

Alumni NEWS

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

December 2011



Women Behind the Miracle

- Three female alumni who are making an impact
- Fast new heart-attack detector developed at HKUST
- 20th anniversary celebration party & issue of innovative commemorative album
- Touring Europe - alumni reunions celebrating in style

contents

01 | Foreword

President's Message

02 | Feature

Women behind the Miracle – the inside story from three of our female alumni who contribute to HKUST's success

08 | The HKUST Edge

Prof Reinhard Renneberg talks about his pioneering quick test for diagnosing heart attacks

10 | Global Horizons

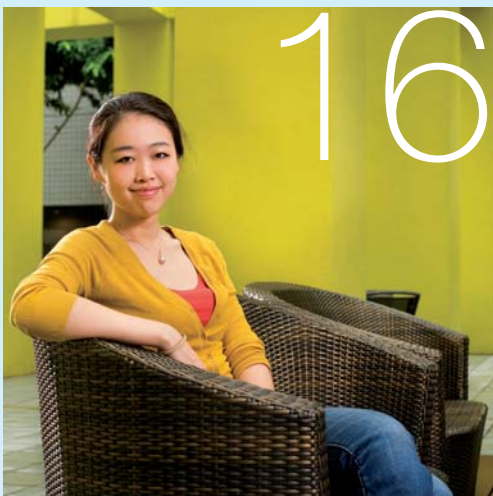
12 | Event Roundup

16 | Insight

HKUST undergraduate Miranda Gao uses the power of the alumni network in a start-up business

17 | Class Notes

20 | News Flash



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HKUST produces a commemorative album; (from left) Court Chairman Dr John C C Chan, President Prof Tony F Chan, Council Chairman Dr the Hon Marvin K T Cheung and President Emeritus Prof Chia-Wei Woo

Dear Alumni,

In the midst of the ongoing celebrations as the University marks its 20th anniversary, I'm delighted to share with you even more reasons for rejoicing.

The good news about us keeps rolling in. In September this year, the World Bank cited HKUST in its study "The Road to Academic Excellence". In October, the *New York Times* ran an article calling us a model of success in higher education.

When people think of miracles in higher education, they think of us. When people think of the genius of Hong Kong, they think of us. People from all over the world want to know us – and in this region other universities want to copy us. That is even better news for us than our growing number of high international rankings.

The word "alumnus" has its root in the Latin for "**nourish**" – our graduates have been nourished by the University, and successful alumni in turn come back to nourish their Alma Mater. In fact, in this issue, you will read about a few of them.

Recently, I heard a wonderful remark: "**You are a student for a few years, but you are an alumnus for life.**" I always believe that a university is only as great as its graduates – because you are the living product of its efforts. You have been shaped by the knowledge and experience you gained both inside and outside of the classroom. When you succeed, we succeed. When you are out there in the community, or out there in the wide, wide world of business and commerce, never forget that you are our torch-bearers.

On my recent trip to Europe, I met eight alumni who are now professors in the UK, and several others who are senior business leaders, innovators, and decision makers in Switzerland, the Netherlands and France. This is a university that is good all-round and which develops good people around the world. However, we cannot and will not be satisfied with what we have now, but will continue to innovate and keep ahead in today's competitive world to

keep leading the way into tomorrow.

Looking forward to the next 20 years, we would like to see HKUST alumni becoming university deans or presidents, receiving a Nobel Prize or two, making it to the cover of *Time* magazine. This is not just a dream – we have the talent to achieve this. There is a famous saying: "**To whom much is given, much is expected.**" With our talented faculty, our smart students, and our successful alumni, we have a bigger mountain to climb. Now, we must re-dedicate ourselves to our mission for our next 20 years. We will work harder, stay tighter, and fly even higher.

Happy 2012!

Prof Tony F Chan
President

WOMEN BEHIND THE MIRACLE



HKUST economics graduate Dr Rachel Ngai was looking forward to seeing how things had changed from her time at the University during the mid-1990s. After spending nearly a decade as a Lecturer at the prestigious London School of Economics (LSE), she was invited to be a Visiting Associate Professor at HKUST in January 2010. But her three-month posting was overshadowed by a health drama. Just five days after arriving, Dr Ngai was rushed to hospital, where it was found she had suffered a brain hemorrhage.

Despite her serious illness, astonishingly Dr Ngai still persevered to teach some courses during her short stay. The turn of events gave her a good insight into the strengths of HKUST's students. "Because of my health problems, I asked some of the graduate students to present research papers for me," she explains. "They did a really great job. I was particularly impressed with their all-round skills – they were very good at math, and had excellent communication skills, with a very high standard of English."

Dr Ngai has fond memories of her time at HKUST. She had suffered a hard childhood, and had needed to start work early to support her studies. Her life started to turn around when she won a scholarship to enter the University in 1993. She recalls that as an

Bringing Down Barriers

Dr Rachel Ngai encourages students to knock down scientific barriers for the benefit of society.

This year's 20th anniversary celebrations have enabled us to reflect on the University's astounding progress in its first two decades. Our leading position in international rankings and positive coverage globally are solid recognition of our many achievements. In short, HKUST has come to embody the idea of a miracle in higher education.

In this edition of *Alumni News* we highlight the success stories of some of the wonderful women behind the miracle. Dr Rachel Ngai, Lecturer at one of the world's most prestigious economics universities, has collaborated in research with an academic recently honored with a Nobel Prize. Dr Emily Au combines her award-winning teaching style with her engineering research to educate a new generation of students. Winnie Wong brings her knowledge of nanotechnology to bear on her administration of funding schemes in this exciting area.

These stories show how our female alumni are an integral part of our success. They are keeping the stars shining brightly overhead, lighting the way to a great future for the HKUST and our alumni everywhere.

undergraduate, "We had a lot of guidance, plus a lot of freedom to challenge ourselves in our studies. This was wonderful, and really spurred our personal and academic development."

Her course took her to an exchange program at the University of Pennsylvania, which in turn led to a fellowship to move on to post-graduate studies at the American university.

Her original research interest was why some countries are richer than others. "One fact stood out from the literature at the time – that the income of the top 5% countries of the world is 35 times larger than the income of the bottom 5%," says Dr Ngai. "So if you think of the income that a worker from a top 5% country earns in 10 days, a worker in a bottom 5% country needs to work for a whole year to earn the same amount."

Research on this area at that time categorized economies as only having one type of production (for example, agricultural, industrial, or service-based). Her contribution was to extend the literature to show that income differentials derived from the different types of economic production. She also showed that some production types are less efficient than others, and that barriers can stop people and countries moving from less to more efficient economic structures.

Dr Ngai's research moved on to consider the implications of income differentials, in particular in the labor market. More recently she has become interested in the economics of the housing market. This interest stemmed partly from the property boom,

and partly from her own observations of market idiosyncrasies. "I like to look at economics from personal experience. It is a big part of the motivation to finding out what's behind the changes in the world we live in," she says.

Her personal interest also informs her attitude to her students. "You get an immediate reward from teaching when your student understands the point you are getting across," she enthuses.



Dr Ngai with students from her Alma Mater, Tsuen Wan Public Ho Chuen Yiu Memorial College, at the Nobel Lecture held at HKUST

She encourages students to follow their inclinations. "The most important thing is for them to enjoy what they do. Only by encouraging this interest can we push the scientific barriers and increase our collective knowledge to the benefit of society as a whole."

If she thinks students are not suited to further study, she tells them so. "Sometimes students think there is only one path to happiness," she says. "I try to understand what they are good at, and focus on the importance of life satisfaction. This is one of the most vital lessons they can learn."

LEADING ECONOMIC THOUGHT

Some of Dr Ngai's most noteworthy research has been several connected projects with an academic recently honored with a Nobel Prize.

When she joined LSE as a Lecturer in 2001, she discussed her recently-completed thesis with the LSE's Prof Christopher Pissarides. This discussion became the starting point for a collaboration that has continued for almost a decade.

"Our work together has focused on the structural transformation of economies," Dr Ngai explains. "We started by considering why economies shifted focus from agriculture to industry to services. We looked into the implications of this – in particular, how this shift impacted the change in total market hours of work over the 20th century. Services such as childcare, cleaning, and cooking, used to be produced at home. But as the market sectors become more efficient, these services shifted from home production to market production. We then moved on to how the situation changes in different countries, and how the uptake of service industries is related to a nation's social policy."

Prof Pissarides was awarded the joint *Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences* in 2010. Demands on him since then mean he has had little time to pursue research. "We hope our joint work is on hold only," says Dr Ngai. "We want to continue our theme by adding unemployment to the picture."

Engineered for humans

Dr Emily Au's experience from her study in HKUST works well in her current teaching role.



When Dr Emily Au graduated she had very clear ideas of what she wanted to do: work within an industry that she liked and which was closely related to what she had studied; and teach.

She is currently realizing her teaching ambitions as a Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Industrial Engineering and Logistics Management at HKUST.

Prior to her current position, she was working in an industry that she enjoyed as a User Experience Researcher in Honeywell Integrated Technology (Shanghai). There she conducted research in several areas, including usability of software interfaces, cockpit design for Chinese pilots, and comfort and fit design technology of personal protective equipment.

The Honeywell work was closely related to her thesis on comfort and fit. She demonstrates the engineering definition of “fit” by putting the cap on a pen she is holding. “The cap fits well. But in humans it’s more complex – the fit is difficult to define and comfort does not necessarily follow.”

This time she uses the example of shoes. “What you want in a shoe is comfort, but how do you quantify that? Without understanding the relationship between foot-shoe dimensional differences in the physical domain and the corresponding subjective feeling of fit in the psychological domain, you can not know the optimum difference between the shoe and the foot for the best fit. There is no way to obtain the three-dimensional shape of a foot inside a shoe – and that is the big challenge in this research. What I have done is invent an instrument (patent pending: US 60/959,423) to simulate the foot shape when inside a shoe, so that the dimensional difference between the bare foot and the foot-inside-shoe can be captured and measured. A psychophysical study was then conducted to determine the preferable foot-shoe allowances on different regions of the foot for comfortable fitting of footwear.

“This technique can be applied in many areas – personal protective equipment such as safety helmets, safety gloves, for example. It is a tangible application for a seemingly intangible problem.”

Her other areas of research at Honeywell included a study into how Chinese pilots deal with using cockpits designed for Westerners. “There

were many differences to consider,” says Dr Au. “The body dimensions are different, instruments and displays are presented with English abbreviations, and warning announcements are given in English. If English is not your first language, you may not respond to the signal instantly – and in an emergency situation a few seconds could make a big difference.”

Her return to HKUST to teach came about sooner than she expected and followed a short period of not working during her pregnancy last year. Her PhD supervisor at HKUST, Professor Ravindra Goonetilleke, always thought Dr Au was interested in teaching – she won two Teaching Assistant Excellence Awards while studying for her

PhD – and he was instrumental in bringing her back.

Dr Au feels fortunate that she spent years studying and met good teachers and role models to inspire her and help her grow in both personal and academic aspects. “I believe that we need courage as the road of research is very challenging, the discovery process is tough. We must think positively and consider carefully exactly what we want from our future career.”

Being a teacher, she tries to view things from her students’ point of view to understand what they really want. “For example, some students are afraid to ask questions, they fear they will look stupid or expose how much they don’t know. But they shouldn’t be. I am encouraged if students ask questions – it means they are learning.”

Asked what she feels about the way HKUST is currently evolving, Dr Au says: “HKUST has always been a strong research university. It used to be very graduate-focused but is now moving towards undergraduates and giving them more opportunities to excel in and be recognized for their research work.” She believes that 10 years from now there will be far more breakthroughs made by undergraduates. “Next year too there will be more students and more talent, and more changes within the Engineering School,” she adds. “Already there are a lot more programs when compared with 10 years ago, and they have been developed to be specifically suited to particular industries. This is important because today’s employers seek people who closely fit the profile. Now there are more opportunities for students to equip themselves to market needs.”



Dr Au on her graduation day, with Prof Ravindra Goonetilleke



Happy days with the HKUST Drama Club alumni

DRAMATIC TURN

Dr Au had the time of her life at HKUST. To her, life is a drama and while busy working on her PhD she also fulfilled her creative side as a founder of the Drama Society, *Facial Corner*, organized by a group of HKUST Drama Club alumni. She advises students to do the same and take up activities that will round out their experiences. “Whenever and wherever you are, live your life to the full. Take every moment of your life as your show time and shine. You never know where life will take you.”

She adds, “Little did I know then that I would soon be back to HKUST, once more enjoying all the University has to offer, and bearing witness to the astonishing growth of my Alma Mater as well as contributing to it.”



Winnie Wong discovered the beauty of Applied Chemistry when her MPhil supervisor at HKUST started harvesting tiny diamonds from plastic. To her, materials science was the key to working wonders. Her academic vigor in applied science subsequently led her to a meaningful career, in which she is committed to advancing innovation and technology development in Hong Kong. Seeing how the “chemistry” works well among the government, industries and academia is very rewarding for her.

thermal insulated building materials which ensure a cooler summer and a warmer winter. “All this smart living is brought to you by nanotechnology. It is not only the joint harvest of researchers and venture capitalists but also the result of government support granted a decade ago,” Winnie says.

“The MPhil education I received at HKUST prepared me well for cross-disciplinary studies. Though I studied Chemistry, I took some courses in Mechanical Engineering and Electronics Engineering. I had plenty of exposure to the

researchers. I have first hand information about the research accomplishments at the Science School. I really feel proud of being a HKUST alumna as the University has played a very important role in advancing innovation and technology in Hong Kong,” Winnie adds.

“HKUST is a miracle University. I can tell that the laboratory facilities are world class. They have undergone tremendous enhancement over the years. You will never know how much effort our professors and staff members have made behind the scenes to make this happen. Without the state-of-the-art laboratories, the research accomplishments would not have been possible,” she comments.

The Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Cooperation Funding Scheme, launched in recent years by the ITC, offers a platform for industry players from the Pearl River Delta region to seek research and development partnerships with local universities. “Hong Kong’s economy used to focus on finance. As we all know, it is important to diversify the economic strengths of Hong Kong and spur sustainable growth. This scheme is a win-win situation – our local people provide software such as knowledge and global vision whilst the mainlanders provide capital and hardware,” Winnie says.

She encourages fellow students who are thinking of pursuing science as a career. “Do not look at science as an interest only. You need determination and devotion. If you want to work in Hong Kong, stay close to current developments. Be well aware of the real market needs and clearly identify the roles they play in the community. Be ready to adjust your sights after graduation.”

Think Big on Nano

A Hong Kong partnership among government, academia and industry is driving developments in nanotech research.

Winnie recently moved to the new Central Government Office where she is working for the Innovation and Technology Commission (ITC) as a Senior Programme Manager. She administers various funding schemes, including the HKUST Nano and Advanced Materials Institute Limited (NAMI), and the Guangdong-Hong Kong Technology Corporation Funding Scheme.

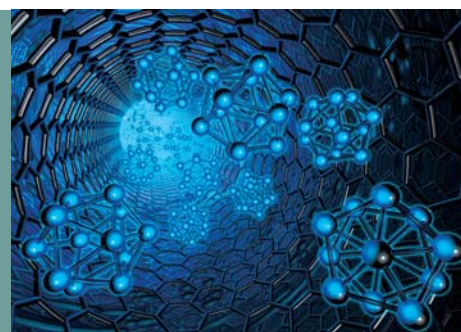
Science is everywhere – in the non-sticky, non-toxic coating used in cooking pans, the comfortable nano clothing people wear, the organic light-emitting devices inside smart phones, and the advanced

application as well as the theoretical side of science. I am keen on materials science as it is an “enabling technology”, which creates and adds value to many industrial applications. That explains why I chose nanotechnology as my thesis topic, and now time has proven its significance.”

Funded by ITC, NAMI is hosted by HKUST and is run in partnership with industrial companies. With an aim to facilitate the development of market-driven and demand-led nanotech and advanced materials, it offers a powerful technology platform for the creation of a wide spectrum of innovative products. “I keep in frequent contact with HKUST professors and

NO LONGER A MAN’S WORLD

Traditionally, science and technology was recognized as a male purview. Winnie says this is no longer the case. “There are many female scientists now. However, I think each gender has its strengths. Men are generally good at analyzing, at solving problems, and are systematic and rational. Women tend to be more detail-minded and are good at observation.” While men may get bored at the idea of doing the same experiment repeatedly, women are happier to take each experiment one at a time, with patience. “We just have a different approach.” Winnie says.



Photography: Gary Mak

If Minutes Count...



A HKUST professor has developed a simple test for heart attacks that only takes 15 minutes. Not only will it save lives, but millions of dollars in hospitalization costs too.

Professor of Chemistry Reinhard Renneberg is passionate about his subject and firmly believes that the way to encourage others to share his passion is by making biotechnology fun. “Some people think chemistry is boring,” he muses, shaking his head in disbelief. “If students think it’s boring, you’re not teaching it right.”

Professor Renneberg’s latest innovation is anything but boring: it is a simple and inexpensive test for heart attacks that takes just 15 minutes to work. In Hong Kong, where 36,000 people are admitted to hospital with heart problems every year, this test will save lives and money.

His motivation for developing the test is partly personal. His father died of a heart attack at a relatively early age. “He was a heavy smoker. He developed chest pains, went to hospital, was told it wasn’t a heart attack and was sent home. The next time he developed chest pains,

he didn’t bother going to hospital but waited to see his doctor the next day. While waiting, he died.”

If his son’s test had been around then, Mr Renneberg senior could have ascertained within 15 minutes that the second pains were an infarction, or obstruction of the blood supply. The new test, CardioDetect, employs modern biotechnology to produce special proteins that can detect a ‘heart infarction marker’ that appears in the blood immediately after an infarction has occurred. It also indicates whether the attack has been minor or major.

“Normally, if a person has chest pains and is taken to hospital, nursing staff in the emergency unit will draw a small amount of blood and have it tested,” says Prof Renneberg. “The results can take up to two hours to come through, and in the mean time the doctor must start

expensive treatment in case the patient has had a heart attack. Often this treatment turns out to be unnecessary. In Germany, for instance, only half of all patients suffering chest pains have actually had a heart attack.”

Funded by a HK\$4.3 million subsidy from the Government’s Innovation and Technology Commission, Prof Renneberg led a HKUST research group to develop the test in close collaboration with Cardiology doctor Prof Cheuk-Man Yu and Emergency Department Chief Prof Timothy Rainer.

Research & Development was done by R&C Biogenius Ltd., which Prof Renneberg launched with business partner Dr George Cautherley some years ago, and production by Shenzhen Kang Sheng Bao Bio-Technology Co., Ltd. The test is already in use in hospitals in China, though not yet in Hong Kong as the process takes longer.

“Of the 36,000 people admitted to Hong Kong hospitals a year with chest pains, the average stay is 8.6 days, costing approximately HK\$177 million in hospitalization costs. Since at least 20 percent of the patients admitted turn out not to have had a heart attack, we estimate our 15-minute test could save HK\$35 million a year.” In mainland China that figure could be as much as RMB 8 billion.

But, obviously the most important saving is in lives – including Prof Renneberg’s own. He was eating cheese one evening, experienced chest pains and used CardioDetect on himself. “I realized that I needed to go to hospital fast!” he says.

He likes to try and inspire his students and have fun with them. He believes that to be a good teacher, you do not simply teach science but combine it with emotion. “I’ve discovered that my students at HKUST like a bit of competition, a bit of a gamble,” he says. He keeps them interested by keeping them on their toes. “Sometimes I intentionally include a mistake in my lectures – and invite students to send me an email pointing out the mistake. The sender whose email reaches me first gets a bonus point. But the competition is fierce!”

Despite his many achievements in the field of biotechnology Prof Renneberg likes to joke that he only knew he had really made it in the field earlier this year when he discovered one of his books *Biotechnology for Beginners* has been illegally copied in both Korea and mainland China. “They say ‘if you’re going to copy, copy from the best’,” he laughs, “so I take it as a compliment to my work.”



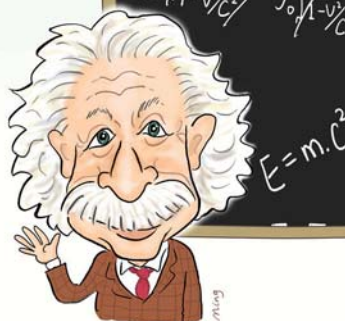
Prof Renneberg and his team



© RenMing

SCIENCE WISDOM CORNER

Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler.



Albert Einstein (1897-1955, Nobel 1921)

SOME RELATIVELY GOOD ADVICE FROM EINSTEIN

In Prof Renneberg’s lab at HKUST, there is a large poster bearing a cartoon of Albert Einstein accompanied in large letters by one of his most well-known quotations: “Everything should be made as simple as possible, but not simpler.”

The professor explained that the poster was another idea sparked by his conviction that science should be fun. “It’s the first in a series entitled Science Wisdom Corner that we will place prominently in HKUST for all to enjoy. We’ll update the quotes every few weeks and Mr Ming Fai Chow, the *South China Morning Post* cartoonist, will do the cartoons.”

He and Ming Fai Chow have worked on other equally lively ventures before, including the delightfully titled book *Who Cloned My Cat? Fun Adventures in Biotechnology*, which contains such intriguing chapter titles as “Blue Jeans Bacteria Blues” and “Doping? No Caterpillar Fungus”.

There is rarely a dull moment in Prof Renneberg’s lab!



Touring Europe's Tech Capitals

Europe is not only the home of cultural heritage and environmental splendor – it is also the cradle of high-tech research and industry.

A remarkable number of HKUST alumni bring their brainpower to work in major institutions such as Cambridge University, University College London, ETH Zurich, and the University of Twente. In October, President Tony F Chan and Vice-President Eden Woon visited Europe to host alumni reunions in London, Paris, Amsterdam and Geneva, where they celebrated HKUST's 20th anniversary in style.

Cheers!

LONDON: The first stop on the trip was a visit to the Wilton Arms, a London pub, on October 23. More than 30 alumni came from as far afield as Manchester to meet the President, Professor Chan and Vice-President, Dr Woon. President Chan discussed his vision for making HKUST an even greater success, while Dr Woon showed his passion for increasing HKUST's presence in the international arena.



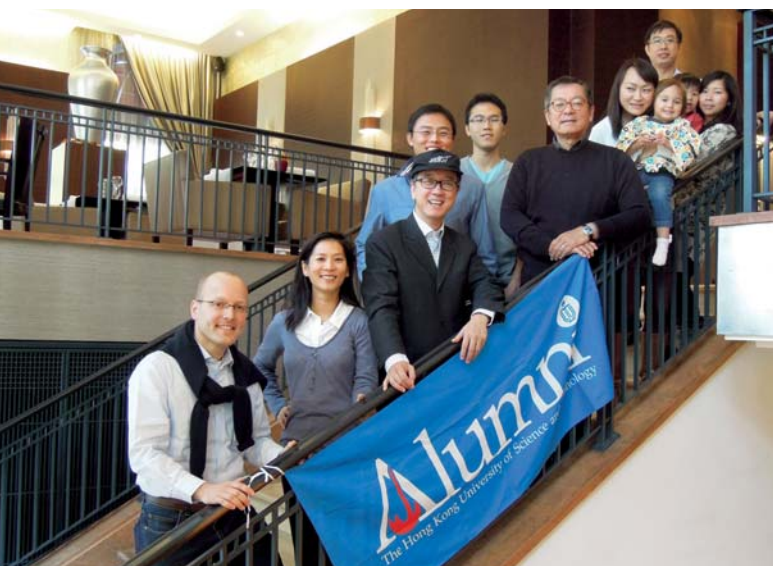
Autumn in Paris

PARIS: Three alumni from HKUST PhD, MSc, and BBA programs shared details of their career development with France-based alumni at a drinks event held at the Patio, Hotel Lotti, in Paris on October 26.



Teaching Talk

AMSTERDAM: Three Netherlands-based alumni joined an alumni luncheon held in Amsterdam on October 29. They had a great time as they shared their experiences on launching their careers in the education sector.



Global Base

GENEVA: The luncheon held in Geneva on October 31 was joined by alumni working in the United Nations, Union Bank of Switzerland, Credit Suisse, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology Zurich, and Louis Dreyfus Commodities.



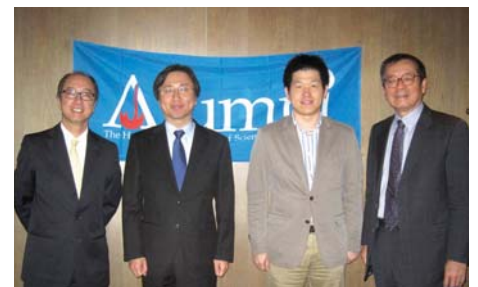
A New Beginning

FRANKFURT: It was time for a celebration as alumni held their first-ever alumni gathering in Germany on September 24. Alumni and students got the chance to walk off a sumptuous dinner with a subsequent organized stroll and tram tour.

Special thanks go to Jeffrey Iqbal for organizing this.

Breakfast Time

SEOUL: A breakfast was held at the Westin Chosun, Seoul, on November 9 for Korean-based alumni.



Sabrina Chow and Fong Ngai, Director and Director-designate of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Singapore, flanked by Raphael Young (left) and Harry Wong



Strong Traditions

SINGAPORE: The recently-formed Singapore HKUST Alumni Association has been busy. In July it supported the HKUST Alumni Dragon Boat teams coming to Singapore to compete in the annual Singapore Dragon Boat Festival. Founding President, Raphael Young, and Vice-President, Harry Wong, attended a cocktail reception on behalf of the Alumni Association to welcome the new director of the Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office in Singapore. Then, in September, the CUHK, HKU and HKUST alumni associations got together for a traditional Mid-Autumn Festival dinner. The evening was marked by good food, riveting conversation and plenty of prizes in the lucky draw kindly contributed by our sponsors.



West Coast Story

SEATTLE: An enthusiastic group of alumni met in Seattle on July 17 for their very first gathering. It was an enjoyable and informative occasion for the alumni entrepreneurs and senior researchers who got together.





Paddling Ahead ▼

The **Alumni Dragon Boat Club** received warm support from HKUST alumni in Singapore when it took part in the island state's 2011 international dragon boat festival.

The club has been very successful this year, winning first place in the HKJC Cup and coming second runner-up in the BOC Charitable Foundation Cup, both held at the Shatin Dragon Boat Race.

Looking ahead to 2012, the club plans to build up its future

paddler base by improving links with current students in the HKUST Dragon Boat Club. For the first time, alumni club members will be sharing career advice with junior fellows in order to improve co-operation between the two clubs – something which could help the Alumni Dragon Boat Club achieve even greater success in future dragon boat races! If you are interested in joining the club, please contact HKUST.Alumni.DBC@gmail.com.



◀ Out And About

The **FA/IM Alumni Association** has been doing its bit to help promote a healthy work-life balance, getting its members out of the office and into outdoor activities. Members met up for a hike in the beautiful Hong Kong

countryside during the fall. On National Day, a group of 50 alumni and their friends and families enjoyed the spectacular firework display from the pole position of a boat in the harbor. Now the association's executive board members have committed themselves to taking part in the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon on February 5, 2012. Board members are looking forward to starting their training program – and invite other alumni to join them! Looking ahead, the association has organized an investment talk from a leading analyst to discuss hot market topics. Alumni should also stay tuned for the AGM and annual dinner, both of which are coming soon.



Get Connected ▲

The **HKUST Alumni Association** offers a lifelong affiliation for the HKUST's growing alumni community. You could be part of countless laughter-filled gatherings, a sizable professional network base of fellow graduates in all fields, and have the opportunity to be involved in social services with like-minded graduates. To join the HKUST Alumni Association, please visit www.ustaa.hk.



◀ Making A Difference

Two recent talks jointly organized by **VolTra** with HKUST, took the theme "VolTrateers, Shape the World". Volunteers who have been to overseas work camps shared their experiences of working with other volunteers from all over the world. The talks also covered experiences from international camps on heritage conservation, children's services in Kenya, whale conservation in Iceland, social services in Germany, environmental conservation in South Korea, and wetland conservation in Hong Kong.





Engineering celebrations ▲

More than 200 alumni, family, and friends from the **Department of Mechanical Engineering** got together for a joyful 20th anniversary dinner on November 26. After a welcoming speech by Department Head Prof Matthew Yuen, founding and retired Department Heads and Faculty Members were invited to join the toast. Four distinguished alumni awards were presented to recognize outstanding service to the department as well as exceptional professional academic and industrial achievement. The award winners were Dr Chang Ka Kit Terry, Dr Lo Chi Chuen Jeffrey, Miss Ma Ming Sum Rosie, and Dr Xu Weihua.



Shenzhen Universiade Alumni Volunteers ▲

A dedicated group of HKUST alumni served as volunteers at the World Student Games (Universiade) held in Shenzhen over the summer. This multi-sporting event is organized by the International University Sports Federation.

Proposing A Toast ▼

In August 2011 the **HKUST MBA Alumni Toastmasters Club** opened its membership to all sectors of the HKUST alumni community. Membership is currently a diverse mix of 30 postgraduate students and alumni from different walks of life who meet twice a month to benefit from the club's public speaking and leadership training.

The club has co-hosted its first ever Speechcraft. This was a series of workshops delivered by seasoned Toastmasters on topics such as speaking with confidence, using humor, and giving impromptu speeches. The Speechcraft series was a spectacular success, with highly positive initial feedback from members. The club plans to end the year on a high note with a Christmas dinner. In the coming year, it will continue to expand its membership base, and host fun and insightful meetings.



Personal Chemistry ▼

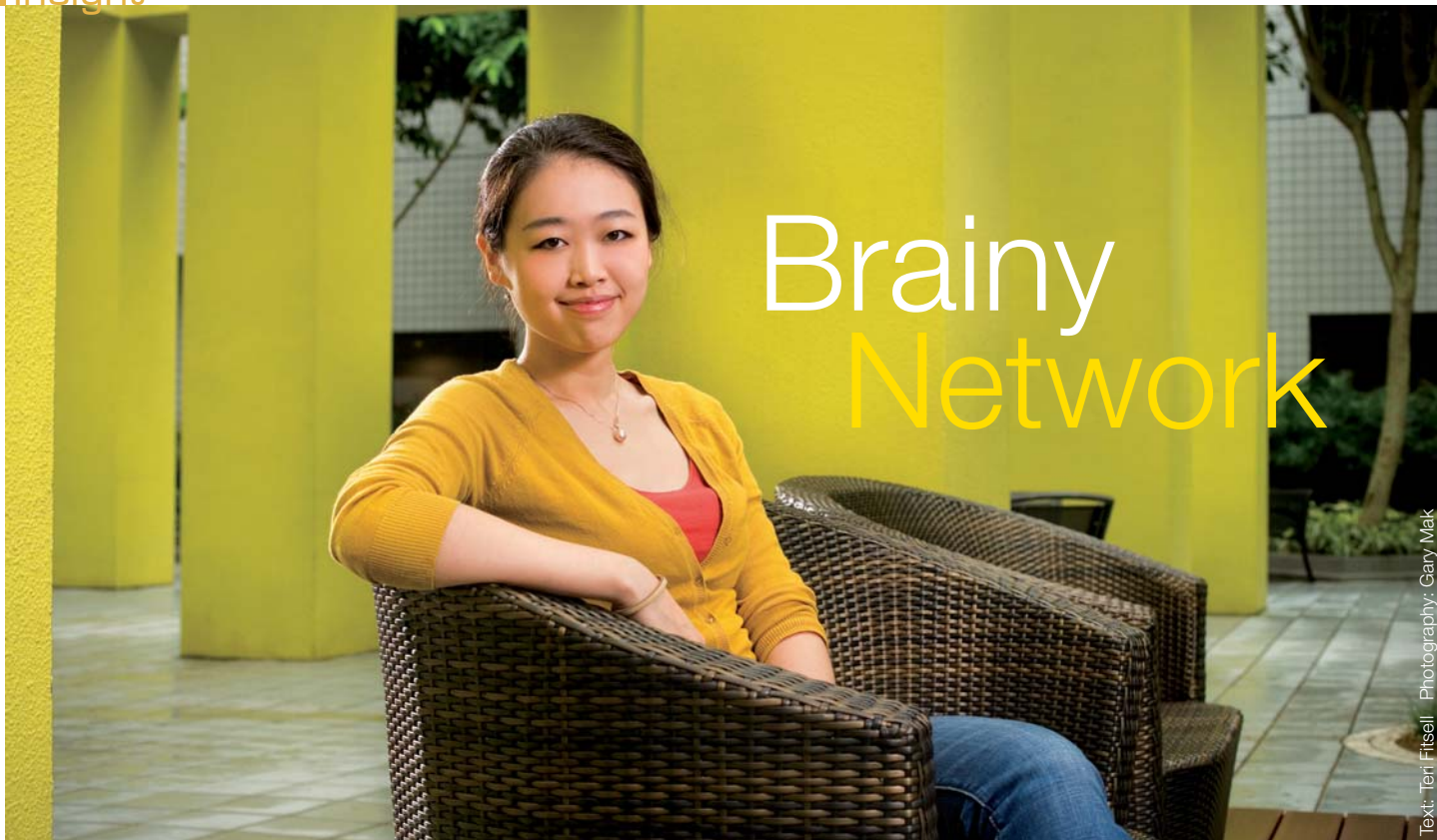
A fun evening was had by all at the **HKUST Biochemistry Alumni Association** reunion dinner 2011. Alumni were delighted to welcome Prof Robert K.M. Ko, Prof Zhenguo Wu, Dr Jun Xia and Dr Chun Liang to the event. Honorary Advisor to the Biochemistry Alumni Association Prof Ko gave an inspiring opening speech during the dinner. Executive committee members are now being recruited. If you would like to serve on the committee or join in the fun by becoming a member, please contact bcaa.ust@gmail.com.



Leading Business ▲

The **EMBA Alumni Association** got off the ground on October 18 with its first annual general meeting. Present were HKUST Vice-President Dr Eden Woon, and Associate Dean of the EMBA Program Professor Xu Yan. During the meeting, the standing committee elected the association's president, secretary, financial controller, and other positions. The inaugural ceremony was held in Hainan, China on November 19.





Brainy Network

Text: Terri Fittsell Photography: Gary Mak

Despite a busy school life, HKUST student Miranda Gao has managed to start up her own business, and networking is the key.

“There’s always more to learn” says Miranda Gao. It is a sentence that aptly sums up her attitude to life. A native of Xian in China and a fourth year student in Global Business and Economics, Miranda learns from every opportunity.

She became involved with the alumni community after attending a Boston Alumni event while on a year’s exchange to Harvard. She went to the event mainly out of curiosity, but soon realized what a brilliant opportunity for networking the community represents.

“Alumni have work experience and are more rounded than we undergrads,” she says. “Many are starting their own businesses, so they have first-hand knowledge of the pitfalls and problems that can arise.”

Miranda is particularly interested in start-ups – she is already on her second! It focuses on recruitment particularly for start-up businesses which are having difficulty putting the right team together. “It’s easy to hire business people in Hong Kong, but the talent pool for tech people is limited,” says Miranda. She is focusing on campus recruitment and aims to build a recruitment platform for would-be employers and employees.

She is also the Hong Kong program leader for Startup Leadership Program (SLP), an NGO which helps young people start their own business, providing them with mentors, networking opportunities and general

support, as well as teaching them how to be leaders.

The SLP is Boston-based and she met one of its founders, Anupendra Sharma, during her Harvard year. “We started talking about the environment for entrepreneurs, and the lack of ways to find out how to actually be an entrepreneur.

“I told him that the lack of networking in Hong Kong had surprised me, because the fact that it is such a small place should make it easy. But, it’s odd – people tend not to network here. He suggested that I launch a Hong Kong chapter of the SLP.”

Miranda organizes bi-weekly meetings where successful business people mentor Fellows (as members of the SLP are called). “Basically, it’s a world-class training program and networking opportunity which enables young, would-be entrepreneurs to become part of an accomplished global network of peers who can answer their questions, provide them with access and help them move their start-up along.”

Miranda is no stranger to many alumni events. She has taken the initiative to attend a number of alumni events in the United States, mainland China and Hong Kong. “It was truly a memorable occasion for me to be the MC at the Annual Dinner of HKUST Alumni Association,” she adds. “It was the 20th anniversary of HKUST – and I am 20 years old!”



At the SLP event



Miranda’s days at the Harvard



At the Annual Dinner of HKUSTAA

What's Happening with You?

Let your fellow alumni know about your good news – marriage, babies, business ventures or career achievements!
 Fill in the online form at <http://www.ust.hk/alumni/classnotes> or email alumni@ust.hk.



Laura Cozijnsen
 1999 BBA(MARK)

We were delighted to welcome Vice-President Dr Eden Woon and his cousin Shaun Weng – who sailed solo around the world in 2000-2002, to the Lighthouse 5th Anniversary Celebration Film Show Party at iSquare on September 1, 2011.

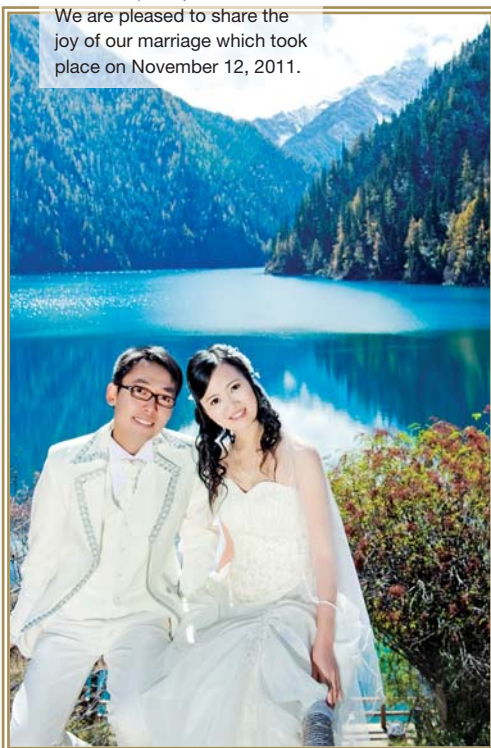


Chen Benfeng
 2006 MPhil(COMP)

With our leading-edge patented technology and world class expertise, we founded WebNova at HKUST Enterprise Center with a professor and a group of alumni scientists. WebNova aims to bring seamless and the best web browsing experience across various devices. This picture was taken at my company on November 25, 2011 when the 20th Anniversary Grand Celebration took place. Special thanks to HKUST Alumni Association President, Ms Laura Conzjnsen, Beijing Chapter President Dr Su Qingxin and Mainland Students Alumni Association representative Mr Jeff Tang for paying a special visit to my company!

Alice Chow
 2004 BSc(BICH)
Alvin Wong
 2004 BSc(BICH)

We are pleased to share the joy of our marriage which took place on November 12, 2011.



Christine Wu
 2006 BBA(MGTO)

Arthur Au

2007 BBA(MARK)

Christine and I are grateful to HKUST for bringing us together at MSA O'camp. We are delighted to inform you that we got married on September 11, 2011.



Jack Ho
 2008 BEng(COMP)
 Wawa and I got married in the Arctic Circle in Finland!





Yau Chi Ying, Vanessa
 2004 BEng(MEBS)
Ng Kim Fung, Harris
 2003 BEng(MEBS) / 2007 MSc(EEM)
 We got to know one another at the 2001 MECH O'camp and we got married on February 17, 2011.



Rebecca Chen
 2007 MBA
 I am currently working with my husband Bin on a publication entitled *China's Economy & Policy*, produced in partnership with a team of top-tier economists and which provides critical economic and industry analysis, policy insights and expert advice to support alumni wanting to understand the dynamic China market. We also hold exciting conferences and events around the world. To find out more, please email me rebecca.chen@thegateway-group.com or visit www.china-economy-policy.com.

William Chow
 1997 BEng(CIVL) / 2000 MSc(CIVL)
 We are delighted to announce our marriage on November 13, 2010 – our wedding ceremony was held at Eden Marriage Registry and the reception at the Excelsior Hotel Hong Kong.



Yan Leung
 2001 BSc(BICH)
Rocky Luk
 2001 BEng(COMP)
 We are happy to announce that we got married on October 31, 2010.



Heidi Ng
 2004 BSc(BIOL)
Andrew Lau
 2004 BSc(BIOL)
 We got married on February 19, 2011.

Horace Lee
 2004 BSc(BICH)
 / 2007
 MPhil(BIOL)
 I got married
 to Cherry on
 March 13, 2011.



Diao Yarui
 2011 PhD(BICH)
 Zhang Kan and I are
 having the time of
 our lives at HKUST,
 made all the more
 complete when we
 tied the knot on
 September 13, 2011.



Benson Chan
 2007 BSc(MAIE)
 I am proud to have been
 recognized for my dedication
 as a mathematics teacher
 by the Education Bureau
 at the Teachers' Day and
 Commendation Certificate
 Presentation Ceremony.

Sithi Hawwa
 2000 MPhil(SOSC)
Mohammed Lebbai
 1997 MSc(IEM) / 2002 PhD(MECH)

We are the first alumni parents of a new generation of HKUST students, as our son Thasbeeh Moosa has been admitted to the University as an undergraduate. Our roots are in Singapore, where Mohammed is Senior Quality Manager of Philips Electronics Pte, while Sithi is a research associate at Nanyang Technological University.

In Memoriam

We were saddened to hear of the death of Chung Wai Hung, Jeffrey who passed away in a tragic accident during a climbing trip in Pakistan in May 2011. Jeffrey was a BEng(CPEG) alumnus from the Class of 1998, and had joined the Engineering Homecoming Dinner on May 28, 2011, the day before heading off to Pakistan. Jeffrey was an enthusiastic climber and had braved various mountains in Japan, Taiwan and China. We offer our sincerest condolences to his family and friends. He will be sorely missed by his professors and classmates.





Grand Celebration

More than 3,000 members of the HKUST family converged on campus on November 25 for the University's 20th anniversary party. HKUST Council Chairman Dr the Hon Marvin K T Cheung and President Prof Tony F Chan got the celebrations underway by dotting the eyes of the dragon for a traditional dragon dance. The celebrations featured an array of culturally diverse performances presented by faculty and students, including Chinese martial arts, Korean drumming, Indian dance, beatboxing, hip hop dance and a choral performance.



HKUST goes 3D

To mark this anniversary, HKUST has produced a commemorative album showcasing its past accomplishments and future goals. In an initiative emblematic of the University's innovative and eco-friendly approach, each copy comes with specially-prepared software. Visit <http://20abook.ust.hk> to flip through the e-Book.



Keeping in Touch

Lots of exciting things are happening on campus. The Lee Shau Kee Campus will be opening next year. A grand auditorium and a brand new laboratory block are in the making. New canteens and facilities for student societies are now in service. You can find out all the latest news on campus by joining our Facebook and Weibo pages.

 www.facebook.com/hkustalumni

 www.weibo.com/hkustalumni

Pioneer of success

HKUST's first PhD graduate, Dr Jack Lau, celebrates a remarkable year in 2011. He listed his start-up company, Perception Digital Holdings, on the main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in June. In November, he received the Director of the Year award from the Hong Kong Institute of Directors.



Music is in the air

Dr Oliver Lo teamed up with the multi-talented students and alumni from HKUST to present an award-winning Broadway Musical, *AIDA*, in summer.



Team Spirit

HKUST members including students and alumni have always supported the Standard Chartered Hong Kong Marathon. Forthcoming on February 5, 2012, runners and support team members will join the HKUST Marathon Team to show the best of the HKUST spirit. Li-Ning Company Limited, whose Executive Director is our HKUST Honorary Dr Li-Ning, has sponsored limited edition tee-shirts for all runners and support team members.

RedBird Junior is excited to have the opportunity to meet all enthusiastic alumni, student runners, and support team members. This will be the first time he has joined the marathon carnival! Join RedBird Jr and be part of our support team!



20 香港科大 HKUST
 周年紀念
 20th Anniversary

LET'S SPLASH @ Ocean Park
 10 DEC 2011

Making A Splash

Alumni got together for a fun day out at the "Let's Splash" event at Ocean Park on December 10, partying with Ocean Park star Whiskers and HKUST's own Redbird Junior.

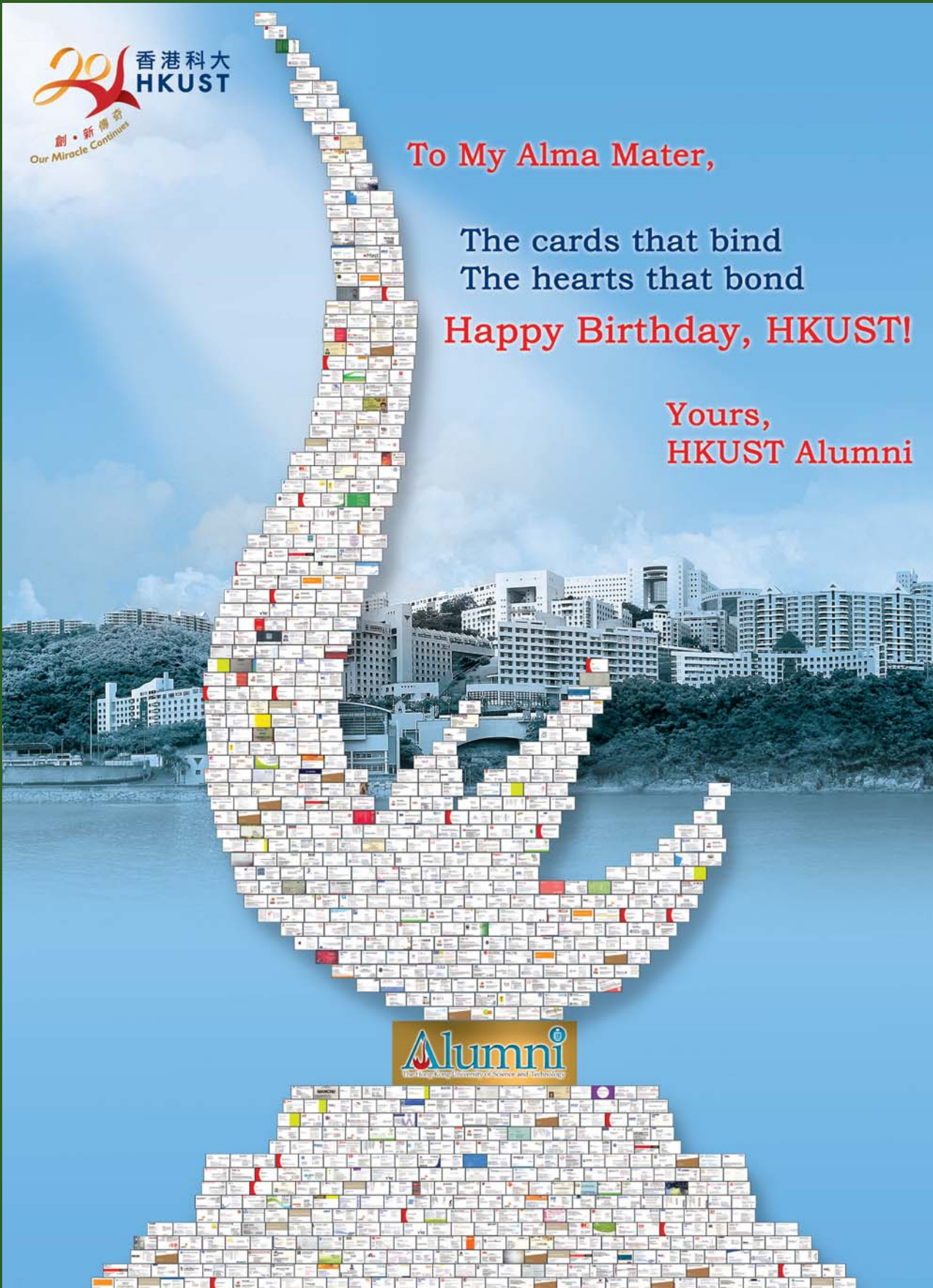


To My Alma Mater,

The cards that bind
The hearts that bond

Happy Birthday, HKUST!

Yours,
HKUST Alumni



Card Collage

To celebrate HKUST's 20th birthday, many alumni have submitted their business cards to create a spectacular birthday gift – a magnificent collage – for their Alma Mater. The collage, which celebrates the versatility and concerted efforts of our alumni, can now be seen online. Check it out at www.alumni.ust.hk/collage2011 and search for your buddies.