IMBA Celebrates 10 Years of Achievement

Our Faculty recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of its International Master of Business Administration (IMBA) programme, presented in conjunction with Fudan University, Shanghai.

In a series of events held in Shanghai on 8 and 9 November, VIP guests from Hong Kong and Shanghai, senior management representatives, Faculty members, alumni and friends of both universities commemorated this historic anniversary.

Professor Gary Biddle, Dean of our Faculty, commented in a memorial brochure about the anniversary events: “As we celebrate the 10th anniversary of the IMBA programme, we can look back proudly on what we justifiably call ‘A Decade of Success’ – success in co-operation and achievement. More than 2,000 students have already completed the programme, and many of them today hold key leadership positions in the business and public sectors in China. The programme owes a special debt of thanks to its visionary founders, the Vice-Chancellor, President and Programme Directors of both HKU and Fudan over the years; and to the outstanding Faculty members who have taught in the programme, expert support staff from HKU and Fudan, and exceptional past and present students who have made this programme a great success.”

Luncheon and seminars

On 8 November, 250 guests attended a luncheon and two seminars on the theme of “A Tale of Two Cities: Shanghai and Hong Kong”. Keynote speaker Professor Chenggang Xu of the Faculty of Business and Economics at HKU and other panelists discussed how Hong Kong and Shanghai can work together to overcome the challenges of recent global financial crises, and reinforce their position as financial centres. Professor Qiuzhi Xue, Associate Dean of the School of Management at Fudan University, and other panelists then compared the development of China-based MNEs with the development of MNEs in big emerging markets.

Gala dinner

On the evening of 8 November, 500 guests attended a gala dinner at which Dr. Vincent Lo, Chairman of the Shui On Group, made the keynote speech.
Founders’ Awards were presented to Professor Richard Wong, Deputy Vice-Chancellor of HKU, and Professor Lipeng Wu, Advisor in the School of Management at Fudan University. Faculty awards were then presented to 10 HKU Faculty members and 10 Fudan University Faculty members.

Receiving Founders’ Awards at the Gala Dinner, from left: Professor Shaode Qin, Professor Richard Wong, Professor Lipeng Wu and Professor Lap-Chee Tsui

At the Gala Dinner, proud winners of Faculty Awards, from left: Professor Ruoshan Li, Professor Lihua Huang, Professor Lipeng Wu, Mr. Elfred Roberts, Professor Frank Song, with award presenter Dean Gary Biddle, far right

At the Gala Dinner, proud winners of Faculty Awards, from left: Dr. Gentao SANG; Professor Zukang ZHENG, Dr. Gilbert WONG, Dr. Maurice TSE, Professor Yi-jiang WANG, with award presenter Dean Xiongwen LU, far right

Congregation and congregation lunch

On 9 November, 800 guests applauded as 400 IMBA graduates received their degrees. The keynote speaker was Mr. Antony Leung, Senior Managing Director, Corporate Private Equity, The Blackstone Group Asia Limited.

The guests and graduates then enjoyed lunch and a keynote speech by Mr. Frederick Ma, Honorary Professor in the School of Economics and Finance at HKU. Awards were then presented to outstanding students, and some graduates gave an entertaining performance.

Guests from Hong Kong
- Professor Gary BIDDLE	Dean
  Faculty of Business and Economics
  The University of Hong Kong

- Dr. Allen CHAN Zoong Yee	Senior Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor
  LGT Investment Management (Asia) Ltd.

- Professor Kai-Ming CHENG	Senior Advisor to the Vice-Chancellor
  The University of Hong Kong

- Mr. Vincent CHENG	Chairman
  HSBC Asia Pacific

- Mrs. Mariana CHENG Spouse of Mr. Vincent Cheng

- Mr. Paul CHOW, SBS, JP
  Chief Executive
  Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd.

- Professor Sheung-Ping CHOW, JP	Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President
  The University of Hong Kong

- Ms. Wendy Gan	Executive Director
  Pacific Century Premium Developments Ltd.

- Ms. Leonie KI
  Managing Director
  New World China Enterprise Projects Ltd.

- Mr. Antony LEUNG, GBS, JP
  Senior Managing Director
  Corporate Private Equity
  The Blackstone Group Asia Ltd.

- Dr. Eric Li, OBE, JP
  Senior Partner
  Li, Tang, Cheng & Co., Certified Public Accountants

- Ms. Omelia KWAN Chi Hing
  Spouse of Dr. Eric Li

- Dr. Vincent LO
  Chairman
  Shui On Group

- Mr. Frederick Ma
  Honorary Professor
  School of Economics and Finance
  The University of Hong Kong

- Mr. Cheuk-Fei MAN
  Chief Editor
  Hong Kong Economic Journal Monthly
  Hong Kong Economic Journal Co., Ltd.

- Mr. Patrick POON
  Chairman of Operating Committee & Director
  China Pacific Life Insurance Co. Ltd.

- Professor Lap-Chee TSUI
  Vice-Chancellor and President
  The University of Hong Kong

- Professor Richard WONG, SBS, JP
  Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost
  The University of Hong Kong

- Mr. Wilfred WONG, SBS, JP
  Executive Vice-Chairman
  Mission Hills Group

- Professor Chenganping XU
  Professor of Economics
  School of Economics and Finance
  The University of Hong Kong

- Dr. Joseph YAM, GBS, JP
  Chief Executive
  Hong Kong Monetary Authority

- Ms. Miranda YIP Siu Wai
  Spouse of Dr. Joseph Yam

- Mr. Andrew YAO, JP
  Chairman & Chief Executive Officer
  Van Shung Chong Holdings Ltd.

Guests from Shanghai
- Professor Chao CHEN
  Professor of Finance
  School of Management
  Fudan University

- Mr. Liming CHEN
  Deputy Manager
  Shanghai Jin Jiang (International) Group

- Mr. Liu DAI
  Chairman
  Shanghai World Expo (Group) Co. Ltd.

- Professor Yunshen GU
  Deputy-Dean
  Fudan Graduate School
  Fudan University

- Professor Lihua HUANG
  Consultant
  School of Management
  Fudan University

- Professor Li JIN
  Vice President
  Fudan University

- Professor Ruoshan Li
  Chairman of Finance Department
  School of Management
  Fudan University

- Professor Xiongwen LU
  Dean
  School of Management
  Fudan University

- Mr. Jie MA
  Deputy-Executive Director
  Alcatel-Lucent Shanghai

- Mr. Xuanchang PAN
  Vice President
  China Shanghai (Group) Corporation
  For Foreign Economic & Technological Cooperation

- Professor Shaode QIN
  Doctoral-Advisor
  Fudan University

- Dr. Mingchuan REN
  Associate Professor
  School of Management
  Fudan University

- Professor Lipeng WU
  Consultant
  School of Management
  Fudan University

- Professor Qiuzhi XUE
  Associate Dean
  School of Management
  Fudan University

- Mr. Jianxin XIU
  Director
  Shanghai Pudong Development Bank

- Professor Zukang ZHENG
  Consultant
  School of Management
  Fudan University

- Mr. Qiang ZHONG
  Assistant General Manager
  Shanghai International Convention Center
Congratulations to Outstanding Students and New Graduates

In events held on 24 and 25 November, prizes, scholarships and certificates were presented to outstanding students from our Faculty, and proud new graduates received their degrees.

On 24 November, about 350 people attended a Prize Presentation Ceremony at HKU’s Loke Yew Hall, acknowledging outstanding students from our Faculty.

The guest of honour, Mr. Jack C. K. SO, JP, Chairman of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, spoke about his achievements in his career, and inspired the students to chase their dreams.

Mr. So then presented certificates to 112 students who had won prizes and scholarships; representatives of several generous donor companies and organisations presented prizes and scholarships to 20 students, and Professor Biddle presented certificates to 126 students on the Dean’s Honours List.

On 25 November, as part of HKU’s 178th Degree Congregation, held at Asia World-Expo, degrees were conferred upon 1,095 new graduates of our Faculty. Later, at a graduation reception, over 800 graduates, family members and guests celebrated the graduates’ achievements. In his opening address at that reception, Dean Biddle congratulated the graduates on their successful completion of their studies in the Faculty. The event ended with many happy “Kodak moments”.

Students celebrate at our Faculty’s Graduation Reception

VIPs and prize-winners at the Prize Presentation Ceremony

Dean Gary Biddle delivers the opening remarks at the Graduation Reception

Congratulations to our new graduates

Students celebrate at our Faculty’s Graduation Reception

VIPs and prize-winners at the Prize Presentation Ceremony

Dean Gary Biddle delivers the opening remarks at the Graduation Reception

Congratulations to our new graduates
An Informative Day

Keen prospective students of HKU attended the university’s Information Day on 18 October, to familiarise themselves with the campus and attend presentations by the various Faculties about the courses on offer.

Faculty-members, staff and students generously volunteered to staff our Faculty’s information counters at Loke Yew Hall and the T2 Podium in the Meng Wah Complex.

Dr. P.S. Tso, Associate Dean (Admissions) said: “We estimate that about 2,000 people visited our counter at Loke Yew Hall, and about 4,000 people visited our counter in the Meng Wah Complex. Throughout the day, we also presented about 20 talks, aimed at prospective students, to introduce our Faculty and our undergraduate courses and to explain the admission requirements. Participants included students from local schools and international schools (i.e. non-JUPAS), and Early Admission Scheme students. The feedback we’ve received suggests that all the talks were very popular, and we’re expecting to receive overwhelming number of applications.”

Introducing Three New Undergraduate Programmes

Our Faculty will be offering one new undergraduate degree programmes and two new majors in the BBA degree programme, starting from the 2009-10 academic year. The programmes, with a quota of 20 students each, are funded by the University Grants Committee.

Bachelor of Science in Quantitative Finance [JUPAS Programme Code 6884]

This new degree programme, the BSc (QFin), is designed to equip students with quantitative techniques in mathematical modeling, statistics and computer programming that are essential in supporting financial decision-making, such as the pricing of financial products, investment and portfolio management, asset trading, and corporate financial risk management.

Bachelor of Business Administration in Business Design and Innovation [JUPAS Programme Code 6781]

This new major in the BBA degree programme, the BBA (BDI), is an inter-disciplinary programme that will help students acquire a deep understanding of innovation and design thinking in business. It will equip students with an ability to combine a creative mindset and a positive attitude with the business acumen that is essential in starting up a new business or pursuing a managerial position in the innovation industry.

Bachelor of Business Administration in Wealth Management [JUPAS Programme Code 6781]

This new major in the BBA degree programme, the BBA (Wealth Management), is designed to prepare client-facing professionals with the knowledge and skills to meet and add value to wealthy individuals and their families. The programme covers credit management, investment and portfolio management, insurance planning, tax planning, estate planning and retirement planning.

Professor Gary Biddle, Dean of the Faculty, said: “These new programmes are being introduced for the first time after extensive consultation with the business community and to meet the challenge of the ever-changing global business and economic environment. The launch of these new programmes is an evidence of the Faculty’s continuing efforts to offer innovative programmes to the student community.”

Dean Biddle welcomes potential students at our exhibition booth

Faculty-members, staff and students from our Faculty show their support for Information Day 2008

Dr. Raymond Wong introduces the BBA(AccleFin) programme to prospective students at the Undergraduate Admissions Seminar
School of Business Seminars –
The Learning Continues

Over recent months, our School of Business has presented a series of informative research seminars for Faculty members.

Professor Amy LAU, Director of the School of Business, explained: “These informative and productive research workshops provided excellent opportunities for our colleagues to interact with world-renowned scholars and overseas academics, learn new research ideas and methodologies, and improve their own research projects. Some of our colleagues also benefitted from the expert comments about their research papers, provided by Professor Oded Shenkar of Ohio State University.”

12 September
“A Critique and Extension of Some Major Theoretical Works on Disclosure”
Dr. Zemin LU, Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Business, HKU

13 September
Professor Oded Shenkar, Ford Motor Company Chair in Global Business Management, Fisher College of Business, Ohio State University, served as a discussant, sharing his comments about the following presentations by some of our Faculty members:

“Contract Enforcement and Family Control of Business: Evidence from China”
Mr. Yi LU, Research Assistant Professor, and Professor Zhigang TAO, Professor of Economics, School of Business, HKU

“Venture Capitalists’ Investment Preferences in China”
Dr. DI GUO, Visiting Assistant Professor, School of Business, HKU

“The Determinants of the Variation in Foreign Affiliate Performance: A Neo-Institutional Perspective”
Dr. Christine CHAN, Associate Professor, School of Business, HKU

“Sequential Acquisition Strategy in China: A Real Options Perspective”
Dr. Dean Xu, Associate Professor of Strategy and International Business, School of Business, HKU

16 September
“Cultural Differences in Management Research: Uses, Abuses and New Paths”
Professor Oded Shenkar, Ford Motor Company Chair in Global Business Management, Fisher College of Business, Ohio State University

Dr. Rael Lawson, Director of Research and Professor-in-Residence, Institute of Management Accountants (IMA)

22 September
“The Effects of Supplemental Management Revenue Forecasts on Analyst Assessments of Earnings Forecast Credibility and Earnings Persistence”
Professor James R. Fredrickson, Professor of Accounting, Melbourne Business School, University of Melbourne

3 October
“The Effects of Customer Participation in Co-Created Service Recovery”
Ms. Bacy Bei Bei DONG, PhD Candidate in Marketing, University of Missouri

6 October
“Regulatory Exposure of Deceptive Marketing and its Impact on Firm Values”
Ms. Martha Myśliński Tipton, PhD Candidate in Marketing, Goizueta Business School, Emory University

8 October
“The Effects of Brand Strategy and Customer Characteristics on Brand Revenue Premiums”
Mr. Jianjun (John) ZHU, PhD Candidate in Marketing, Henry B. Tippie College of Business, The University of Iowa

27 October
“De Novo Venture Strategy: Inaugural Entry and Arch-Incumbency”
Dr. Terence Ping Chan FAN, Assistant Professor of Management, Lee Kong Chian School of Business, Singapore Management University

28 October
“The Performance Consequences of the ‘Fit’ Between Management Accounting and Control Systems and Environmental Uncertainty”
Dr. Neale G. O’Connor, Accounting Associate Professor, School of Business, HKU

29 October
“Vertical Alliance Networks: The Case of University-Biotechnology-Pharmaceutical Alliance Chains”
Dr. Waverly DING, Assistant Professor, Haas School of Business, University of California at Berkeley

30 October
“Forensic Accounting”
Mr. CHEUNG Yuk Lam, Partner, and Ms Maidie KU, Associate Director, Financial Advisory Services, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
Words of Wisdom

Our Faculty’s School of Economics and Finance regularly presents extra-curricular seminars to enhance students’ learning.

An Economist’s View of Life and the World
On 5 September at the Rayson Huang Theatre, Professor Richard Wong, the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost of The University of Hong Kong and also Chair of Economics, shared his thoughts about “An Economist’s View of Life and the World”.

Professor Wong sees that economics is a way of making sense of the world and of making it a better place. As he explained, economics is based on two simple concepts: first, people want a diversity of preferences, and second, there is a scarcity of resources. So people must make choices, and this decision-making is at the heart of economics – people must pay a price for their choices. Complicating these choices, though, is the need to trust strangers and to make decisions that bring results over long periods of time.

As an example, he discussed the problem of escalating global food prices, and concluded: “Economics has a great deal of insight to offer… and we, as economists, have never lost hope that at the end of the day the world will listen to us. In that sense, economists surprisingly are not really scientists, they are preachers. Economics is a religion.”

Professional Seminar Series
In September, the School of Economics and Finance launched a new Professional Seminar Series. Dr. Y.F. Luk, Director of School of Economics and Finance, said: “The aim of these seminars is to keep students abreast of the latest issues and developments in the financial market and the economy so that they can better relate theory and practice. We therefore invite distinguished market professionals to campus to share their real-world experience and insights.”

In the first event in the series, on 24 September, about 70 students heard Dr. Ronald Chung, the Managing Partner of EQuity Consulting Co., speak about “Anti Money Laundering Risk Management for Financial Institutions”.

As Dr. Chung pointed out, firms that fail to manage the risk of money-laundering could have their business licence revoked and could face criminal charges. He explained the complex events behind money-laundering, including tax evasion, corruption and false accounting practices, and discussed the relevant international regulatory frameworks and the internal controls that financial institutions can adopt to mitigate the risk of money-laundering.

Dr. Raymond Li, Senior Managing Director, Head of Quantitative Risk, TiAA-CREF (the largest pension fund in the USA), then presented two talks about the latest financial turmoil.


Dr. Raymond Li discusses the latest financial turmoil
SCMP China Seminar Series

Our Faculty, in conjunction with the South China Morning Post, recently presented the first two events in the latest SCMP China Seminar Series. Both seminars were held at the Island Shangri-La hotel, Admiralty.

Reform for Sustainable Growth
On 30 October, Dr. Geng Xiao, Director of the Brookings-Tsinghua Center for Public Policy at Tsinghua University, Beijing, spoke on the topic “Reform for Sustainable Growth - Policy Options for China’s Macro Stabilisation and Capital Market Development”.

He discussed China’s place in the global economy, how the global economic slowdown is affecting the nation, and whether China’s role in the world economy is changing.

In particular, he dealt with the following key questions:
- How has China’s economic structure changed in the past decade?
- How rapidly can or should the mainland economy grow in the light of slower world growth?
- Is yuan convertibility the next step?
- What will China’s economy look like in ten years’ time?

China Into the Future
On 4 December, Professor Michael Enright, Sun Hung Kai Professor of Business Administration at HKU and Director of the Asia-Pacific Competitiveness Program at the Hong Kong Institute of Economics and Business Strategy, explored the topic “China Into the Future: What Comes Next?”

The key issues he addressed were:
- The overarching challenges that will shape China’s economic future: the challenge of maintaining economic growth, the challenge of maintaining social stability, challenges associated with Cross-Straits relations, and challenges associated with China’s relations with foreign “Great Powers”.
- How China’s leadership is evolving to meet these challenges.
- The extent to which recent events, including the meltdown in the global economy, the Olympics, Cross-Strait meetings and developments in international relations, affect these challenges.

Dr. Xiao commented: “China’s main economic challenge is to develop smoothly-functioning planning, financial, regulatory systems that can employ China’s surplus labour and capital, which now show up respectively as hidden unemployment and sustained current account surplus, in an efficient, harmonious and environmentally friendly way.” He concluded by recommending various reforms to China’s prices and institutions.

About 100 delegates from the private sector, HKU taught postgraduate programmes and HKU faculties attended the event.

- What corporations with activities in China need to do in order to prepare for dealing with China into the future.

Professor Enright proposed: “The future of China is best understood as being the result of the confluence of many multifacetted forces rather than a single master plan.” In conclusion, quoting from his book China Into the Future: Making Sense of the World’s Most Dynamic Economy, he advised: “China’s future is not preordained. Plots have twists and turns.”

About 80 delegates from the private sector, HKU taught postgraduate programmes and HKU faculties attended the event.
Uniting Nations

HKU Faculty of Business & Economics alumna Cilla Ng Ha Fung is putting her knowledge of Economics to good use in her work with the United Nations agency UN-HABITAT in Nairobi, Kenya. She spoke with Contact! about her job, and how her studies have led her to Africa.

I applied to work for the UN because it offered me the opportunity to learn about the world and to do research on global issues and problems in the developing world. The recruitment process involved several exams and an interview in New York.

Life in Kenya

Kenya used to be a British colony, so I haven’t faced too many difficulties in adapting to life here (for example, people drive on the left, and English is one of the major languages). However, it can be challenging to work in a different cultural context. In Hong Kong, people value efficiency, but in Kenya, personal interaction is much more valued, so it can be difficult to get things done without getting to know the person first.

As for life in general, I’ve had some interesting experiences taking the matatu (like a Hong Kong minibus) to downtown Nairobi. The bus drivers are infamous for their reckless driving, and the densely packed small shops in downtown Nairobi remind me of the hustle and bustle of Hong Kong.

An open mind and an open heart

While studying in the UK for my Master’s degree, I experienced some culture shock, and learnt the importance of opening myself up and stepping out of my comfort zone. Difficult times actually make us stronger and more resilient. So for any HKU students or graduates contemplating an international career, I would encourage them to keep an open mind and an open heart. Take the initiative in learning the local practice, and don’t be afraid to ask ‘stupid’ questions. Help as much as you can, and be sure to build up a support network of friends.”

The road to Kenya

I graduated from HKU with a B.Econ in 2002 and an M.Econ in 2004. While pursuing my Master’s degree, I also worked as a Teaching Assistant in the School of Economics and Finance. I then received the JK Swire Memorial Scholarship for my M.Phil (Econ) at Oxford University. After graduating, I returned to Hong Kong and worked as an Assistant Economist at the Hang Seng Bank, before joining the Financial Secretary’s Office in the Government in 2007.

The training at HKU gave me a solid professional foundation. Thanks to the Intensified Learning Opportunities Programme and the Asian Institute of Political Economy, I got to meet people from all walks of life. Also, my experience as a Teaching Assistant greatly enhanced my presentation and communication skills.
McCombs International Business Challenge

In November, a team of four students from our Faculty won the Championship at the McCombs International Business Challenge case competition at the University of Texas at Austin. The competition brought together 23 teams from the USA, Canada, Europe and Asia.

The team comprised Year 3 students Miss Vivien CHIA Wei Mun, BBA(Law); Miss Sabrina Quirinus JENSEN, BBA(IBGM); Miss Pauline CHAN Hiu Yan, BBA(IBGM) and Mr. Andrew TANG Ho Fung, BBA(Law). They proposed an emerging markets strategy for Dell, Inc.

Assistant Professor of the Faculty of Business and Economics Dr. Subramanian Venkata, coach and mentor of the team, remarked: “I was impressed with the effort, presentation and ideas of our students. They tackled the problem precisely, captured the essence of what the case company was looking for, and offered a complete solution.”

Corporate Governance Paper Competition 2008

In August, a team of two students from our Faculty won the Grand Prize in the Corporate Governance Paper Competition 2008, organised by The Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries. The aim of the annual competition is to introduce and promote the concept of corporate governance to local undergraduate students.

The winning team comprised Mr. KWOK Hiu Fai BBA(Law) and Miss Annette LAI Tse Yan, BBA(Acc&Fin). Both were in Year 3. Participating teams had to submit a paper of not more than 5,000 words on the theme of “Practical Corporate Governance: Corporate Risk”.

The winning team won a cash prize, free admission to the 6th biennial Corporate Governance Conference held in September 2008, and publication of their paper in “CSJ”, the official monthly journal of the Institute.

Deloitte Tax Championship

A team of four students from our Faculty won a Merit Team Award as one of 11 finalists in the Deloitte Tax Championship, held in Xiamen, China, in October. Fifty teams from all over Mainland China, Taiwan, Macau and Hong Kong participated in the event.

The team-members were Mr. Louis LAU Ho Kwan, BBA(Acc&Fin); Mr. Aman LEE Chuen Fung, BBA(Law)/LLB; Miss Tiffany YAN Wing Tung, BBA(Law)/LLB and Miss Cathy YIN Jia Zhen, B Econ& Fin.

The competition involved a practical hypothetical business case, which required an in-depth knowledge of China’s tax regulations. Students had just three hours to study the case, write a report and prepare a presentation outlining their business proposal and its tax implications.

Dr. Christina Ng, Senior Teaching Consultant, who served as coach and mentor of the team, said: “Several of the judges and tax partners from Deloitte commented to me that our team gave a wonderful presentation. They were also impressed with our students’ fluent Putonghua.”
IBGM Field Trips: “The world is our school; the coach is our classroom”

Each year, students from our BBA in International Business and Global Management (IBGM) have the opportunity to participate in a short overseas field trip. The aims are to enhance their classroom knowledge of international business and global management; to enhance their cultural sensitivity; to train them to conduct business research through on-site visits and interviews; and to develop their skills in communication and report-writing. This year, two groups of students undertook field trips – one group went to Japan, while another went to Dubai.

Justin Uy, one of the participating students, commented: “This trip was the perfect culmination of my summer internship at the Hong Kong branch of the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd. Their continued focus on businesses in the Asian region proves the dynamic growth of Japanese companies beyond their national borders.”

Dubai

From 11 to 16 October, 32 students (mostly from Year 1) travelled to Dubai. They were led by Dr. Derek C. Man, BBA (IBGM) Program Coordinator. The theme of the trip was Dubai’s achievements and ever-changing landscape as it develops into a 21st-century hub for world business, and its transition from a primary-based to a tertiary-based economy in just 30 years.

The students visited many companies and organisations, including the Emirates National Oil Company, the Emirates Aviation College Simulation Centre, the Department of Tourism and Commerce Marketing of the Government of Dubai, Dubai Media City and the Jebel Ali Free Zone. Executives from HSBC and the Hong Kong Trade Development Council stationed in Dubai also presented information sessions for the students.

One participating student, Edwin So (Year 1), reported: “The field trip has greatly broadened my horizons. Studying business is not just inside the classrooms. We can learn everywhere, through experience, observations, and of course fun.”

Japan

From 19 to 28 August, seven final-year students, led by part-time lecturer Mr. Daniel Cheung, travelled to Japan to study the business models of large Japanese corporations, the links between Hong Kong and Japan, and the strategies that keep Japanese corporations competitive in today’s global playing field.

They visited Tokyo and Osaka, and met with executives of the Mitsubishi Corporation, the Itochu Corporation, the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd., Matsushita Electric (Panasonic), the Hong Kong Trade Development Council (Tokyo Branch) and the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office (Tokyo Branch).
Congratulations to Inspiring Faculty Members

On 24 November, four members of our Faculty were honoured in a prize presentation ceremony for the 2008 Faculty Outstanding Teacher Awards. The Guest of Honour at the event was Mr. Jack So, Chairman of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council.

This year’s award-winners were:

**Faculty Outstanding Teacher Awards**
(Undergraduate Teaching)

- Dr. Alex Chan  
  Assistant Professor
- Dr. Qiao Liu  
  Assistant Professor

**Faculty Outstanding Teacher Awards**
(Taught Postgraduate Teaching)

- Dr. Chris Chan  
  Assistant Dean  
  Associate Professor  
  Director of MBA Programmes
- Professor Wing Suen  
  Associate Dean (Research)  
  Henry C. Leong Professor in Economics  
  Chair of Economics

Dr. Alex Chan explained his objective as a teacher: “As finance is a practical subject, my first objective is to ensure that students clearly understand how to apply their theoretical knowledge to real-life situations in order to handle the complexity of the changing financial markets.”

Dr. Qiao Liu outlined his goals: “My goals in teaching are not just to promote learning of the subject matter; I also try to help the students learn to think logically, learn problem-solving skills and techniques, and improve their writing and presentation skills. I am also always ready to experiment with innovative techniques to engage students in learning.”

Dr. Chris Chan shared his philosophy of teaching: “Students are not just numbers; they all have their own aspirations and dreams. I believe treating each one as an individual is the most essential part of being a good teacher. I always strive to remember each student’s name and background by the second class meeting. Knowing them by name, coupled with a smile, is the best way any teacher can start a class.”

Professor Wing Suen commented: “Although I have taught a course in Microeconomic Theory for many years, I still find preparation for teaching essential for success in the classroom. I am always on the lookout for interesting materials that may be incorporated into the lecture notes, and I make sure I go over the teaching materials myself before going into the classroom.”
2008 Research Output Prize

HKU’s University Research Committee has awarded a 2008 Research Output Prize to Faculty member Dr. James Vere for his article “Having It All No Longer: Fertility, Female Labor Supply, and the New Life Choices of Generation X”, published in Demography, 2007, 44(4), pp. 821-828.

The Prize is part of the university’s Outstanding Researcher Awards scheme, and is Faculty-based. It aims to accord recognition to an author or team of authors of a single research output item published in the preceding calendar year.

Dr. Vere commented: “I am always glad when colleagues find my research interesting. It’s definitely good news and a major encouragement.”

Professor Gary Biddle, Dean of our Faculty, said: “Please join me in warmly congratulating Jim on this outstanding achievement and well-deserved recognition of his dedication and commitment to excellence in research.”

Faculty Appointments

**Mr Frederick MA**
Honorary Professor

Mr. Frederick Ma is the former Secretary for Commerce and Economic Development and former Secretary of Financial Services and the Treasury in the HKSAR Government. He joined our Faculty on 20 October for a five-year term. Previously, he has had a long and distinguished career in banking and communications.

Professor Gary Biddle, Dean of the Faculty, said: “Mr. Ma is not only well recognised for his success in and contributions to the private sector and the HKSAR Government, he is also an important player in terms of economic and financial development between Hong Kong and China.” In response, Mr. Ma, an HKU alumnus, commented: “I am particularly looking forward to sharing my practical experience in the private and public sectors with HKU students.”

**Mr. KC KWOK, BBS, JP**
Honorary Senior Research Fellow

Mr. Kwok joined our Faculty in November 2008. From 2004 to 2008, he was the Government Economist for the HKSAR Government. Previously, he was the Regional Chief Economist of Standard Chartered Bank for the East Asia region and a Senior Economist at HSBC.

Mr. Kwok has served on numerous committees and boards in Hong Kong. In the private sector, he was an active member of several Chambers of Commerce, and served as the Chairman of the Hong Kong Coalition of Services Industries and the Honorary Economist of the British Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong. Mr. Kwok was awarded the Bronze Bauhinia Star in 1999 and was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 2003.

**Professor Chul W. PARK**
Professor in Accounting
PhD, Washington University, St. Louis

Before joining HKU, Professor Park was a Professor of Accounting at Sungkyunkwan University, Yonsei University, and The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. His research interests include financial accounting and capital markets, which focus on voluntary disclosures, earnings management, and CEO performance evaluation and corporate governance. His papers are widely cited in cutting-edge research in the fields of accounting, finance and economics, and appear in the world’s leading journals.