Celebrating a Successful Year

At three recent events, many deserving students and teachers from the Faculty of Business and Economics were honoured and acknowledged for their impressive results during the 2008-2009 academic year.

Prize Presentation Ceremony

Four teachers from the School of Business and the School of Economics and Finance received Outstanding Teacher Awards. They were: Dr. Raymond Wong and Dr. Ka-fu Wong for undergraduate teaching, and Dr. Alex Chan and Prof. Eric Chang for postgraduate teaching. (For more details, please see page 11.)

Many students who had achieved excellent results in various local, regional and international competitions during the year were then acknowledged.

Next, many students who had won Prizes and Scholarship Awards during the year were congratulated. The various prizes and scholarships were awarded on the basis of the students’ leadership qualities, academic merit and willingness to contribute to the community.

Finally, students who had earned a place on the Dean’s Honours List, the highest award given in recognition of academic excellence, accepted the accolades of the audience.

Professor Amy Tsui and Acting Dean Eric Chang

In a glittering ceremony held on 30 November in Loke Yew Hall at The University of Hong Kong, awards were presented to many high-achieving students and Faculty members.

On behalf of The University of Hong Kong, Professor Amy Tsui, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President (Teaching and Learning), welcomed about 500 special guests, donors and supporters of the Faculty, students, graduates and their family members to the event.

The guest of honour, Professor Frederick Ma, Honorary Professor in our Faculty’s School of Economics and Finance, then spoke about his own experiences in personal and career development, and inspired the students to work hard and chase their dreams.

Acting Dean Eric Chang then commented: “Our students did exceptionally well this year. Not only did they do well academically, they also made great contributions to society as well as the larger business community.”

Professor Frederick Ma and Acting Dean Eric Chang
Graduation Reception

As part of HKU’s 181st Degree Congregation on 8 December at AsiaWorld-Expo, degrees were conferred upon 1,192 new graduates of our Faculty.

Acting Dean Eric Chang offered his congratulations to the graduates and thanked their teachers, family members and friends. Addressing the graduates, he said: “Upon graduation, some of you will start your new and exciting careers, and some of you will continue your studies here. No matter what you do, I wish you all the best and every success as you embark on your next journey. I encourage you to build on these accomplishments, to keep challenging yourselves and to prepare yourselves to become tomorrow’s leaders and contribute to the community.”

Immediately after the Congregation, our Faculty hosted a Graduation Reception at which over 900 graduates, teachers, family members and guests celebrated the graduates’ achievements.

IMBA Graduation Ceremony and Lunch

About 500 IMBA graduates and guests attended a graduation ceremony and lunch on 14 November at the Shanghai International Convention Centre. A total of 206 graduates (134 from the General Stream and 72 from the Executive Stream and Corporate Programme) were presented with their degrees.

The guest of honour was The Honourable Joseph Chi-kwong Yam, GBM, GBS, the recently retired Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. In a wide-ranging speech, he dealt with China’s increasingly important position in the world; challenged “the supremacy of the so-called Anglo-Saxon model of economic development”, and invited graduates to take advantage of the opportunities offered by China’s “socialist market economy”.

On behalf of the Faculty, Acting Dean Eric Chang offered his thanks to the graduates’ families, friends and employers for their support and encouragement. He added: “Thanks are also due to the IMBA programme directors and teachers for their efforts in providing both a world-class education as well as individual professional guidance to each student. The staff who manage and administer the programme so well, and who always look after the students’ needs, deserve a great deal of praise, too.”

At the lunch after the official ceremony, Teaching Awards and Outstanding Student Awards were presented, and some graduates gave entertaining performances.
Faculty Events

Our Faculty often presents informative events for interested people both within and outside of the University. Here’s news about two such recent events.

Information Day

On 24 October, The University of Hong Kong (HKU) opened its campus to the public during the annual Information Day for Undergraduate Admissions. The theme was “Unity in Diversity”. Our Faculty’s information counter was one of the most popular ones, attracting over 8,000 visitors. They included students from local schools and international schools (i.e. non-JUPAS), and Early Admission Scheme students. Throughout the day, participants also attended admission talks in order to familiarise themselves with the programmes offered by our Faculty.

Prof. Eric Chang, our Acting Dean, commented: “This year, we especially highlighted the enrichment opportunities offered by our Faculty. All prospective students received a copy of our Enrichment Opportunities booklet, which outlines the extra learning opportunities in addition to academic study in our Faculty. I would like to thank all the Faculty members, staff and students whose generous support made the Information Day so successful.”

Business Leaders and Innovation Forum

On 28 September, over 250 HKU students and staff attended a fascinating talk by leading Italian businessman Mr. Mario Moretti Polegato, Founder and Chairman of the Geox Group.

Geox is currently ranked the number-one footwear brand in Italy and the number-two brand worldwide in the lifestyle-casual footwear market (as rated by the trade magazine Shoe Intelligence).

Mr. Polegato’s topic was “Geox: How a simple idea can lead to a fortune”. He explained that his simple idea of a “breathable shoe” led to the founding of a globally successful company that sold over 20 million pairs of shoes and over two million items of clothing in 2008, and that now has retail stores in 68 countries worldwide. He also shared his thoughts about the importance of innovation in product development and technology.

In 2003, Mr. Polegato was named “Best Italian Entrepreneur in the World” by Ernst & Young, and in May 2009 he accepted the Mediobanca Prize for “Most Dynamic Company” awarded to Geox by Italy’s leading investment bank. He dedicates much of his time to lecturing at educational institutions around the world.

The forum was co-organised by the School of Modern Languages and Cultures (part of the Faculty of Arts) and the Faculty of Business and Economics, and was supported by the Consulate General of Italy and the Italian Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong.

Mr. Mario Moretti Polegato (left) presents a souvenir to Professor Bennett Yim
Events: School of Economics and Finance

Professional Seminar Series

On 22 October, Dr. Peter T. Treadway, the principal of Historical Analytics LLC, a consulting and investment management firm dedicated to global portfolio management, was the guest speaker at an on-campus seminar titled “The Global Economy in a Post-Financial-Crisis World”.

Dr. Treadway spoke about the impact of the 2008 financial crisis on four global macroeconomic issues: the viability of the export-driven growth model whereby Asian countries undervalue their currencies and export to an increasingly indebted American economy; the gradual changes in the international monetary system; the drivers of deflationary and inflationary forces at work in the global economy in the wake of the financial crisis, and the opportunities and challenges for Hong Kong as an international financial centre when capital controls in China are gradually dismantled.

About 100 people, including undergraduate and postgraduate students from the School of Economics and Finance, MBA students and interested students from other faculties, attended the seminar.

Distinguished Public Lectures

The Way Ahead

Internationally renowned investor Mr. George Soros, Chairman of Soros Fund Management, LLC and founder of the Open Society Institute, presented a series of five lectures at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest, Hungary, from 26 to 30 October.

Our university was one of only five universities around the world to participate in simultaneous video conferences. HKU’s event on 30 October was co-organised by the Journalism and Media Studies Centre and the School of Economics and Finance.

In this last lecture in the series, titled “The Way Ahead”, Mr. Soros focused on the increasingly important role that China is likely to play on the world stage. He outlined key global trends and discussed the major economic and political implications of these trends for the years ahead.
The Future of Hong Kong as an International Financial Centre, Post-Crisis

Over 300 people, including undergraduate and postgraduate students, teachers and members of the public, attended a talk on 3 November in HKU’s Main Library by Mr. Andrew Len Tao Sheng, Chief Adviser of the China Banking Regulatory Commission.

Mr. Sheng’s topic was “The Future of Hong Kong as an International Financial Centre, Post-Crisis”. He shared his views about Hong Kong’s possible role in Asia and the global stage in making financial markets function effectively for the common good.

Afterwards, Mr. Sheng kindly signed copies of his new book, “From Asian to Global Financial Crisis”, published by Cambridge University Press.

The talk was co-organised by the School of Economics and Finance, HKU Libraries, Cambridge University Press and Swindon Book Co. Ltd.

Shifting Paradigms on Both Sides of the Global Economic Imbalance

Professor Justin Yifu Lin, Senior Vice President and Chief Economist of The World Bank, delivered a lecture titled “Shifting Paradigms on Both Sides of the Global Economic Imbalance” on 9 November at Loke Yew Hall, HKU.

The event was the third lecture in the annual Edward K.Y. Chen Distinguished Lecture Series.

Professor Lin commented: “While the world economy has begun to show signs of recovery from the deepest financial crisis since 1930, the path to global prosperity remains fraught with danger unless the existing, entrenched global economic imbalance is addressed.”

Over 600 people, including undergraduate and postgraduate students, teachers, government officials and members of the public, attended the lecture.
Students’ Achievements

Competitions

McCombs International Business Challenge 2009

On 31 October, a team from our Faculty won the 16th annual McCombs International Business Competition (MIBC), organised by the School of Business at the University of Texas at Austin. This was the second year in a row that a team from our Faculty had won the Championship.

The winning team comprised:
Mr. Jason HO Tsun Yiu, Year 3 BBA(Law)
Mr. Patrick LUI Sing Lui, Year 2 BBA(IBGM)
Miss Christine TAI Cheuk Man, Year 3 BBA(IBGM)
Miss Gabby YANG Jia, Year 3 BBA(Acc&Fin)

As well as working on their presentations, participants had the opportunity to meet the judges and senior representatives from Motorola, meet high-calibre students from around the world, network and make new contacts, expand their skills and gain insights from other students.

Simply amazing

The panel of judges described our winning team as "simply amazing" and the best team they had seen in the competition since it started 10 years ago. Mr. John Doggett of McCombs, one of the competition’s Faculty advisors, said: “In 48 hours they produced a new product development and launch strategy for two new mobile devices for the China market that was so detailed they even had chipset specifications for the two new phones. What those ‘undergraduates’ did during the finals was truly something to behold.”

Dr. Subramanian Venkata, Assistant Professor of the Faculty of Business and Economics, served as coach and mentor to the team during the competition. He commented: “I am proud of our students’ outstanding performance. They did an excellent job researching and analyzing the case. They captured the essence of the case, tackled the problem precisely, offered a complete solution and displayed great presentation skills. The team showed professionalism and was very focused throughout the whole competition.”

Dr. Venkata interviewed many interested students from various programmes and class years in our Faculty and carefully assessed their capabilities before putting together the “dream team” for the 2009 competition.

Members of the Championship team each received one of Motorola’s most up-to-date mobile phones. They have also been invited to visit Motorola’s China headquarter in Beijing and do a presentation to managers.

HKSFA Investment Research Challenge 2009-10

In November a team of students from our Faculty won the 1st Runner-up award in the HKSFA Investment Research Challenge 2009-10, organised by the Hong Kong Society of Financial Analysts.

The students were:
Mr. CHEN Liye, Year 3 BBA(Acc&Fin)
Miss TAN Shuyue, Year 3 BCon&Fin
Miss ZHANG Jinglu, Year 3 BBA(IBGM)
Miss ZHANG Xi, Year 2 BCon&Fin

This annual competition is open to university students in Hong Kong and Mainland China. The objective is to promote the practice of professional investment research and analysis and to raise students’ awareness of the HKSFA.

Each team was required to conduct research about a Hong Kong-listed company, submit a written report, and present its findings to a panel of judges.
**HKICPA QP Case Analysis Competition**  
– Teams from our Faculty sweep the awards

Outstanding teams from our Faculty swept all the awards in the Qualification Programme (QP) Case Analysis Competition 2009, winning the Championship, First Runner-up and Second Runner-up awards.

This was the fourth year in a row that a team from our Faculty had won the Championship award. Two teams also won Merit Awards, and two of our students won individual awards for the Best Written Report and the Best Presenter.

The annual competition, organised by the Hong Kong Institute of Certified Public Accountants and open to all undergraduates in Hong Kong, aims to help students develop their business skills, cultivate their professional judgment and prepare themselves for the business environment. It also offers participants the opportunity to practise and enhance their problem-solving, team-building and presentation skills.

This year, the competition brought together 229 teams from nine local universities to compete in two rounds.

Based on the participants’ written reports, the best eight teams were selected to enter the final round of the competition, held on 28 November. In that final round, each team gave a 15-minute oral presentation outlining their business plan and demonstrating their analytical and problem-solving skills, and then had five minutes to answer questions from the judges.

The case question, about the profitability of a Hong Kong-based hotel chain, was extracted from the QP candidate learning pack, in order to give the students early exposure to the programme’s learning style.

Dr. Ada Wong, the coach and mentor of our teams, remarked: “Our students did an excellent job analyzing the case. We spent a lot of time preparing for possible questions the judges might ask, and I provided intensive training and rehearsal practice to prepare the students for the competition. I was impressed with their ability to manage the nerve-wracking Q&A session and the stress associated with the competition. And I’m sure our students’ strong foundation in business academic disciplines and the support provided by other Faculty members contributed greatly to the success of our teams.”

**Championship**

Leader    Mr. Philip YIN Yuxi, Year 2 BBA(IBGM)  
Members   Miss Olivia GAO Ya, Year 2 BSc&Fin  
          Mr. Ricardo XIE Weikai, Year 1 BBA(IBGM)  
          Mr. Jeff YANG Si, Year 2 BBA(Acc&Fin)

**First Runner-up**

Leader    Mr. Alvin LUM Lai, Year 2 BBA(Law)  
Members   Mr. Chris CHIK Yin Yan, Year 2 BBA(Law)  
          Mr. Patrick LUI Sing Lui, Year 2 BBA(IBGM)  
          Miss Tiffany TSE Ching Man, Year 2 BBA(Law)

**Second Runner-up**

Leader    Mr. Victor WONG Ting Kwan, Year 3 BBA(Acc&Fin)  
Members   Mr. Christopher LEE Kentuck, Year 3 BBA(Acc&Fin)  
          Miss Fanny NG Fung Ni, Year 3 BBA(Acc&Fin)  
          Miss Sophie YAM Siu Ying, Year 3 BBA(Acc&Fin)

**Merit Award**

Leader    Miss Theresa LI Hor Ying, year 2 BBA(Acc&Fin)  
Members   Miss Agnes CHAN Shuk Man, year 3 BBA(Acc&Fin)  
          Mr. Kevin MA Ka Yue, year 3 BBA(Acc&Fin)  
          Miss Christy TAM Wing Shan, year 2 BBA(Acc&Fin)

**Best Written Report Award**

Mr. Philip YIN Yuxi of the Championship team

**Best Presenter Award**

Mr. Chris CHIK Yin Yan of the First Runner-up team
Students’ Achievements

Deloitte Tax Championship 2009

A team from our Faculty won the Hong Kong regional competition in the Deloitte Tax Championship 2009, and then went on to represent Hong Kong, winning a Merit Team Award in the national grand final in Shanghai on 29 October.

The grand final featured a total of 11 teams from universities in Mainland China, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan, and each team comprised four full-time undergraduates.

The annual competition is an initiative of the Deloitte Tax Research Foundation, which promotes education, research and innovation in the field of taxation. The key objectives of the competition are to raise standards and promote overall excellence in the area of taxation.

The case study competition assessed the students’ ability to apply their classroom knowledge to analyze and solve real business cases. Participants also had to demonstrate their ability to apply the relevant rules and regulations to identify the fundamental business and tax issues and provide solutions within three hours.

The members of our team were:
Miss Jansy MAN Wing Sze, Year 4 BBA(Law)
Miss Angela POON On Kei, Year 3 BBA(Acc&Fin)
Mr. WONG Cho Lik, Year 3 BBA (Law)
Mr. XI Fangshuo, Year 3 BBA(Acc&Fin)

The team’s mentor, Dr. Christina Ng, said: “Although the team-members worked very hard and were tired after the long journey to the competition venue, I believe they all enjoyed the process, and that was the real benefit.”

SCMP/IFPHK Financial Planner Awards 2009

A team of students from our Faculty won the first prize in the University Student Category of the SCMP/IFPHK Financial Planner Awards 2009.

The team, calling itself “EMS”, comprised:
Miss YUAN Xiaoquan, Year 1 BEcon&Fin
Miss ZHANG Wanying, Year 2 BEcon&Fin
Mr. LIU Zhe, Year 2 BSc(Surveying)

The competition, organised jointly by the Institute of Financial Planners of Hong Kong (IFPHK) and the South China Morning Post (SCMP), is an annual industry event for the financial planning industry. Open to all full-time undergraduate students at universities in Hong Kong, it aims to recognise outstanding university students in Hong Kong who demonstrate sound financial acumen and knowledge about financial planning.

In the first round of the competition, teams had to submit a written financial plan, offering a thorough analysis of and comprehensive solution to a given case. In the final round, held on 6 November, five teams each made an oral presentation to the judges.

The members of team EMS will undertake internships in summer 2010 in one of Hong Kong’s top financial institutions.
HKICS Corporate Governance Paper Competition 2009

In the final round of the HKICS Corporate Governance Paper Competition 2009, held on 26 September, a team of three students from our Faculty won the 2nd Runner-up prize.

The team comprised:
Mr. Ricky CHEUNG Ka Ki, Year 3 BBA(IBGM)
Miss Olivia CHEUNG Lok Wah, Year 3 BBA(IBGM)
Miss Tracy PUN Hoi Ying, Year 3 BBA(IBGM)

Ricky also won the Best Presenter award in the competition.

This annual competition, organised by the Hong Kong Institute of Chartered Secretaries, is open to university students from top universities in Hong Kong and across Mainland China. It aims to promote the idea of corporate governance among university students, and to educate them about how to put corporate governance concepts into practice in the real world of business.

The 51 participating teams were required to submit a paper of not more than 5,000 words on the theme “Practical Corporate Governance: Investor Relations”.

Six teams were then chosen to present their papers in the final round.

A spokesperson from our Faculty’s team said: “In our paper, we emphasised the need to improve transparency in performance disclosure and to minimise the information risks that investors are exposed to.”

From left: Miss Tracy Pun, Mr. Ricky Cheung and Miss Olivia Cheung

Sustainable Innovation Student Competition (SISC) 2009

Two teams of students from our Faculty did well in the first annual Sustainable Innovation Student Competition (SISC).

The competition was established by 51Sim in partnership with Camco, 51Give and the Cultural and Education Section of the British Embassy. Open to all university students in Mainland China and Hong Kong, it aims to foster environmental entrepreneurship and encourage Chinese students to develop imaginative and viable business plans that offer solutions to the problem of climate change.

The competition focuses on three categories: Green Transport, Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy. In Round 1, teams had to propose a business idea. In Round 2, winning teams from Round 1 had to submit a detailed business plan. In the final round, held on 3 November, selected teams presented their business plan to a panel of expert judges.

Championship in the Energy Efficiency Category
Miss Natalie LIU Ngai Kan, Year 2 BBA(IBGM)
Miss Shyvee SHI Xinyu, Year 2 BBA(IBGM)
Miss Silva SHUM Wai Yee, Year 2 BBA(IBGM)

First Runner-up in the Green Transport Category
Mr. Alvin LUM Lai, Year 2 BBA(Law)
Miss Colleen LEUNG Hiu Hung, Year 2 BBA(Acc&Fin)
Mr. Patrick LUI Sing Lui, Year 2 BBA(IBGM)
Mr. Sam CHAN Ka Tsun, Year 2 BSc(Actuarial Science)
Global Youth Summit 2009

Miss Meicy HUI Man Sze, a BBA(Law) Year 2 student from our Faculty, was one of two students representing Hong Kong at the Global Youth Summit 2009 in London.

Meicy and a local high-school student were among 60 outstanding candidates from 44 countries who were selected to attend the event. She had been nominated by the Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups.

The Summit, organised by the British Council in London, took place from 15 to 21 November. Participants took part in an intensive week-long leadership training programme that included training in project management, fundraising, media relations, research, monitoring and evaluation. They also had the opportunity to meet high-profile mentors, including politicians and business leaders, and to connect with a network of like-minded young people from around the world.

Meicy reported: “During the Summit, I tried to start intercultural dialogues whenever and wherever possible. I have benefited a lot by learning how people in other countries view China and Hong Kong, by listening to others’ solutions to common problems (e.g. climate change, poverty) and by developing skills in creating change in society. I also had the chance to meet Mr. Gordon Brown, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, at 10 Downing Street. This has motivated me to devote more time and effort to community projects, because I know that political leaders do care about the opinions and actions of young people.”

Global Changemakers

The Summit was part of Global Changemakers, a British Council programme that supports a global network of young activists and social entrepreneurs (aged between 16 and 25) to develop as leaders through intensive leadership training and mentoring with business and political leaders. It creates opportunities for young people to present a consolidated voice on youth concerns to political leaders, whilst becoming part of an active global network.

All the Summit participants automatically became part of the Global Changemakers family. Meicy explained: “This is a strong network of young people from about 100 countries, providing us with the chance to realise our dreams and change the world. We also have the opportunity to attend the World Economic Forum and UN events. After all, to change the world, we have to first change ourselves. We have to be better equipped with skills to convince others and to critically reflect on what we need to do and why we need to do it.”

Applicants for the Global Youth Summit 2009 had to:
• Be aged 16-19 in November 2009
• Show leadership potential
• Have demonstrated excellent communication and teamwork skills
• Have demonstrated a track record of social entrepreneurship, community activism and/or volunteer work
• Have good analytical skills
• Be studying or be intending to study in areas such as sustainable development, international relations, human rights and law.

Changemakers
– making a difference
Faculty Achievements

Excellence in Teaching and Research 2009

The University of Hong Kong believes that the talents of its teachers and researchers are a priceless asset. Every year, outstanding teachers and researchers are honoured with University Teaching and research awards for excellence in their fields. Three members of our Faculty, Dr. Chris Chan, Professor David Tse and Professor Bennett Yim, will be honoured at the University’s annual Award Presentation Ceremony for Excellence in Teaching and Research, which has been scheduled for 28 January, 2010.

2009 Research Output Prize
Chair Professor David Tse, School of Business
Professor Bennett Yim, School of Business

Professor Tse and Professor Yim have been selected by the University Research Committee to receive a 2009 Research Output Prize for their work, co-authored with Kimmy W. Chan, titled “Strengthening Customer Loyalty through Intimacy and Passion: Roles of Customer-Firm Affection and Customer-Staff Relationships in Services”, Journal of Marketing Research, 45 (December 2008), 741-756.

Hong Kong University’s Outstanding Teaching Award
Dr. Chris W.H. Chan, School of Business

In order to win this award, Dr. Chan had to demonstrate excellence in (a) teaching and engagement with students and their learning, (b) curriculum design, renewal and innovation, and (c) leadership and scholarship of curriculum design and innovation in teaching and learning.

Congratulations to Four Inspiring Faculty Members

On 30 November, four members of our Faculty were honoured in a Prize Presentation Ceremony for the 2009 Faculty Outstanding Teacher Awards. The aim of the awards is to recognise and reward distinguished teachers for their dedication and achievements in teaching, and to further promote a high-quality teaching culture.

For the academic year 2008-2009, the award-winners were:

Outstanding Teacher Award
(Undergraduate Teaching)
Dr. Raymond Wong Teaching Consultant
Dr. Ka-fu Wong Assistant Professor

Outstanding Teacher Award
(Postgraduate Teaching)
Dr. Alex Chan Assistant Professor
Professor Eric Chang Acting Dean;
Quoin Professor in Finance; Chair of Finance

Professor Amy Tsui (centre) with our outstanding teachers (from left): Dr. Alex Chan, Dr. Raymond Wong, Dr. Ka-fu Wong and Professor Eric Chang
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