



Department of Statistics 統計系
The Chinese University of Hong Kong 香港中文大學

NEWSLETTER 中大統訊

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Message from the Chairman

Dear Friends and Alumni,

It gives me distinctive pleasure to introduce to you this inaugural issue of the Department of Statistics Newsletter. As you may be aware, the department has experienced a lot of changes during the last few years.

In the pedagogical front, several new programmes have been introduced. The department currently offers B.Sc. in Statistics, B.Sc. in Risk Management Science, M.Sc. in Data Science and Business Statistics, M.Sc. in Risk Management Science, M.Phil. in Statistics, M.Phil. in Risk Management Science and Ph.D. in Statistics. We also offer minor programmes both in Statistics and Risk Management Science. Many of these programmes have been established since 2000, partly reflecting changes of the need of the society and partly reflecting our endeavor to broaden the skills for our students.

In the human resources front, several new faculties have been appointed and more details can be found in the new appointment section of this issue. These appointments strengthen our teaching and research needs in a timely and strategic manner. Professor T.S. Lau resigned from the department in 2004, but he is keeping close contact with the department as a consultant for our statistical laboratory. In addition, there have also been changes in the administrative front. Mr. K Y Leung, the former Executive Assistant retired in 2004 and a new project coordinator, Ms. Grace C H Chan, joined the department the same year.

As many of you may recall, dealing with changes is part of the nature of a statistician and a risk manager. We are the chartered professionals specializing in dealing with uncertainties. With the introduction of a four-year university curriculum ahead, we are looking forward to more developments for the department. It is our mission to strive for academic excellence both in research and education and to nurture leaders in statistics and risk management.

This Newsletter will provide you with the latest news of the department, including recent and upcoming activities and honors of staff, students and alumni alike. I sincerely hope you enjoy this issue and please share with us your feedback.

CHAN Ngai Hang

Chairman & Professor of Statistics
Department of Statistics
The Chinese University of Hong Kong

親愛的朋友及舊生：

很高興《中大統訊》創刊號終於與大家見面。或許您們也留意到，本系於過往幾年曾經歷不同層面的變遷：

為配合香港經濟的變改與發展，本系自2000年起，開辦了新的學士學位及碩士學位課程，以培育學生在有關領域上成為人才和領袖。現時本系提供統計學學士課程、風險管理科學學士課程、統計學哲學碩士課程、風險管理科學哲學碩士課程、數據科學及商業統計科學碩士課程、風險管理科學碩士課程及統計學哲學博士課程。此外，風險管理科學學士課程及統計學學士課程均設副修課程供同學修讀。

人力資源方面，今期《統訊》會為大家逐一介紹多位先後獲聘的新教員，他們適時的加入令本系的教研工作更趨鞏固。此外，劉大成教授已於2004年退休，現時為統計系實驗室的顧問，為校內外有需要的人士提供有關統計的諮詢服務。行政方面，前行政助理梁介宇先生已於2004年起退休，其工作由項目統籌員陳芝霞小姐接替。

處理變遷是統計師和風險管理人員的其中一項任務，而我們更是被公認為處理不明朗情況的專才。隨著大學實行四年制，本系將有更多發展，以配合四年制的需要和實踐本系「卓越教研」、「培育人才」的使命。

透過這份通訊，我們會為大家送上本系的最新資訊，內容包括本系職員、學生及舊生的動向或發展。我衷心希望您喜歡我們的首份通訊，並與我們分享您對這份通訊的意見。

陳毅恒

香港中文大學統計系
講座教授及系主任



In this issue

1

Message from the Chairman

2

Highlights of Admission in 2006/07

Appointments

Achievements and Awards

3

Department's News

Student's Awards

4

Department Activities

New Books

5

Voices of Exchange Students

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Highlights of Admission in 2006/07

The admission results in 2006/07 are very encouraging. The admission results of both Statistics and RMS undergraduate programmes improve healthily. The RMS undergraduate programme continues to reap the cream of applicants in the Faculty of Science. The self-financed master programmes received many applications, proven to be welcomed by the public. We highlighted the results below:

收生情況

2006-07年度，本系收生情況甚為理想。統計學及風險管理科學本科生入學成績有顯著進步，而風險管理科學課程之新生均為理學院的尖子。此外，數據科學及商業統計碩士課程及風險管理科學碩士課程亦受到廣泛歡迎。2006-07年度收生情況如下：

55 and 24 students have been received in Statistics and RMS Programmes respectively;	統計學及風險管理科學各收55及24名本科生
5 students have both been received in MPhil. in Statistics and MPhil. in RMS programmes respectively;	統計學研究碩士課程及風險管理科學研究碩士課程各收5名研究生
43 and 23 students have been received in MSc. in Data Science and Business Statistics and MSc. in RMS respectively;	數據科學及商業統計碩士課程收43人；風險管理碩士課程收23人
4 students have been received in Ph.D. in Statistics.	統計學哲學博士課程收4人

Achievements and Awards 獎項

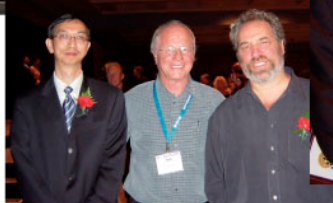
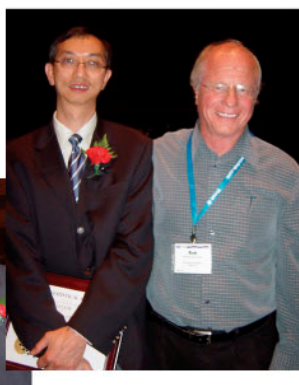
Prof. C Y Leung, Associate Professor, was awarded the 25 Service Award of the Chinese University of Hong Kong in 2005-06. We thank Prof. Leung for his devotion and contribution to the Department.

梁志英教授獲得香港中文大學二十五年長期服務獎，我們衷心感激梁教授對本系作出的一切貢獻。



Prof. N H Chan received the Exemplary Teaching Award of the Faculty of Science 2005-06. He was also selected as a Fellow of the American Statistical Association for his outstanding contributions to the statistical profession.

陳毅恆教授獲得理學院2005-06年度模範教學獎。同時，他獲選為美國統計協會2006年度院士，以表揚陳教授在推動統計學的發展的卓越貢獻。



Appointments 聘任

The Department has been expanding. Some new teaching staff have joined the Department: 自2004年度起，再有四名新教職員加盟本系：

Prof. Xin Yuan Song has been appointed to Assistant Professor since 2004. Prof. Song received her B.Sc. from Xiangtan University, MSc from Zhongshan University and PhD in Statistics from the Chinese University of Hong Kong. Her research interests are structural equation models, latent variable models, statistical computing, nonparametric method and functional data analysis, statistical diagnostics.

宋心遠教授於二零零四年上任為本系助理教授。宋教授於湘潭大學取得學士學位，其後於中山大學取得理學碩士學位，並於香港中文大學取得統計哲學博士學位。宋教授的研究興趣包括structural equation models, latent variable models, statistical computing, nonparametric method and functional data analysis, statistical diagnostics。



Prof. Samuel Po Shing WONG has been appointed to Assistant Professor. Prof. Wong received his B.Sc. in Mathematics and MPhil. in Statistics from the University of Hong Kong, and his Ph.D. in Statistics from Stanford University. He has been a statistical consultant for the industry. His research interests are: Neural networks and other non-parametric function estimation techniques, time series analysis, theory of mixed models, neuron-dynamic programming, financial and actuarial risk theory. He also loves playing basketball.

黃寶誠教授於二零零五年七月二日上任為本系助理教授。黃教授於香港大學取得數學學士及統計學碩士學位，其後於史丹福大學取得統計學哲學博士學位。黃教授曾為各商業機構的統計顧問。黃教授的研究興趣包括：神經網絡及其他非參數函數的估計方法、時序分析、混合模型理論、神經網絡動態規劃、財經及精算風險理論。此外，他還非常熱愛籃球運動。



Dr. Remus Kwok Wah HO has been appointed to Instructor I. Dr. Ho received his BBA. in Finance, BSc. in Mathematics, MPhil in Mathematics and Ph.D. in Operations Management from the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. His research interests are in simulations, statistical computing and risk management.

何國華博士於二零零五年八月二日上任為一級導師。何博士於香港科技大學取得工商管理（財務）及數學學士學位、數學研究碩士學位，及管運管理哲學博士學位。他的研究興趣為模擬、統計運算及風險管理。



Prof. Thomas Chun Man LEE has been appointed to Professor. Prof. Lee received his B.App.Sc. in Computing and Statistics, BSc. in Statistics from the University of Technology, Sydney and Ph.D. in Statistics from the Macquarie University, Australia. His research interests are in statistics and signal and image processing.

李俊文教授將於二零零七年一月上任為本系教授。李教授於澳洲悉尼科技大學取得電算及統計應用科學學士學位，其後於澳洲Macquarie University取得統計學哲學博士學位，他於美國芝加哥大學及科羅拉多大學擔任訪問助理教授及副教授。他的研究興趣包括signal and image processing.





Department's News 本系消息

Programme Review of Risk Management Science Programme

In summer 2005, the Department conducted a formal programme review for the enhancement of teaching and learning environment. Students of every year-of-study and alumni were invited to express their views on the Programme. Their opinions will contribute to the planning of the Programme's curriculum development.

風險管理科學課程檢討

為促進教學質素，風險管理科學課程於2005年夏季進行之課程檢討已正式完成。為此，本系邀請了風險管理各年級學生及舊生就課程及有關方面發表意見，以作本系籌劃課程未來發展之參考。

Enhancement on Teaching and Learning Environment

With a view to enhance the teaching and learning environment for our students, the computer laboratories, seminar/conference room and staff-student common room has been renovated and computer facilities are upgraded. The General Office of the Department has also been renovated.

環境改善

為讓本系同學有更優質的學習環境，本系設於地下及一樓之電腦室、研討及會議室和休息室已進行裝修翻新工程，並將電腦實驗室之螢光幕全部更換為液晶體螢光幕，又提昇部份電腦器材。此外，本系的辦公室亦已裝修完成。



Interview 專訪

浙江大學數學中心副主任林正炎教授專訪

訪問及撰文:陳芝霞

悠長的暑假令中大校園難得地寧靜，正當同學在休養生息時，本系於暑期的學術活動卻沒止息。暑假期間，本系相繼邀請了國內國外的學者前來作學術交流，當中包括浙江大學數學中心副主任林正炎教授。適逢此會，本系亦把握時機，訪問了林教授有關統計學於中港兩地的發展及前瞻。

中國內地之統計研究與香港的統計研究發展各有異同。林教授表示，兩地發展統計研究的情況不一樣，有一定的差異，亦有一些共通點，譬如統計學在兩地愈來愈受重視，各行業慢慢開始認識這學科的實用性和重要性。

然而，從發展現狀來看，中港兩地的統計研究是有所不同的。由於這學科是在數理科的基礎上發展起來，因此在內地的統計研究是較強調數學和理論方面。至於香港在統計學上的研究則借鏡西方國家的研究模式，亦比較重視應用統計於各行業及各學科上。

林教授表示，正因兩地的研究方向不同，建立長期的合作關係可有助促進浙大和中大在統計學上的發展。例如內地對應用統計的研究比較欠缺，浙大便可借鏡中大；此外，浙大的風險管理學科來得較零碎，而本系就可在這學科上提供意見或邀請本系教授到浙大主講研討會；另一方面，中大亦可就一些較為理論性的科目，邀請浙大的教授主講研討會。

此外，專長於概率統計研究的林教授表示研究概率統計的方向將有三大範疇，包括：

- (一) 概率統計理論的研究：解決現存的一些理論性問題及其他學科、行業衍生出來的問題；
- (二) 建擬統計模型，並運用這些模型進行研究；
- (三) 概率統計於應用層面上的發展：透過建擬模型，解決生活上及不同學科上的問題。以林教授觀察，生物統計學近年正迅速發展，他相信這門學科將有很高的發展潛力。

林教授坦言就內地研究統計學的方向的現況來看，要將概率統計從理論層面進到應用層面，必需經過較長的過程。他表示：「這包括研究統計的學者需要了解各科所需，而其他學科也要相信統計學能解決他們的問題。這有賴於統計學學者能有較高質素的研究，以證明統計學的地位，另亦需要多作宣傳的工作，或讓統計科成為一門普及科目，即是一般人都應該認識的學科，以提高一般人對統計學的認識。」

林教授於1990年起成為博士生指導師，桃李滿門的他，對博士生有一定的要求：「首先要有堅實的理論根底。」林教授認為，要做出高水平的應用統計必須先有鞏固的理論根底。根基扎實，就可從改善或修正一些概有的模型開始，嘗試解決不同問題，從而應用到不同學科上去。

最後，林教授道出他對統計學發展，特別是在內地的發展的期盼：「我相信統計學將會在社會上扮演愈來愈重要的角色！」相信這個信念，也是推動他畢生忠於研究統計的動力。



Department Activities 本系活動

The department collaborates with universities worldwide. Regular seminars are held by renowned statisticians. Since 2005, the department has launched various seminars:

本系定期邀請國內與外國學者到本系舉行研討會，藉此增加兩地的學術交流。現將本系自2005年起曾舉辦之研討會臚列如下：

Date	Speaker	Title
July 11, 2006	Dr. Ivan S. F. Chan Director, Clinical Biostatistics, Merck Research Laboratories, West Point, Pennsylvania	Statistical challenges of multiple endpoints in clinical trials
July 3, 2006	Professor Qi-Wei Yao London School of Economics	Modelling multivariate volatilities by common factors: An innovation expansion approach
June 16, 2006	Professor Kung-Sik Chan Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, The University of Iowa	Analysis of long-memory time-series data
April 18, 2006	Professor Yoshihiro Yajima Faculty of Economics, University of Tokyo	On nonparametric and semiparametric testing for multivariate time series
March 28, 2006	Professor Mao-Zai Tian School of Statistics, Renmin University of China	On Hierarchical Nonparametric Quantile Regression
March 14, 2006	Professor Thomas C. M. Lee Department of Statistics, Colorado State University, Fort Collins	Identifying and Tracking Turbulence Structures
February 27, 2006	Dr. Heng Peng Department of Operations Research and Financial Engineering, Princeton University	Nonparametric Transition-Based Tests for Diffusions
January 17, 2006	Professor Xizhi Wu Department of Statistics, Renmin University, Beijing, China	Partial Least Squares Regression and Its Problems
January 10, 2006	Professor Xu Liang Department of Mathematics, Southeast University, China	Statistical Analysis for Ranking Data
December 9, 2005	Professor Melvin J. Hinich Applied Research Laboratories, The University of Texas at Austin	A Statistical Theory of Signal Coherence
November 22, 2005	Professor Thomas C M Lee Department of Statistics Colorado State University, Fort Collins	Non-Stationary Signal Segmentation and Cellular Automata Pattern Generation using Minimum Description Length
November 8, 2005	Professor Christian Rau Department of Mathematics, The Hong Kong Baptist University	Tracking Edges, Corners and Vertices in an Image
October 25, 2005	Professor Yongcheng Qi Department of Mathematics and Statistics, University of Minnesota, Duluth	Confidence Regions for High Quantiles of a Heavy Tailed Distribution
October 15, 2005	Mr. Howard Ho Market Risk Manager, HSBC	Limits Structure in Banking
July 14, 2005	Professor Jianhua Hu Department of Applied Mathematics and Biostatistics, University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center	Bayesian Model Selection Using F Statistics
June 28, 2005	Professor Rong Chen University of Illinois at Chicago and Peking University	Large Sequential Monte Carlo with Adaptive Look-Ahead
June 22, 2005	Professor Grace L. Yang Department of Mathematics, University of Maryland, USA	Censoring and Truncation in Neutron Lifetime Estimation
April 13, 2005	Dr. Junichi Hirukawa Department of Mathematical Sciences Waseda University, Japan	LAN Theorem for Non-Gaussian Locally Stationary Processes and Their Discriminant Analysis
March 30, 2005	Mr. Remus K. W. Ho Department of Information and Systems Management Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	The Reversible Jump MCMC Algorithm for Multivariate Gaussian Mixtures with Applications to Linear Mixed-Effects Models
March 22, 2005	Professor Samuel Wong Department of Information and Systems Management Hong Kong University of Science and Technology	Flexible Modeling via a Hybrid Estimation Scheme in Generalized Mixed Models for Longitudinal Data
March 15, 2005	Professor Masanobu Taniguchi Waseda University, Japan	Non-regular Estimation Theory for Piecewise Continuous Spectral Densities
March 8, 2005	Professor Ming Liu Department of Finance, The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Sorting, Firm characteristics, and Time-varying Risk: An Econometric Analysis
February 1, 2005	Professor Yen, Chih-Hung, Jerome Department of Systems Engineering and Engineering Management, The Chinese University of Hong Kong	Risk Management Lessons from China Aviation Oil (CAO)



New Books 新書介紹



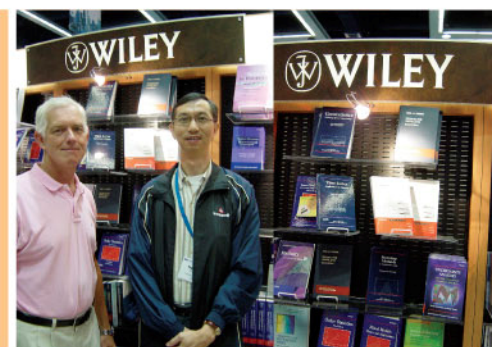
《風險管理精義》
陳毅恆 著



現代統計分析方法及應用
系列叢書《R軟件操作入門》
陳毅恆 梁沛霖 編著



“Simulation Techniques in Financial Risk Management”
Ngai-hang Chan and Hoi-ying Wong



Chen Xiao Xuan Year 4 Statistics

In the second term of 2005-06, I had the chance of going on an exchange programme to Queen's University, Canada. During the exchange programme, I have gained much and learnt much more than expected.

I always want to live in some big cities in western countries; however, Queen's University is located in Kingston which is quite a small town near Toronto. Yet after several days I got there, I started to enjoy living in this lovely peaceful town. It's a place where students can easily get together and form an integrated community in a less diversified environment.

I was selected to live in a residence accommodating international students only. This may be the happiest experience in my exchange life. The residence is called Harkness International Hall where I met great friends from all over the world. We talked about why people prefer the name "Netherlands" to "Holland"; we cooked French crepe together; we carved the best pumpkin during Halloween; we hanged out and got half drunk on our way back and etc.

Another major part that Queen's impressed me a lot is its academic environment. Students are hard-working and to my great surprise, one is hard to find a single seat in the library in Queen's University although it is during non-exam period.

In my opinion, going on an exchange is a must-do thing for every undergraduate student. Not only would it let you improve your language skill and communicate with others better, it also opens up your eyes and mind and always remind yourself to keep learning as a world citizen.



Chung Chun Kwong Year 4 RMS

Applying for the exchange programme in University of Toronto is definitely one of the best decisions I have ever made in my life.

During the semester in Toronto, I met and lived with university students from different countries. I stayed in a dormitory called 89 Chestnut Residence which was about 20-30 minutes walk from the main campus. The 89 Chestnut Residence made a special arrangement for the exchange students coming for the first semester of study: all of us lived on the same floor and nearly 90% of the residents were exchange students. This arrangement facilitated the excursion activities planning and made us easier to meet people from other countries other than Canadians. My roommate was a Mexican and he was a talkative and friendly guy. He arrived earlier than me and had helped me a lot during my arrival. There were also many activities, e.g. floor party, frequent birthday party, Halloween party and decoration competition, Secret Santa game, movie watching and football tournament throughout the week. Every day is filled with joy.

There are lots of overseas students in University of Toronto. In particular, many of the Hong Kong students are in the actuarial science department. I took a course about interest theory and I often heard Cantonese conversations during the classes. Students were not as active as I expected but at least there were still some students asking questions during lectures.

These three months are the happiest moment in my university life. My fellow exchange students and I walked to school and went for meal everyday and joined short trips to visit other cities. It was such a valuable opportunity that I could stay in a foreign country to make good friends and stay with them for a relatively long period of time. Students going on for exchange will gain experience, friendship and joy.





林麗豹 Year 4 Statistics

不知你對大學交流有什麼看法？對於我來說，這一年在美國的交流經驗絕對是無與倫比、畢生難忘……

過去的一年，我在位於蒲門的華盛頓州立大學渡過了我美好的交流生活。蒲門是一個名副其實的大學城鎮，全鎮只有大約二萬五千人，令你吃驚的是，當中超過二萬二千人是在年齡在十八到二十三歲的大學生！人們總是帶著親切的笑容、身邊的環境總是綠油油一片。這一年的生活使我明白到什麼是生活，什麼是美好的生活。

大學交流除了讀書外，當然要藉著機會四出遊歷，一開眼界。熱愛旅遊的我，分別於感恩節假期去了加拿大的維多利亞及溫哥華；於冬季假期遊玩了墨西哥多個主要城市；更於春季假期一試拉斯維加斯之聲色犬馬及三藩市的朦朧霧色。試想一想，除了大學交流這機會外，或許直至你退休前再也找不到一年的自由時間親身去了解不同的文化。另外，大學交流更加讓我認識到許多許多來至世界不同國家、不同背景的好朋友。想起，仍然懷念每一次用不同語言說「干杯」的時刻。

參加大學交流可能是你至今最重要的決定。大家應藉此機會，出外闖闖，為自己的生活添上美麗的色彩，美好的回憶。

Ma Man Hei Year 3 RMS

Hi, how's everyone in Hong Kong? I am Ma Man Hei of RMS Year 2, and I am now under an exchange programme at the University of South Australia (UniSA). Although now it is only the half way of my trip, there are already a lot that I can share with you on my life here.

I am now living in Adelaide, the capital city of South Australia, but it is not a modern city like Sydney or Melbourne. The commercial area of it is only about the size of two football fields and the tallest building has around 30 levels only. So what can I visit here? There are many old traditional buildings in and around the city, and the beaches here are very nice too. The view from any beach is simply fantastic, since the water is clear while the sky is bright and blue. The sky is not only nice in the daytime. It looks even nicer during night time when hundreds of stars are twinkling in the sky. This really amazed me when I first came here.

Now, let me talk about my host university. UniSA is quite a new university with about 15 years' history. It has 5 campuses located in different areas. While you take a school bus to move around CUHK, I have to ride a 25-minute bus from one campus to another. But I enjoy having lessons in different campuses, as each campus has its own looks and characteristics. The campus in Magill suburb is the one I love most, and it is lovely to sit under the tree and read books.

UniSA is a highly internationalized university. Apart from local Australians, my classmates and teachers come from all around the world, including China, Singapore, Iran, Canada, Kenya, Holland, and many more. In my Financial Management course, the lecturers are from India, Spain and Taiwan. It is really a valuable opportunity for me to meet different people and to learn different languages and cultures. One thing I have noticed is that, many Australian students do have lots of life experiences. They may have travelled around some third world countries like Cambodia and Libya, or they had worked in a foreign country for some time. I am wondering if Hong Kong students have focused too much on academic achievements and ignored the importance of life exposure.

Lastly, I would like to talk about part of my off school life. Named as the city of Festival, Adelaide has lots of events organized by the government throughout the year. The most popular one would probably be the food and wine festival. The cultural life here is one that I enjoy most here. The recent Art Festival and Historical South Australian Week attracted me very much and most of the activities are free of charge!

I am longing to experience more in the coming half year so that I can share with you all when I go back to Hong Kong.





吳祖傑 Year 3 Statistics

最初收到獲派NUS(新加坡國立大學)作一學期的交流時，我有點猶疑究竟值不值得去。那裡聽說和香港很相似，而且是一個倚賴刑罰、不太民主的地方。然而，我抱著開開眼界的心態，還是決定去。

新加坡和香港的確有相似之處，但其實分別頗大。此外在新加坡，雖然英語最為常用，但普通話亦十分普遍，有時甚至可以用廣東話。不過和當地人溝通，最辛苦莫過於要適應那些帶有當地口音及特別詞彙的英語 (Singlish)。初來報到時那種困境仍然歷歷在目。我還記得在校園內的麥當勞買一個套餐，我居然聽不懂櫃檯的人對我說甚麼。過了差不多半年，我也慢慢習慣了，學習並模彷他們的英語有時更加是一種樂趣呢。

在 NUS 的生活也和在中大的有很多不同，對我來說最明顯的莫過於學習模式。在中大的導修課，我們都只是坐在教室中，希望可以複習一下教授談過的內容，然後看歷屆試題以應付考試。但在 NUS，導修課是要預備的。我要盡力完成問題，隨時預備被抽中向全班講解如何完成其中一題。這雖然加添了壓力及工作量，但也是一種有效的學習方法。

此行使我對新加坡有更深入的理解，而我相信，只要能到外地交流，不要存著「香港甚麼都最好」的心理，到哪裡去都都有意義。所以如果時間金錢都許可的話，各位同學下年不妨一試。

Polly Chan Yau Sau Year 4 RMS

A Glance at Göteborg

When I first arrived Göteborg in January, the roads, buildings and shelters were all covered by snow. It's white and silent. Sometimes when it was cloudy, the wind would be chillier. Despite the tough environment in winter, I like this city very much.

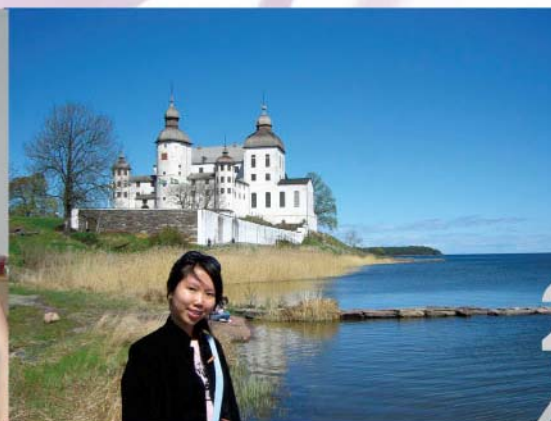
Göteborg is a lovely city characterized by the mode between a town and a city. It is the second largest city in Sweden; however, I am astonished that the population of Göteborg is merely around 500,000 which equals to the number of people going on demonstration of Article 23 in Hong Kong in 2003.

Fresh air, low buildings, spacious apartments and slow pace of live signify that the living style here is completely different from that in Hong Kong. Advanced technology and perfect transport system are also available.

The education system in Sweden is unfamiliar to me. One semester is separated into two parts and students usually take two courses in each part. However, it implies that the study period for a course is shorter, which is about one to two months. This practice is similar to taking summer intensive courses in CUHK. Frankly speaking, this kind of system is not suitable for me. The materials are taught too fast. When I am still in the process of digestion and absorption, the course has already finished, although I could concentrate on fewer courses.

Local students enjoy a big benefit which is paying zero tuition fees for the university. Most of Swedes have received their bachelor degree from university. This results in keen job market competition. However, heavy tax which is between 33% and 50% is imposed on citizens. Therefore, Swedes people prefer studying when they are unemployed.

During the exchange life in Sweden, I have tried different modes of study, learnt how to be more independent, experienced the culture of northern Europe, and most importantly, made a lot of friends from all over the world. I shall cherish these memories and miss the life in Sweden.



Tao Qing Year 3 Statistics

I feel so lucky to have a chance to go on an exchange programme in Korea University. I have been here for more than 3 months and I am in love with the school, the culture, the scenery and the people here.

The school life in Korea University is not just studying. Participating in extra-curricular activities is very important to students because it is one of the ways for students to make friends who have similar interests. I have joined four clubs - taekwon do, guitar playing, piano playing, and traveling club. Club members usually have regular meeting on weekdays and after the meeting all members will go to the restaurants or pubs around the campus to have dinner or drink.

It is well known that all Koreans love drinking. Koreans regard drinking as the best way to relax. During drinking, people start to know more about each other and at the same time, Koreans believe that alcohol helps relieve the pressure from the stressful life. It is so interesting that Koreans love to change the places of drinking since they feel boring if they stay at a pub or restaurant for more than two hours. Usually, the students in Korea University are very good at drinking. I was shocked when I heard that one of my Korean friends had experienced drinking in six different places at one night.

Besides drinking culture, in Korea, it is quite common that a senior treats freshman or junior with meals. Therefore, freshmen usually don't need to bring their wallets when they have dinner with senior students.

It is interesting that usually students in Korea love to suspend their studies for at least one semester during the university study period. During their suspension, some do internship as full time workers, some go abroad for traveling or study a foreign language, and some of them study for some certificates in academies. Because boys in Korea have to join the military service for over 2 years, many Korean boys who are over 25 or even 30 are still undergraduates in university.

My school life in Korea University is rich and colorful. During daytime, I take lectures. After that, I enjoy the activities organized by different clubs. On weekends, I travel around Seoul and other cities in Korea.

The exchange experience enables me to be more open-minded and I will cherish it for my whole life.



朱婷婷 Year 3 RMS

記得一年前在申請交換的面試中，面試官問了我一個老生常談的問題：「你為什麼申請去作交換生？」我當時的回答很"standard"，無非是開闊視野，體驗當地文化，云云。但是今天，當我開始回顧我在UPenn的這一年，我最大的收穫不是考試拿了多少A，也不是假期去了多少個地方旅行，而是在我與來自不同文化背景的同學的交流中所發展出來的開放、寬容的心態。

記得剛來UPenn的時候，我和許多人一樣，經常以一種「狹隘」的眼光去看我周圍的事物。例如，美國同學周末喜歡開party，聚在一起喝酒，所以我們會認為美國學生的課餘生活很單調無聊，除了喝酒，沒有別的事可以幹，而且他們經常酒後鬧事，所以他們的生活放蕩、無節制。再例如，在美國你有許多機會品嚐非主流國家的食物。譬如UPenn每個月會為國際學生舉辦不同國家的美食節，從埃及到印度，從德國到埃塞俄比亞，應有盡有。但同時，因很多國家的菜不是世界的主流菜系，這時很多同學在吃過某個國家的幾道菜后就喜歡大發評論：「這個國家的食物太咸/太辣，不色香味俱全…」這種只以自己所熟悉的文化習慣去看待他國事物，只以一小部分例子就去定性整個族群的習慣是很不好的。要知道，當我們認為印度菜很辣不好吃的時候，印度人會認為中國菜很油膩不好吃。當我們認為美國人很吵愛鬧事的時候，美國人會認為中國人很沉悶不懂生活。其實每個國家都有好吃與不好吃的菜，每個地方都有吵鬧與安靜的人。

所以對於這一年的交換生活，去過多少個地方，接觸過多少不同的人是一方面，更重要的是在我與這些有不同文化習慣的人的交往中，所形成的一種open-minded的心態——以寬容、開放的態度去看待與我們不同的人。不要因他們的行為方式與我們不同，就嘲笑他們不文明、落後。畢竟在這個世界上，與我們有不同文化、不同生活習慣的人多的是。