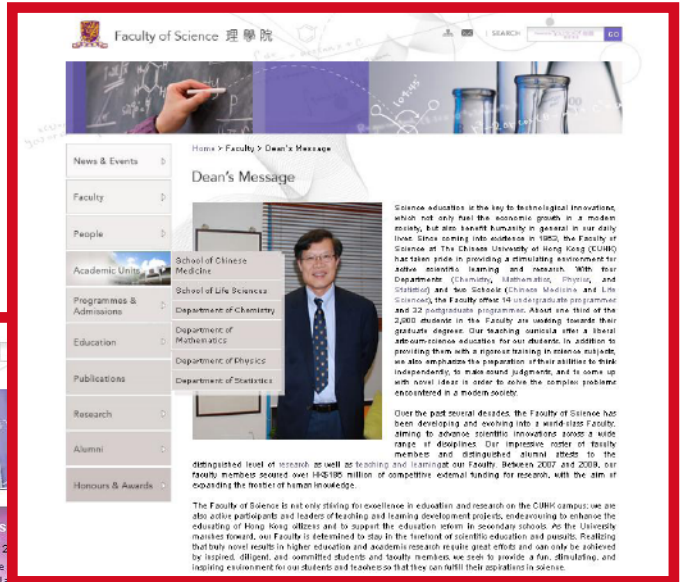
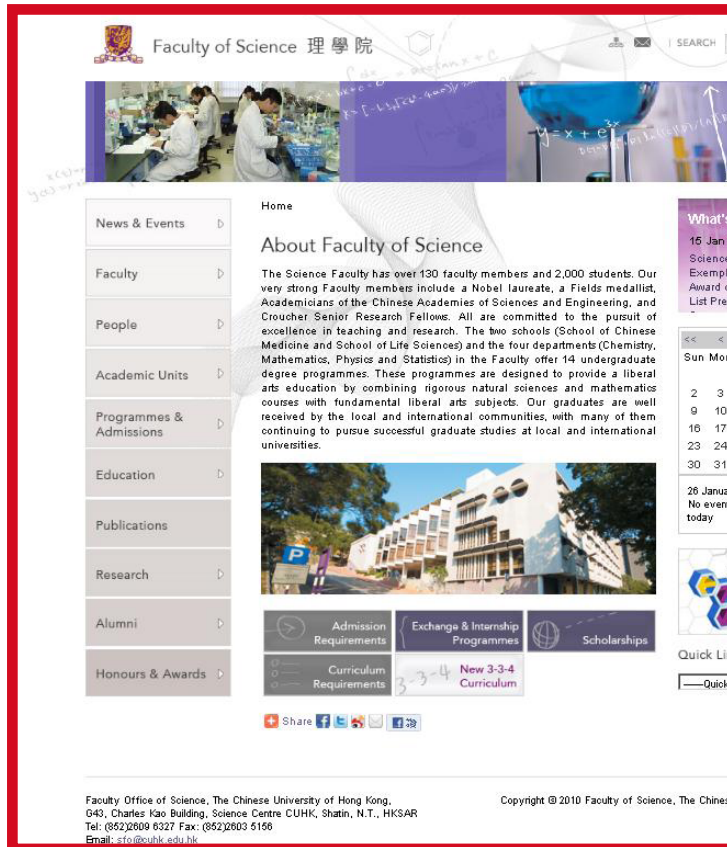




Science Faculty Website Revamped - A New Face of the Faculty of Science

Since January 2011, the Science Faculty website has looked quite different. Redesigned to offer greater convenience to visitors, the revamped website provides study programme, research, publication, and alumni information at the user's fingertips. To promote greater exposure of the various news and events of our Faculty, the revamped website contains an event calendar and a News & Events section. If you have yet to visit the revamped website, you are encouraged to experience it yourself by clicking [here](#). Before you complete your tour of the revamped

Faculty website, don't forget to try using the new "Share" function, available for most social networking platforms.



理學院通信 Faculty of Science Newsletter

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