TIME FOR TEA

Professor Dean Eric Chang, Dean of the FBE, joined around 80 of the Faculty’s Associate Deans, teachers, staff, alumni and representatives of four student associations to welcome the arrival of 2013 with a convivial Tea Reception in the Elliot Room of the K. K. Leung Building on January 24.

Following his welcoming speech, Professor Chang introduced his faculty colleagues and staff to the student representatives. The alumni and student representatives in turn introduced their executive committees and outlined their past and upcoming activities.

After the formalities, the participants relaxed and enjoyed the refreshments as they chatted together. The gathering was an excellent opportunity for the alumni and student representatives to meet Faculty members and staff. It also enabled faculty members, alumni and students to share their experience and ideas freely, thus allowing the Faculty to better understand the needs and aspirations of the alumni and students.
DIALOGUE WITH MR. JAMES THOMPSON

This semester’s CEO Forum, a biannual event of the School of Business, was held in the Wang Gungwu Lecture Hall on the evening of March 27, 2013. It featured an interview with Mr. James E. Thompson, Chairman and Founder of Crown Worldwide Group, by Professor Ali Farhoomand. The audience included students, faculty members, alumni as well as those from the HKU. The opening remarks were delivered by the Director of School of Business, Professor Amy Lau, whereas the Dean Eric Chang presented a souvenir to the speaker.

During the interview with Professor Farhoomand, Mr. Thompson, a Gold Bauhinia Star recipient, shared many stories about the development of his business. He shared his management style and approach to Corporate Social Responsibility and offered advice to young entrepreneurs. Mr. Thompson also shared with the audience his experience in handling conflict between desire and expectation, his definition of success, and the characteristics he found critical for his achievements to date.

The audience found Mr. Thompson’s sharing extremely inspiring, and it generated many thoughtful questions during the Q&A session. They also had the opportunities to interact with the speaker at the reception before the event, as well as afterwards, when they lined up to ask further questions.

Crown Worldwide is a global logistics company that provides various types of warehousing and transportation services. It is the world’s largest privately owned international removals company, with more than 265 locations. Moreover, it is a leader in the field of document management, handling 22.3 million cartons of business documents a year worldwide. The company has received numerous awards, such as the prestigious Hong Kong Award for Services in Export Marketing, the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce Innovative Services Award, and the DHL South China Morning Post International Award for being Hong Kong’s best international company.
PERSONAL INVESTMENT PERSPECTIVES

Professor Geert Bekaert, the Leon G. Cooperman Professor of Finance and Economics at Columbia Business School and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research in the US, delivered a thought-provoking lecture entitled “Investing for the Individual: An Academic’s Perspective” at the Meng Wah Complex on January 29, 2013.

The topics Professor Bekaert covered ranged from the 10 rules for personal investing to the importance of learning objective lessons from academic research, rather than relying on subjective marketing materials from the investment industry. He also helped to dispel some popular myths about stock investing.

The session attracted a full house of undergraduate and postgraduate students, staff members and stakeholders in the network of the School of Economics and Finance. The lecture was moderated by School Director Professor Keith Wong.
TRENDS IN EAST ASIAN PRODUCTION CHAINS

Recent economic, public policy and business studies related to production chains in the East Asia region were the subjects of Hong Kong APEC Study Centre Public Lecture by Professor K. C. Fung, Professor of Economics at the University of California, Santa Cruz, USA, on January 28, 2013.

Professor Fung’s talk, “Supply and Value Chains in the Asia-Pacific: Observations and Implications”, also compared characteristics and trends in supply chains in East Asia, Latin America and South Asia. The insights he shared drew on his experience with a number of international organisations, as well as his former role as a senior staff economist at the US President’s White House Council of Economic Advisers.

A lively Q&A session with the audience of students, alumni, government officials and representatives of commercial chambers followed the lecture, which was moderated by FBE Associate Dean and Executive Director of Hong Kong Institute of Economics and Business Strategy Dr. Alan Siu.

MOVING TOWARDS REGIONAL FREE TRADE

The two tracks of World Trade Agreement negotiations that are now taking place in the Asia Pacific region could ultimately simplify the “noodle bowl” of smaller agreements that are currently in place there, and perhaps lead to a region-wide free trade area.

This was the conclusion of Professor Peter Petri, the Carl J. Shapiro Professor of International Finance at the Brandeis International Business School in Waltham, the US, in his Hong Kong APEC Study Centre Public Lecture entitled “The New Landscape of World Trade Agreements” delivered on March 11, 2013.

Professor Petri examined the Asian track, which centres on ASEAN and the Trans-Pacific Partnership agreement supported by the US. He stated that these two tracks should produce significant long-term benefits, although they could also, initially at least, intensify competition between China and the US.

The audience of students, alumni, government officials, industry professionals, and representatives of commercial chambers put a number of questions to Professor Petri after the lecture, which was moderated by FBE Associate Dean and Executive Director of Hong Kong Institute of Economics and Business Strategy Dr. Alan Siu.
AWARD-WINNING ADMINISTRATIVE ACUMEN

Four students demonstrated their potential as business administrators by winning the Champion’s title in the KPMG Business Administration Paper 2012 competition.

Organised by the Hong Kong Federation of Business Students for the past 27 years, the event fosters an interflow of ideas between academia and the business community. It also recognises high-quality work by full-time business undergraduates.

The competition’s three-month format began in last November, when each participating team submitted a five-page executive summary for evaluation. Nine local and three overseas semi-finalist teams were then selected to submit a detailed report and make an oral presentation to the evaluation committee. They also had to prepare an advertisement for the Promotion Challenge on Facebook.

During the grand final, which was held in the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on January 20, 2013, the finalist teams, including one from overseas, each submitted a full 20-page proposal and made oral presentations before the full panel of judges.

We salute our team members on their achievement. They are Miss Lam Po Yee Vivian, BBA (Law), Year 2; Mr. Kwan Ho Man Simon, BBA (Law), Year 2; Miss Lee Che Yan Fion, BBA (Acc&Fin), Year 2, and Mr. Lau Philip Han Kung, BBA (Law), Year 1.

ACCOUNTING SKILLS FOR BUSINESS SUCCESS

Congratulations to the winning team in the ACCA Hong Kong Business Competition 2012! Its members – Miss Lam Po Yee Vivian, BBA (Law), Year 2; Mr. Kwan Ho Man Simon, BBA (Law), Year 2; Miss Yeung Sin Man Cherry, BBA, Year 2; and Miss NG Pui Yin Phoebe, BBA (A&F), Year 2 – won the First Runner-up and Best Budgeting Awards.

It was the sixth year running that this annual competition has been organised by the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (ACCA). Open to all full-time accounting as well as business degree and sub-degree students from local institutions, it aims to equip them with accounting knowledge as well as business and communication skills that are in significant demand by high-profile employers. Requiring them to develop a sensible business proposal, the Competition also shows the participants how accounting and business professionals can contribute to the success of business projects.

The competition consisted of two rounds, which took place last November and December. The teams, each consisting of between two and four students from the same institute, were asked to prepare a brief business proposal on the case question. The five finalist teams were then chosen to submit a detailed business proposal for the judges to review, and to present it to them during the competition’s final round.
VICTORY IN PROGRAMMING SKILLS COMPETITION

Three students demonstrated immense talent as they defeated 34 other teams from eight other universities in Hong Kong to win the title of Champion in the IMB Inter-University Programming Contest 2013. Organised by IBM and now in its sixth year, this annual competition aims to sharpen contestants’ programming skills through real-life computing practices.

The competition was open to all full-time undergraduate students attending at an accredited educational institution in Hong Kong. Held on February 23, 2013, each participating team consisting three members was given questions to solve within two hours. One PC and one terminal were also provided to each team. The team with the highest scores in the shortest time won the championship.

Congratulations to our winning students: Mr. Cheung Ho Chun, BBA (IS), Year 2, who was joined by his teammates: Mr. Ng Yu Shum, MSC (Comp Sc), Year 2; Mr. Wong Kayson, MSC (Comp Sc), Year 2.

EMBA

SHANGHAI STUDENTS LEARN FROM CITY’S BUSINESS LEADERS

We were honoured to have Mr. David Wong, Chief Economist of Shui On Land, and Mr. Kevin Cai, Chief Information Officer of China Eastern Airlines, as the hosts and guest speakers during visits to their respective organisations as parts of this year’s EMBA Shanghai Class Week, which was held from March 11 to 16, 2013.

The visit to Shui On Land began with a tour of the company’s Xintiandi (新天地) / Taipingqiao (太平橋) development, followed by visits to the display centre to see models of its other projects, the museum and clubhouse. Afterwards, Mr. Wong gave a talk on Shui On’s strategies and recent developments, with a Q&A session.

In addition, China Eastern Airlines invited the students to view its CEA Training Centre, Cabin Training and Emergency Training facilities. Mr. Cai then gave a presentation entitled “Information Technology Strategy in a Competitive Marketplace, and How China Uses Digital Marketing to Drive Sales”.

40 EMBA students from the Class of 2014 attended the two visits, which were moderated by Professor Michael Enright and Mr. Alan Chen, an EMBA class representative.
AIRPORT’S MAJOR ROLE AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

MBA students had a valuable chance to spend an afternoon at the Hong Kong Airport Authority (HKAA) on February 25, 2013. Mr. Henry Ma, its General Manager of Airfield and a 30-year aviation industry management veteran, briefed them about the HKAA’s strategic plans, the airport’s contribution to the Hong Kong economy, and the obstacles that it would need to overcome in the future.

He described the significant role the airport at Chek Lap Kok had played since its opening, in terms of Hong Kong’s economic growth, employment opportunities and domestic consumption in various sectors, especially hospitality and tourism.

Mr. Ma also highlighted the competitive advantage the HKAA had gained by its pledge to be the world’s greenest airport. For instance, all the airfield’s cable vehicles are electric-powered to reduce carbon emissions. In addition, Mr. Ma showed the visitors the monitoring and control room located at the restricted area. This is the airfield’s “brain”: the place where the control team receives all the information and takes appropriate action, such as instructing each aircraft where to park after it lands.

The group’s next stop was the air cargo hub, where a completely automated system allocates, distributes and delivers luggage. Hong Kong International Airport is one of the first in the world to begin introducing RFID technology, which it operates in parallel with a barcode-based system.

The students found their visit absolutely fascinating.

LEARNING ABOUT TECHNOLOGICAL INNOVATION IN DUBAI

The MBA Programme’s Business Leader Series 2013 got off to a flying start on February 21, 2013. MBA students learned some invaluable insights about entrepreneurship from the two guest speakers for the first session, which was entitled “Innovating through Technology in the ‘New Dubai’: Creating New Business Models, Targeted Marketing Platforms for Brands and Customisable Experiences for Mobile Users”.

Mr. Maher Zarooni, Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder of Swiss Bureau Projects Supply LLC in Dubai, UAE, shared his vision of expanding technology innovation. The significant contribution he had made in Dubai and his passion for entrepreneurship truly inspired the audience. The other speaker, Mr. Miguel Lopes, the Project’s Business Development Manager, explained how it worked and how it had been implemented in Brazil.

The MBA students actively participated in the Q&A session. Besides exchanging knowledge about business expansion and innovative marketing through technology in the UAE, the event definitely provided students with good networking opportunities and insights into career development, which should help them build their corporate contacts in the Middle East.
SUPERB SUPERSTAR PARTY

“We Are Superstars” was the theme of a fun-filled New Year Party hosted by the IMBA Class of 2012 students at Shanghai River South Art Centre on January 19, 2013. The 200 guests, including current IMBA students and teachers from both HKU and Fudan University, were welcomed with a red carpet and spotlights as they arrived to enjoy the evening, which featured a string quartet, magic show and male ballet dancers and climaxed with a performance by a choir of students and teachers.

The organisers were also delighted by the support they received from Dr. Y. F. Luk, Associate Dean (IMBA and Special Projects) of HKU FBE, and Dr. Zhiwen Yin, Associate Dean of Fudan’s School of Management, both of whom delivered welcoming speeches.

HELPING OTHERS TO REALISE THEIR DREAMS

IMBA Class of 2012 Students and members of the IMBA Meng Charity Foundation joined forces to raise funds to assist needy students and schools in remote areas of China by staging the “Love & Dreams” New Year Charity Concert on the Fudan Campus on January 13, 2013.

More than 400 people turned up to enjoy the event. They included current IMBA students, IMBA alumni, members of the Shanghai Youth Development Foundation and other local charity organisations, Fudan teachers and staff as well as media representatives. All the participants, including the performers, were volunteers.

Founded in 2008 by a group of IMBA alumni, the Meng Charity Foundation is a non-profit organisation that funds underprivileged university students and builds libraries for primary and secondary schools in remote areas.
IN MEMORY OF PROFESSOR RONALD HSIA

My father, Professor Ronald Hsia, was a figure of some prominence when I was growing up in Hong Kong during the 1970s. Camera crews would come to his study in the high-ceilinged colonial house where we lived in the grounds of The Hong Kong University.

Although he was back in what is now China, it was still a far cry from the Beijing of his youth, where he had been a schoolboy table tennis champion. He recalled horse riding along the main shopping street, Wangfujing, in the 1930s, and hiring a car to visit the Palace Museum.

Like many exiles from China, he had been unable to visit members of his family during the years of revolutionary turmoil. He spoke Cantonese reluctantly, and English with a distinctly American flavour acquired during his years in the United States. He had left China in 1941 for postgraduate studies in Economics, and went back only once in more than 30 years.

Nevertheless, he made a life for himself in America, getting a doctorate from the University of Southern California and working at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He served in the US army, and married his Canadian sweetheart, Joyce, and went to Spain with her on a Fulbright Scholarship in the mid-1950s. Their first child was born while they were there. Then came the offer of a post at The University of Hong Kong, where Ronald was to spend two decades. He was Professor and Chair of Economics from 1965, and he retired in 1978 as Professor Emeritus.

Ronald spent his last years in Kowloon, listening to his favourite Beijing operas, cared for by his devoted partner Margaret and her daughter. He leaves three children, eight grandchildren and a great-grandchild born last year.

Son of Professor Hsia

Chris
DEBATING HOT TOPICS IN ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

The Masters Debate Championship organised by the HKU Economics and Finance Postgraduates Association (HKUEFPA) was a precious and exciting opportunity for the contestants to present their analyses and views about some popular yet controversial topics in the field of economics and finance.

Four teams from MEcon, MFin, and MFin (Shenzhen) programmes competed in the preliminary and final rounds on March 1 and 16, 2013 respectively. The subjects for the preliminary round were “Quantitative easing policies can or cannot pull the United States out of the current financial crisis” and “The Hong Kong Government should or should not intervene in the local real estate market”. The topic for the final was “The Hong Kong Government will or will not control housing prices effectively through the implementation of Buyer’s Stamp Duty”.

Dr. Stephen Chiu, Director of the MEcon Programme, and Dr. Grace Xie, Coordinator of the Business Communications Programme, served as the Honorary Judges for both the preliminary and final rounds of this successful event. Other Honorary Judges for the final round were Mr. Alex Shiu, Senior Vice President of DBS; Mr. Lam Yat Fai, Principal of Derivatives and Risk Analytics of CapitalLogic Limited; and Mr. Calvin Cheung, Director of Financial Institution Sales at Global Markets Division of Credit Agricole Corporate &

Investment Bank. The judges also shared their experience and made insightful and valuable comments about the performances of all the participating teams.

Dr. Kate Kwan, Chairlady of the HKUEFPA, gave a welcoming speech to kick off the final round of the debate competition. All four participating teams performed excellently. The MEcon team consisting of Ms. Amy Na Li, Mr. Leslie Tay, Dr. Chao Quan and Ms. Adriana Tam eventually won the Champion’s title. Dr. Chao Quan also won the prize for Best Debater. The champion team received a trophy cup, certificates for all its members, and a cash prize.

Prior to the championship, the HKUEFPA arranged two workshops entitled “Introduction to Debating Skills” and “Introduction to Public Presentation Skills” for all the students.