

CUHK NEWSLETTER

Vol. 5.11 No. 60

November 1994

Four Distinguished Persons to Receive Honorary Doctorates

Four distinguished persons will be awarded honorary degrees at the University's 48th congregation to be held on Thursday, 1st December 1994, at the University Mall. The Rt. Hon. Christopher Patten, Governor of Hong Kong, will officiate at the ceremony as Chancellor of the University. Sir Eric A. Ash and Prof. Tang Au-chin will be awarded the degree of Doctor of Science, honoris causa. Mr. David Sin Wai-kin and Dr. Peter Kwong-ching Woo will each receive the degree of Doctor of Social Science, honoris causa.

Citations will be written and delivered by Mr. T. L. Tsim, the Public Orator. Dr. K. P. Fung, senior lecturer in biochemistry, will be the mace-bearer. Sir Eric will address the congregation on behalf of the honorary graduates. Details of other arrangements for Congregation Day are given on P.14.

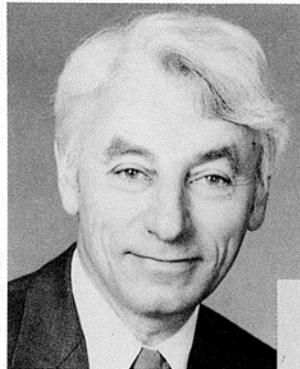


Sir Eric Albert Ash

Sir Eric A. Ash is a distinguished British educator and scientist who has devoted the past three decades to education and science. He was professor and head of the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering at University College, London, from 1967 to 1985 and rector of the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine from 1985 to 1993.

Held in high esteem in the field of physical electronics, acoustic imaging, signal processing and integrated optics, Sir Eric holds many related patents and has published widely in international engineering and physics journals. He is a Fellow of leading institutions of electronics and electrical engineering in the United Kingdom and the United States.

Sir Eric has been awarded numerous scientific prizes: the Faraday Medal from the Institution of Electrical Engineers in 1980, the Marconi International Fellowship in 1984, the Royal Medal from the Royal Society in 1986, and the National Order of Merit from the French government. He has also received honorary doctorates from a number of universities.



Over the years, Sir Eric has given invaluable advice to local tertiary educational institutions on the development of their electronic engineering programmes. His association with The Chinese University of Hong Kong can be dated back to 1975 when he served as an external examiner for its Department of Electronics. He now serves as a member of the Engineering Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

Prof. Tang Au-chin

Prof. Tang Au-chin is a renowned scientist and distinguished educator from China. He has been engaged in teaching and research in chemistry for more than 40 years in such famous universities as Beijing University and Northeast People's University. He was president of Jilin University from 1978 to 1986. He has for many times been awarded National Natural Science Prizes by the Chinese Academy of Sciences in recognition of his significant achievements in research concerning the theories of chemical bonds, the statistical theory on the reactions of polycondensation, cross-linking,



copolymerization and the graph theory of molecular orbitals.

Highly respected in the academic circle in China, Prof. Tang has been invited to serve on the Presidium of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the Academic Degree Committee of the State Council, the Chinese Association for Science and Technology, and the Chinese Chemical Society. In 1991, he was appointed honorary chairman of the National Natural Science Foundation of China.

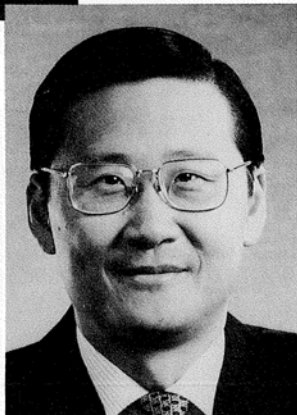
Prof. Tang has, together with his colleagues, published over 250 academic papers and eight books including the award-winning *Theoretical Method of Ligand Field Theory* and *Quantum Chemistry*. A Fellow of the International Academy of Quantum and Molecular Science, he has also been invited to sit on editorial boards of the *International Journal of Quantum Chemistry* and *Advances in Quantum Chemistry Series*.

Prof. Tang visited the University as Wei Lun Visiting Professor in 1993.

Mr. David Sin Wai-kin

An outstanding entrepreneur, Mr. David Sin Wai-kin has attained landmark achievements in the development of jewellery exports of Hong Kong. The Myer Jewelry Manufacturer Ltd., of which Mr. Sin is chairman, has maintained a sizable share of jewellery export over the years and is one of the few local companies that have successfully penetrated the Japanese market. He is also honorary adviser of the Hong Kong Jewellers' and Goldsmiths' Association Ltd. and former chairman and member of the Jewellery Advisory Committee of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. His business activities also cover hotel, construction, and real estate.

Mr. Sin has been a member of the University Council since 1987, and has served as a member of various University committees including the Board of Trustees of New Asia College. He sponsored many academic projects of the University, including the launching of the Three-Year MBA Programme, the establishment of the C. N. Yang Visiting Professorship Fund and the recent establishment of the Research Centre for Contemporary Chinese Culture under the Institute of Chinese Studies.



His benevolence also extends to China. Mr. Sin has made generous donations for the establishment of the Foundation of Zhongshan University Advanced Research Centre, of which he is vice-chairman. He is also honorary adviser of Zhongshan University in Guangzhou.

Dr. Peter Kwong-ching Woo

Dr. Peter Kwong-ching Woo is group chairman of Wheelock and Company Ltd. and also honorary chairman of Wharf (Holdings) Ltd., a subsidiary of Wheelock. He has made important contributions to the economy of Hong Kong by his outstanding leadership of the Wheelock group, which control an aggregate asset value of over US\$12 billion. The business of the group includes property, cable TV, telecommunications, hotel, retailing and distribution, financial services, container terminal, and public transport. Its contribution is not confined to Hong Kong, but extends beyond the border to mainland China.

Dr. Woo has served as vice-president and chairman of the Prince of Wales Business Leaders Forum for Asia.

Locally, he chairs the Environment and Conservation Fund Committee and the Organization Development Committee of the Hospital Authority. He is also a Hong Kong Affairs Adviser to China, a member of the Governor's Business Council and the HK/US Economic Cooperation Committee.

In March 1994, Dr. Woo became the first Asian to be elected to the Board of Trustees of Columbia University, New York. His alma mater, the University of Cincinnati, conferred upon him an honorary degree of Doctor of Letters last September.

Dr. Woo has also maintained close ties with local tertiary educational institutions. He is currently chairman of the Council of Hong Kong Polytechnic. Together with his wife, Dr. Woo has made generous donations towards the establishment of a centre of excellence in cancer research and treatment at the Prince of Wales Hospital, the teaching hospital of The Chinese University.

From the Editor

We're Neither Omniscient nor Omnipresent

There are times when we do miss out on items worth reporting.

It is partly because we are not the primary source of any news. We don't generate news and we are not omniscient.

It is also because we don't have an expansive reporting crew to investigate and uncover all potential news on campus. We are not omnipresent.

We rely on information supplied to us by those who have some interesting story to tell or some important message to impart. Our primary duty is to provide them with a channel for information dissemination; we can't produce the news ourselves.

We therefore always appreciate tips and contributions from our readers. Call us when you know of some worthy project that needs publicity. Call us if a colleague of yours has received an honour or award. Call us if you are instituting a new programme or making changes in the operation of your department. As a general rule, if you're excited about it, we'll be excited about it.

Write to us to express your views on any aspect of the University you feel concerned about. We accept, sans censorship, anything that is substantiated and justifiable. Where necessary we'll direct your comments to the relevant parties for handling.

But don't forget to put down your real name, department, and contact number in your correspondence, for anonymity will not be entertained. Do note however that all personal information you give

will be kept confidential, and letters can be published under pseudonyms.

And as the *CUHK Newsletter* will be published on a fortnightly basis beginning next January, we suggest you keep a copy of our production schedule on hand for planning purposes.

CUHK Newsletter Production Schedule Jan-June 1995

Issue No.	Publication Date	Deadline for Contribution
62	4th Jan.	16th Dec. 1994
63	19th Jan.	4th Jan. 1995
(No publication during Lunar New Year Holidays)		
64	19th Feb.	6th Feb.
65	4th March	18th Feb.
66	19th March	6th March
67	4th April	22nd March
68	19th April	3rd April
69	4th May	21st April
70	19th May	6th May
71	4th June	20th May
72	19th June	5th June

(No publication in July and August)

CU Takes lead in Exploring Equal Terms for Locals and Expats

CUHK may soon be the first of the seven UPGC-funded institutions to implement equal terms of employment.

Following a decision in 1993 to explore possibilities of introducing a single set of terms for all Terms of Service (A) or equivalent appointees, irrespective of their countries of origin, the University has now proposed new conditions of service under equal terms and implementation details, which have been set out in an official consultative paper on the matter.

In the drafting of new terms, due consideration has been given to the civil service's proposal for equal terms and government requirements in respect of terms and benefits for the subvented sector (including UPGC-funded institutions). The proposals are subject to approval by the Terms of Service Committee and the University Council. The proposed implementation date is 1st July 1995; for serving appointees on superannuable or contract terms, no change to the existing terms is proposed.

The consultative paper has been distributed to the two staff associations to solicit views of their members. Copies were also sent to all faculty deans and unit heads. More information about the proposal is available from the Personnel Office (Ext. 7286 or 7288).

No to Dumping Site

The University has formally raised an objection to the government regarding the proposed Pak Shek Kok reclamation project.

Despite the University's repeated appeals, the government decided to proceed with the project and a Notice was served in the *Government Gazette* in August.

The project site is some 67 hectares of marine area between Tai Po and Sha Tin on the western border of Tolo Harbour to the north of the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology. There is currently no road access leading to the site. The government therefore plans to build a new road that will pass through the eastern campus near the Water Sports Centre and the Marine Science Laboratory to enable large trucks to reach the dumping area. Construction work will begin in 1995 and dumping is expected to last for eight years.

The project, by reason of its proximity to the University, will have severe adverse effects on the campus, especially the eastern tip. There are worries about noise pollution, air

pollution, marine water pollution, road safety and airborne asbestos and other harmful substances in the vicinity of the dump site. But although the University had requested the government to choose another site, the government stated that Pak Shek Kok is the most suitable location. It went on to assure the University that it would implement all the mitigation measures recommended in a report of an environmental impact study of the proposed project it had commissioned.

After careful consideration of the report, however, the University finds that the study has underestimated the adverse effects of the project; the University also questions the effectiveness of the recommended mitigation measures and points out that the study has failed to include some highly exposed sites as sensitive receivers, such as staff/student

residences, the University Sports Stadium, and two plots of land adjacent to the railway which are being developed into academic, research, and training facilities.

The University reiterates that there are no compelling or convincing reasons that a public dump has to be sited right next to the campus. There has to be an alternative dumping site in the territory. However, it also adds that if the government insists on proceeding with the project, it should carry out the additional mitigation and environmental monitoring measures suggested by the University and pay for all necessary expenses. If the pollution level is found to exceed the acceptable limit repeatedly, the project should immediately be suspended.

The government is considering the University's objection and further negotiation is expected soon.

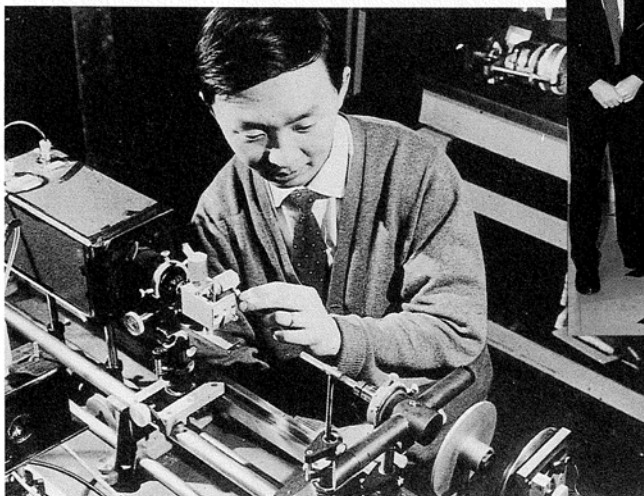
Three University Members Honoured

Three members of the University were recently honoured by local and overseas organizations.

- Prof. Charles K. Kao, vice-chancellor, was honoured for his contributions to optical fibre communications. A new building of Bell-Northern Research of Northern Telecom was named after Prof. Kao and his former colleague, Dr. George Hockham. The Kao & Hockham Laboratory is located in Harlow, Great Britain.
- Prof. C. N. Yang, distinguished professor-at-large, was named laureate of the 1994-95 Bower Award and Prize for Achievement in Science by the Franklin Institute of Philadelphia. The prize is worth a quarter of a million US dollars and will be awarded to Prof. Yang in May 1995 in recognition of his contributions to gauge field theory.

The Franklin Institute is one of the oldest and most prestigious scientific organizations and museums in the United States and has, for nearly a century and a half, honoured eminent scientists and technologists worldwide whose achievements have made significant impacts on mankind.

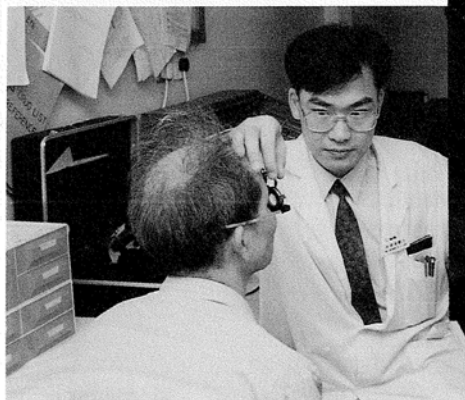
- Dr. Dennis S.C. Lam, lecturer in ophthalmology and visual sciences, was selected as one of the 'Ten Outstanding Young Persons of 1994' of Hong Kong on 23rd October. Now into its 22nd year, this selection is known to bestow prizes upon persons under 40 for their outstanding achievements and contribution to Hong Kong society.



Flashback to the 1960s: the then young scientist Charles Kao doing an early experiment on optical fibres at the Standard Telecommunications Laboratory in Harlow.



Prof. Charles Kao (second from right) and Dr. George Hockham (first from right) at the opening of their namesake laboratory.



Dr. Dennis S. C. Lam



Prof. C. N. Yang

New Academic Programmes

The Senate recently approved the introduction of a full-time pre-registration Bachelor of Nursing Programme in the 1995-96 academic year, subject to the approval of adequate funding by the UPGC. The new four-year programme will operate on a modular curriculum structure instead of a credit unit system and will prepare graduates for registration as a general nurse in accordance with the requirements of the Nursing Board of Hong Kong.

On the same occasion, the proposal of the Department of Clinical Oncology to introduce a Specialist Course in Cancer Nursing Care leading to a Certificate in Cancer Nursing Care was also approved.

Asian Scholars Rising to the Challenge

Prof. Wimal Dissanayake, currently a senior fellow at the East-West Center in Honolulu, visited the University last month as Wei Lun Visiting Professor.

An expert in cross-cultural communication, Prof. Dissanayake presented a public lecture titled 'Cultural Studies: The Challenges Ahead for Asian Scholars' on 6th October in the auditorium of the Ho Sin Hang Engineering Building. In his lecture, Prof. Dissanayake pointed out that the ascendancy of cultural studies as a vital mode of inquiry has been one of the most significant developments in the past 10 years in both the humanities and the social sciences. It is multifaceted, multifocal and interdisciplinary and is gaining influence among Asian scholars.

Besides having six volumes of poetry and over 15 books on cinema, communication, and literature to his name, Prof. Dissanayake has done extensive research in the re-interpretation of Asian cultures from the perspectives of contemporary social and cultural theories. His lecture addressed such questions as 'What is the significance of cultural studies in relation to the Asian experience?' and 'How do practitioners of cultural studies relate to the rich and complex traditions of Asian thought whether it be Buddhism or Confucianism?'

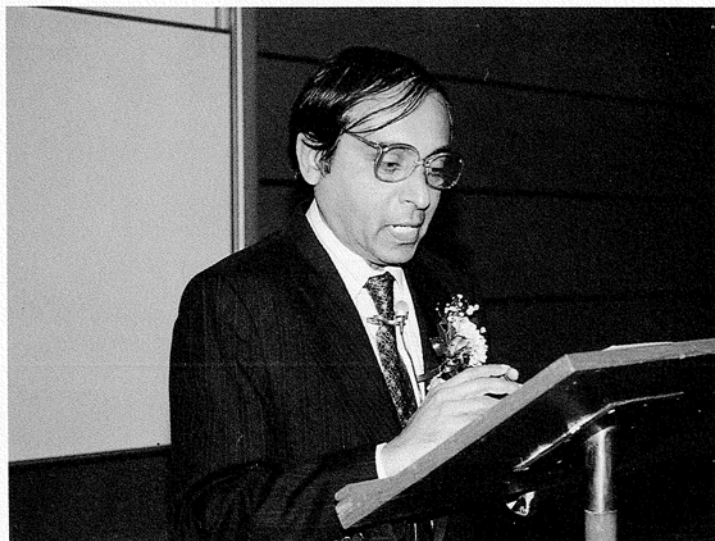
Born in Sri Lanka, Prof. Dissanayake obtained his PhD from the University of Cambridge and conducted his postdoctoral studies at the University of Pennsylvania. In 1979, he joined the East-West Center where for many years he was the assistant director of the Institute of Culture and Communication.

Berkeley Professor Gives Facts on AIDS

Prof. James Chin, professor of epidemiology at U. C. Berkeley, was invited by the Department of Community and Family Medicine to give a talk titled 'Epidemiology and Natural History of HIV/AIDS' on 1st October at the Prince of Wales Hospital.

Prof. Chin's talk gave important facts and figures about the disease. He revealed that to date an estimated 16 million adults have already been infected with the virus, with over 70 per cent of all infections acquired through heterosexual sex. In the USA the annual incidence peaked in the mid 1980s, whereas in Asia the incidence will increase until about the year 2000. There is no evidence to suggest any racial difference in the efficiency of HIV transmission.

Prof. Chin said that modelling is useful in forecasting the growth of the HIV epidemic which would in turn help health care planners, policy-makers and AIDS programme officers to design, implement and evaluate relevant programmes. He ended by stressing the importance of prevention, saying that even if a vaccine/cure is available, prevention work through behavioural modification needs to be continued.



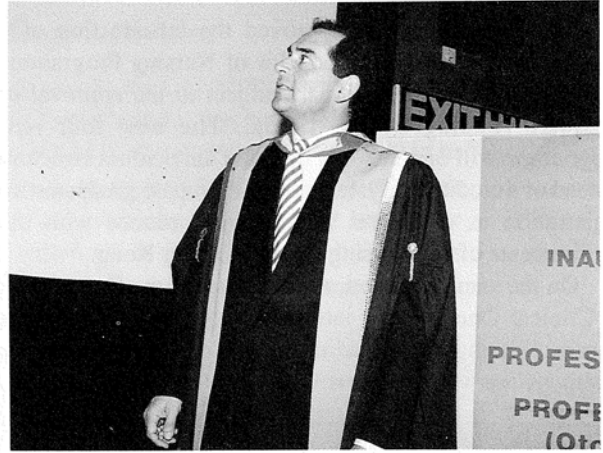
ENT Professor Urges Proper Perspective on Technology

'The desire for technical prowess must not be allowed to override the need to solve patients' problems,' Prof. C. A. van Hasselt, professor of surgery (otorhinolaryngology) at CUHK, warned.

In his professorial inaugural lecture 'Silence, Sound, Balance' delivered on 7th October, Prof. Van Hasselt seriously questioned the adoption of technology as an end in itself in ENT (Ear, Nose and Throat) surgery, and urged surgeons and others to take a balanced view.

Using surgical treatment for patients with the ear disease 'cholesteatoma' as an example, Prof. Van Hasselt said that although the patients' main concern was to get rid of the smelly discharge in their ears, many were still left with this problem after surgery. This could be because the surgeons were too preoccupied by the intricate procedures of implanting sophisticated electronic devices that can restore hearing to the patients.

Instead of pursuing the latest technology as an end in itself, Prof. Van Hasselt said surgeons should use their skills to provide solutions for real problems. A prime example of this is the simple Hong Kong Flap procedure developed by Prof. Van Hasselt and which is gaining acceptance world-



wide. It involves using living skin to cover the ear cavity to stop the discharge. The procedure owes little to advanced technology but is most effective in relieving patient distress.

Prof. Van Hasselt started the Ear, Nose and Throat Unit in the Medical Faculty of the University at the Prince of Wales Hospital in 1985 and is an acknowledged expert in the management of nasopharyngeal cancer.

Orientation for Sixth-Formers

The University held an Orientation Day on 8th October to familiarize sixth-form students with its diversified academic programmes and facilities.

The event was mainly designed for the 26,000 Secondary 7 students seeking admission to universities next year through the Joint University and Polytechnic Admissions Scheme (JUPAS). This year it attracted over 10,000 secondary students.

Programmes on that day were hosted by the seven faculties. They included exhibitions, counselling sessions, talks, video shows, tours of teaching facilities and laboratories. CU teachers and students were on hand to answer questions concerning the programmes and admission requirements.

Along with these programmes was an Information Technology Fair which demonstrated the most up-to-date computer facilities of the University.

The Chinese University has admitted around 2,800 first-year undergraduates to its 37 major programmes for the current academic year. Admission figure is expected to rise to 3,000 next year.



CSC Shows Power of Information Technology



A total of 2,309 CU staff, students, and visitors were attracted to the Information Technology Fair '94 where they had a chance to look at the University's advanced computer network and the latest computer applications in teaching, research and administration.

Held at Sir Run Run Shaw Hall from 4th to 5th October, the function promoted the use of information technology among the campus community and members of the public through experience sharing and exchanges.

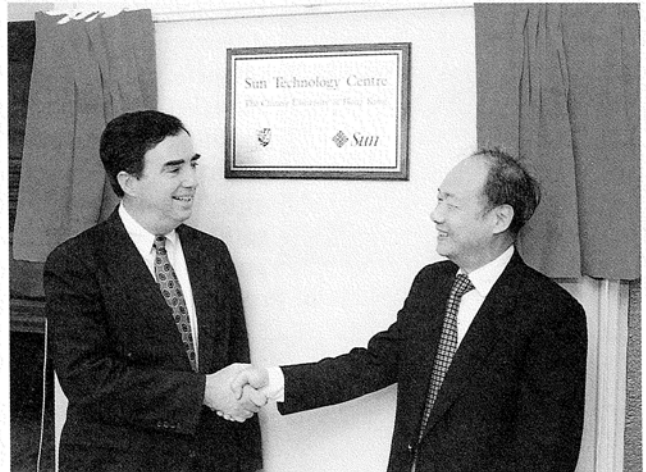
The two-day show was organized by the Computer Services Centre and included display boards, video broadcast, demonstrations, mini-seminars and group discussions.

On display were numerous unique applications including the geographical information system of the Department of Geography, brain visualization using AVS of the Department of Anatomy, the pathfinder English language learning tool of the English Language Teaching Unit, the architectural information system of the Department of Architecture, and the library catalogue on-line system of the University Library.

Techniques in CD-ROM production, computer animation, electronic publishing, medical image visualization, networked fax service, video conference, virtual reality and voice mail were also demonstrated.

On 8th October, the University's Orientation Day, there was a special session for visiting sixth-formers in the Science Centre.

New Centre for Computer Research



The Department of Computer Science has taken a major step forward in the development of high-end computing research with the inauguration of the HK\$6 million Sun Technology Centre on 4th October.

The centre was set up as a joint venture between the University and Sun's research centre in the United States to allow technical exchanges between the two. Areas of computer science that will benefit from the collaboration include research on a supernetwork using fast ethernet and ATM technology from Sun, multi-processing and multi-threading technology, and object-oriented computing.

Currently equipped with a 20-CPU SPARCcenter 2000, SPARCserver 670 and multiple high-end SPARC workstations, the centre will pioneer research in multi-processing technology. Incidentally, the University is the first institution of higher learning in Asia to install the 20-CPU SPARCcenter 2000, a mainframe-calibre system for data centre applications from Sun Microsystems.

Mr. Timothy Dwyer, vice-president of Sun Microsystems, and Prof. Omar Wing, dean of engineering, officiated at the opening ceremony. The centre will provide early access of its technology for the University's design and development projects.

New Growth Standards for Hong Kong Children

A territory wide growth survey, covering 25,000 Chinese children from birth to 18 years, reveals that children of today are heavier, taller, fatter, have larger heads, and attain puberty earlier.

The Faculty of Medicine in collaboration with the Health Department and the Hospital Authority carried out the survey in 1993. Subjects included pupils studying in 49 schools and infants attending eight maternal and child health

clinics, all randomly chosen to represent a cross-section of Hong Kong.

Some of the important findings are

- (1) Compared with figures obtained 30 years ago, mean weight at 18 years has increased 16 per cent in boys and 11 per cent in girls, whereas mean height has increased 2 per cent in boys and 1 per cent in girls.
- (2) Compared with their parents at the same age, children



appear much taller. In boys of 12 years of age, the average height difference is 10 cm and in girls of 10, 7 cm. However, by 18 years, the difference drops to 4 cm in boys and 2 cm in girls. This is a result of earlier maturation of the present generation.

(3) 10 per cent of girls show the first sign of puberty, breast

development, at seven.

- (4) Half of the girls at 12.5 years have experienced their first menstruation. Mean age of menarche has fallen by half a year.
- (5) Childhood obesity is prevalent mainly after five years old. The highest prevalence in boys is 21 per cent at age 11 and in girls 12 per cent at 10. Such prevalence has never been a feature in the Chinese population and is approaching that of the West.

These findings will have a vital bearing on the planning of educational, health care, and medical services for children in Hong Kong.

Chung Chi Celebrates Founders' Day



Chung Chi College celebrated its 43rd Founders' Day on 28th October.

To start things off, there was a thanksgiving service at 11.30 a.m. during which the new head of college, Prof. Rance P. L. Lee, was formally installed. Mr. George H. C. Hung, chairman of the Chung Chi Board of Trustees, officiated at the installation ceremony. In his inaugural address, Prof. Lee shared with the audience his views on the new challenges of university education, the need for general education and his visions for Chung Chi. Prof. Charles K. Kao, vice-chancellor of the University, was also present to present awards and scholarships to prize winners. And Mr. Fred C. W. Leung, chairman of the Chung Chi College Alumni Association, presented a portrait of the previous head of college, Dr. Philip Shen, to the college.

The presentations were followed by celebration activities organized by the college student union. These included a round-the-campus race, an interdepartmental singing contest and a carnival. The day ended with the Founders' Day Dinner in the Lingnan Stadium which was attended by over 2,000 guests, alumni, staff and students.

On the following day an alumni dinner was given by the Chung Chi Alumni Association in the College Staff Club for some 200 members and their families.

Masterpieces of Ming & Qing Painting and Calligraphy will be Exhibited



Ink Bamboo by Tang Yin

Landscape in the Manner of Huang Gongwang and Ni Zan
by Wong Yuanqi



The internationally acclaimed touring exhibition, 'The Jade Studio: Masterpieces of Ming and Qing Painting and Calligraphy from the Wong Nan-p'ing Collection', organized by the Yale University Art Gallery, will tour to Hong Kong and feature at the Art Gallery from 16th December 1994 to 25th February 1995.

Altogether there will be 89 pieces of Ming and Qing painting and calligraphy selected from the Jade Studio Collection, built up by the late Mr. Wong Nan-p'ing (1924-1985). The 78 paintings are by representative great

painters including the Four Masters of the Wu School, Dong Qichang, the Individualists, the Four Wangs and the Yangzhou Eccentrics. Together they demonstrate the rich contents and variety of style in this art form during the Ming and Qing dynasties. On the other hand, the 11 pieces of calligraphy by such famous artists as Wu Kuan of middle Ming and Zhao Zhiquan of late Qing, illustrate briefly the development of two rivalling calligraphic styles: one that emulates ancient masters in the Wang Xizhi tradition, and the other that models after stelae inscriptions.

Mrs. Wong Nan-p'ing and Vice-Chancellor Charles Kao will officiate at the opening ceremony on 15th December at 5.00 p.m. at the Art Gallery. All are welcome.

CU Team Came Fourth in Boat Race

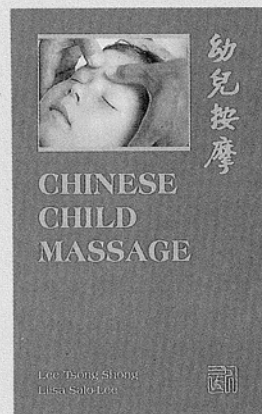


In the eighth Tolo Channel Regatta held on 23rd October, the CUHK team, represented by four oarsmen from the Student Sailing Club and the Staff Boat Club and captained by Mr. Nelson Ma, came a close fourth out of 31 boats. The race was jointly organized by the Urban and Regional Councils, the Hong Kong Schools Sailing Association, and the Outward Bound School.

New Production of The University Press

- *Chinese Child Massage* (video tape), presented by Lee Tsong Shong and Liisa Salo-Lee, 35 minutes in length with a manual, VHS-PAL/VHS-NTSC, HK\$220.

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



Service to the Community and International Organizations

- Prof. Lee Shiu Hung of the Department of Community and Family Medicine has been appointed by HE the Governor as chairman of the Hong Kong Council on Smoking and Health for three years from 1st October 1994.
- Dr. Henry N. C. Wong, reader in chemistry, has been appointed by the Research Grants Council as a member of its Physical Sciences Panel from 1st October 1994 to 30th June 1996.
- Dr. Lin Hui, lecturer in geography, has been appointed a member of the Revalidation Panel for MSc/PgD in Land Information System of the Hong Kong Polytechnic.
- Dr. Julian A. J. H. Critchley, reader in clinical pharmacology, has been appointed as a member of the Drug Selection Committee of the Health Department for two years from 1st October 1994.

Are We Expecting Too Much?

Prof. Y. M. Yeung on collegiate system and the Shaw spirit

Prof. Yeung Yue-man graduated from the University of Hong Kong with a BA(Hons) degree, and went to North America to pursue postgraduate studies in Geography. He received his MA from the University of Western Ontario and his doctorate from the University of Chicago.

Prof. Yeung joined The Chinese University as professor of geography in 1984. He served as University Registrar from 1986 to 1990, when he was appointed director of the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, a post he still holds today. He became head of Shaw College in February 1994.

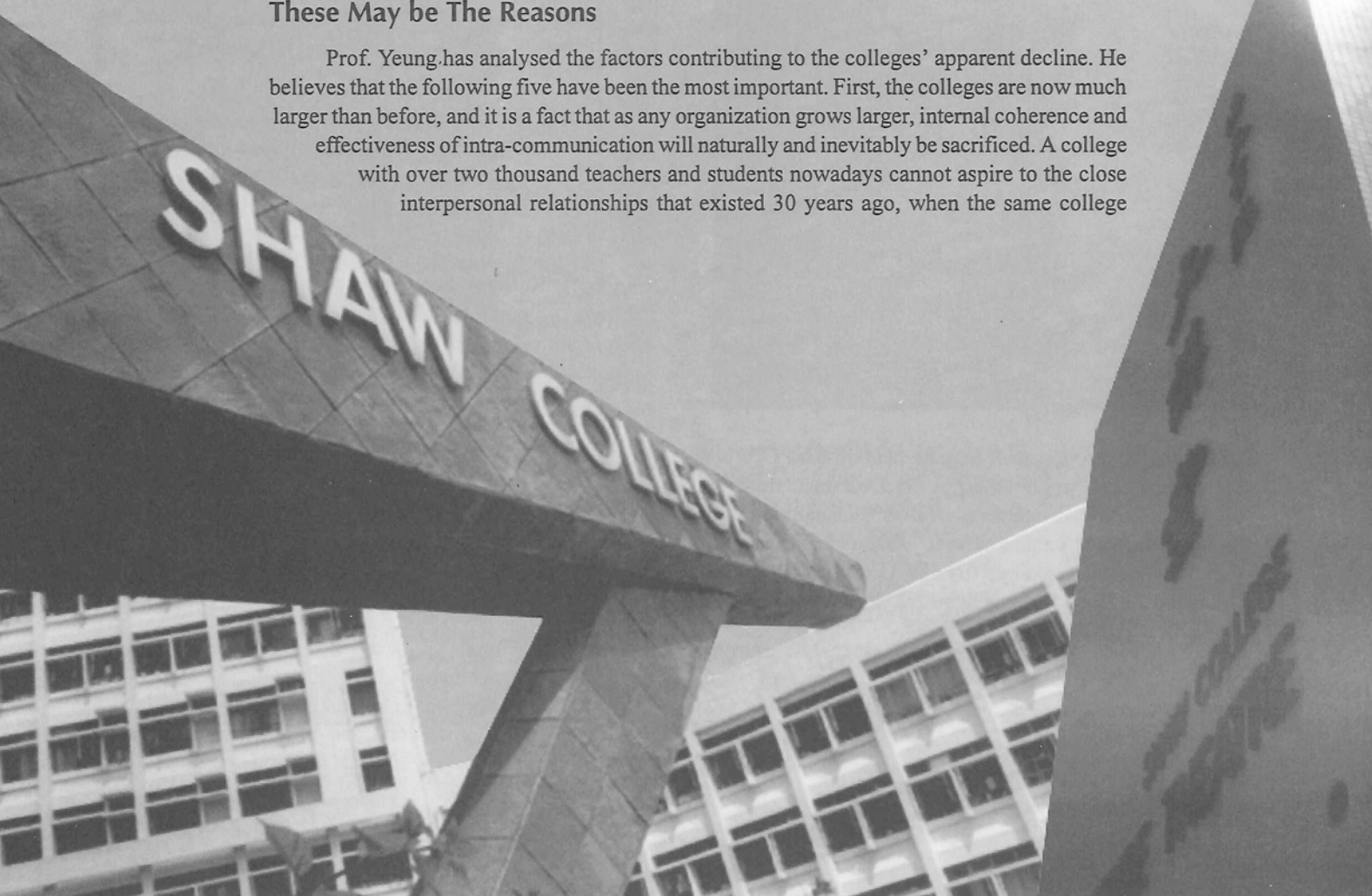


Collegiate System on Decline?

‘Colleges still have their distinct functions. However, it’s also time for their role in university education to be redefined.’ This is the response of Prof. Y. M. Yeung, who was appointed head of Shaw College last February, to comments from teachers and students who held the view that the influence of colleges is gradually on the decline and the college spirit is waning.

These May be The Reasons

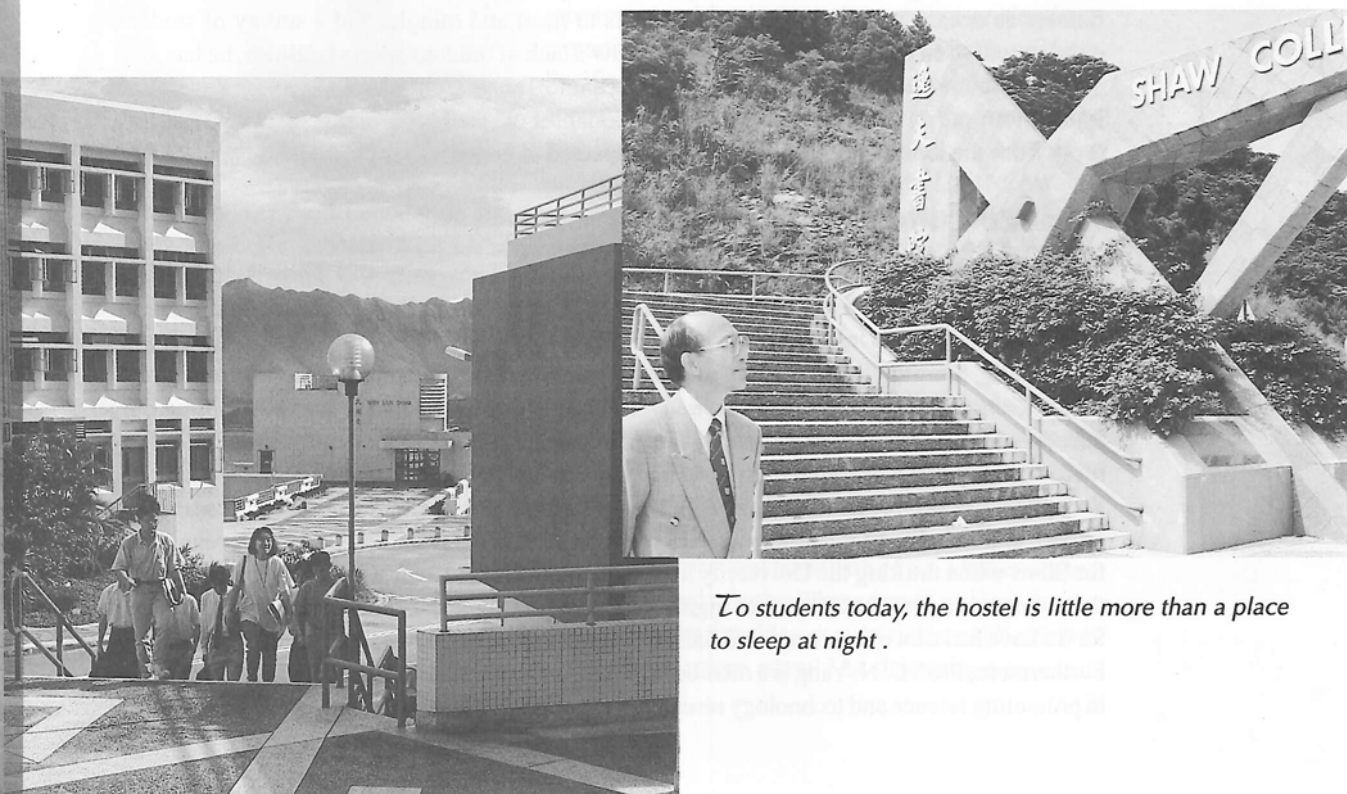
Prof. Yeung has analysed the factors contributing to the colleges’ apparent decline. He believes that the following five have been the most important. First, the colleges are now much larger than before, and it is a fact that as any organization grows larger, internal coherence and effectiveness of intra-communication will naturally and inevitably be sacrificed. A college with over two thousand teachers and students nowadays cannot aspire to the close interpersonal relationships that existed 30 years ago, when the same college



had a total population of a few hundred. Secondly, in this age when people are bombarded with new information every minute of the day, there are simply too many distractions and new demands on students' time, time which their predecessors would have spent on college life. Then the new academic system, whereby many students are able to complete the undergraduate programme in three years, also means more work and less time for college activities. Fourthly, many students regard their years at university as merely a transient phase in life; the hostel is little more than a place to sleep at night and it never occurs to them that they can learn to communicate with others, to organize activities and develop extracurricular interests in the college. The last factor is specific to Shaw: as there are no classrooms in that college, teaching activities have to be scattered all over the campus. Thus students' sense of belonging is further undermined.

The Role of Colleges Needs Redefinition

'It has to be acknowledged that the environment which fostered the traditional college spirit and functions during the fifties and sixties are now gone forever. I think it helps if we could be a little more practical in coping with modern day society and, in redefining the role of the colleges, adjust our expectation of what the colleges can do accordingly,' Prof. Yeung said. He maintains, however, that the colleges still have their essential and indispensable function, namely, that of playing a complementary role in the University's operation—to help build cordial relations and peer goodwill among teachers and students, through lectures and seminars by visiting distinguished scholars, exchange programmes, and sports and recreational programmes. If the colleges were to be dispensed with, then the University administration would have to take up student services all by itself, and students may not necessarily benefit from such a monolithic environment. 'The collegiate system is a precious tradition of The Chinese University, and our aim to provide a holistic education would be hard to achieve if we were to lose the colleges,' Prof. Yeung added.



To students today, the hostel is little more than a place to sleep at night .

To Encourage Staff Participation in College Activities

To motivate staff members to participate in college life, the University has for some time specified contribution to college activities as one of the criteria for teacher substantiation or promotion. Prof. Yeung fully endorses this practice, but he is also aware of the difficulty in its implementation: 'The colleges are not empowered to supervise the academics; their substantiation or otherwise, and their promotion, are decisions made at their respective departments. Thus I think this criterion is but of limited use at the moment, as the colleges have not been included among the controlling factors with regard to teachers' careers.'

So in what other ways will Prof. Yeung encourage his colleagues to take on more college duties? He said with a smile, 'I usually start by tackling their special skills.' As a matter of fact Prof. Yeung has, since his installation as head of Shaw, been dining with various academics in his college to find out their interests and special skills. Using this knowledge, he plans activities which help to promote staff-student relations. For example, he will arrange a teacher with experience in scuba-diving to be in charge of scuba-diving activities. In this way the teacher can contribute his expertise to the college's extracurricular activities whereas students will have the opportunity to be exposed to the company of teachers outside their own departments. Subsequently, they will have extended not only their interests but, more importantly, their perspectives and interpersonal relations.



Prof. Yeung is seriously looking into college dinners as occasions for teachers and students to meet and mingle, and a survey of student opinion will soon be conducted. In view of Shaw's lack of outdoor sports facilities, he has also proposed to the University that the space adjacent to Tennis Courts 8, 9 and 10 be developed into a multi-purpose sports field and an additional set of tennis courts for Shaw members. A reply from the University administration is expected to arrive soon.

What Constitutes the Shaw 'Spirit'?

While it is common knowledge at The Chinese University that New Asia College emphasizes Confucian and humanistic traditions, Chung Chi College is founded on western Christian values, and United College is representative of the practical, entrepreneurial spirit of Hong Kong, Shaw College has yet to define its characteristics and 'spirit'. Again with a smile Prof. Yeung told us that *college character* and *college spirit* will only come with time. He added that Shaw has only been seven years in existence and is still in the process of finding a niche where it can best function to serve the University and Hong Kong in the long term.

Prof. Yeung revealed that, as Registrar a few years ago, he had proposed research in science and technology and academic liaisons with China as the two major areas of development for Shaw when drafting the University's triennial plan. He said, 'Sir Run Run Shaw, patron of the college, is a great benefactor of higher education in China and enjoys great prestige there. So we have had a lot of exchange and liaison programmes with Chinese educational institutions. Furthermore, Prof. C. N. Yang is a member of Shaw, and his assistance would help tremendously in promoting science and technology research at the college. So we did think about the possibility

of establishing a Shaw Research Institute in those days.' Unfortunately this notion has not taken any concrete form to this day, owing to the lack of funds and other considerations. As to whether the idea should be revived, Prof. Yeung indicated that the college has not yet taken any decision and he had to consult his colleagues.

Expectations of the New College Head

As college head, Prof. Yeung hopes that Shaw teachers and students can spare more time on college activities as this seems to have been Shaw's forte over the years; projects like visiting scholars' lectures, the annual college dinners and Tolo Lights, have all been very popular. He also hopes that students, when taking part in college activities, could assume a more practical attitude: when organizing activities and participating in university or department governance, it would be well for them to learn from the experience of longer-established and more famous universities, and to avoid being overly radical and unrealistic.

A Man with Many Hats

Prof. Yeung was previously Registrar of the University and is concurrently director of the Hong Kong Institute of Asia Pacific Studies. He feels that administrative experience accumulated over the years has been a great help to him in discharging his duties as college head. With his usual smile he said, 'Of the three administrative positions I have been entrusted with at the University, I still like that at the HKIAPS the best.' The reason for his particular fondness of working at the institute lies in the great administrative latitude that the director enjoys, and the institute's mission also blends in well with his professional expertise. It has to be noted that research on Asia-Pacific nations has been all the rage in recent years on account of the rapid development in these countries, and Prof. Yeung has been acting as an adviser to research projects launched by the United Nations



University, the Ford Foundation and the United Nations Development Research Project for many years. He is happy with his achievement in research in urbanization in Asian-Pacific countries during the past several years.

A Suggestion for the Newsletter

The CUHK Newsletter will soon be published twice a month to strengthen its function as a means to promote campus communication. Our correspondent took occasion of her interview with Prof. Yeung and sought his opinion. Prof. Yeung indicated that he had been an ardent reader of the *Newsletter* and had found its contents satisfactory. As his college did not have a similar publication, the *Newsletter* was particularly useful to Shaw. In the future, Prof. Yeung would like to see space devoted to letters to the editor so that members of the University can make their voices heard from time to time. When asked whether Shaw would publish its own newsletter, Prof. Yeung suggested that this had yet to be considered and that the publication of college newsletters, not being a project of essential nature, should be determined by actual need and the availability of resources. ○

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Arrangements for Congregation Day

The 48th congregation for the conferment of honorary and other degrees will be held in two parts on Thursday, 1st December.

Morning Session

The ceremony in the morning to be presided over by the Chancellor will be held from 10.00 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. at the University Mall. All graduates (for honorary, higher and first degrees) will attend.

Afternoon Session

The graduation ceremonies held by different colleges and the Part-time Degree Programmes (PDP) for first degree graduates will take place as follows:

College/ Programme	Time (p.m.)	Presiding Officer	Venue
United	12.30-2.00	Head of College	Sir Run Run Shaw Hall
New Asia	1.00-2.30	Head of College	University Mall
PDP	1.30-3.00	Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Prof. S. W. Tam	Shaw College Lecture Theatre
Chung Chi	2.00-3.30	Head of College	Chung Chi Chapel
Shaw	2.30-4.00	Head of College	Sir Run Run Shaw Hall

Other Special Arrangements

Robing Staff members joining the official procession in the morning session should assemble by 9.20 a.m. in the Cho Yiu Conference Hall on the ground floor of the University Administration Building, which will serve as the robing room.

Marshalling of the procession will begin at 9.40 a.m. The procession will leave the University Administration Building at 9.56 a.m.

Traffic One lane of Central Avenue from the Science Centre to Y. C. Liang Hall and New Asia Road will be reserved as parking space from 8.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. for guests attending the ceremony. The car park in front of the John Fulton Centre will also be reserved from 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.

The open and covered car parks in the Tin Ka Ping Building will be reserved from 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. for members of the procession.

The Benjamin Franklin Centre car park and the parking area next to the Central Steps will be closed from 8.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. to be used as temporary bus stops.

Appropriate road signs will be put up and campus guards will be on hand to assist motorists.

Suspension of Classes Full-time undergraduate

(except Medicine Years 3-5) and postgraduate classes will be suspended.

BFC Staff and Student Canteens Temporarily Closed

The Benjamin Franklin Centre Staff and Student Canteens will be closed from 8.00 p.m. on 30th November to 1.30 p.m. on 1st December, to be used for reception after the morning session. The Fast Food Shop will also be closed from 11.15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on 1st December.

Wet Weather In case of wet weather, the morning session will be held in the Sir Run Run Shaw Hall while the New Asia College graduation ceremony will take place in the New Asia Gymnasium.

Professorial Inaugural Lecture

Prof. Joseph Lau Wan Yee, professor of surgery, will deliver his inaugural lecture entitled 'Surgeons and The First Sovereign Thrones' on 25th November at 5.00 p.m. in Lecture Theatre L1, Science Centre. All are welcome.

New Department Renamed

The new Department of Mechanical Engineering has recently received approval from the Senate to be renamed, with immediate effect, as the Department of Mechanical and Automation Engineering. The first of its kind in Hong Kong, the department puts strong emphasis on the science and practice of automation. Its new name will reflect the direction and strength of the department in both its teaching and research activities.

Need to Borrow Money to Pay Tax?

The Hang Seng Bank has announced that, on production of valid staff identity cards, University staff will be given favourable loan terms within certain parameters for the payment of tax. Anyone wishing to avail themselves of this facility can contact the University branch of the Hang Seng Bank (Ext. 7876).

Medical Services Discount

University staff and their dependants will be offered discounts on service and consultation charges by the Shatin International Medical Centre Union Hospital, on production of valid University staff identity cards.

Further details about charges and admission can be obtained from the hospital's nursing officer/clinical coordinator Ms. Teresa Fong (Tel. 6083333) or marketing manager Ms. Phoebe Chan (Tel. 6083223).

Reimbursement of Medical Expenses

Please be reminded that applications for reimbursement of medical expenses under the Staff Medical Benefits Scheme will be accepted for processing only if they are submitted to the University Health Service not later than 180 days after payment for approved professional medical services. This arrangement took effect on 1st January 1994.

Additional Bus Route for Tsuen Wan Staff

An additional staff bus route to and from the University and Tsuen Wan has been in operation since 1st November 1994. For details please contact the Transport Unit (Ext. 7990).

Appeal for Stamps

A charity organization, the Sue Ryder Foundation, is making an appeal for used postage stamps which they will resell to raise funds.

Initially set up to provide a refuge for survivors of the Nazi concentration camps in World War II, the Sue Ryder Foundation now looks after many old and disabled people throughout the world. It is also closely associated with the Cheshire Foundation which runs two homes in Hong Kong.

Please bring or send used stamps to A-Paul at the Water Sports Centre. Your contribution will be highly appreciated.

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CUHK NEWSLETTER

We welcome your contributions

1. *Items for the next issue (mid-December 1994) should reach the Editor by 26th November 1994.*
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. 6036864; e-mail pub2@uab.msmail.cuhk.hk).*
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 1,600 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.*

Published by the Publication Office, The Chinese University of Hong Kong

Editor : Amy K. Y. Leung Assistant Editors : Lawrence Choi; Piera Chen Graphic Artist : Stella P. C. Lai