Planning for the exciting challenges of 2012
The current academic year has been a time of energetic planning for the exciting challenges of 2012, and the arrival of the double cohort. This coming September, the Faculty will be offering four new double degrees to replace our existing undergraduate education programmes. Two of these will extend our current collaboration with the Faculty of Arts, as we introduce a BA&BEd degree in Chinese alongside a modified BA&BEd in English. The other two double degrees involve brand-new partnerships: a BEd&BSc with the Faculty of Science, and a BEd&BSocSc with the Faculty of Social Sciences. Colleagues from our own Faculty and our partner faculties are working energetically to develop curricula that will best serve the future needs of the teaching profession and of the wider community.

At the same time, we are renewing our Speech and Hearing Sciences and our Information Management undergraduate curricula to take advantage of the opportunities presented by an extra year (in the case of SHS) and increased student numbers (in both cases).

As the University opens up the Centennial Campus, plans are also under way for the refurbishment of the current campus. As part of that process, the Faculty is currently drawing up proposals for the renewal of its physical and virtual spaces, to ensure that future generations of our students have the opportunity to experience optimal learning environments.

The designing of our physical and virtual spaces is part of a much wider-ranging strategic planning exercise that is currently under way in the Faculty. In the past few months, we have been engaged in consultations and discussions both within and beyond the University about our strategic direction. In early March, for instance, we held a thought-provoking Lunchtime Forum, in which two outside guests (Mr S.Y. Choi, Chair of the HKU Convocation and Former Chairman of the HKU Graduates Association Education Foundation and Ms Ada Wong, District Councillor and one of our MEd alumni) pulled no punches in presenting their views of the Faculty. This was followed, the next day, by a very lively Faculty Planning Day. Before the end of the semester, a strategic five-year plan for the Faculty will be presented to Faculty Board.

All of these exciting developments are causes for celebration in their own way – and this year we will be marking the University’s centenary with events of our own to celebrate our long history of contributing to the community. We will be publishing a coffee-table book entitled ‘Serving the Community for over 90 years’, and on Saturday June 9 we will be holding a Faculty Reunion dinner at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. You will find further details of the dinner on page 17. I shall look forward to seeing you there.

Professor Stephen Andrews
Dean
HKU Centenary Gala Dinner

The University of Hong Kong held a gala dinner on December 18, 2011 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre as part of the University’s centenary celebration activities. Over 360 tables were prepared for all the guests who attended. A bazaar at the University Drive, a 200-meter long corridor, was also set up between the Old and New Wings with thematic photo backdrops to refresh participants’ memories of their university days.

The Faculty hosted three tables for our alumni, donors, staff, students, and friends who supported this historic event. The participants included Mrs Cherry Tse, Dr Catherine Chan and Dr K.W. Cheung from the Education Bureau, Mr Eric Chan, Miss Daisy Li and Mr Peter Ip, Chairpersons of the Faculty’s Advisory Committees, Dr Nicholas Sampson, Dr Mark King and Dr Andy Gao from the HKU Education Faculty Research Degrees Alumni Association (HKUEdRDAA), Mr Edmond Ho, Mr Eric Ngan, Mr Jonathan Ng, Ms Angela Yeung and Mr K.Y. Ip from the HKU Education Alumni Association (HKUEdAA), Mr David Woo, Mr Benson Chiao and Miss Charlie Chick, student representatives, Professor Jing Zhou, alumna and Deputy Dean of East China Normal University, Professor Alvin Leung, Professor C.C. Lam and Professor Cecilia Chun from The Chinese University of Hong Kong, as well as Professor Y.C. Cheng and Professor Dennis McInerney from The Hong Kong Institute of Education. Some of our generous donors were also present, including Professor Robert Chan of Chui & Lau Solicitors and Notaries, Mrs Anne Marden of Marden Foundation, and Mr Dennis Tin of Tin Ka Ping Foundation. Professor Stephen Andrews, Dean, Professor Nancy Law, Dr Angel Lin, Dr Ida Mok, Dr M.F. Pang and Professor Edwin Yiu, Associate Deans, Professor Mark Bray, Chairman of Faculty Board, and Ms Queenie Wong, Development and Communications Manager of the Faculty, participated in this memorable event.

We wish to take this opportunity to thank our supporters, alumni, and friends for nurturing HKU by affirming its core values, projecting its spirit, and sharing its main objectives of providing knowledge, heritage, and service. The members of the Faculty who gathered together and celebrated the HKU’s centenary had an enjoyable evening.
2011 Faculty Graduation Ceremony

The Faculty held its graduation ceremony on December 13, 2011 at the Concert Hall of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. This year, the Faculty conferred degrees upon 982 graduates; of these, 434 were conferred higher degrees, 150 with Bachelor’s degrees, and 398 with Postgraduate Certificates in Advanced Educational Studies and Postgraduate Diplomas in Education. One scholarship and eight prizes were also presented to outstanding students.

Mr Kenneth Chen, JP, the Under Secretary for Education, was the guest of honour, while Professor Tsui Lap Chee, the Vice-Chancellor and President of HKU, presided over the ceremony. Mr Chen shared with the graduates two inspiring stories of teachers and students whom he met in the past. He also shared an inspiring message about the need to make a difference, to address inequality, and to remember poor and deprived students by providing them with all the help we can give. He believes that teachers should be inspired to teach not only the ‘A’ students—because they are easy to teach—but more importantly, the weak and underprivileged children. In conclusion, he said, ‘You have been given a wonderful education here at the HKU, and I have no doubt that you have met great teachers along the way who have loved you and inspired you. You can pay forward the gratitude by making an impact on the lives of future students, thus making this world a little more just and a little better than how you have found.’ We believe that all of our graduates should keep this in mind long after the graduation ceremony.

Faculty Management Structure

There are changes to the membership of our Faculty’s senior management team. First, the term of office of our Associate Dean (Knowledge Exchange), Professor Edwin Yiu, ended on December 31, 2011. Second, our Assistant Dean (Research Higher Degrees), Dr Beverley Webster left the University in December 2011 to return to Australia. Adjustments are made to enhance the management team’s capacity to support the realization of our vision and mission. Dr Ida Mok’s portfolio title is amended to Associate Dean (Local Engagement), and Dr Pang Ming Fai joined the Faculty’s senior management team as the Associate Dean (Cross-border/International Engagement). These new portfolio titles highlight the importance we place on community engagement and knowledge exchange both within and outside Hong Kong. In addition, Professor Brendan Weekes took up the Associate Dean (Research Higher Degrees) portfolio. He and Professor Peter Kutnick, Associate Dean (Research) will work closely to enable our research performance to go from strength to strength.
21st Century Learning Environments at HKU - Digital Studio Lab Launching Ceremony

Launching ceremony was held on December 5, 2011 at Room 101 of the Runme Shaw Building for the Faculty’s newest Digital Studio Lab. Funded by a University Development Fund grant, the Lab was designed and configured with flexibility, interactivity, and technologies in mind. This studio Lab and the teaching methods to be employed therein are expected to set the standard for future learning environments as well as teaching and learning practices. Standard Studio Lab equipment include 25 powerful 27’ iMac computers, an interactive white board, and an interactive TV. The Lab is also equipped with a fully integrated classroom management system and flexible furniture.

Presentations were held to demonstrate the possible functions, pedagogical configurations, and tools for learning that this environment can offer to teachers. These came after the welcome remarks and the inauguration ceremony hosted by Professor Stephen Andrews, Dean of the Faculty. Programmes included ‘Flexibility, Control, Interactivity, and Student Projects in the Digital Studio Lab’ by Dr Daniel Churchill, Head of Division of Information and Technology Studies, ‘Using Interactive White Board to Support Teaching and Class Interaction’ by Ms Jane Harris, Chinese International School; and ‘Apple Classrooms of Tomorrow Today and iPads in Teaching and Learning’ by Mr Gilbert Ho, Apple, HK.

New Double-Degree Programmes

In line with societal changes and expectations, demands on teachers continue to grow. Teachers today are required to possess strong subject knowledge, an understanding of different pedagogical approaches, and a positive attitude that can draw out the potential in every student under their charge. For decades, the Faculty has produced thousands of committed, high-calibre graduates who have made enormous contributions to the local school system and the community. To meet the demands of the new curriculum in 2012, the Faculty has launched four new double-degree programmes that are being offered in collaboration with three partner faculties, namely, Arts, Sciences, and Social Sciences. The new double-degree programmes are:

- Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education in Language Education – Chinese
- Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Education in Language Education – English
- Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Science
- Bachelor of Education and Bachelor of Social Sciences

To introduce the four new double-degree programmes, a press conference was held on October 18, 2011. This was hosted by Professor Stephen Andrews, Dean, Dr Alice Wong, Assistant Dean, and Dr Gary Harfitt, Programme Director. The details of the press conference, including a Powerpoint presentation and photos are available at http://web.edu.hku.hk/media.php.

In addition, a Facebook account for the four new double-degree programmes has been set up since November 2011. You may visit our page at www.facebook.com/education.hku.
Knowledge Exchange Impact Projects for 2011-12

To encourage Faculty members to undertake KE projects that could create demonstrable economic, social, or cultural impacts that benefit the community, business, or partner organisations, the University has committed to provide funds that would steer KE development. Six impact project proposals have successfully received funding allocations from HKU in 2011–12, amounting to close to HK$300,000. These projects and their corresponding proponents are presented below.

‘Visualizing Chemical Bonding - Bridging the Macroscopic Phenomena and the Submicroscopic Representation’
by Dr Maurice Cheng

‘Liberal Studies Forum in AM730 Newspaper’
by Mr Dennis Fung

‘The Formation of “Clusters” of Professional Partnership Schools (PPS) and Practicum Partnership Schools (pps) as a Powerful Platform to Enhance Mutual Knowledge Exchange and to Strengthen School-University Partnerships’
by Dr Tammy Kwan

‘Developing Education Research Capacity in Cambodia’
by Dr Chad Lykins

‘Promoting Healthy Hearing in the Aging Community in Hong Kong’
by Dr Lena Wong

‘Promoting Proper Voice Use in Classroom Teaching Using iPhone/iPad (iOS) and Android Apps’
by Professor Edwin Yiu

New Publication: Basic Cantonese Opera Script Writing

The Faculty launched a new publication, Basic Cantonese Opera Script Writing《粵劇編劇基礎教程》，by Mr Yip Siu Tak, Mr Yuen Siu Fai and Dr Ng Fung Ping at a press conference held on January 11, 2012. Since 2006, the Centre for Advancement of Chinese Language Education and Research (CACLER) has cooperated with partner schools to incorporate Cantonese opera into the secondary school curriculum and related research. With the efforts of Mr Yip and the Chinese Artists Association of Hong Kong (Barwo), the Cantonese Opera Academy of Hong Kong launched the first Cantonese opera scriptwriting course in 2008. Moreover, thanks to the support of the Cantonese Opera Development Fund, CACLER has launched with Barwo the ‘Action Research on Teaching Cantonese Opera Script Writing’ together with the original offering.

The first stage of the project was a scriptwriting course taught by opera experts from Barwo. Instructors included Yuen Siu Fai, Lee Chi Kei, Law Ka Ying, Lui Hung Kwong, Sun Kim Long, Ko Yun Kuen, and Ko Yun Hung. They also drafted the course contents and provided teaching materials, while a research team from HKU recorded and analysed the teaching and learning process. The latter stage of the project focused on analysing and organising the teaching materials, polishing the course contents, assessing the learning outcomes, and constructing the teaching theories.

The book, Basic Cantonese Opera Script Writing, is the research output of the abovementioned project. As the first textbook on Cantonese opera scriptwriting in Hong Kong, it plays an important role in enriching students’ understanding of Cantonese opera by systematically explaining the learning contents of Cantonese opera scriptwriting.

School-University Partnerships

Our connection and relationship with schools, both in the primary and secondary sectors, have been developed, strengthened, and sustained throughout these years because of our very sincere commitment to work together to identify and train quality teachers.

From September 2007 up to the present, our strong community of Professional Partnership Schools (PPS) has grown from one member school to the current total of 19. The five new PPS member schools signed a Partnership Memorandum on October 31, 2011 to pledge their commitment to the programme. Apart from the PPS, 45 primary schools and 120 secondary schools also make up our practicum partner schools. For the past few years, we have maintained a strong collaboration with these schools.

This was our first attempt at organising such a meaningful event for the students of the Kowloon Cluster of the current and the potential PPSs. A total of 511 students and teachers attended this event, which was opened by Professor Stephen Andrews, Dean of Education, along with Dr Tammy Kwan, Assistant Dean (School-University Partnerships). The well-received programme proved the importance of organising partnership events on a cluster basis to further optimise the impact of sharing, communication and support given to students, teachers, colleagues and student-teachers.

While we began working with individual schools to nurture student-teachers in our earlier years, the focus of our collaboration expanded from one single school to a cluster of schools. Under the leadership of one or two PPSs, synergy was created with nearby primary and secondary schools, ultimately leading to the formation of a regional cluster. Our Tuen Mun cluster set an example by setting up workshops and seminars aimed at bringing teachers and schools together.

This year, the Partnership Office has tried a new way of empowering the cluster formation towards the promotion of mutual learning between students and teachers of the current and potential PPSs. A most helpful seminar with the theme, ‘Strategic Approach to Chinese Language and Culture Examination’, was presented on January 17, 2012 at La Salle College. The presenters included Mr Lo Man Fong, School-University Partnership Director, Dr Joseph Lam Wai Ip, Assistant Professor, and Mr Lai Yiu Ting, Senior School Development Officer of EDB.
Collaboration with the University of Gothenburg, Sweden

Since the signing of the Cooperation Agreement between the Education Faculties of HKU and the University of Gothenburg (GU), Sweden in March 2009, a number of academic collaborations have been undertaken. In November 2011, Dr Britt-Marie Apelgren, Deputy Dean of our institutional partner, was invited to visit the Faculty under the Faculty Visitor Scheme in order to join the teaching activities and discuss research collaborations.

During her visit, Dr Apelgren delivered on November 18, 2011 a seminar entitled, ‘Research on English as a School Subject and as a Medium of Instruction in Sweden’. She presented the linguistic situation in Sweden today and explored possible reasons behind the prevailing conditions and their effects. In addition, she presented a new research study funded by the Swedish Research Council. Entitled Content and Language Integrated Learning (CLIL), this work focuses on this form of learning that is currently under-researched in the Swedish context. Further research collaboration via a two-day joint research symposium is being organized to take place at HKU in May 2012.

Collaboration with the Singapore Centre for Chinese Language

As a follow-up to the Memorandum of Collaboration and Joint Master Programme Agreement signed between our Faculty and the Singapore Centre for Chinese Language (SCCL) on January 15, 2009 and November 17, 2009, respectively, both sides further agreed to meet the goals of the collaborative programme aimed at developing a new specialist strand, Teaching and Learning Chinese Language, under an existing degree of Master of Education in our Faculty. A signing ceremony on the Addendum to the Agreement on the Master of Education in Teaching and Learning Chinese Language was held on November 7, 2011. On behalf of the Faculty, Professor Stephen Andrews signed the agreement with Dr Chin Chee Kuen, Executive Director of SCCL. The joint master programme was developed for in-service teachers and those who are interested in Chinese language curriculum development and pedagogical research in Singapore.

Professor Stephen Andrews (left) and Dr Chin Chee Kuen (right)
Recognition of Excellence for Lesson-Sharing…

Insights from Jury work for the UNESCO-Hamdan bin Rashid Al-Maktoum Prize for Enhancing the Effectiveness of Teachers

Sharing from Dr Ora Kwo, Associate Professor

In 2011, I had the honour of an invitation to join the International Jury for selection of the awards of a major teacher education prize. The Jury, appointed by UNESCO’s Director-General, was composed of ‘distinguished professionals with a high level of knowledge and experience of teacher-related issues, reflecting the global nature of the Prize with geographical representation of all UNESCO regions’. The prize was for outstanding practice and performance in enhancing the effectiveness of teachers, with ‘priority given to developing country contexts, as well as to marginalized and disadvantaged communities from the wider global contexts’.

The prize money was donated by a prince of United Arab Emirates, with professional contribution of Jury members who worked with no remuneration. Before I set off to Dubai, I had some queries about the proliferation of competition amidst a world-wide ceremonial trend of awards-giving. However, over the intensive Jury work, I became more attracted to the objectives of the Prize, especially concerning its contribution to the Education for All goals and to targeted populations that deserve due recognition.

Collegiality in Adjudication

Following the initial screening exercise, each member of the International Jury was given two weighty folders of applications. Each Jury member examined the documents independently by filling up score sheets with criteria. At the end of each day of adjudication, I enjoyed the intellectual discussion on our work with respect of the space for independent adjudication. It was a process of learning to reach our decisions of scoring with optimal attention to the salient aspects of outstanding practices, even though sometimes we felt like comparing apples and oranges.

The climax came when we had to validate adjudications each Jury member submitted to the General Coordinator. It was an exciting open dialogue over a few cases with a considerable gap among the scores. The strong collegiality of the team was a key factor for respectful hearing of different viewpoints, and the procedure was concluded with neat consensus on the shortlisted applicants for our validation in field visits. The event culminated on a photo-taking ceremony, followed by interviews from a journalist.

Commitment to Continuous Learning

In a jolly celebration among the Jury members and UNESCO colleagues, we reflected on the time together, anticipating what impact this Prize will bring in terms of both recognition and sharing of outstanding practices. Across continents, we felt like colleagues beyond our institutional boundaries, and spoke about ‘what can we do to make it happen… to serve EFA goals…’ Given that it has taken considerable labour and resources to bring the International Jury together to make decisions on the shortlisted recommendations, there is much more to achieve beyond award-presentation. Personally, I am deeply impressed by those submissions that all Jury members reached unanimous consensus to shortlist for field visits.

Three weeks later, I was further educated in the field visits, as I saw how the marginalized can teach the well-resourced what education means. On a further episode to address the objective of dissemination of outstanding practices, the challenge is to ignite the power of learning in the global space. From the field visits, I can envisage the global impact of lesson-sharing in a spirit of collegiality rather than competition. It is not just a matter of planning or dreaming. It is about both…
Symposium on ‘Nurturing Gifted Learners: Connectedness, Life Skills, Creativity, and Talent Development’

A symposium entitled ‘Nurturing Gifted Learners: Connectedness, Life Skills, Creativity, and Talent Development’, was held on October 15, 2011. It was organised by the Special Interest Group for Gifted Education, Creativity, and Talent Development of the Centre for Advancement in Inclusive and Special Education (CAISE) and the Office of Research of the Faculty. The symposium was offered in collaboration with the Hong Kong Association for Parents of Gifted Children and the Hong Kong Academy for Gifted Education. Approximately 300 parents, students, and teachers participated in the event. We were honoured to have Professor Shi Jiannong as our keynote speaker, who shared with us his views on nurturing gifted learners from the Chinese perspective. Professor Shi works at the Institute of Psychology of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in Mainland China, and is also a professor at the Graduate University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

In a poster presentation, there were ten groups of presenters, mainly secondary school students, teachers, and educators who have shown enthusiasm for gifted education.

The symposium ended with an open forum. We were glad to have had Ms Joyce Kwok, Mr Matthew Chu, and two gifted learners who shared their views and experiences from three different perspectives: parenting children (as a mother), mentoring students (as a psychologist), and their own learning processes (as learners). Practical strategies and skills for parents and teachers were highlighted throughout the sessions. More details can be found at www.fe.hku.hk/caise.

Forum on ‘How to Improve Home-School Communication throughout the Special Education Process’

‘A trusty relationship established among parents and teachers is vital in helping students with special educational needs’. This belief was shared by Ms Elaine Chan, educational psychologist at the Society of Boys’ Centres, in a seminar and forum entitled, ‘How to Improve Home-School Communication Throughout the Special Education Process’, which was organised by CAISE and held on December 17, 2011.

We welcomed the participation of eight parents and eight teachers whose children or students, respectively, have special educational needs (SEN). They shared experiences and discussed the different roles played by parents and teachers as well as the expectations placed on each other in helping these children learn. The opportunity to discuss key issues from two very different perspectives—those of parents and teachers—provided a valuable chance through which they shared views on how best to work together. The forum was led by Dr Lusa Lo from the University of Massachusetts in Boston and by Dr Patcy Yeung and Dr Yuen Man Tak from the Faculty. It was followed by a seminar presented by Ms Elaine Chan, who is an expert educational psychologist with extensive experiences in working cooperatively with teachers and parents.

It was an innovation for our Centre to embed research elements into the event and utilize this knowledge exchange between parents and teachers. More details can be found at www.fe.hku.hk/caise.
**Seminar on ‘Leadership, Ideology, War, and Peace’**

On October 24, 2011, Professor Lynn Davies was invited by the Centre for Educational Leadership (CEL) to speak at the AGM Seminar on the topic, ‘Leadership, Ideology, War, and Peace’. Professor Davies is a professor emeritus on international education at the Centre for International Education and Research of the School of Education, University of Birmingham.

The seminar started with the contention that there could be few universal principles of effective leadership that would fit any educational situation. In fact, the goals of an organisation or system help determine what is most effective in that context. However, this could lead to dilemmas; for example, if everything is contextual, could any style of leadership be universally acceptable? Who is to judge? First, Professor Davies argued in the seminar for an honest focus on ideology. Second, she argued for coherence between espoused values and the running of a school. Finally, she posited that if the goals of a country or system revolve around peace and security, then there will be some basic threads running through educational leadership. These relate to rights, participation, and what she calls ‘critical idealism’. In the seminar, she used examples ranging from UNICEF UK’s Rights Respecting Schools, school heads negotiating with the Taliban in Afghanistan, as well as attempts made by educators in Nepal and Angola to make their schools less violent. Attracting a sizable amount of attendees, the seminar was thought-provoking and incisive, ensuring that the participants greatly benefitted from Professor Davies’ sharing.

**CITE and Faculty Seminar Series Technology Enhanced Learning**

Over the last two months, the Centre for Information Technology in Education (CITE) and the Faculty organised a very popular series of lunchtime seminars on the use of technology to enhance teaching and learning in higher education. The series started with a seminar by Dr Wilton Fok from the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at HKU. He presented various ways of using smartphones and tablet PCs to facilitate interactive teaching and learning both in and out of class. Staff members attending the seminar were able to upload an application developed by Dr Fok and his students and explore various ways of engaging students in active and interactive learning. Questions during the seminar indicated positive interest in trying Dr Fok’s iClass app across HKU faculties.

Dr Fok’s seminar was followed by a series of six equally popular seminars facilitated by the Faculty’s newly created ‘learning designer’. The role of the learning designer is to work closely with Faculty staff to improve teaching through the development of resources and teaching excellence in e-learning. Mr Brant Knutzen has considerable experience in designing and teaching in e-learning environments, especially in using the learner management system (LMS), Moodle, in higher education contexts. These learning designer seminars are designed to give the teaching staff, not only demonstrations of the latest features and functionality available in Moodle 2, but also an opportunity to gain individual support for their online courses in a workshop format immediately following the seminars.

During the spring semester, the Faculty experimented with version 2 of Moodle on various courses, notably in IT-related programmes, in preparation for the launching of this major upgrade of the Moodle user interface across all programmes in September 2012.
Workshop on ‘Multicultural Education: Integration, Adaptation, and Resistance’

The Wah Ching Centre of Research on Education in China (CREC) conducted a research workshop at HKU in collaboration with La Trobe University on September 24-25, 2011. The aim of the workshop is to complete a new book manuscript for the HKU Press, which considers how multicultural education for national integration can help disadvantaged students from China’s ethnic minority areas improve their chances of academic success in secondary school education as well as increase their access to higher education. Scholars based in Australia, America, Mainland China, and Hong Kong all participated in the activity.

CREC Projects

Project (1): Migrant Youth

The Migrant Youth Project, led by Dr Bill Tsang, our Honorary Research Associate, addresses educational, developmental and social issues faced by migrant youths, and finds ways to improve their education and employment opportunities. The project design is based on rigorous research. We employ a reflective process of research-informed intervention action and action-informed research, which improves our knowledge in creating intervention strategies and practices. Our goal is to develop an evidence-based, actionable, sustainable, and scalable intervention model to serve migrant students and their families, which can be adopted by government agencies and non-profit charity organizations. The general programme consists of intervention and mentoring activities, resilience and path-finding training, a financial asset-building project, and a train-the-trainers programme.

Project (2): Rural Families, Urban Schools

Understanding Rural Parental Involvement in Schooling: A Longitudinal Study of Rural Families in Gansu

This longitudinal study of parental involvement in their children’s schooling builds upon Dr Peggy Kong’s work on family-school relationships in rural China. This study is a collaborative project with Professor Gerry Postiglione (HKU) and Professor Emily Hannum (University of Pennsylvania), and investigates the nature of rural parental involvement in adolescents’ secondary and tertiary education. Combining survey and ethnographic data to understand parental involvement in their children’s education is an innovative method that captures the nuances of parental involvement in rural China.
The 2nd International Conference on Learning and Teaching of Han Characters

Chinese has become an increasingly popular second language among people in the East and in the West. Centre for Advancement of Chinese Language Education and Research (CACLER) continues to play a distinguished and leading role in conducting critical research in a number of key areas, including teaching and learning Chinese as first and second language. We are proud of the strong academic and professional links we have developed with countries in which Chinese is taught and learned, either as the mother tongue or as a second language.

The International Conference on the Learning and Teaching of Han Characters in Asian Languages 2011 (第二届汉字与汉字教育国际研讨会) was the second conference co-hosted by CACLER and the Korea Society of Education in Chinese Characters and Classics. This was held after the first conference, which was held at HKU in mid-January 2011. As a result of the success of the first conference, we initiated a partnership with the Ethnic Chinese Classic Texts and Characters Research Centre of Beijing Normal University in co-hosting the second conference, which was held on October 21-22, 2011 at Yeungnam University, South Korea. The themes of the conferences were anchored on the directions for the effective learning of Han characters in different Asian languages, including 1) curriculum design, 2) pedagogy and assessment, 3) learning strategies of students, 4) basic research and theoretical framework, and 5) classical Chinese education. Opening speeches were delivered by Professor Lee Hyo Soo, President of Yeungnam University, Professor Cheong Wu Sang, former Chair of the Korea Society of Education in Chinese Characters and Classics, and Professor Song Pyung Nyul, Chair of the Korea Society of Education in Chinese Characters and Classics. Around 100 participants took part in the conference, 80% of whom were distinguished scholars from Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, the USA, and Mainland China. With a strong research culture and excellent programmes in the teaching and learning of the Chinese language, we hope that this conference becomes a platform for interaction among scholars from different regions, through which they can exchange ideas regarding the teaching and learning of Chinese. More details can be found at http://www.cacer.hku.hk/conference11k/index.php?mode=1&id=1.

The Deputy Director-General of the National Centre for Education Development Research Visits CACLER

The CACLER was honoured to have Professor Zhou Mansheng, Deputy Director-General of the National Centre for Education Development Research, Ministry of Education of PRC (國家教育發展研究中心), who delivered a lecture on medium- and long-term educational policies and future plans of China on July 12, 2011.
2011 Winter Institute

The aim of the Winter Institute is to facilitate the exchange of new research findings and ideas with outstanding scientists from around the world, who are at the cutting edge of studies on communication disorders, including established senior scientists and young researchers working at HKU. The goal is to encourage cross-disciplinary research collaboration.

The Winter Institute is a one-day event held annually. Members of the Strategic Research Theme were invited to have lunch and dinner with the speakers and to arrange formal research meetings with members of their lab groups in scheduled sessions held before and after the event. Themes of past Winter Institutes included ‘Promoting Healthy Communication across the Lifespan’ (December 4, 2010) and ‘Genetic Contributions to Communication Disorders’ (December 10, 2011).

Outcomes of the Winter Institute include the development of collaborative research, the co-supervision of research students, and invitations for our members to speak in various events. A feature of the Winter Institute is the development of research questions that can be investigated using the expertise of individual researchers at HKU, in collaboration with other university colleagues. Another feature is the recruitment of high-calibre research students who can develop research ideas, with supervision from across different disciplines. Examples of new initiatives developed from the Winter Institutes include a seed project on the genetic factors involved in dementia, developmental language disorders, and hearing impairment. Other examples include the establishment of a new swallowing laboratory, a TMS laboratory, a speech science laboratory, projects in autism, and the development of child language. Seed projects are a direct result of discussions held during our Winter Institutes. An example is the investigation of aphasia and dementia in bilingual speakers.

The Faculty sincerely thanks the following donors for their generous support.

Mr Leung Lek Hang in support of the Faculty;
Dr Maggie Wang, Dr Jenny Yuen and Dr Yuen Man Tak in support of the Centre for Advancement in Inclusive and Special Education;
Anisha A. Hotwani Memorial Fund Limited in support of bursaries for PGDE students with a major in Special Education on the basis of financial need;
CANOTTA Publishing Co., Ltd in support of the CANOTTA Distinguished Visiting Fellowship in Mathematics Education;
Tin Ka Ping Foundation in support of HKU Tin Ka Ping Education Fund.

Education In Your Hands

Make the most of opportunities for your continued connection with the Faculty, through its alumni initiatives.

Would you like to continue to support the work of the Faculty?

Alumni are playing key roles in helping the Faculty to realize its Centenary Vision. Many alumni have chosen to designate their donations to support:

- Teaching and research projects undertaken by individual professors, research teams or the Faculty’s Research Centres;
- Undergraduate and postgraduate students;
- International student exchange programmes.
The Shadow Education is Spreading

That is the message of researchers focusing on the so-called shadow education system of private supplementary tutoring. And, they add, the shadow has far-reaching implications for the processes of schooling, for social inequalities, and for the lives of students, families and teachers.

The metaphor of the shadow is used because supplementary tutoring mimics the school system. As the curriculum in regular schools changes, so it changes in the shadow; and as the size of the regular system grows, so does the size of the shadow.

The scale of shadow education is reflected in the numbers. About half of Hong Kong's primary school pupils receive supplementary tutoring; and in the last year of secondary schooling the proportion exceeds 80%. Some tutoring is on a one-to-one basis, other tutoring is in small groups, and much is in large classes taught by 'star' tutors whose companies advertise on the back of buses and elsewhere.

A Special Interest Group

In 2011, a number of staff, students and alumni formed a Special Interest Group (SIG) to focus on shadow education under the umbrella of the Comparative Education Research Centre (CERC). The group is led by Professor Mark Bray, who has been addressing this theme since the 1990s.1 It embraces academic staff from five different Divisions in the Faculty together with BEd, MEd and PhD students.

Some of the SIG members are focusing on Hong Kong. With financial support from the General Research Fund (GRF) they are collecting data on scale and implications of shadow education for secondary school students and teachers.

SIG members are also looking at other parts of the world. Reports for the European Commission and the Asian Development Bank have shown significant expansion of shadow education throughout Europe and Asia.

A Faculty Research Theme

In January 2012 the Faculty Research Committee designated shadow education a Faculty Research Theme. ‘This is indeed an encouragement for the group,’ remarked Professor Bray. ‘The agenda is huge, and has significant implications both locally and internationally’.

The team already has plans for the next steps of its work. A Research Assistant Professor will be recruited to expand the comparative focus, and new PhD students will focus on Bangladesh, Cambodia and Georgia. Masters students are also looking at the theme, with focus on Hong Kong, Mainland China, and India.

During the coming years, this team will shed considerable light on the shadow, drawing implications for both individual learners and wider communities.

Retreat of the Dean, Associate Deans, and Assistant Deans on December 2, 2011

Dean Stephen Andrews, Associate Deans, Assistant Deans, and administrators of the Faculty went on a retreat on December 2, 2011 to analyse the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats (SWOT) of the Faculty and discuss the strategic plan for the next five years and an immediate plan for 2012–13. Professor Roland Chin, Deputy Vice-Chancellor, attended the morning session as well. They exchanged views about the proposed goal statements and decided on specific strategies to be adopted or actions to be taken in order to achieve the goals within the next five years.

Lunch Seminar for the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia

To gain a greater understanding of the education system in Hong Kong, 16 delegation members from the Association of Independent Schools of Western Australia (AISWA) visited the Faculty on November 3, 2011. Dr Ng Ho Ming shared his findings on ‘Teacher Development through Parallel Lessons’ during the lunch seminar. Principals of our partner schools were also invited to meet with the delegation members. Their participation contributed to the success of the visit of the AISWA members.

Workshop for English Language Teachers in Rural China

A workshop for the 30 highest achieving teachers of the ‘Tsinghua-HKS Cup 2011’ for English language teachers from impoverished rural counties in China was held on December 14, 2011, supported by the Division of English Language Education. Sponsored by the Hong Kong Sales Education Fund and organised by the Educational Poverty Alleviation Office of Tsinghua University, the winners of the competition were offered a Hong Kong study tour. They were then introduced to the Faculty members as well as the different aspects of our English language teacher education work in both the primary and the secondary levels during the half-day workshop.
University of Nebraska-Lincoln PhD Students Visit the Faculty

The Office of Research of the Faculty was very pleased to receive four visiting PhD students from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), USA, in early December 2011. These students were recipients of a ‘Hong Kong Travel Award’ granted by the UNL College of Education and Human Sciences. They were selected on the basis of the quality of their research proposal and their ability to serve as ambassadors for the college.

Our research students greeted the visitors warmly and engaged them in academic and social activities, including the Postgraduate Research Conference and the Pre-conference Seminars, a tour of the HKU campus and facilities, a lunchtime gathering with our students, and sightseeing around the city.

The Faculty looks forward to organising more international student exchange activities for our students and has lined up activities to explore the possibility of sending our students to UNL in the near future. We believe that such activities can broaden students’ horizons, help them build their international academic network, and make their learning experiences at HKU even more fruitful and rewarding.

2011 Information Day for Undergraduate Admissions

Despite the activity name, HKU’s ‘Information Day for Undergraduate Admissions’ was actually held for two days, October 29 and 30, 2011. A record high of over 80,000 visitors were received during the two-day event, which gave the general public an introduction to HKU’s programmes, activities, and facilities. The participants included double-cohorts’ secondary 6 and secondary 7 students, parents, and teachers.

With the support of student assistants, the Faculty held a series of exhibition booths at the Runme Shaw Building to introduce related programme information and provide visitors a glimpse of campus life at HKU. Teaching departments and halls of residence were opened to the public for a better understanding of campus life at HKU. A series of admission talks for HKDSE and HKALE candidates was attended by students, parents, and teachers.
Information Sessions for Postgraduate Programmes

A series of information sessions for postgraduate programmes was held from December 2011 to January 2012. Participants were given information about the structure, specialisations, and admission criteria of the programmes.

Overseas and the Mainland Visitors

Chong Qing Education Commission, China on October 14, 2011

University of Brunei Darussalam, Brunei on October 18, 2011

China Women’s University, China on October 27, 2011

Orchlon School, Ulaan Baatur, Mongolia on November 16, 2011

Chinese Y.M.C.A. Secondary School, Hong Kong on November 17, 2011

Philippine Normal University, Philippines on November 25, 2011

Singapore Chinese Teachers’ Union, Singapore on December 2, 2011

The University of British Columbia, Canada on December 8, 2011

Serving the Community for over 90 years!
Faculty Reunion Dinner

As one of the events lined up for the Centenary celebration, the Faculty reunion dinner will be held on June 9, 2012. This is another reunion gathering of the Faculty since the one held in 2004 to celebrate our 20th Anniversary. Alumni of different generations have formed a sub-working group to prepare for the event. The 1st sub-working group meeting held on December 13, 2011 was facilitated by the group’s Chairperson Dr Ida Mok, Associate Dean (Local Engagement). Three working teams were formed to take care of the programme, fundraising activities, and logistics. The members of each team are:

Programme

Mrs Sophia Chan (In-charge)
Mrs Liu Lu Lee Ching, Paulina (Convenor)
Mr Tam Siu Ping, George
Mr Eric Yuon
Mr Chan Man
Mr Baldwin Li
Mr Edmond Yeung
Ms Meadow Cheung
Mr Benson Chiao

Fundraising

Mrs Sophia Chan (In-charge)
Miss Carmen Li (Convenor)
Mr Tse Sik Yan
Mr Jonathan Ng
Mr Luke Yick

Logistics

Dr Cheung Wong Wan Yiu, Angela
(In-charge & Convenor)
Mr Edmond Ho
Mr Leung Kok Keung
Mr Benson Chiao

Date:       June 9, 2012 (Saturday)
Time:       6:15pm (Cocktail)
            7:00pm (Dinner)
Venue:      Chancellor Room, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre
Ticket:     HK$998 per person or HK$11,976 per table of 12 persons

Please download the ticket order form from http://web.edu.hku.hk/

Come and Join Us!
Don’t Miss this Opportunity!
Inclusive Education and the Power of Community

Sharing from BEd (LangEd) Primary English Year 3 students

For many deaf children in Hong Kong, making friends with other children has remained a great challenge because of the communication barrier, but for a small group of young learners at the Kowloon Bay St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School, this dream has become a reality. The school was one of the first to implement inclusive education for partially and totally deaf children in Hong Kong so that they can learn side-by-side with hearing students. One of the core features of the school’s inclusive education programme is the bilingual teaching of lessons in both spoken and sign languages. Each classroom has a subject teacher, a deaf instructor, and a sign language specialist. Children are also provided with visual aids to help them learn. The bilingual policy of the school means that non-hearing students can respond to questions in sign language or spoken words. Further, teachers, hearing students, the school principal, and the clerical and ancillary staff all underwent basic training in sign language so they can communicate with deaf students. In fact, many hearing students in the school have become fluent in sign language. The inclusive programme is supported by a charity trust, a team of sign language experts from the Jockey Club Sign Bilingualism and Co-enrolment in Deaf Education Programme of The Chinese University of Hong Kong.

On October 19, 2011, we visited the Kowloon Bay St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School with two HKU tutors from the Division of English Language Education, Ms Margaret Lo and Dr Cheri Chan. The school principal, Ms Margaret So, and the manager of the specialist team from CUHK, Mr Chris Yiu, gave us a tour and explained how the inclusive policy has benefitted the children tremendously. We were invited to observe three lessons to see how the children learn in their classrooms.

Apart from inspiring us to become better teachers, the school visit was an invaluable experience for us. We were impressed by the entire school community’s passion and commitment in promoting inclusive education. Being the first primary school to introduce inclusive education in Hong Kong, the visit to the school taught us some important lessons. First, all students are capable of learning and they are intelligent individuals. Second, all children learn best in a supportive community, where they are valued and have a sense of belongingness. Finally, the human capacity for communication is a powerful force for change. Moreover, the collaboration between the hearing-impaired and hearing children demonstrated that inclusive education can be successful. We are very grateful to have had the opportunity to visit Kowloon Bay St John the Baptist Catholic Primary School. We wish them all the best as they continue their inclusive education advocacy.
Reunion Dinner of HKUEdRDAA

Sharing from Dr Andy Cao [PhD 2008]

The Hong Kong University Education Faculty Research Degrees Alumni Association (HKUEdRDAA) had a reunion dinner on August 24, 2011 in Beijing. The dinner was organised with help from Dr Jin Leili of Tsinghua University. We were joined by 22 research degree graduates, current students, and respective members of their family. In particular, we were honoured by the presence of some of our graduates who have made notable achievements in their careers, including Professor Winnie Cheng from The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and Dr Icy Lee from The Chinese University of Hong Kong. We shared our pleasant experiences and discussed possible collaboration plans while enjoying a hearty meal. We also exchanged offers of hospitality to visit one another in the future.

8th Annual General Meeting and Dinner Gathering of HKUEdAA

The 8th Annual General Meeting of HKUEdAA and a dinner gathering at the Hong Kong University Alumni Association Club were held on December 10, 2011. Ms Pauline Chow Lo Sai, Executive School Manager of the Fukien Secondary School Affiliated School and Chairwoman of the Hong Kong Women Teachers’ Organisation, shared with the members her insights on the topic ‘The Slow Dance of Change - Into the Third Year After Taking over Pegasus Philip Wong Kin Hang Christian Primary cum Junior Secondary School’.

Congratulations to Mrs Sophia Chan (MEd 1998)

Mrs Chan Tsang Kin Lok, Sophia, was given the ‘China Top 100 Outstanding Women Entrepreneur Award’ (中國百名傑出女企業家獎). The event was organised by the China Outstanding Women Association and was held on December 18, 2011 at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing. Mrs Chan has held the position of Chief Principal of the Hong Kong Ling Liang Church Kindergarten since 1996. The Ling Liang Church Kindergarten is a non-profit and Christian-founded kindergarten. Believing that every child is an individual with great potential, Mrs Chan encourages children to explore knowledge through active teaching methods. She promotes a well-rounded education for children, along with music education, with the objective of providing children with a happy childhood filled with beautiful memories. She also engages in various community services and exchange activities with peers from Mainland China and overseas.
To our Staff:

2011 Outstanding Teaching Award

Dr Daniel Churchill of the Division of Information and Technology Studies received the much-coveted Outstanding Teaching Award at HKU’s Award Presentation Ceremony for Excellence in Teaching and Research 2011 on February 9, 2012. As one of the four recipients in the University, Dr Churchill achieved excellence in teaching; curriculum design, renewal and innovation; and facilitating learning among his students. He is the first person from the Faculty to win such an award since the new version of the Teaching Excellence Awards.

2011 Research Output Prize

Dr David Carless of the Division of English Language Education was awarded the 2011 Research Output Prize for “From Testing to Productive Student Learning: Implementing Formative Assessment in Confucian-Heritage Settings”, New York: Routledge, 2011, 263 pages (online publication date: December 6, 2010) at HKU’s Award Presentation Ceremony for Excellence in Teaching and Research 2011 on February 9, 2012.
Promotion
Professor Zhang Li-fang on her promotion to Professor.

National Academy of Education/Spencer Fellowship Award
Dr Xiuli Tong, Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences

Long Service Award
We congratulate our administrative staff, Mrs Kosina Suen, for her faithful service to the University for 35 years and Mrs Lorinda Kwan, Clinical Instructor of the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences, for 15 years valued service.

Welcome
We warmly welcome the following academic staff members who have joined our Faculty since October 2011:

Division of Chinese Language and Literature
Dr Gao Fang, Post-doctoral Fellow
Dr Xiao Xiaoyun, Post-doctoral Fellow

Division of English Language Education
Professor James William Tollefson, Professor

Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences
Dr Chen Fei, Research Assistant Professor

To our Students:
Fung Ping Shan Donor Scholarship
Miss Lam Ka Ki

Hang Seng Bank Community Service Scholarships
Miss Lai Yue Sum Sharon

HKU Foundation Scholarships for Outstanding Students
Miss Chan Ka Ling
Miss Cheng Pui Pui
Mr Lee Cheuk Fung
Miss Tam Ka Wing

John Swire Donor Scholarships
Mr Mo Kwan Nok

Li Po Chun Scholarships
Miss Chan Beatrice Aimee Bik Yu

Li Po Chun Postgraduate Scholarships
Ms Lau Gay Lei Carrie

Prize of the Royal Consulate General of Thailand
Miss Kwong Ho Yee
Mr Yu Chun Lit

Scholarship for Prospective English Teachers
Miss Chang Ka Woon Grace
Miss Lam Ka Ki
Mr Lau Chun Ki
Miss Ng Cheuk Kiu
Mr Wong Ho Yan
Miss Cheung Suet Ching
Miss Chu Ka Hang
Miss Lee Sun Min
Miss So Yi Ching
Mr Tse Yuk Choi

The Lufthansa Scholarship
Mr Chan Zenith Tze Hin

University Postgraduate Fellowships
Mr Jiang Lianjiang

Goodbye
We would like to express our gratitude and send our best wishes to the following staff members who left the Faculty. They have our highest blessings and, of course, will remain part of our global networks.

Division of English Language Education
Dr Paul John Thibault, Associate Professor

Division of Learning, Development and Diversity
Dr Beverley Webster, Associate Professor
Dr Zhang Kaili, Assistant Professor
Ms Wincy Chan, Teaching Consultant

Division of Policy, Administration and Social Sciences Education
Dr Linda Lehmil, Teaching Assistant
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue and Contact Details</th>
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<tr>
<td>April 27, 2012  5:00 pm</td>
<td>Distinguished Lecture ‘Learning in Landscapes of Practice: New Developments in Social Learning Theory’</td>
<td>Rayson Huang Theatre, HKU&lt;br&gt;Enquiries: Miss Kendy Wong (2859 2529 / <a href="mailto:kendy@hku.hk">kendy@hku.hk</a>)&lt;br&gt;Website: <a href="http://web.edu.hku.hk/news.php">http://web.edu.hku.hk/news.php</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>May 15, 2012</td>
<td>Undergraduate Programmes Information Seminar Series</td>
<td>Rayson Huang Theatre, HKU&lt;br&gt;Enquiries: Miss Natalie Tsui (2219 4246 / <a href="mailto:ntui@hku.hk">ntui@hku.hk</a>)&lt;br&gt;Website: <a href="http://web.edu.hku.hk/news.php">http://web.edu.hku.hk/news.php</a></td>
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<td>May 18, 2012  5:30 pm</td>
<td>Launch Ceremony of UNESCO Chair in Comparative Education cum Lecture</td>
<td>Main Campus, HKU&lt;br&gt;Enquiries: Ms Talon Cheng (2219 4842 / <a href="mailto:tfpcheng@hku.hk">tfpcheng@hku.hk</a>)</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 9, 2012  6:15 pm</td>
<td>Reunion Dinner</td>
<td>Chancellor Room, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre&lt;br&gt;Enquiries: Ms Talon Cheng (2219 4842 / <a href="mailto:tfpcheng@hku.hk">tfpcheng@hku.hk</a>)&lt;br&gt;Website: <a href="http://web.edu.hku.hk/reunion_dinner/dinner.pdf">http://web.edu.hku.hk/reunion_dinner/dinner.pdf</a></td>
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<td>June 15-16, 2012  9:00 am -5:00 pm</td>
<td>CITE Research Symposium 2012 ‘E-Learning in a changing landscape of emerging technologies and pedagogies’</td>
<td>Main Campus, HKU&lt;br&gt;Enquiries: Ms Candy Leung (2241 3325 / 2857 8540 / <a href="mailto:cite@hku.hk">cite@hku.hk</a>)&lt;br&gt;Website: <a href="http://citors2012.cite.hku.hk/en/">http://citors2012.cite.hku.hk/en/</a></td>
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