Welcome on Board
Faculty Management Team
Event Spotlight
A New Look of Our Website
Spring is a time for new beginnings, and the University is no exception in that regard. The arrival of our new Vice-Chancellor, Professor Peter Mathieson, on April 1st represents the start of an era of new beginnings, with the appointment of other key members of the University’s new senior management team scheduled for the coming months. I am sure that everyone within the University and the wider community will be extending their warmest wishes and committing their fullest support to Professor Mathieson as he takes over responsibility for charting HKU’s future direction and building on the very considerable achievements of his predecessor, Professor Lap-Chee Tsui.

For our Faculty, there are also new beginnings, albeit of a rather less momentous kind. On April 1st, as Professor Mathieson was meeting the assembled representatives of the media, our Faculty presented a new face to the world, with the launch of our completely redesigned website. The Faculty’s website incorporates a number of brand-new features, such as Events for Public and Brochure Download on main page, Programmes Finder under Perspective Students as well as a collection of knowledge exchange initiatives in Community Engagement. It has also been planned to be far more user-friendly than the previous version, with hyperlinks to help visitors to navigate the pages quickly and efficiently so that they can locate the information they seek. In order to maximise the usability of our website, we plan to launch a version for mobile devices in 2014-15. I very much hope that you will enjoy exploring our website (http://web.edu.hku.hk), and we would greatly welcome feedback and constructive suggestions for further refinements.

You will also see new beginnings in Education Matters itself. This issue looks very different from its predecessors, and we are planning to make further changes next year, to mark our Pearl Jubilee celebrations. Again, if you have any suggestions about Education Matters – either about the format and presentation or about the focus and contents, please let us know. We know that education matters to our readers as much as it does to us, so we are very keen that Education Matters should include articles, reports, and photos that meet your interests.

I hope that you will enjoy this review of the most recent activities in the Faculty. We look forward to receiving your feedback.

Professor Stephen Andrews
Dean
Investment in the early years is seen as pivotal to “Building the Wealth of Nations” and research has shown that high quality kindergarten education has a positive effect on children’s developmental progress. The Hong Kong SAR Government established The Committee on Free Kindergarten Education in 2013 to advise on the implementation of free kindergarten education in the context of 15-year free education.

The Faculty collaborated with the Education Bureau (EDB) to organize an International Forum on Kindergarten Education which took place between October 23 and 26, 2013. This Forum included school visits, a full-day seminar, meetings with EDB officials and a half-day parent seminar. Renowned experts in early childhood education from France, Korea, Singapore, the United Kingdom and the United States, local experts, early childhood educators and other stakeholders participated in forum-related activities.

The full and half-day seminars were very popular illustrating public interest in the topics. The full-day seminar was held at the Grand Hall of Lee Shau Kee Lecture Theatre in HKU on October 24 and the half-day parent seminar was conducted in the EDB Kowloon Tong Education Services Centre on October 26. Mr Eddie Ng, Secretary of Education, Dr Moses Cheng, Chairman of the Committee on Free Kindergarten Education and Professor Stephen Andrews, Dean of Education were officiating guests at both seminars. A wide range of topics including early brain development, family support for early development, teacher qualifications, quality and equity in early childhood education, learning through playing and the current situation in Hong Kong were covered during the seminar. The seminar enabled participants to have a better understanding of factors that promote early childhood development and education.
The Faculty held its graduation ceremony on December 9, 2013 at the Concert Hall of the Hong Kong Cultural Centre. This year, the Faculty conferred degrees upon 1,015 graduates, comprising 449 higher degree graduands, 175 undergraduands, and 391 graduands of the Postgraduate Certificate in Advanced Educational Studies and Postgraduate Diploma in Education. One award, seven prizes, and one scholarship were presented to outstanding students. The ceremony was filled with honours and joyfulness.

The Honourable Alan Leong Kah-kit, SC, was the guest of honour, and Professor Roland Chin, the Deputy Vice Chancellor and Provost of HKU, presided over the ceremony.

In his speech, Mr Leong emphasized the need for our graduates to be agents for change in the course of their teaching careers and in society because teachers teach more by what they are than by what they say and one can never tell where the influence of teachers stops. “You must live passionately, read widely, think deeply, and... become the instrument of change,” said Mr Leong. He believed that it was only through the actions of a person that one can inspire students to do positive things.

Hans Freudenthal Medal

Professor Frederick Leung was awarded the Hans Freudenthal Medal for 2013 by the International Commission on Mathematical Instruction (ICMI). He is the first Asian to receive this award, which is the highest international accolade in mathematics education.

The award was given to Professor Leung in recognition of his distinguished research in the areas of comparative studies of mathematics education and the influence of the Eastern and Western cultures on the teaching and learning of mathematics. Professor Leung felt deeply honoured by the award and said, “it is not only an honor of myself as an individual but a recognition of the achievement in educational research of scholars from Hong Kong, China, and the Asian region.”

The citation of Professor Leung and the ICMI announcement of the award are shown in the following article: http://www.mathunion.org/icmi/news/details/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=860&cHash=7ab3e539bc9d2a2ea8757d8986d9b1cc
Serena H.C. Yang Professorship in Early Childhood Development and Education

Professor Nirmala Rao has been conferred the title of Serena H.C. Yang Professorship in Early Childhood Development and Education. At the University, Endowed Professorships are established in support of distinguished professors for academic purposes. This title is the most significant award bestowed upon academics within the University.

The Faculty is proud of Professor Rao’s outstanding scholarly contributions and achievements, which have been recognized through the award of the first Endowed Professorship in the Faculty.

Winter Institute: Understanding Learning from Neural to Social Network Perspectives

Learning is a complex phenomenon occurring at different levels from cells inside our brains to whole societies. To help us understand learning as a network based phenomenon from neural networks to social networks, the Winter Institute entitled “Understanding Learning from Neural to Social Network Perspectives” organized by the Sciences of Learning Strategic Research Theme (SoL-SRT), was held from January 13 to 14, 2014.

The event featured two keynotes and two research workshops. In the keynote “Self-biases in Perception and Memory” and the follow-up workshop “Linking Diagnostics and Rehabilitation in Cognitive Neuropsychology”, Professor Glyn Humphreys from Oxford University discussed the importance of self-bias in enhancing memory for particular events and showed with his own study the possibility of using self-biases to enhance memory and learning more generally.

In the keynote “System of Learning across Levels: from Neural to Social Structures”, Professor Liaquat Hossain from the Faculty argued that learning is a consequence of network structure. He encouraged us to align learning with the social network perspective of observing both individual and group outcomes. In his workshop “Learning about Network Science Research”, he demonstrated the potential of using social network analysis to reveal systems of learning from neural to social structures.

Faculty Management Team

The membership of the senior management team (SMT) of our Faculty has been adjusted to enhance the capacity of the management team to support the realization of our vision and mission as well as the implementation of the Faculty Five-Year Plan.

Professor Bruce Macfarlane has joined the Faculty’s senior management team as the Associate Dean (Learning and Teaching). Professor Gerard Postiglione is the Associate Dean (Research), Dr Lena Wong is the Associate Dean (Research Higher Degrees), and Dr Jan van Aalst is the Assistant Dean (Centres and Proposals). They will form the new research leadership team and work closely to strengthen our research performance. Other new members of the team are Dr Susan Bridges (Assistant Dean, Curriculum Innovation) and Dr Jasmine Luk (Assistant Dean, Initial Teacher Education). Together with Dr Ida Mok (Associate Dean, Local Engagement), Dr Pang Ming Fai (Associate Dean, Cross-border/International Engagement), and Dr Tammy Kwan (Assistant Dean, School-University Partnerships), the new SMT will help the Faculty to reach even greater heights in education.
Knowledge Exchange

Press Conference on “Facilitate ‘Aging in Place’: Safe Swallowing in the Frail Elderly Living in the Community and in Nursing Homes”

On December 3, 2013, the Faculty held a press conference on the survey findings of a study on safe swallowing in frail elderly living in the community. The study was led by Professor Edwin Yiu and Dr Karen Chan, Co-Directors of the Swallowing Research Laboratory in the Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences, and was funded by the Public Policy Research Funding Scheme.

The study goals were to promote the community awareness of swallowing problems among elderly people and help policy makers to strengthen current elderly care policies and services. The study was conducted in three phases: Phase I) prevalence of swallowing problems through phone survey; Phase II) impact of swallowing problems and service satisfaction through face-to-face interviews; and Phase III) carer knowledge and skill assessment. The survey results and details of the press briefing can be found at http://web.edu.hku.hk/media.php.

Professor Shirley Grundy Memorial Fund

Knowledge Exchange (KE) Forum on “Parents as Learners: A New Paradigm in Parent Education”

The first KE Forum facilitated by Professor Shirley Grundy Memorial Fund was held on December 14, 2013. The forum pondered on the necessity of parent education in Hong Kong and raised the issue of whether schools have a duty to assist parents in fulfilling their roles as primary educators through parent education and discussed ways of moving forward. It was attended by educators, school leaders, parent education practitioners, and committee members of Parent–Teacher Associations.

After the welcome speech delivered by Professor Stephen Andrews, Dean of Education; Dr Pang Ming Fai, Associate Dean and Associate Professor; and Dr Luis Go, Faculty Researcher, expounded on their research findings on parental learning. They emphasized the necessity of regarding parents as learners to shift parent education from a consumer to a learner perspective. Experience sharing by Mr Barnabas Leung, School Manager of Tak Sun Secondary School, and his wife, Mrs Shirley Leung; Mrs Gloria Chan Leung Suk Ching, School Principal; and Mrs Tanny Yiu Lai Tan Man, Assistant Principal of Kau Yan School, followed. Both schools are partners in the “Professional Partnership School” programme. Lively discussions followed the presentations.
KE Talks for Teachers’ Professional Development

With the support of KE Impact Project funding, the School-University Partnership (SUP) office was able to develop a series of KE talks and workshops to help the teachers and students of our partner schools to achieve professional development. Two themes, “learner diversity” and “good practice of teaching”, were selected following consultation with principals and teachers to help them meet the intensive challenges they face in schools.

Four KE talks were organized between November 2013 and January 2014 to give participants a background of the key aspects related to “learner diversity”. The four talks were led by

- Ms Pat Huang, a teacher of Autism School Foundation on “Learner Diversity: What Does it Mean to Teachers?”
- Mrs Josephina Lee, Director of Gifted Development Consultancy Services on “Learner Diversity: A Tale of Two Brainies and Implications on School Success”
- Mr Franky Poon, Vice Principal of HKRSS Tai Po Secondary School on “Who is Being Excluded? Whole School Approach Toward Inclusion”
- Dr Cheri Chan, Lecturer of the Faculty on “Contextualizing Inclusive Education in English Language Teaching”

Dr Tammy Kwan, Assistant Dean of SUP, delivered another KE talk on “What Makes Good Practice of Teaching?” All talks were video recorded and uploaded to the SUP website at http://web.edu.hku.hk/partnership.php.

A series of workshops was organized for interested teachers, student-teachers, and parents to develop an action plan on how they can address the issues in their family, classroom, and/or school. The idea is to create a sharing and learning platform for participants to come together and learn and support one another. These workshops are scheduled from February to May 2014, and we look forward to keen participation from a broader community.

Seminar on “Ethnic Minority, Equality, and Education Policy: New Perspectives”

Following the success of the Lanzhou Experiential Learning initiative in June 2013, Dr Eva Chan, Dr Loretta Ho, and Mr Wong Ka Lok organized a KE Forum entitled “Ethnic Minority, Equality, and Education Policy: New Perspectives” on November 2, 2013.

The seminar commenced with the welcoming speech delivered by Dr Pang Ming Fai, Associate Dean. Professor Wan Minggang, Vice President of Northwest Normal University and one of the foremost specialists in ethnic minority education in China, delivered the first keynote speech on the issues and challenges of ethnic minority education in Northwest China. Professor Gerard Postiglione, Chair Professor and an expert on education reform and development in China and East Asia, delivered an inspiring speech on the issues of ethnic minority education in contemporary Hong Kong. In addition to scholarly views and the findings of two experts in this area, reports and sharing were delivered by eight undergraduate students in the BEd (Liberal Studies) programme, who conducted research in Gansu in June 2013. They made up the first batch of Liberal Studies student-teachers who visited Gansu for a month to examine the captioned issues. They provided Liberal Studies teachers and students with new knowledge about education issues in contemporary China. The seminar inspired participants to develop new perspectives on ethnic minority education and equality as local and national issues.

Over 175 people registered for the event, including academics, higher-degree students, EDB representatives, school teachers and students, news reporters, NGO representatives, and other members of the public. In conjunction with the event, a booklet containing the research results and life experiences of the BEd students who participated in the June 2013 Experiential Learning was published and distributed.
Knowledge Exchange

Book Launch and Parent Sharing on Children Cantonese Opera

On December 14, 2013, the Faculty held the book launch of Yip Shiu Tak’s Cantonese Opera Manuscripts (in Chinese and English). To promote knowledge exchange, Parent Sharing on Children Cantonese Opera was organized with the book launch. Sing Fai Children Cantonese Troupe performed “Farewell My Concubine”. The troupe leader together with the young performers and their parents shared their experiences with the audience.

Mr Yip Shiu Tak is a Cantonese opera playwright in Hong Kong, and his works are the assets of local Cantonese opera. In 2009, the Cantonese Opera Development Fund supported the research team led by Dr Dorothy Ng, Assistant Professor, to implement the Translation and Bilingual (Chinese and English) Publication Project of Yip Shiu Tak’s Cantonese Opera Manuscripts. The publication contains Island of Farewell, Zhu Bian Returns to Court, Fifteen Strings of Cash, Farewell My Concubine, and Li The Later Ruler, with English translation by expert translators. Research data and appreciation guidance for the five operas are also included, which makes the publication a valuable reference for the study of Cantonese opera. The digital version is accessible at website of Leisure and Cultural Services Department (http://www.lcsd.gov.hk/CE/CulturalService/Programme/tc/misc/program_90.html) for the public and for Cantonese opera troupes to adopt as subtitles for performances.

Public Lecture on “Equal Rights and Unequal Schools: The American Experience”

On October 28, 2013, the Faculty held a public lecture entitled “Equal Rights and Unequal Schools: The American Experience” with Professor Gary Orfield, Professor of UCLA Graduate School of Education (GSE) and Co-Director of the Civil Rights Project at UCLA, as speaker.

The United States has always lived with a serious tension between its broad promise of equal opportunity (often described as the “American dream”) for people from across the world and the deep inequality experienced by blacks, Latinos, and American Indians. Two of the significant changes in education from the 1960s were the desegregation of schools and the policy of affirmative action for colleges. Most US Presidents since the 1960s have opposed such policies. The Supreme Court, altered by the appointments of conservative presidents, has also been limiting and reversing school desegregation for almost a quarter century. Social disparity in general and school disparity in particular are likely to emerge as an important topic on the policy agenda in Hong Kong. In response to the issue, Professor Orfield assessed the development of the policies, the intellectual and political dimensions of the battles, and the lessons drawn from these struggles.
Success in Grant Schemes

We are proud to report our colleagues’ recent successes in applying for grant funding. We send our congratulations to the following Faculty members:

Knowledge Exchange Impact Projects 2013-14

- **Professor Mark Bray**  
  “Regulating the Shadow Education System: Private Tutoring and Government Policies in Asia”

- **Dr Dennis Fung in collaboration with Faculty of Law**  
  “Y Law for Secondary School Liberal Studies Curriculum: Decoding Crimes to Prevent Crimes”

- **Dr Tammy Kwan**  
  “Creation of a Teacher Professional Development Platform (1) to Address Learner Diversity in Classroom, and (2) to Understand Good Practice of Teaching”

- **Dr Ho Wai Lam**  
  “Community Rehabilitation for Stroke Patients with Communication Disorders”

- **Dr Pang Ming Fai**  
  “New Perspective in Parent Education”

- **Dr Allan Yuen**  
  “The Apps for Parents and Teachers: Nurturing the Digital Natives”

Social Pedagogic Contexts for Teaching and Research in Mathematics (SPeCTRM)

SPeCTRM is a bilateral research project between HKU and the University of Cambridge, funded by a Research Grant Council in Hong Kong and an Economic and Social Research Council in the United Kingdom. This project aims to establish an intercultural community of practice between English and Hong Kong primary school teachers and researchers for the sharing of knowledge and expertise, provide professional development for primary school teachers in understanding and applying social pedagogic principles to group work in mathematics, and determine the effects of implemented group work on teachers’ self-efficacy to teach mathematics and children’s higher order mathematical thinking.

The HKU research team includes Faculty members, such as Professor Peter Kutnick, Professor Frederick Leung, Dr Ida Mok, Dr Dennis Fung, Ms Betty Lee, and Ms Veronica Lai. The Cambridge team includes Professor Maurice Galton, Dr Linda Hargreaves, and Ms Susan Steward. The teams recently conducted the first part of the research on the relationships among teachers’ mathematical knowledge, pedagogical efficacy, and students’ mathematical performance. The second part of the research will be on the SPeCTRM intervention to enhance the mathematical learning of children and a comparison of social pedagogic effects on mathematical learning of students in Hong Kong and the United Kingdom.
4th International Conference on Han Characters Education and Research

Centre for Advancement of Chinese Language Education and Research (CACLER) hosted the 4th International Conference on Han Characters Education and Research (「第四屆漢字與漢字教育」國際研討會) at HKU on August 15 and 16, 2013. The conference was co-organized with the Korea Society of Education in Chinese Characters and Classics, the Society of Korean Classical Chinese Education, and the Ethnic Chinese Classic Texts and Characters Research Center at Beijing Normal University.

The opening was led by Professor Amy Tsui, Pro-Vice Chancellor and Vice President (Teaching and Learning), and Professor Cheng Kai Ming, Chairman, Standing Committee on Language Education and Research, EDB. The keynote speakers included Professor Huang Chenya, Chairman of the Hong Kong Brain Foundation Ltd., Professor Huang Pei Jung, Department of Chinese Literature, Chinese Culture University, Taiwan, and Dr Song Pyung Nyul, President of the Korea Society of Education in Chinese Characters and Classics, South Korea.

With the main themes of Chinese character education and research on Chinese characters, the conference brought together scholars, researchers, and practitioners from different countries to share their ideas, experiences, and research findings of teaching and learning of Chinese characters.

In the midst of hoisting typhoon signal no. 8, approximately 100 scholars from Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, mainland China, Macau, and Hong Kong participated; approximately 80 papers were presented; and three peer-reviewed international journals were published. This platform helped stimulate a wealth of acclaimed publications contributing to CACLER’s reputation as a hub of scholarly research into the teaching and learning of Chinese characters. The next conference will be held in South Korea in the summer of 2014. For more details, please visit our conference website at http://cacler.hku.hk/conference13.

The Training Programme for Principals from Gansu Province, supported by the Tin Ka Ping Foundation, was jointly organized by the Centre for Educational Leadership and Wah Ching Centre of Research on Education in China. It was conducted through a field trip in November 2013. Thirty junior secondary school principals and government officials from Gansu Province visited several schools and attended seminars in Hong Kong.

The Quality Education Secretariat had commissioned CACLER to host the “QTN on Chinese Language” from 2011 to 2012 and from 2012 to 2013 with a project sum of 1.8 million and 2.6 million, respectively. This project aimed to assist (1) schools to develop school-based self-learning Chinese language curriculum, (2) teachers to recognize self-learning strategies of students, (3) participating students to develop self-learning strategies, and (4) teachers to develop curriculum design to facilitate students’ self-learning capabilities and implement such a design into their classroom teaching.

Professor Tse Shek Kam, the Project Leader, was invited to deliver a speech on "Fostering Students' Self-regulated Learning" at QEF Exposition held on May 10, 2013 at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Over 200 participants, comprising school principals, teachers, and parents, attended the seminar. A showcase of learning outcomes was held on May 11, 2013 at HKU, demonstrated by approximately 400 students and teachers from 19 network schools. The participating students exchanged their learning experiences and outcomes via drama, video and Powerpoint presentation, recitation, and broadcasting. The third phase of the project from 2013 to 2014 is ongoing.

With the aims to stimulate principals’ reflection on daily practices in schools and help them adopt the most appropriate way to improve education quality, the training is the first of its kind to have government officials joining the visits and seminars. The officials, who had the same exposure as the principals to different practices in Hong Kong schools, should understand better and support the change and new policies adopted in schools by the Gansu principals.

Most participants found the trip fruitful and insightful. They were impressed by how the Hong Kong schools unleash the different potentials of students and facilitate the whole-person development of students. The management approaches and culture building within the schools also enlightened the participants.

The second round of training will be held in April 2014 for primary school principals from Gansu Province.
**Event Spotlight**

**A New Look of Our Website**

To celebrate the Faculty’s Pearl Jubilee in 2014, the Faculty has reinvented the website to connect more effectively with our key stakeholders and the wider community. You are invited to have a taste of our achievements in teaching and learning, research as well as community engagement.

The dynamic and interactive design will enable you to learn more about us - our 7 divisions, 8 centres, the programmes we offer, our research initiatives, latest news, upcoming events, etc. - and also maintain strong ties with us.

Do enjoy exploring our website at [http://web.edu.hku.hk](http://web.edu.hku.hk) and Facebook at [https://www.facebook.com/education.hku](https://www.facebook.com/education.hku)!

**Information Day for Undergraduate Admissions 2013**

The “Information Day for Undergraduate Admissions” of HKU was held on November 9, 2013. The Faculty’s three information talks were attended by 500 participants. Over 5,000 copies of the newly designed Faculty Undergraduate Prospectus were distributed to visitors. The participants included secondary school students, parents, and teachers.

With the support of student assistants, the Faculty set up a series of exhibition booths at the Rayson Huang Theatre to introduce related programme information and provide visitors a glimpse of the campus life at HKU.

**Cross-border Engagement in Thailand**

Professor Stephen Andrews, Dean of Education; Dr Pang Ming Fai, Associate Dean [Cross-border/International Engagement]; and Ms Queenie Wong, Senior Manager [Development and Communications], visited Thailand from November 20 to 23, 2013 to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology (IPST) to support academic collaboration, and to promote the Faculty’s postgraduate programmes to Chulalongkorn University.

**Get a Ride with Us!**

The Faculty is reaching out to you for the second time, inviting you to the tram.
Overseas and Mainland Visitors

- Education Counsellors from Finland on September 5, 2013
- Qufu Normal University, China on August 5, 2013
- Dong Bu High School, Daegu, South Korea on January 21, 2014
- Seoul National University, South Korea on December 6, 2013
- Delegation from 15 Russian Universities on December 12, 2013
- Suan Sunandha Rajabhat University, Thailand on October 22, 2013
- The Institute for the Promotion of Teaching Science and Technology, Thailand on February 10, 2014
- Shanghai Normal University, China on January 23, 2014
- Chulalongkorn University, Thailand on January 10, 2014

Donations and Scholarships

Professor Nancy Law in support of the Centre for Information Technology in Education (CITE)

Dr Serena Yang in establishing the Endowed Professorship in Early Childhood Development and Education

Mr Tse Sik Yan and Hughes Hall of The University of Cambridge in setting up the Tse Family HKU-Cambridge Hughes Hall Scholarships

Innovative Trips, Ltd., a representative of 15 Russian universities, in support of the Education Policy Unit

Awardees of scholarships, please visit http://web.edu.hku.hk/news/2014-02

Correction: The entry in the "Donation" column on page 16 of Education Matters Volume 11 No.2 (2013) should read "Mrs Lina Fong in setting up Mr Joseph Sen Memorial Scholarship". We apologize for the misprint.
Shi Jinhuan shared her teaching experiences and the results of her “National Survey of Student Engagement in China.” HKU students also visited an experimental Hongyin Primary School in Haidian district.

All HKU students enjoyed discussing their concerns with education experts, THU academic staff, and doctoral students. Our postgraduate students successfully obtained new knowledge and understanding of Chinese higher education from HKU-China 1000 exchange programme. The following are among the feedback and comments from the participating students:

“From July 10 to 15, 2013, students from HKU and Tsinghua University (THU) joined the summer exchange programme “Challenges of the 21st Century: Education Reform and Development Policies in China”, which was funded by the Central Government Fund for 1,000 HKU students and staff visiting China, with 19 HKU postgraduate students and 19 students of the Doctor of Education programme of THU.

This programme provided a unique opportunity for students to understand more about higher education in Mainland China. Mr Zhou Yuanqin, former Vice Minister of Education, explained current Chinese higher education reform, developments, and existing problems. Ms Wu Qidi, former Vice President of Shanghai Jiaotong University, introduced future trends in managing scientific problems and the growing trend of massive open online courses. Professor Shi Jinhuan shared her teaching experiences and the results of her “National Survey of Student Engagement in China.” HKU students also visited an experimental Hongyin Primary School in Haidian district.

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“The trip was a well-balanced informative trip on the progress and direction of higher education in China. Although most of our time was spent listening to lectures, the day trip to an experimental primary school was enlightening because it provided us with insight into what we could do about formal education according to the latest pedagogies.”

Jack Chan

“I was so glad to attend the summer exchange programme in THU, and I gained new knowledge about Chinese educational reform and development. In addition, some of the knowledge could not be learned from textbooks but by listening to experts’ direct experience and sharing thoughts with new friends.”

Li Ronghui

Research Postgraduate Student Exchange 2013

The Faculty has established partnerships with a number of prestigious institutions for research postgraduate student exchange. Our students receive financial support to spend a period of time in another institution for academic exchange and conference participation. Several of our research postgraduate students participated in exchange activities in 2013. They would like to share their experience with us.

Three-Week Visit to School of Critical Studies in Education (CRSTIE), Faculty of Education, University of Auckland, New Zealand

By Violet Iu, PhD Student

I had precious opportunities to present my study at the Faculty’s 2013 Doctoral and Postgraduate Symposium, a CRSTIE department seminar and a research discussion group held by the Postgraduate Student Association.

The research visit was not only an opportunity for me to be involved in academic networking with scholars at the University of Auckland but also a marvelous cultural exchange experience. More importantly, I was inspired by the seriousness in learning and keenness to pursue professional advancement of doctoral students at this university. They have motivated me to strive for excellence in polishing and developing what I have been writing for my study.
One-Week Visit to the Higher School of Economics (HSE),
Moscow, Russia
By Vickie Yau and Marina Ma, PhD Students

A six-degree Celsius temperature does not seem so cold, except when you left Hong Kong at 30 degrees at the end of September. We arrived in Moscow and were greeted by an official from HSE. The three-day international conference organized by HSE, entitled “University Traditions: a Resource or a Burden”, was intense and well facilitated, with simultaneous interpretation between Russian and English. We attended numerous presentations by renowned scholars and researchers and gained significant insight into research methods, latest trends, and directions in our field.

We had an opportunity to visit the Kremlin and learned about the transformations of the centre of Moscow through different eras and political regimes. We also enjoyed spending time at the Red Square, Historical Museum, and the Tretyakov State Gallery for Russian Art; wandering into the Orthodox Church to attend Sunday mass; and getting lost to find art, history, and culture in a rich and stimulating environment where stories and symbols are embedded in every corner and on every street.

One-Week Visit to Department of Education, Seoul National University (SNU), South Korea
By Marina Ma, Hayes Tang, David Woo, and Xueyan Xu, PhD Students

Last October, we participated in the research student exchange to SNU with the theme “Critical Issues in the Development of Asian Higher Education”. The programme started with a postgraduate seminar on the massification of higher education and the future of university, which was conducted by Professor Jung Cheol Shin of SNU. We received a warm welcome from Professor Shin’s doctoral and masteral students of Higher Education. Enjoying the cozy weather in autumn, we shared thoughts, exchanged ideas, and built intellectual friendships when we toured around Seoul City and campuses, talked over Korean meals, and attended academic activities during the trip.

The exchange centred on the 14th International Conference on Education Research held at the SNU Hoam Convention Centre. The Graduate Workshop for Education Policy Research was arranged for graduate students from leading Asian universities in education research, including HKU, SNU, and Tokyo University. We presented papers at the Asian Education Policy Forum during the conference and received thoughtful and encouraging comments from invited speakers. We thank Professors Gerard Postiglione and Jung Cheol Shin for making this HKU–SNU exchange happen.

Ten-Day Visit to Graduate School of Education (GSE), Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU), China
By Li Xiaoliang, Daniel, PhD Student

I was fortunate to be selected as an exchange student and supported to participate in the International Summer School hosted by the GSE of SJTU in July 2013. The experience was fruitful and joyful. I had opportunities to learn from lectures and workshops that focused on higher education policy and planning, and were delivered by professors from mainland China, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Hong Kong. More directly, I benefited considerably from the roundtable discussion with graduate students with similar research interests. After presenting my research project, I received insightful feedback from summer school fellows from SJTU, Columbia University, and Nagoya University.

It was my first time in Shanghai. I enjoyed the excursions to Songjiang University Town and a nearby water town, Zhujiajiao, explored different aspects of Shanghai, and made friends from various parts of the world. The other students and I exchanged more ideas about our research topics.
Dreamers at Heart: Project “Ignite the Dreams”
By Jaclyn Yeung, BEd(LangEd) Primary English (2013); English Teacher, St. Paul’s Co-Ed Primary School

“Ignite the Dreams” consists of a team of passionate undergraduate students who are determined to empower primary school students in China. The team received the Service 100 Fund from the Centre of Development and Resources (CEDARS) and set off to Shandong, China in January 2014 to begin their voluntary English teaching at Shuiji Central Elementary School. “Ignite the Dreams” was founded by three students from the Faculty of Architecture and grew into a team of 10 students from different faculties.

In mid-November, I offered a workshop to the team and shared my own teaching experiences with them. Some basic beliefs and theories of teaching were introduced to the students. For example, “What are some learning objectives we have in mind?” and “How can we structure our lessons in a meaningful and purposeful way?” These questions helped us get into a correct mindset that facilitated the later stages of the workshop in which I introduced some interactive tasks and games. As a teacher myself, I believe students learn best when they engage in fun activities that are personal to them. Therefore, a range of activities were shared with the team. They also had an opportunity to try out and play the games.

I am extremely grateful for the opportunity to share my teaching beliefs with a team of dedicated undergraduates who aim to empower students in China through English language education. As the Faculty of Education has always nurtured us to be change agents in the field, I hope my small contribution could help the team fulfill their dream.

I wish the “Dreamers” the best of luck in their teaching, and I am sure it will be a rewarding experience for them!

Dialogue in the Dark

The HKU Education Alumni Association (HKUEdAA) organized an event on “Dialogue in the Dark” on July 13, 2013. “Dialogue in the Dark” is a social enterprise that originated from Germany in 1988 and has presented itself in over 34 countries and 164 cities across the world since then. In bringing Dialogue in the Dark to Hong Kong, the HKUEdAA invited a group of 30 members and friends to participate in the activity. All participants enjoyed the experience in the dark, and consequently had a deeper concern for the minority sectors of society.

10th Annual General Meeting of HKUEdAA

The 10th Annual General Meeting of the HKUEdAA and a dinner gathering were held on November 30, 2013. Mr Chan Tak Hang, former Principal of Chiu Chow Association Secondary School and former Vice Principal of Pui Ching Middle School, was invited to share with members his experience of “Avoiding Potential Litigations in Schools”. Mr Chan vividly portrayed different cases he handled in schools to illustrate potential litigations. Members were impressed with the fruitful KE related to the management in schools.
Ms Diana Lee has taken up a new position as Lecturer in the Division in the Learning, Development, and Diversity. Ms Lee received her MEd (Early Childhood Education) from HKU, a MPhil (Research in Second Language Education) from the University of Cambridge, and is a final-year PhD candidate at HKU. She is a qualified kindergarten teacher and worked at an international school in Hong Kong for a decade, four years of which were spent as a kindergarten principal. Ms Lee was a Project Manager in the Division, managing a UNICEF-funded project in East Asia-Pacific.
People

Welcome

Division of Information and Technology Studies
Professor Liaquat Hossain, Professor of Information Management

From 2000 to 2013, Professor Hossain served as Director, Deputy Head, Sub, and Associate Dean at the Faculty of Engineering and IT at the University of Sydney. He has secured AU$10M in competitive research funding from various international agencies. He is the author of 75 papers in international peer-reviewed journals, 92 papers in peer-reviewed international conferences, 11 peer-reviewed book chapters, and 2 books, covering a wide range of disciplines, such as information sciences, computational science, knowledge management, decision support, behavioral sciences, network science, applied mathematics, statistical mechanics, environmental science, engineering management, complexity, physics, medicine, and public health.

Division of Policy, Administration and Social Sciences Education
Dr Xie Ailei, Post-doctoral Fellow

Dr Xie obtained his PhD in Sociology of Education from HKU. His research and teaching interests include the academic integration between China and Hong Kong, equity and access in the educational system of China, and rural education in the same country. Before joining HKU, he was an Assistant Professor at the Graduate School of Education, Shanghai Jiao Tong University. He has university teaching and supervisory experiences at the postgraduate level.

Division of Learning, Development, and Diversity
Dr Chen Gaowei, Assistant Professor

Dr Chen received his PhD in Educational Psychology from CUHK. He was a postdoctoral associate at the Learning Research and Development Center, University of Pittsburgh and Pittsburgh Science of Learning Center.

By applying statistical and machine learning models to studies of classroom and online discussions, Dr Chen examined how teacher–student and student–student interactions produce strong effects on learning.

Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences
Dr Wong Min Ney, Post-doctoral Fellow

Dr Wong earned her PhD in Speech Pathology at the University of Queensland, Australia in 2012 and was a speech–language pathologist in Malaysia prior to that. Her research interests include assessment and treatment of neurogenic speech and language disorders as well as auditory habilitation in cochlear implant users.

Miss Carmela Choi Yau Tin, Assistant Lecturer

Ms Tin completed her Bachelor degree in Speech and Hearing Sciences and Master degree in Inclusive and Special Education at HKU. She was a speech therapist serving preschool children and students in special schools. Ms Tin specializes in supporting children with autism spectrum disorders and intellectual disabilities as well as developing treatment materials in the local context. She belongs to a production team that develops training tools for children with autism spectrum disorders and an electronic augmentative and alternative communication system for students in special schools.

Division of Learning, Development, and Diversity
Dr Timothy Khe Foon Hew, Associate Professor

Dr Hew earned his Bachelor and Master degrees from Singapore and his PhD from the United States. His research interests are e-learning/blended learning strategies and instructional design. He has won research grants amounting to over S$620,000 and awards, including the 2006 ETR&D Young Scholar Award, the 2011 IGI Global 4th Annual Excellence in Research Journal Award, and the Best Paper Award at the 2012 International Conference on ICT in Teaching and Learning. He has more than 10 years of teaching experience in Singapore and the United States.

Division of Policy, Administration and Social Sciences Education
Dr Zhang Wei, Post-doctoral Fellow

Dr Zhang commenced her university studies at Peking University, Beijing, majoring in Russian Language and Literature. She worked as a secretary at the Embassy of Georgia in China before proceeding to the University of Oslo in Norway for MPhil studies in higher education. She subsequently undertook doctoral research on shadow education with our Faculty and worked at the UNESCO regional office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, Thailand.

Mrs Chan Pun Kit Ling, Lecturer

Mrs Chan is a dedicated professional with approximately 30 years of experience in special education. She began her career as a Teacher Assistant in Speech Therapy and then worked as a special education teacher while continuing her Master degree studies. She introduced significant changes in teaching approaches when she was the Vice Principal of a special school, which is part of the English Schools Foundation. With her strong belief in inclusion, she was a local advisor who supported the curriculum development of 10 special schools. She has profound interest in autism and building positive behavior.
Goodbye

We would like to express our gratitude and send our best wishes to the following staff members who have left the Faculty. They leave us with our warmest wishes for the future and, of course, will remain part of our global networks.

Division of Learning, Development, and Diversity
Ms Marty Wong, Lecturer

Division of Policy, Administration and Social Sciences Education
Dr Lee Moo Sung, Associate Professor
Dr Rattana Sae-Lao, Post-doctoral Fellow
Ms Cynthia Scarborough, Teaching Assistant

Division of Speech and Hearing Sciences
Dr Diana Ho, Research Assistant Professor

New Books

怎樣進行語文教育研究
Methods of Research and Enquiry in Chinese Language Education
作者
谢锡金
出版
北京师范大学出版集团

提升儿童阅读能力到世界前列
Enhancing Children’s Reading Literacy to International Top Level
作者
Dan Wang
出版
北京师范大学出版集团

葉紹德粵劇劇本精選 ( 漢英雙語 )
Yip Shiu Tak’s Cantonese Opera Manuscripts (in Chinese and English)
编者
吴凤平，陈健
译者
陈健，黎翠珍，林海燕，李沛妍
出版
香港大学教育学院中文教育研究中心

Comparative Education Research: Approaches and Methods (Second Edition)
Editors
Mark Bray, Bob Adamson, Mark Mason
Published by
Comparative Education Research Centre and Springer

Effective Group Work in Primary School Classrooms: The SPRinG Approach
Authors
Peter Kutnick, Peter Blatchford
Published by
Springer

The Demoralization of Teachers: Crisis in a Rural School in China
Author
Dan Wang
Published by
Lexington Books

The Malleability of Intellectual Styles
Author
Li-fang Zhang
Published by
New York: Cambridge University Press

Coming Events

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Venue and Details</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>May 15, 2014</td>
<td>Open House</td>
<td>HKU Campus</td>
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<td><a href="http://web.edu.hku.hk/openhouse2014">http://web.edu.hku.hk/openhouse2014</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 16-25, 2014</td>
<td>Higher Education for Tomorrow: A Summer Institute</td>
<td>HKU Campus</td>
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<td><a href="http://web.edu.hku.hk/summer-institute-2014">http://web.edu.hku.hk/summer-institute-2014</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>June 20, 2014</td>
<td>Partnership Forum</td>
<td>Room 726, 7/F, Knowles Building, HKU</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 25, 2014</td>
<td>Distinguished Lecture</td>
<td>Rayson Huang Theatre, HKU</td>
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Alumni Information Update

To maintain close ties with the Faculty and the University, you are invited to inform us if there is any change in your contact details by sending the update to:

Address: Room 404, Runme Shaw Building, Faculty of Education, The University of Hong Kong
Email: eduert@hku.hk   Fax: 2540 6360

Name: ____________________________ (surname first)  Chinese name: ___________  Gender: M / F (delete as appropriate)

Correspondence address: ________________________________________________________________

Telephone: ___________________________ (home)  ___________________________ (office)  ___________________________ (mobile)

Fax: ___________________________  Email: ___________________________  Occupation: ___________________________

Company name and address: _____________________________________________________________

_________________________________________________________________________________  

Year of graduation: ___________________________  Degree awarded: ___________________________  Major (if applicable): ___________________________