

# Alumni



NEWS

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

July 2011

## Help Provide Nourishment for Our Future Growth

- The alumni who embody “spirit of giving”
- Offer your support by becoming a donor, too!
- Alumni leaders — new Convocation Chairman and HKUSTAA President on their hopes and aims
- Breakthrough highlights brain plasticity
- Global alumni community marks University’s 20th anniversary

  
Our Miracle Continues



# 02



## contents

### 01 | Foreword

President's Message

### 02 | Feature

The Spirit of Giving – ways to support your Alma Mater

### 08 | The HKUST Edge

Breakthrough Highlights Brain Plasticity – research provides insight into neurodegenerative diseases

### 10 | Global Horizons

### 12 | Insight

Founding Chairman of Convocation and new President of HKUSTAA outline their plans and wishes

### 14 | Spotlight

HKUST Pioneer – Dr Jack Lau takes his high-tech company onto the Hong Kong Stock Exchange main board

### 15 | Event Roundup

### 18 | Class Notes

### 20 | News Flash

HKUST No. 1 in Asia, plus news of 20th anniversary highlights



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Published by Development & Alumni Office  
The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong  
Tel: (852) 2358 6158  
Fax: (852) 3743 0939  
Email: [alumni@ust.hk](mailto:alumni@ust.hk)  
[www.ust.hk/alumni](http://www.ust.hk/alumni)



Library extension

Dear Alumni,

As the University celebrates its 20th anniversary with events throughout this year, it has been particularly gratifying to see the various overseas alumni organizations playing a full role in activities. In fact, the anniversary has served to stimulate a blossoming in the alumni network, from Shanghai to Boston, from New York to Zurich, and points in between, including Hong Kong, of course. In particular, I would like to congratulate the new leaderships of Convocation and HKUST Alumni Association (HKUSTAA) – Sean Lin, Convocation Chairman, and Laura Cozijnsen, President of HKUSTAA.

I am sure that by now you are all aware that your Alma Mater is currently ranked Asia's No. 1 university by the prestigious Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) university rating service of London, and I know that you all share in our pride. And the fact that we are such a “young” institution makes this achievement all the more notable.

We owe part of our success to the environment in which the University has been nurtured and grown – Hong Kong. Over the years, Hong Kong has shown itself to be a very flexible community, constantly adjusting and adapting itself to the changing world. And at no time are these characteristics more applicable, as technological breakthroughs

occur at breakneck speed, than now.

In a recent speech, Premier Wen Jia-bao urged Hong Kong to pursue science and technology, in order to take advantage of the nation's technological progress and investments. At the University, we concur: investment in R&D is vital if Hong Kong wants to continue to be innovative and forward thinking. Investment in science and technology does not come cheap. However, not to invest would be even more expensive in the long term.

This issue of *Alumni News* carries stories that highlight the “giving spirit” of alumni. There is a group of biology graduates who together have joined the Adopt-a-Seat program. There is also Christopher Erbach, the exchange-in student, who has created a scholarship to enable students to study overseas. Plus there is Dr James She, an alumnus and visiting professor, who used his social and professional network to secure a donation to set up the Nie Social Media Laboratory at the University. They are all wonderful examples of how alumni can give back to their Alma Mater. It shows that anyone can become a donor, no matter how big or small their resources are.

We have alumni in almost every part of the world, and in a huge variety of professions and industries – and many of you are leaders, innovators and decision makers and widely recognized for your achievements in your

chosen field. We know we can count on you to support the University, its future success and the Hong Kong community as a whole.

I would like to conclude by talking about another initiative – the concept of 1-HKUST. Another factor behind our success is the fact that all members of the University work as an integrated team, whether their primary focus be education, research or community engagement. By working together, we can achieve a much greater impact than all the individual parts on their own. Teamwork allows us to magnify the strengths of individual Schools and disciplines.

I have had the pleasure to meet many of you at events in Hong Kong and around the world recently. It is very heart-warming to hear about not only your own successes, but also observe the high regard and affection that you hold for the University. I look forward to meeting more of you in the coming months at various 20th anniversary events.

Best wishes,



**Prof Tony F Chan**  
President

# The Spirit of Giving

Growth rings on a tree mark the passage of time and show how it has grown over the years. At HKUST, our growth is also visible. We are not just talking about numbers of graduates, but our influence in academia, in Hong Kong, and in the wider world, too.

Just like a tree that needs water, sunlight and nutrients to flourish, so the University needs nourishment. There is no doubt that our growth to date has been miraculous, given that we are ranked No.1 in Asia and have only been in existence for 20 years, but our continued success relies very much on greater support from alumni.

Behind the success of the big names in global education is strong financial support from alumni. Each year, for example, US News surveys more than 1,700 colleges and universities, which report the percentage of alumni who made a recent financial donation, among numerous other data points. At Princeton, for example, the figure is over 60 percent – very impressive. According to a survey conducted by The Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania, in 2005 at Harvard, 48 percent of total university income came from donors. We can see that giving is a culture in overseas countries, particularly the US.

Our alumni play an important role at HKUST – your successes in your careers are the best testimonials we can have regarding the effectiveness of a HKUST education. But as well as acting as ambassadors for the University, it is also important to remember that we need support in other ways, too.

The theme for this edition of Alumni News is “the spirit of giving”, and we highlight the stories of alumni who have found different ways of donating. There is the group of Biology alumni from the class of 1996 who have banded together to “adopt” seats in a lecture theater. There is Dr James She who has called on his professional and personal connections to establish a new Social Media Lab. There is exchange-in student Christopher Erbach, who is now working in the financial services industry in London and has created a scholarship that allows less privileged HKUST students to take up overseas exchange offers.

These stories serve as great examples of how alumni can be creative about their donating – and it is not so much the amount of money involved, but the spirit in which it is given. They understand that government funding is not sufficient for the University to fulfill its mission to promote the advancement of society by producing global leaders, innovations, and new knowledge. Government subsidies only account for half of the University’s expenses. Donations really do make a difference to students’ lives and their future careers, as well as boosting our competitiveness as an institution.

We are all proud of HKUST, especially in this 20th anniversary year, so we hope that the stories in these pages will inspire you to ensure the University’s prosperity and success! And like a well tended tree, we will grow strong and healthy and be a credit to society.





# Connecting the Dots

# D

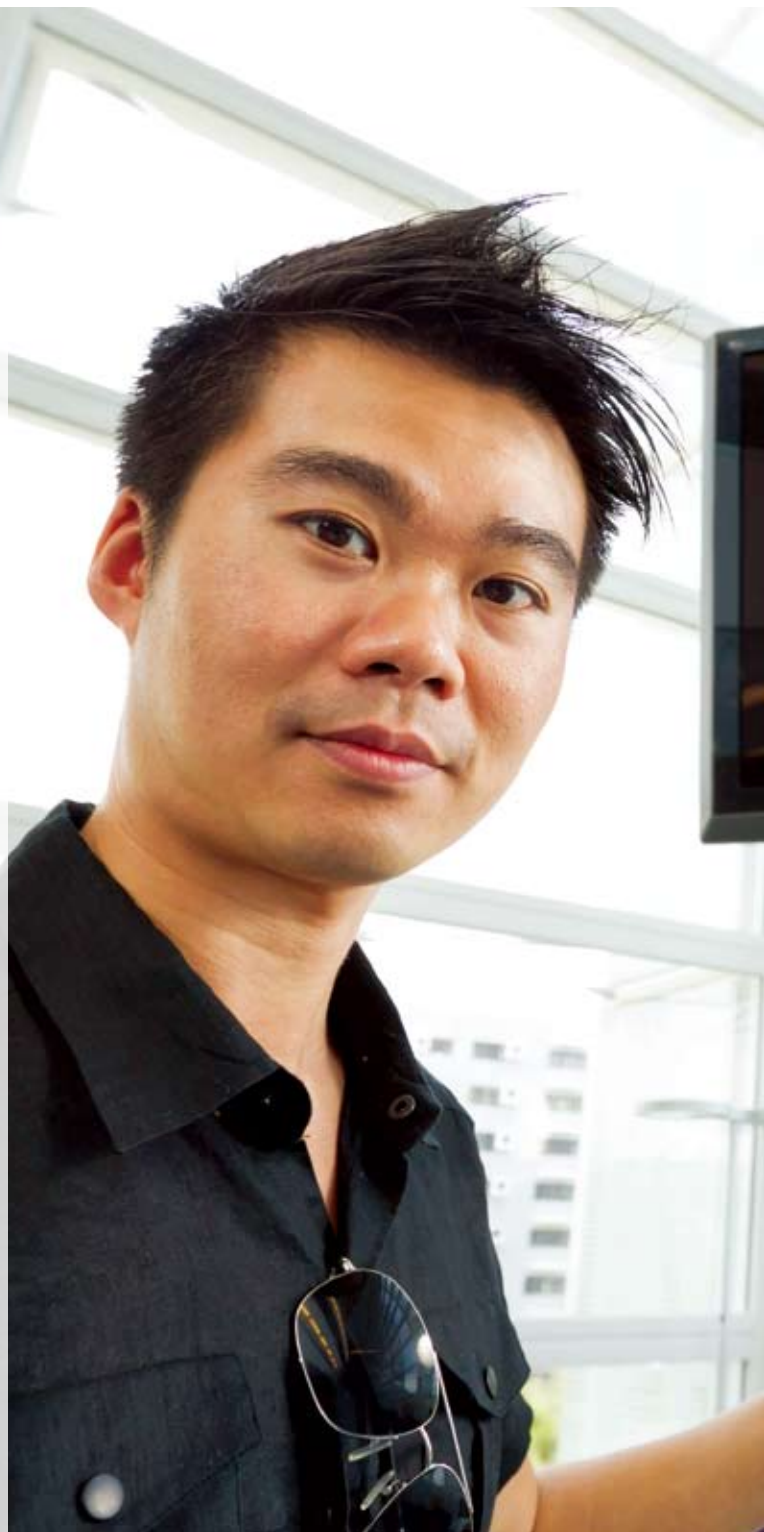
Dr James She, Visiting Assistant Professor at the Department of Electronic & Computer Engineering as well as a Research Fellow at the University of Cambridge in the UK, has successfully secured donations and sponsorships of over HK\$3 million to set up an unconventional research laboratory at HKUST - the Nie Social Media Laboratory.

Dr She and his group focus on research and design issues related to next-generation social media systems, networks and applications in emerging cyber-physical societies and Internet of Things environments. These cover media broadcast in human-mobile networks, interactive and sensing flexible displays, cyber-physical social media and more. In addition to these novel research areas, the lab will also produce independent TV tech shows featuring emerging media devices and social networking technologies that effect changes in the business world and everyday life.

The inception of the lab has been made possible by the generous support of a group of luminaries and academics who envision the potential impact of future social media and networking technologies. The major donor amongst them is Mr Bill Nie, the Chief Executive Officer of TS First Fortune Asset Management. Mr Nie, who is based in Shanghai, is a young entrepreneur focusing on private equity investments in IT sectors in China. "We were actually classmates and roommates when we did our graduate studies together at Waterloo, and we shared a strong belief in research, innovation and entrepreneurship as a result of being exposed to many successful stories in the West," says Dr She.

"As well as the donation from Mr Nie, we also have sponsorship and support from a range of companies. The win-win university-industrial collaboration is very important, given the speed at which developments occur in the world of IT, electronic and computer engineering," he adds. "With the valuable industrial network and research experiences acquired at Waterloo and Cambridge, I can connect the right 'dots' with high-tech companies and industrial professionals, thereby transferring research findings into real benefits. Through collaborations, we can develop the 'next big thing' that is scientifically and commercially viable.

"Through this lab, we want to propel scientific advances and impact that click with peoples' lives and, of course, the industry. We need to think 'out of the box' and synergize amidst the emerging industrial and social situations. This is why I maintain close interactions with industrial visionaries. They shed new light on the frontiers of advanced research."







The Nie Social Media Laboratory, set up with over HK\$3 million donations, sponsorship and in-kinds from Sony, CNN and others, is focusing on the research and design issues about next-generation social media systems, networks and applications in emerging cyber-physical societies and Internet of Things environments. The lab will also help talented individuals, researchers and high-tech companies to make the most of the opportunities in this coming digital economy.



He explains that people in the media and communication industries are constantly looking for new ways to make their products or services more pervasive and cost-effective in cyber-physical environments. “Through academic-industrial partnerships, they will help to foster interesting scientific discoveries that could potentially have significant impact in the world, more than simply just in the prestigious publications,” says Dr She.

He points out that many SMEs do not have the resources for their own research division, but they can provide modest sponsorship or some funding for research projects and as a result can share the research results. “Even for big companies, the burden of their business direction or the legacy of the product line may not allow them to carry out creative research that is too aggressive or out of the box, but they can leverage on the university research. There is also ample room of multi-faceted collaborations in the arenas of viral marketing over smartphone/tablet network, smart clothing and cloud-computing,” says Dr She.

The lab will not only train researchers and students to investigate fundamental issues on related scientific fields, but it will also foster “imagineers” who will be able to realize exciting implementations and innovative applications. “It is being set up for conceptualization, building solutions and conducting comprehensive trials before it can offer real-life solutions,” says Dr She.

Dr She received his BEng degree in Computer Engineering and his MPhil degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from HKUST, with his master’s thesis generating US and Chinese patents. From 2000-2003, he served as Chief Technology Officer for SinoCDN Limited, leading a team of 12 engineers in product development and systems

integration. He has received a number of awards, including being named one of “Ten Outstanding Young Digi-Persons” by the Innovation and Technology Association and the Hong Kong Government, and two Hong Kong Industry Awards.

Dr She completed his PhD degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering from the University of Waterloo in 2009, and was one of two graduates across all departments to be honored with “Outstanding Performance of Graduate Studies”. He also became the only recipient of three prestigious national awards in the same year - NSERC Postdoctoral Fellowship Award, NSERC Innovation Challenge Award and Canada-UK Millennium Research Award.



He is excited to be spending time at HKUST. “As a young university, it has strong momentum, as witnessed

by our number one ranking in Asia. It has the open-mindedness to take on unconventional research areas. The Nie Social Media Lab can serve as an intellectual social hub to outreach and connect international researchers and industry people from growing enterprises in Mainland China and other parts of Asia. All the connected ‘dots’ of academics, industrial entrepreneurs and individuals can embrace the energy of HKUST to bring about more miracles regionally or globally,” says Dr She. “I am happy to be able to take the time to return home to contribute and grow with HKUST.”



## Exchange Inspiration

Former exchange student Christopher Erbach, who now works as a financial analyst at a major international investment bank in London, has recently donated HK\$25,000 to the University. And what's more – his employer is matching Chris's donation.

Chris, who at the time was a student at the University of Waterloo in Canada, says he enjoyed his exchange-in very much, and it taught him several key lessons. "The most important was how competitive it is in Hong Kong for jobs, internships and exchanges," he says. "I decided to donate the money for a scholarship to enable a student to go aboard, who otherwise would not have the financial resources to do so."

He relates his decision to become an exchange student. "Entering my final year at the University of Waterloo, I was ready for adventure. Canada's a great country, but I wanted to try living somewhere totally different. That's how I ended up at HKUST – the perfect choice for exchange, I must say."

One of Chris's favourite memories is of attending Slancio, the 2009-2010 Management Students' Association inauguration ceremony. "It was one of those only-in-Hong Kong experiences, when the Accounting Society delivers cake to your classroom in exchange for your vote of support. Wow!"

Chris got the opportunity to travel around Asia, including Macau, Taiwan, Thailand and the Mainland, during his exchange. "I particularly liked Lijiang – maybe even Asia's most beautiful historic city." He worked hard, too. "For COMP341, I spent a few weekends in the labs writing graphics tools. For ACCT361, I spent several more with the Companies' Ordinance, not to mention my legal paper. My roommate wanted to play guitar, but the engineering books opened every night regardless – everyone is determined to do well here. But the most important lesson I learned is that I was very lucky to have such a great chance to study at HKUST."

"After graduating, I was lucky enough to have earnings to donate, and I wanted to give adventurous HKUST students the same chance to live somewhere totally different. So, I have made a donation for international exchange, which I hope can deliver that chance."

One student who has already benefitted from Chris's donation is Pang Yu. "The exchange scholarship is one of the foundation stones of internationalizing HKUST. I'd like to say 'thank you' to Chris for his benevolence and the opportunity given to me!"



## Standing Tall, Sitting Proud

A group of Biology alumni from the Class of 1996 have been donating annually to the University for the past six years. The alumni joined the "Adopt-a-Seat" program, and now have six named seats in Lecture Theater C.

The alumni – Cheng Pit Kai, Sam Chiu Chi Fai, Lai Chi Kwan, Leung Wai Kit, Lok Yu Leung, Lor Yu Keung, Lui Kwan Tat, Ngai Tak Ming, Tsai Lin Wai, Wu Ho Wan and Ken Yum King Hung – are now working in diversified areas. Several are civil servants in various government departments including Customs & Excise, Agricultural, Fisheries & Conservation, Lands and Fire Services, while others are biomedical professionals in the private sector. They keep in touch with one another, and it has become a tradition to meet up every Chinese New Year.

On the 10th anniversary of their meeting at the University, they chose to adopt seats in Lecture Theater C. Sam Chiu reminisces: "Our group had strategic deployment and

we sent representatives to seize the best seats in the lecture theater, while others were responsible for securing seats for us all in the library and the Chinese restaurant!" He notes that the seat adoption is not only a mark of their friendship, but also proof of their support for the University's mission.

"We are proud of the astounding growth of HKUST. We benefitted enormously from the University, and want to give back, so the next generation can continue the legacy of innovation."

And what would be the icing on the cake? "Some of us have become parents, and we'd love to have our own children sit in the same seats, which we have named, and receive top-notch education at HKUST!"





# Breakthrough Highlights Brain Plasticity

**U**nder the leadership of Prof Nancy Ip, recently appointed Dean of Science, HKUST has achieved major breakthroughs in the development of new treatments against neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases. Given the aging populations in many parts of the world, including Hong Kong and Mainland China, and the increasing incidence of neurodegenerative diseases, this research is of great significance.

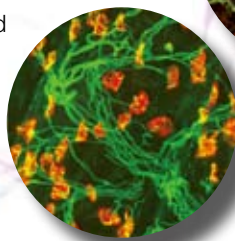
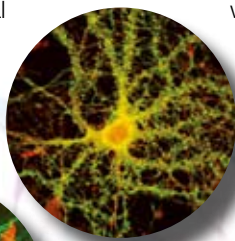
Prof Ip is an internationally renowned neuroscientist with a strong passion for her work. Her field of research primarily focuses on elucidating the functional roles of growth factors in neuronal differentiation, synapse formation and plasticity, and their potential applications in neurodegenerative diseases. She and her team have identified novel proteins that regulate brain plasticity. "I am very interested in understanding brain plasticity. Brain cells communicate at specialized sites called synapses. Plasticity refers to the ability of the brain cells to respond to extracellular cues. This is an important mechanism that underlies our ability to learn and remember – and these

changes happen at these specialized sites," she explains. "In a nutshell, we are asking 'how do we regulate brain plasticity?'. We want to know what mechanisms account for plasticity, be it at the neuronal morphology or neurotransmitter receptor level."

Studies undertaken in her lab have identified new molecular players that can mediate changes in plasticity. "In many neurodegenerative disorders, brain cell communication is impaired, which then leads to cognitive dysfunctions. By determining the mechanisms that underlie normal brain functions, we can understand what goes wrong under diseased conditions."

The pathways identified by the team are novel and have opened new avenues for other researchers. Prof Ip has published over 210 scientific papers with more than 13,500 citations. Very recent work appeared in high-profile papers in journals such as *Nature Neuroscience*, *Nature Cell Biology* and *Neuron*.

"We are particularly interested in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases, and lately we have also started to study psychiatric





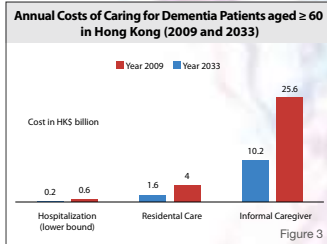
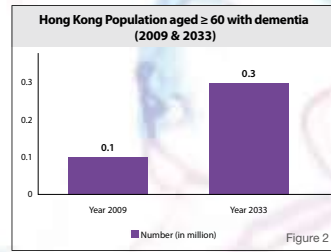
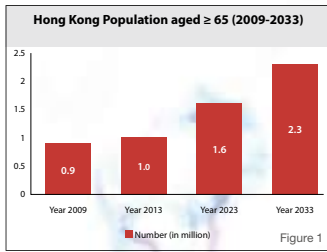


Figure 1: Hong Kong's population is aging rapidly.

Figure 2: Aging with dementia is on the rise.

Figure 3: A growing burden on the health and social care system is anticipated.

disorders,” she says. “We are screening Chinese medicine to look for active ingredients that may help to alleviate symptoms of these diseases. We have made good progress and are in discussions with pharmaceutical companies to further develop these potential drug leads. In fact, we have a number of projects planned with multinational pharmaceutical companies to investigate the properties of the lead compounds and are looking into pre-clinical studies. We are also working with them to get a better understanding of abnormal regulation of neuronal functions in disease conditions, such as what happens to the key proteins identified to be important for normal brain functions, what changes occur, and what are the consequences.” The research is being conducted at the Division of Life Science, which was recently formed by integrating the Departments of Biochemistry and Biology. In fact, HKUST’s unremitting efforts and excellence in research of neuro-diseases has been recognized by China’s Ministry of Science and Technology through the establishment of the State Key Laboratory (SKL) of Molecular Neuroscience at HKUST in 2010. The SKL of Molecular Neuroscience is the only SKL at HKUST and among only 12 in Hong Kong. Furthermore, a joint “GSK R&D China - HKUST Neuroscience Laboratory” has also been set up at HKUST through an initiative with GlaxoSmithKline R&D China, a subsidiary of GSK, the world’s second largest pharmaceutical company. This strategic collaboration is focused on determining the molecular mechanisms underlying the pathologies of neurodegenerative diseases, and to develop therapeutic drugs.

Prof Ip first realized that science was her passion while she was a student at St Mary’s Canossian College in Kowloon, Hong Kong. “I really enjoyed studying biology – the teacher was very passionate about science and I was inspired to pursue biological science.” She

went on to attend Simmons College, Boston, where she obtained her undergraduate degree in chemistry and biology, and Harvard University where she studied pharmacology. After post-doctoral training at Sloane Kettering in molecular biology, Prof Ip worked in the biopharmaceutical industry with Lifecodes Corporation and then Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, both based in New York.

She returned to her native Hong Kong in 1993 when she joined HKUST, then still in its infancy. “This was part of the reason why I joined HKUST – it was a good opportunity to be involved in bioscience development in Hong Kong, from recruiting faculty to developing innovative academic and research programs.” She also moved into academia because of her desire to teach and inspire young people to become scientists.

Prof Ip is the recipient of a number of prestigious awards, including the National Natural Science Award and the L’Oréal-UNESCO for Women in Science Award, which she won in 2004. “I was the first recipient in life sciences from China – and now I serve on the jury for future awardees,” she notes with a smile as she continues to talk about the multifaceted challenges that women face in science. “They are pursuing excellence in their career as well as taking care of the family. Based on my own experience, I was able to succeed because my family was very supportive of my passion for science. It takes determination and dedication to be successful.”

She acknowledges, however, the importance of mentorship, and that gender is irrelevant when it comes to inspiring students and post-



graduates. Being in a position to inspire the next generation, she also talks of the need to carry out research in an area that one enjoys. “We contribute a small part to an overall puzzle one step at a time. We provide solutions to a small part of the problem by working together as a team. I am just gratified to have the opportunity to interact with students and share my philosophy of research with them.”





## Room to Move

**LOS ANGELES:** There has been some media buzz recently concerning a collaboration project between HKUST and University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Both *New Scientist* and local media have covered extensively this interesting story about the “Make It Home” software program. Jointly developed by professors and students at the two institutions, the application is a virtual room design package, helping people to come up with ideas on how to arrange their furniture. Software designer Yeung Sai-kit, a HKUST PhD alumnus and UCLA postdoctoral scholar, says that the program represents a big step on from the manual systems used currently by furniture retailers. The HKUST/UCLA program enables users to place furniture according to their needs. What makes it especially notable is that the program takes just 20 seconds to move 30 objects in a room and it provides as many options as possible: the traditional system takes 20 minutes to provide just one solution. Craig Yu, a UCLA PhD candidate and also a HKUST alumnus, is excited to know that their work has been accepted to the highly competitive SIGGRAPH Computer Graphics Conference to be held in Vancouver in August 2011. HKUST President Prof Tony F Chan, also part of the team, says that there is unlimited potential for the software. It has the capability to handle office and commercial layouts, including shopping malls, city planning and even troop organisation for military use.



of the team, says that there is

## Stateside Briefings

### BOSTON & NEW YORK:

President Prof Tony F Chan and Vice-President Dr Eden Woon visited Boston and New York in May, hosting reunions and meetings with alumni. These trips presented them with a great opportunity to update stateside graduates on the exciting developments at HKUST, as well as to celebrate the 20th anniversary.



## “Gear” up for Houston Challenge

Representing Hong Kong, the HKUST Team named “Gear” led by alumni professor Prof Tim Woo has won the Design Elegance Award at the 2011 International Remotely Operated Vehicle Competition at NASA in Houston, Texas.



## Tasty Gatherings

**LONDON:** HKUST alumni based in and around London gathered for a very convivial Christmas and New Year reunion dinner in December 2010. Their latest get-together took place in mid-June at the Imperial China restaurant in the city's China Town.



## Swiss Watch

**ZURICH:** The beauty of the Swiss countryside added an extra special touch to the alumni gathering in May. A wonderful brunch, in celebration of the University's 20th anniversary, was enjoyed at the unique Sorell Hotel Zürichberg, known for its restored Art Nouveau building and lakeside setting. Following the brunch, alumni walked to the Zurich Zoo, home to 320 species of animals.



HKUST alumni in gowns gather at Stanford for their graduation; other alumni came along to support them.

## Cap and Gown Moment

**SAN FRANCISCO:** Following the dinner with President Chan last year, the HKUST alumni at Stanford drew closer together. They have a tradition of taking group graduation photos on the day of congregation in June every year. It is planned to extend this tradition to other top institutions in the Bay area.



## House Call

**SHANGHAI:** The Alumni Dinner in February was well attended and everyone had a thoroughly enjoyable time. Vice-President Dr Eden Woon was kind enough to open his house for a post-dinner party!



(From left) Raphael Young, President; Harry Kwong, Vice-President; Hugh Chan, Treasurer; Stephen Yeung, Exco Member; Desmond Chung, General Secretary and Ng King Pan, Exco Member.



## Lion Cubs

**SINGAPORE:** Vice-President Dr Eden Woon was present as more than 60 alumni celebrated HKUST's 20th anniversary in the Lion City on March 12. The occasion also served as the inauguration of the HKUST Singapore Alumni Chapter, formed with the aim of strengthening links between HKUST graduates in the city, and between them and the University. The Executive Committee is planning a series of events designed to help graduates in both personal and professional development.

# Be FIRST!

For years Sean Lin has been actively involved in student and alumni affairs, and his latest role as the head of the newly established Convocation of the University is taking his contribution to a new level.

“F”IRST” is Sean Lin’s new favourite word, which encapsulates the five focuses of the University’s newly established Convocation, of which he is the Founding Chairman. “F” stands for ‘fundraising’. ‘I’ represents the alumni’s ‘ideas’ for the Convocation. ‘R’ refers to various forms of ‘relations’: between the University and alumni, and the University and different sectors. ‘S’ means ‘sell’ – we are responsible for promoting the University, its goodwill and virtues. ‘T’ refers to the University’s various ‘targets,’” he elaborates.

This lucid strategy, according to Sean, is exactly what it takes to achieve two key objectives during his two-year tenure at the head of the over 40,000-member Convocation. “The Convocation is there to reflect the thoughts and ideas of the University’s management and present to alumni a clearer picture of the University’s development,” he says. “As the Chairman, I am also a member of the University



Council, which is the top decision-making body of the University. We’ll bring alumni within the context of the Council’s governance.”

One of the first students at the University, Sean, now a Chief Inspector of Police, has always been actively involved in student affairs. He was the Founding President of the University’s Students’ Union, and he headed HKUST Alumni Association for six years. His new role at the Convocation is for him another opportunity to give back to the University.

On a note of fundraising, Sean’s belief is that “small can be beautiful”. He donates HK\$50 to the University each month. “It may be a small amount, but we have over 40,000 alumni and if each of us gives \$50 a month, it would add up to \$24 million a year, which in turn would support university education for over 500 needy students a year. Many a little makes a mickle, as the saying goes. Together we could help 5,000 students with over \$200 million in a decade,” he says. He hopes the University will maintain its growth momentum. “In the early days when it was not as well known, it attracted a lot of young people with an adventurous mind. This spirit lives on in the student and alumni communities today. As an institution, the University is still young yet has already delivered good results. But being in a ‘good’ state can be dangerous as you may easily rest on your laurels. So it’s important to keep going – and continually strive for success.”



First Standing Committee of Convocation



# Rekindling Relationships

Despite a perennially busy work schedule, HKUSTAA chief Laura Cozijnsen has managed to pull together a long list of alumni events and strengthened the association's presence in the last few months.



“When you want something done, ask a busy person.” This maxim fits Laura Cozijnsen perfectly — not only does she run an award-winning branding and marketing agency but she is also the new President of HKUST Alumni Association (HKUSTAA). With the help of her cabinet, she has already managed to pull together a variety of alumni events, thus significantly raising the association's profile.

Since Laura began her two-year tenure as the HKUSTAA President late last year, she and her “fast-moving and energetic” team, which comprises a professor, entrepreneurs, and senior executives in a variety of professions, have received plenty of positive feedback from alumni. “Through different activities and events, we've managed to rekindle relationships among alumni,” says Laura. “The University management has also been very supportive in our activities. This is all very rewarding. We've had graduates coming forward to join the association and ask how they could help,” she says.

The team was clear about its objectives from the word go: in order to run a successful alumni association, engaging the alumni community is imperative. For the past six months, they have been focusing on “internal tasks”, including updating HKUSTAA's website and formulating a comprehensive year plan. This was coupled with numerous events catering to alumni and current University students. Apart from the usual alumni social gatherings, the association has held a leadership forum and charity events for alumni, and career-building programs for fresh graduates.

They are setting their sights not only on the Hong Kong community, but they are also stretching their tentacles to reach out to alumni outside the city. For example, the first Shenzhen alumni gathering was held in mid-June.

“The number of international students of the University has been growing. Never before has the association focused on the international alumni community, and now we're looking at rekindling relations with international graduates in Mainland China and other countries,” she explains.

Meanwhile, the team is looking forward to the annual alumni dinner on October 14 and many other events, which they believe will pan out well with their hard work. “Finally, I'd like to encourage all alumni to support and actively participate in HKUSTAA. It is a great way to give back to the University and acknowledge the huge role it has played — and continues to play — in your life and career,” says Laura.



Monthly get-togethers



Mainland & overseas events



Regular Leadership 'Face to Face' feature

# HKUST Pioneer

## Chalks Up Another Achievement



As the first person to graduate with a PhD from HKUST, Dr Jack Lau is used to being a trail-blazer. He has just completed another milestone in his distinguished career, as Perception Digital Holdings Limited, of which he is Chairman, CEO and Director, successfully completed its transfer to the main board of the Hong Kong Stock Exchange and started trading under the new stock code of 1822 in June.

Jack told the media during the ceremony to mark the listing: "We are pleased that in just 18 months after listing on the Growth Enterprise Market Board, Perception Digital opens a new page by transferring our shares to the main board. The move should boost our image and liquidity of shares, thus benefiting our future growth and business development and improving our financial flexibility." Among the guests at the ceremony eager to congratulate Jack was HKUST President Prof Tony F Chan.

Perception Digital was founded by Jack in 1999, and is the largest company to have participated in the HKUST Entrepreneurship Program in terms of the number of employees and revenue, and is the first to attain listing status. It has pioneered providing

technology turnkey and firmware solutions in the areas of portable flash, portable hard disk, desktop hard disk, car audio and 2.4 GHz digital wireless MP3 systems. From a small start up, today it employs more than 240 staff in Hong Kong and on the Mainland. With the joint efforts of the R&D team who are mostly HKUST alumni, the company has garnered numerous prestigious industrial awards and secured international patents.

In 2005-06, Jack set up the Professor Philip Chan Scholarship Fund. In 2009, he launched the "Dr Jack Lau School of Engineering Scholarship for Mainland High School Students". The scholarship aims to encourage top Mainland high school students to enroll as undergraduates in either the School of Engineering or the School of Science at HKUST. With his incessant support, a number of students have benefited from studying at HKUST, made possible by the funding of over HK\$300,000. Jack is an Adjunct Professor at the University, and in 2010 was made an honorary fellow of the University for his academic and entrepreneurial achievements. Jack was named in the Ten Most Outstanding Young Persons awards in Hong Kong in 2000. Other accolades include Hong Kong Young Industrialist in 2005, the 2009 Excellence in Achievement of World Chinese Youth Entrepreneurs, and Ernst & Young Entrepreneur of the Year, also in 2009.

Jack has said that Perception Digital would not have grown to the present scale without the continued support of HKUST, to which he remains indebted. He is also dedicated to continuously supporting young talents in their quest for technological innovation in Hong Kong. With his achievements, perseverance and vision, there are few better role models for HKUST students and alumni.



Dr Jack Lau (left) and HKUST President Prof Tony F Chan



Dr Jack Lau (fifth from left) at the listing ceremony





## Class of 2001 Reunion

Thumbs up — it not only signifies the shared sense of pride of the **Class of 2001** from a university that has recently been ranked No. 1 in Asia, but also the best study experience they received 10 years ago. So much has changed - the new library extension, the Lee Shau Kee Campus, Hall 8 and Hall 9 in the making. The alumni were overjoyed to learn about the exciting growth of the University from Vice-President Dr Eden Woon. They were particularly thrilled by the marvelous beatboxing performance and magic show given by Civil Engineering students Anton and Tat.

## Tee Time

There was plenty to celebrate as seven members of the **Alumni Golf Club** took part in the Third Inter-Collegiate Alumni Golf Tournament at the Mission Hills Golf Club in Dongguan. HKUST's performances are getting better with each year of this event, as John Lau (2006 IEMBA) won the 2nd-runner-up and Mason Mak (2005 IEMBA) won the Nearest-to-Pin award on the Leadbetter Course. The team's gross total improved from 555 strokes last year to this year's 529 strokes (an average of 88.2 strokes per golfer). Francis Law, Vice President of Alumni Golf Club says that if the golfers keep on improving at this rate, the team could be heading towards winning the second runner-up award next year! The day culminated in a very enjoyable dinner.



## On the Ball

It has not always been easy for the **Alumni Volleyball Club** to hold the team together for the past three years, given everyone's busy careers and family life, but they are trying their best! They have put together a "code" that they strive to live up to. First is "time management", necessary to try to fit in training — the committee really appreciates everyone who turns up to practice. Second is "diligence", because they have to battle through the booking system to ensure they get their regular court slot — and they are always successful and get their booking in on time. Third is "devotion" — the team and trainers put their heart and soul into team affairs without any reward. Fourth is "enjoyment" — members not only play volleyball to keep fit and have fun, but they also treasure the time they enjoy together. Finally, "gratification" — they all feel that they are "forever young" every time they practice at HKUST, because it brings back blissful memories of student life!







## Celebrating 20 Years of Excellence ▲

The year 1991 saw the first batch of students enter the newly painted campus in Clear Water Bay. Over the intervening years, HKUST alumni have been displaying to the world the power of innovation and their “can-do” spirit. In celebration of 20 years of excellence of our Alma Mater and the accomplishments paved by our alumni, the **HKUST Alumni Association** invites all alumni to take part in the annual dinner, which takes place on October 14, 2011 at the Luk Kwok Hotel in Wanchai. A glittering line-up of music performances will be brought to the stage — the “Alumni Medley” is not to be missed! Stay in touch with new developments of this fantastic event at [www.ustaa.hk](http://www.ustaa.hk), or call 8100 6230 or email [al\\_hkust@ust.hk](mailto:al_hkust@ust.hk) for more information.



## Practice Makes Perfect ▲

Nick Hon (1997 BSc (PHYS)) was so impressed with the feature on the **Alumni Dragon Boat Club** in the last issue of Alumni News, that he left a message on the club’s blog saying he wished to sign up. Now a member of the club, he has already participated in two races - Bank of China 54th Festival of Sports at Sha Tin Shing Mun River and another event at Deep Water Bay. The club holds practices at least once a week at Pak Sha Wan in Sai Kung, just off the shore of HKUST Hall 3 dormitory. Aside from water sessions, paddlers also jog and do fitness training. Nick says: “As a newbie, I found stamina so important for me to keep up with the stroke pace.” But it’s not only about power — teamwork and synchronization are crucial, especially when a crew can comprise as many as 20 paddlers. “To help achieve this, we take HD digital videos during our training,” explains Nick. “Everybody loves this. No matter how exhausted the crew is, everyone perks up instantly once the DV cam is switched on!” Visit the club blog at <http://hk.myblog.yahoo.com/gbdragonboat>.

## Regal Occasion ▼

Almost 200 MBA alumni joined the **HKUST MBA Alumni Association** annual dinner 2011 and *Financial Times* Ranking Celebration Party on March 5 at the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club. During the dinner, HKUST President Prof Tony F Chan, HKUST Founding President Prof Chia-Wei Woo, Business School Dean Prof Leonard Cheng, MBA Program Director Prof Steve DeKrey and other faculty members celebrated with the MBA alumni at a pool-side BBQ dinner. It was an enjoyable night and in particular it was great to see some senior MBA alumni who graduated 10-plus years ago.





## Just the Business! ▶

In this year of anniversaries, the undergraduate Global Business (GBUS) program is celebrating its 10th birthday with the launch of a long-awaited alumni association — tentatively named **Global Business Community**. A final-year project (FYP) team has worked throughout the year to explore the best practices for setting up the association. Members would like to express their gratitude to all who have offered valuable advice. The first GBUS alumni event was held on April 26 to gather leaders from all fields. Wine experts were invited to share their knowledge on Spanish and French wines to an enthusiastic alumni audience. The event also served as a good base for the FYP team to collect feedback on the ideas they have to build a sustainable community. On a side note, students will organize the first student-led international business conference, the GBUS Conference on September 27 at Royal Plaza Hotel. Email to: [gbusaa@gmail.com](mailto:gbusaa@gmail.com) with your contact information if you are interested to hear more news about this.



## ◀ On Song

The new Executive Committee of the **University Choir Alumni Association (UCAA)** for the 2010-2013 session has been formed under President Christine Lee Tsz Kwan. For more details on the new committee, visit [http://ihome.ust.hk/~al\\_choir](http://ihome.ust.hk/~al_choir). UCAA participated in the 16th Annual Performance of the University Choir on March 6, as part of the University's 20th-anniversary celebrations. It was a wonderful event, under the baton of Music Director and Conductor Chiang Wai Man with guest performers and fellow choir members. All past and current members of the University Choir



are eligible to join UCAA. To apply, please send an application to [al\\_choir@ust.hk](mailto:al_choir@ust.hk) including your personal information listed in the "Join Us" session of the website.

## ◀ Hot Topics

The **Accounting Alumni Association** held a BBQ in April, to mark the transition from the old session's executive committee to the new one. It was a very relaxing event, with members enjoying the food and happily chatting about their lives, the current situation of the Accounting Students' Society and changes at the School. Through

this BBQ, the understanding between alumni of different sessions was enhanced, and it was also a channel for Year 1 freshmen in particular to discover more about life after university through the sharing of experiences of graduates.





# What's Happening with You?

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



**Willma Lau**  
2001 BEng(CENG) /  
2006 MPhil(CENG)  
**Adrian Leung**  
2001 BEng(CENG) /  
2004 MPhil(CENG)  
We are happy to  
announce that we got  
married on December  
30, 2010.



**Lee Tik Yan, Kat**  
2003 BBA(MGTO)  
**Chan Ting Him, Jim**  
2003 BEng(MEBS)  
We got to know one another  
at PG Hall 2 in 2000 and  
we were happy to hold our  
wedding ceremony at the  
University Center, HKUST  
on October 1, 2010.



**Amy Chan**  
2002 BSc(ECOF)  
**Ricky Chui**  
2006 MSc(BIOT)  
We were happy to share  
the joy of our marriage with  
all our former classmates.



**Hebbur Randhir**  
2009 MBA  
I got married on  
September 10,  
2010 to Bhagyasri.



**Ivan Mak**  
1996 BEng(COMP) /  
2001 MSc(COMP)  
Janet Gu and I got married on  
August 9, 2010 at Changsha  
in Mainland China, and held  
our wedding banquet at  
the Renaissance Harbour  
View Hotel in Wanchai on  
December 12, 2010.



**Jennifer Lo**  
1999 BBA  
(ACCT) /  
2005 MSc(FA)  
David and  
I recently  
welcomed  
the arrival of  
our daughter,  
Hayley Chan.



**Cherry Law**  
2002 BSc(CHEM)  
**Hydro Wong**  
2002 BSc(CHEM)  
It's our pleasure  
to share our  
happiness with  
everyone - our  
baby Aqua Wong  
was born on  
December 28, 2010.





**Wong Wai-Kwok Benson**  
 1996 MPhil(SOSC)  
 I joined the Department of Government and International Studies at Hong Kong Baptist University as Assistant Professor in September 2010.

**Kit Ho**  
 2002 BEng(CSIE)-MC  
**Edward Huen**  
 2002 BSc(BICH)  
 We are happy to announce our marriage on April 2, 2011.



**Craig Jo**  
 2001 BEng(CPEG)  
 I was very happy to have Dr Eden Woon as our guest of honor at the opening ceremony for the new office of our company, HK RFID Ltd.



**Fion Wong**  
 2002 BSc(CHEM)  
**Yam Fei**  
 2002 BSc(CHEM) / 2004 MPhil(CHEM)  
 We are happy to announce our marriage on November 13, 2010.



**Fanny Chu**  
 2006 BEng(IEEM)  
**Billy Wong**  
 2005 BEng(IEEM)  
 We are happy to announce that we got married on March 20, 2011.

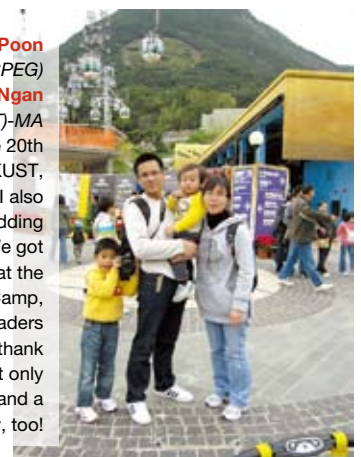


**Rebecca Lee**  
 2002 BSc(MATH)-BM  
**Anthony Chow**  
 2003 BSc(MATH)-BM  
 We are happy to announce that we got married on September 18, 2010. We were so glad having all our friends from HKUST to share the happy and wonderful moments with us.



**Connie Luk**  
 2001 BSc(MATH)-PM  
**Henry Li**  
 2000 BSc(MATH)-ST  
 We have been married since February 2007, and were blessed with a girl, Li Yan Ching, who was born on August 18, 2010.

**Perkins Poon**  
 1998 BEng(CPEG)  
**Katrina Ngan**  
 1998 BBA(ACCT)-MA  
 Not only is 2011 the 20th anniversary of HKUST, but Katrina and I also celebrate our 10th wedding anniversary this year. We got to know each other at the Students' Union O' Camp, where we were both leaders of the team. So I say 'thank you' to HKUST for not only giving me knowledge and a career but a family, too!







## No. 1 in Asia!

We are extremely proud that the University has been ranked the top in Asia by the highly reputable QS Asian University Rankings. It is the first time that we have achieved this pinnacle and it comes as we celebrate our 20th anniversary. In fact, we are the youngest university in the global rankings. The QS Intelligence Unit noted that HKUST is strong across most of the indicators, with its truly international character setting it apart, and that we have the edge in research productivity, where the gap has widened in 2011. QS is the world's leading information specialist in the higher education sector. The rankings are published annually and are based on relevant criteria including academic peer review, recruiter review, student / faculty ratio, papers per faculty, citations per paper, international faculty review and international student review. HKUST was placed second in 2010.

## Anniversary Round-up

THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY IS A TIME FOR ALUMNI TO EMBRACE THEIR COLLECTIVE MEMORY AND REFLECT UPON THE UNIVERSITY'S IMPACT ON THE WORLD TODAY. A PROGRAM OF EVENTS IS TAKING PLACE DURING THIS SPECIAL YEAR – AND HERE'S A ROUND-UP OF THE HIGHLIGHTS.



### ALUMNI FACES

Each alumnus holds a piece of the University's history and future in their hands. Visit <http://alumfaces.ust.hk> to discover the story of HKUST.



## Alumni Services on the Move

Keep up to date quickly and easily with alumni events and news through the Alumni Miniweb.

View the new e-book version of the *Alumni News* on your smartphones and tablets in 3 simple steps.

1. Go to Appstore



2. Download 24Reader



3. Search  to view

### GLOBAL COVERAGE

The anniversary celebratory festivities go beyond borders. Alumni from different parts of the world have been heartened by the visits of President Tony F Chan and Vice-President Dr Eden Woon. Over the past six months, alumni gatherings have been held in Beijing, Shanghai, San Francisco, Los Angeles, New York, Boston, Singapore and Zurich.





**PRESTIGIOUS CELEBRATION**

HKUST's 20th Anniversary Grand Celebration was held on April 8 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre. It was officiated by the HKSAR Chief Executive Donald Tsang and the Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress Prof Han Qide. Speaking at the event, Prof Han noted: "The University has made significant contributions to Hong Kong and the nation in driving the development of science and technology forward, and in serving as a model in higher education."

It was announced that to mark HKUST's contribution, a minor planet No.202784 was named "Gangkeda" – the Chinese abbreviation of HKUST – by the Chinese Academy of Sciences Purple Mountain Observatory in Nanjing, China. Another significant moment merged science and technology with traditional culture, as a robot performed a lion dance on stage.

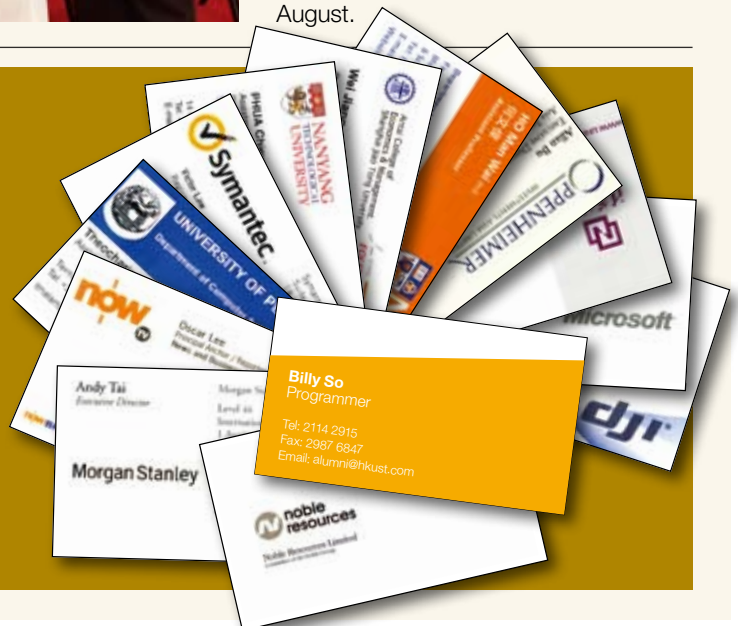


**EINSTEIN SALUTATION**

The University has joined hands with the Swiss Consulate, Swissnex China, the Hong Kong Science Museum and the Education Bureau to launch the "Einstein in Hong Kong" program. It incorporates an exhibition, academic conference, public lectures, music workshops and concerts, day camps for secondary students, and a writing workshop and competition, to celebrate the life and work of Albert Einstein, one of the greatest scientists of the 20th century. The events will run until August.

**Final Call for Cards**

COMING SOON ON CAMPUS WILL BE AN EXHIBITION OF A HUGE BUSINESS CARD COLLAGE. TO MARK THE JOYOUS 20TH BIRTHDAY OF HKUST, ALUMNI ARE CONTRIBUTING THEIR NAME CARDS TO CREATE A COMMEMORATIVE BIRTHDAY GIFT TO THEIR ALMA MATER. HAVE YOU SENT YOUR CARD IN YET? DON'T MISS THE CHANCE TO SUBMIT YOUR ENTRY VIA [HTTP://WWW.ALUMNI.UST.HK/COLLAGE2011/](http://WWW.ALUMNI.UST.HK/COLLAGE2011/).



## Contribute to HKUST Now!

I, \_\_\_\_\_ would like to donate.

### Donation Amount

Currency  HK\$  US\$

One-time Donation Amount  \$500  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Monthly Donation Amount  \$500  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

No. of Months  12 Months  24 Months  Other \_\_\_\_\_ Months

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Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ (Month) \_\_\_\_\_ (Year)

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



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For payment in HK\$, please make the cheque payable to "HKUST".

For payment in US\$, please make the cheque payable to "Give2Asia".

By Bank Transfer\*

Please transfer to HKUST Bank Account: 024-361-008071-688 (Hang Seng Bank)

\* Please write down your name and contact phone number on the back of your cheque or pay-in slip, and send it along with this form to us.

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Donors will be acknowledged in HKUST-related publications and website. Please tick  if you wish to remain anonymous.

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Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong

### By Fax

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[www.ust.hk/alumni/giving](http://www.ust.hk/alumni/giving)

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