

AADO Magazine

Alumni Affairs and Development Office

Pioneers in Innovation
and Entrepreneurship



Alumnus
Wong Yui-lam

Alumnus
Howard Fung Hing-yiu

Alumnus
Alvin Tse Kin-man

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《AADO Magazine》

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| Publication | Alumni Affairs and Development Office |
| Address | 10 Lo Ping Road, Tai Po, New Territories, Hong Kong |
| Tel | 2948 6069 |
| Fax | 2948 8466 |
| Website | www.eduhk.hk/aado |
| Facebook | www.facebook.com/EdUHKAlumni |

Pioneers in Innovation and Entrepreneurship

In recent years, The Education University of Hong Kong has been committed to promoting creative culture and innovative entrepreneurship on campus. Various programmes and activities allow students to develop and experience the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship. In view of this, we have interviewed three alumni for this issue. They are all pioneers of innovation and entrepreneurship. It is hoped that young alumni who are interested in starting a business can be inspired in their future career development.

Alumnus George Wong Yui-lam graduated from The Sir Robert Black College of Education (SRBCE) and is currently Chairman of Bauhaus International (Holdings) Limited. After years of teaching, Alumnus Wong was inspired by a high-end fashion store when travelling. On returning to Hong Kong he opened a similar store, and his status changed from a teacher to that of an entrepreneur. The process of his entrepreneurship was not smooth at all, but he overcame the difficulties with SRBCE's motto "Learning by Doing". He finally succeeded with his business and even turned it into a listed public company!

Alumnus Howard Fung Hing-yiu is one of the Co-Founders and the Managing Director of Stanford Swim School. When he founded the swimming school with his brother, he faced many challenges, including queries regarding professional qualifications, coping with atypical pneumonia, and having to start from scratch as his swimming coach qualification was not being recognised on his arrival in Australia. Nonetheless, adversity aroused his fighting spirit to overcome challenges after challenges, landing in today's achievement of a swimming education venture that "breaks out of Hong Kong through expanded operations to Australia".

Alumnus Alvin Tse Kin-man is currently the General Manager of Starlight Sports and Pro Runner. In 2014, he took over the Starlight Sports store founded by his parents and set up the business sideline Pro Runner. While expanding the scale and scope of the operations through innovation and new products discovered, competitiveness has been maintained in a cut-throat world of business.



From a Teacher to the Chairman of a Listed Company

A teacher and the Chairman of a listed company may seem to be totally irrelevant, but Alumnus George Wong Yui-lam has put both hats on and demonstrated a high level of competence at the same time. In the early years, Alumnus Wong received teaching education at the Sir Robert Black College of Education (SRBCE). After graduation, he taught in primary school and special school for many years. Later on, he switched to the business community and began to learn on the job. When faced with difficulties, he never forgot to apply the SRBCE teachings as his motto. He successfully established his own clothing brand and kingdom, and became the Chairman of Bauhaus International (Holdings) Limited. Perhaps Alumnus Wong, in his early years, would have never imagined such changes and achievements.



Travel Experience Rewrote Career History

Alumnus Wong graduated from the Sir Robert Black College of Education (SRBCE), majoring in sports. After graduation, he taught in primary school and special school for ten years. More than half of his teaching career was spent in special school. In the early 1990s, he travelled to Japan and found a local high-end fashion store, which randomly placed a pile of tattered items as decoration. He has never seen such a shop in Hong Kong. With a sudden flash of inspiration, he wondered if he should open a similar shop in Hong Kong. He did it on a whim. A few months later, he finally opened a shop in Hong Kong. From then on, a school teacher was transformed into an entrepreneur.

Alumnus Wong pointed out, "At the beginning, it was really difficult to operate a store. A lot of things have never been learned or experienced before. You asked me if I had ever thought about giving up? Then I remembered during my college days at SRBCE, teachers taught us 'Learning by Doing', so I decided to stick to 'Learning by Doing'."

Although Alumnus Wong opened a shop, business was not good initially. When things did not improve after a few months, he began to lose hope. However, with his unyielding

spirit, he reviewed his own operating strategy and tried to bring in another batch of goods. It was a successful move. More and more young people came to his shop, and he slowly figured out the fashion sense and taste of young people. Later, he accidentally discovered that by pouring some dye on a white canvas and rubbing it with his hands randomly, a "water wash" effect would be created. He then went on to produce different products with this creative fabric and even developed his own brand. This "Learning by Doing" approach has continued for 15 years, during which he also turned his company into a publicly listed one. He said: "I feel very fortunate to have gone through this career experience."



Integrating Teaching Skills into Business

Alumnus Wong believes that university education is a basic training that applies to all walks of life. He said, "When we were studying at SRBCE, teachers taught us how to teach. After completing the teacher education course, I felt lost for a while and thought I had to teach after my studies. In fact, this was an illusion. Later on I came to understand that completing teacher education or EdUHK programmes did not mean that one had to become a teacher. Teacher education is a kind of training targeted at people. For many jobs in the society, there is a demand for professionals who specialise in 'training targeted at people'. This is exactly the strength of graduates from Colleges of Education and EdUHK. These positions provide more job options for College of Education and EdUHK graduates."



Alumnus Wong Yui-lam (third from the left)



Business and Opportunities Today

Some people said that the current business environment had become more difficult than before, but Alumnus Wong has a different viewpoint. He said, "In the past, to start a business, there was a need to open a shop. In addition to renting and decorating the shop, goods had to be bought and employees recruited. Some funds would be required to begin operating. Now, you only need to carry a mobile phone to start a business. From this angle, are business environment and business opportunities not becoming much easier than before?" In addition, today's universities encourage students to be innovative and creative. For example, EdUHK or other institutions are organising entrepreneurial experience activities, establishing seed funds and setting up academic transfer projects. All of these are providing a good interface and platform for students to understand innovation, creativity and even entrepreneurship.

Alumnus Wong gives his encouragement to students and other alumni through a reminder that people will encounter different opportunities on the long and winding road of life. He encourages everyone to try, to accept challenges, to believe in their own abilities, and to make good use of the resources and help from EdUHK or the society, to seize opportunities and to pursue their dreams. He said, "I hope that my experience will be an encouragement to EdUHK students. In the future, when they encounter difficulties, I hope that they can hold on to the spirit of perseverance and not give up easily, 'Learning by Doing', overcoming difficulties and finding their own niche in their career." Finally, Alumnus Wong thanked EdUHK for bringing him up. Although the two-year study life was short-lived, what he has learned benefits a lifetime.

Innovative Thinking Opens a New Wide World in Swimming Education



Alumnus Howard Fung Hing-yiu, one of the Co-Founders and the Managing Director of Stanford Swim School, has had a passionate interest in swimming education. As early as when he was a secondary school student, he worked with his brother, Marcus Fung Hing-chuen, to set up a swimming school to teach students swimming and look for swimming talents. Alumnus Fung's pioneering work was not smooth sailing. He encountered different challenges, such as being questioned about his professionalism, atypical pneumonia's attack on Hong Kong and the need to start from scratch after moving to Australia. Nevertheless, with his excellent insights and innovative thinking, he overcame all these difficulties and established his career for today. Alumnus Fung came to realise that past experiences were actually the cornerstone of future opportunities.

Being Too Young, His Professionalism Was Being Questioned

Alumnus Fung has loved sports since a child and is good at swimming. He began instructing students when still studying in Form 3. Later on by chance and coincidence, he and his brother boldly proposed to a secondary school for exclusive use of their swimming pool facility with the purpose of setting up training courses in swimming. In this way, they began their journey in operating a swimming school. Alumnus Fung's swimming school was characterised by "indoor heated swimming pool" and "small class teaching", which was significantly different from other swimming clubs' outdoor swimming pool and classes with 40 to 50 students. It was the first of its kind in those days. With the small-class teaching mode being welcomed by parents, Alumnus Fung's swimming school gradually expanded. In the founding year of the school, the two brothers together with other coaches of the swimming school, taught more than 500 students.

The Fung brothers' early success inevitably aroused jealousy among their peers and they were accused of being too young and lacking professional and teaching experience. In order to maintain the reputation of the swimming school, Alumnus Fung broke through narrow-mindedness and flew to Beijing to invite the former coach of the Chinese national team, Gang Shou-lin, to join them. Having noticed the Fung brothers' dynamic personality and their good teaching skills, Coach Gang was willing to join them as the head coach of the swimming school. Thanks to Coach Gang's rich coaching experience and his affirmation for the Fung brothers, the swimming school established its professional image and overcame the first challenge in its development.

Promoting "Chlorine Bleaching Pills" to Deal with the SARS Challenge

In 2003 (the year when Alumnus Fung graduated from The Hong Kong Institute of Education), atypical pneumonia broke out in Hong Kong, which almost stopped the swimming school from operation. Alumnus Fung said, "In 2003 when atypical pneumonia hit, training classes were forced to suspend. Both the swimming school and coaches had no income at all!" But he could hardly sit and wait. Alumnus Fung was aware that during that period every household paid attention to cleaning and disinfection, and that the swimming school would buy chlorine for disinfecting the pool; there was an across-the-board need for disinfection. In a flash of inspiration, he decided to buy solidified "chlorine bleaching pills" from a chemical plant they had close contact with, and then together with colleagues, made an effort to promote the "chlorine bleaching pills" through various channels such as advertising, distributing flyers and selling through pharmacies. With the meager income, they survived the adversity of SARS.



From left: Alumnus Howard Fung Hing-yiu and Mr Marcus Fung Hing-chuen



From left: Mr Gang Shou-lin and Alumnus Howard Fung Hing-yiu

Moving to Australia and Starting from Scratch Again

In 2007, Alumnus Fung immigrated to Australia for family reasons. He originally planned to continue coaching in the new country, but upon arrival he found that Australia did not recognise the qualifications of a Hong Kong swimming coach! Alumnus Fung pointed out, "Before leaving Hong Kong, I believed I was so good. After leaving my comfort zone in Hong Kong, I discovered that I was so insignificant." He had to start from the beginning, but Alumnus Fung believed that adversity had stirred up his fighting spirit. Within a single year, not only did he keep staying up all night long to study and master a lot of English professional jargon, he also passed many professional examinations to finally gain the Australian qualifications for swimming coach and lecturer. Being hired as a swimming instructor by Australia's Macquarie University Swimming School, he was able to put to good use of his talent once again.



Experience Is the Cornerstone of Opportunities

Looking back, Alumnus Fung was thankful to The Hong Kong Institute of Education (HKIEd). He said, "I used the knowledge I had learned at HKIEd to practise in swimming education, such as setting learning objectives, curriculum design and assessment methods in Teaching Methodology." Swimming education embedded in teaching methodology has differentiated Alumnus Fung's swimming school from others, resulting in huge popularity with parents and a booming school business.

In 2016, there happened to be a sizable swimming school on sale in Australia, involving more than 100 teachers and staff and 4,000 students. Alumnus Fung intended for purchase, but apart from funds, the most important consideration was the ability to manage a substantially non-Chinese swimming education team. He said, "My early-year experience in Australia has made me fluent in English and qualified as a swimming instructor. I was therefore able to understand my own strength and that of others, and I also let other managing staff of the swimming school be bold enough to give it a shot." When he finally decided to take over the Australian swimming school, his career ventured out of Hong Kong and extended to Australia.

For alumni and students who are interested in starting a business, Alumnus Fung points out that in the "enterprise" of an entrepreneurship, the combination of interest and competence is absolutely indispensable. He also offers a few words of encouragement to these alumni and students: The road to entrepreneurship may not be smooth, but don't be discouraged in the face of adversity. One must try to overcome difficulties with innovation or flexibility. What you gain during the low tide in a career will often help you reach the pinnacle of a future career.



Keeping Pace with the Times - From Keeping a Business Going to “Starting a Business”



Alumnus Alvin Tse Kin-man is currently the General Manager of Starlight Sports and Pro Runner, being responsible for the company's operations and strategic development. In fact, Starlight Sports was founded by his parents more than 30 years ago to support the whole family. Thanks to his parents' influence, he has been thinking about doing business since childhood. After graduating from The Hong Kong Institute of Education (the predecessor of The Education University of Hong Kong), he worked as a teacher for more than three years while at the same time learning how to do business. By 2014, following in his father's footsteps, he officially took over the business of Starlight Sports and founded the business sideline Pro Runner. The idea was for the existing business to keep up with the times while simultaneously exploring new products to expand the scale of business.

Keeping Pace with the Times - Successful Transformation

Alumnus Tse pointed out that Starlight Sports, which was founded by his parents with retail outlets set up in the MTR malls during its early years, had been under pressure from rental. The restructuring boom of the malls after the millennium further doubled the overall rental. He said: “The sports store, being in business for more than 30 years, had not been able to keep pace with the times in its operation model. Its operation became more and more difficult. After taking over the store, I therefore tried to change the marketing model and switched from the sale of popular budget products to that of high value-added professional products so as to boost profits and offset rental pressure.”

During that period, when Alumnus Tse learned that jogging and hiking as well as triathlon were going to become popular, the “Blue Ocean Strategy” was being adopted to introduce functional products. He said, “There weren't many sales venues for professional sports products, and those unique products intrigued the customers.” The newly introduced brands were sold in higher prices, which helped boost the company's profits and counter the rental pressure. At the same time, through the reorganisation of the product portfolio, the company successfully transformed within two or three years from selling miscellaneous sporting goods to focusing on the sale of sports shoes and high value-added products such as the once trendy compression tights and heartbeat watches. This move allowed the company to keep up with the times with a clear positioning.

Alumnus Tse added, “There were two major considerations for the reorganisation of product portfolio. The first was that the new product portfolio would not be easily emulated (for example, some chain stores were not allowed to introduce mutually competitive brands due to contract restrictions). The second was that customers often compared these brands. By putting these products together, it helped customers and speeded up purchase decisions.” This proves that Alumnus Tse is not only business-savvy, but he also has a strong sense of crisis awareness against the risk of peer copying.



Developing Value in the Commercial Market

Alumnus Tse believes that the business model must be able to play a role in the market in order to secure its market share. His marketing skills are customer-oriented and provide personalised services. Taking the sale of sports shoes as an example, by arranging product information and delivering it to customers in plain words, the value of the market can be exerted. As compared with chain stores, his staff will spend more effort and time in helping customers choose the right products. He gave an example: when purchasing sports shoes, the size of the shoes may not be consistent, and tends to be slightly different depending on the material, tailoring design and function. He will reorganise product manager's information, online reviews and professional evaluation of the products to put together information manuals for training employees in the effective delivery of such information. As a result, his company encountered a peak growth period in business from 2014 to 2016. Although the peak period has now passed, Alumnus Tse will continue to explore new products for the specialty store and its sideline, Pro Runner, so as to sustain competitiveness through multiple brands with complete colours and sizes.

Advice for Entrepreneurs

Alumnus Tse shared five suggestions with those who are interested in starting a business, “First, don't underestimate the difficulty of starting a business. Entrepreneurship usually goes through the stage of burning money. It is very important to have sufficient funds, otherwise it will be difficult to sustain. In addition, the mode and purpose of the business must possess commercial value. Third, entrepreneurs must have a high degree of self-discipline because no one will assign tasks to you. Conversely, you must carefully assign work to employees. It has to be completed in the most efficient way to maximise the value of limited funds.”

It has been said that a leader is a very lonely person and Alumnus Tse could share that feeling. He said, “Sometimes your idea may not be accepted by others. An entrepreneur has to bear with that kind of loneliness.” However, he personally believes that even if an idea is not accepted, he will use his leadership role to assign to subordinates tasks he wants to be done. This is the way to implement ideas and achieve desired performance.

“Fourth, keep an open mind and a humble heart. Don't be arrogant being the person with the final say.” Alumnus Tse believes that entrepreneurs should be humble, accept new things, judge well and size up the situation for quick and flexible responses to market changes. Finally, entrepreneurs are different from bosses. The latter, often with a big ego, is unwilling to consult with subordinates. However, entrepreneurs should be modest and open-minded and not feeling ashamed to ask questions and learn from subordinates. Entrepreneurs should accept the fact that people who are superior to them are being employed to complete certain professional areas of work for the sustainable development of the business.





EdUHK Alumni Family Day

The Education University of Hong Kong held its Alumni Family Day on 2 March 2019. As the University's first event to celebrate its 25th anniversary, the Day attracted many alumni, friends and their families. The occasion engaged and reunited different generations of alumni from former Colleges of Education, The Hong Kong Institute of Education and The Education University of Hong Kong.

EdUHK Vice President (Research and Development) Professor Lui Tai-lok delivered a welcoming speech, and shared with participants the achievements and the latest development of the University.



Apart from attending the thematic talk, participants also enjoyed a wide range of parent-child activities (Rolling Slide, Sensory Rainforest, Float Sumo, Blow Blow Gallery, Ever-changing Wooden Frame, Bubble Party, etc.), visited language and handcraft booths, and joined guided tours to the Aquaponics, the Library and the Hong Kong Museum of Education.

The Alumni Affairs and Development Office would like to express its heartfelt appreciation to the Faculty of Education and Human Development, Faculty of Humanities and Faculty of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, alumni associations and other supporting units. Their contributions were conducive to the success of this meaningful event.





Time Capsule Opening cum 25th Anniversary Commemorative Publication Launch

In celebration of its 25th anniversary, The Education University of Hong Kong held a ceremony on 27 May 2019 where a time capsule placed on campus in the 1990s was opened. A number of items and documents were unearthed revealing the transformation of the University.

Among the items preserved in the capsule was a letter written in 1996 by Founding Council Chairman Dr Simon Ip Sik-on to the current Council Chairman setting out the



vision and mission of the then Institute. During the ceremony, Dr Ip passed the letter to Professor Frederick Ma Si-hang, the current Council Chairman of the University.

On the same occasion, EdUHK launched its 25th Anniversary Commemorative Publication to honour its teachers. The publication featured the stories of 25 individuals in four chapters: "Brilliant teachers nurture star students", "Blessed to have a mentor for life", "Family of educators" and "Teaching with heart and soul".

More than 30 alumni attended the ceremony. They included chairmen and committee members of alumni associations, alumni of former Colleges of Education and those graduated in 1995.



EdUHK Cooking Series

The Alumni Affairs and Development Office (AADO) organised several cooking classes between January and June 2019. Alumni and friends tried their hand at the preparation of foods for special occasions under the guidance of tutors at the Shun Hing Cooking Centre.

Among the participants of the workshops were alumni and a tutor who had donated to the University supporting the establishment of bursaries. AADO was thankful for their generosity, and hope that donations will continue to come in for setting up more bursaries to help students with financial needs.



Make a Donation



| EdUHK Cooking Series | Date | Foods |
|--|----------------|--|
| Lunar New Year Food Workshop | 5 January 2019 | Glutinous-rice cake (pandan flavor) and sesame ball with red bean paste |
| Dragon Boat Festival Rice Dumpling Wrapping Workshop | 18 May 2019 | Traditional salted-meat rice dumplings and lotus seed paste rice dumplings |
| Father's Day Home-cooked Dishes Workshop | 8 June 2019 | Roasted chicken with lemon and herbs and honey-stewed BBQ pork |

Alumni Privileges

The Alumni Affairs and Development Office has been sourcing various benefits for the alumni of the University. Alumni can now enjoy a host of privileges in areas ranging from hotel accommodation to travels. Please scan the QR code for details:



Alumni Privileges

Appreciation of Cherry Blossom

AADO and the Graduate Association of Colleges of Education (GACE) jointly organised the "Appreciation of Cherry Blossom" outing on 26 January 2019. Led by Alumnus Samuel Ma of GACE, alumni and friends toured the Kadoorie Farm and Botanic Garden to admire the beauty of cherry blossoms, the forest, theme gardens and vegetable terraces. For the participants, the excursion was a most pleasant encounter of the natural kind.



Outstanding Alumni Short Films

The Alumni Affairs and Development Office had launched a new series of "Outstanding Alumni Short Films" featuring alumni and their remarkable vision, wisdom and teaching excellence. The latest short films introduce:

[In order of release date of short film]

- (1) Alumnus Tsang Chun-sum (Pursuing PhD at the University of Oxford)
- (2) Alumnus Chu Tsz-wing (Chief Headmaster of St. Hilary's Primary School & VNSAA St. Hilary's School)
- (3) Alumnus Wong Yui-lam (Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Bauhaus International (Holdings) Limited)
- (4) Alumna Lam Woon-sum (Headmistress of Ying Wa Primary School, also known as Headmistress Snoopy)





Kwong Kai-to – Art Heritage Exhibition

Dr Kwong Kai-to is Honorary Fellow of The Education University of Hong Kong and Chairman of the Rural Training College Alumni Association. The “Kwong Kai-to – Art Heritage Exhibition” was mounted at the Hong Kong City Hall from 26 to 30 April 2019. It showcased Dr Kwong’s years of practice in calligraphy, Chinese painting and photography. Dr Kwong’s works are said to display a crisp freshness and timelessness, often with a touch of poetry and philosophy.

The Education University of Hong Kong Alumni Association’s “Quasi-Graduates Support Programme”

The Education University of Hong Kong Alumni Association organised the “Quasi-Graduates Support Programme” on 29 March 2019, during which a number of principals from primary and secondary schools offered their career advices to prospective graduates. Topics like the job market, resume preparation and interview skills for teaching posts were looked into. Mock group interview and sharing sessions were also included, benefiting more than 100 students.



Reunion of Graduates (1969 Cohort) of the Northcote College of Education - 50th Anniversary

The captioned reunion was held on 27 April 2019. More than 30 graduates (1969 Cohort) of the Northcote College of Education, staff of the Alumni Affairs and Development Office, and students of the Northcote Hall got together in celebration. The group visited the University’s Northcote Hall (student hostel) and the Library before joining a party and dinner. Participants reminisced about the good old college days and the harmonious relations between teachers and students then. Special thanks go to Alumnus Dennis Koo Hok-chun and his family who gave a great musical performance to grace the occasion.

In addition, alumni of Northcote College of Education, together with EdUHK students residing in the Northcote Hall, had a great “Table Tennis Fun Day” on 12 January 2019. Organised by the Northcote College of Education Past Students’ Association, the event provided an opportunity for alumni to enjoy table tennis and to reunite past students of different graduation years.



Talk on “Challenges and Preparation Faced by Newly Recruited Preschool Teachers”

A talk titled “Challenges and Preparation Faced by Newly Recruited Preschool Teachers” was given on 6 May 2019. It was jointly organised by The Education University of Hong Kong’s Alumni Affairs and Development Office, Department of Early Childhood Education, and The Education University of Hong Kong Past Students’ Association of Early Childhood Teacher Education.

Dr Mak Tse How-ling, Chairperson of The Education University of Hong Kong Past Students’ Association of Early Childhood Teacher Education, talked about how early childhood education evolved to become a recognised profession of today. She also gave some useful advice to preschool teachers. Another speaker, Ms Szeto Yuk-lin, Founding Principal of SA Ng Kwok Wai Memorial Kindergarten, made valuable sharing on many aspects of preschool education, such as the process of becoming a preschool teacher, preparation for job interview, emotional and stress management, establishing good human relationships, and equipping oneself and meeting challenges. In closing, Dr Mak Tse urged preschool teachers to devote themselves to early childhood education, for they would experience joy and satisfaction in their work.





The EdUHK Foundation Thanksgiving Reception cum Scholarship Presentation Ceremony

The Education University of Hong Kong held a reception on 3 May 2019 to commend students with outstanding performance in various areas and to express its gratitude to donors for their unfailing support during the past year. Officiating at the ceremony were Professor Frederick Ma Si-hang, Chairman of the EdUHK Council and the EdUHK Foundation, and Professor Stephen Cheung Yan-leung, President of EdUHK. More than 300 friends and supporters of EdUHK, including leading figures from the business and education sectors, as well as staff and scholarship recipients, were in attendance.

Scholarships are awarded annually to students with outstanding academic achievement, leadership or service records, active participation in experiential learning activities, or extraordinary talent displayed in the creative arts or sports. This year, about 800 scholarships worth more than HK\$24 million will be awarded – a record high for the University.



Conference for Special Education Support Outcome Sharing cum Carnival

The “Conference for Special Education Support Outcome Sharing cum Carnival” on 25 May 2019 aimed at promoting the concept of inclusive community and learning through play. It was hosted by the Supporting Unit for Special Educational Needs (SuSEN) of The Education University of Hong Kong’s Centre for Special Educational Needs and Inclusive Education (CSENIE).

Rundown of the Conference included expertise seminars, experiential activities, service exhibitions and booth activities. About 200 families and alumni were attracted to participate for the knowledge and understanding of special education service and different supporting strategies. Over 80 professionals in the field, EdUHK students and their parents served as volunteers in the event. The Swire Group Charitable Trust, artist Michelle Yim, CSENIE of EdUHK, and the Alumni Affairs and Development Office all pitched in to promote the need for game intervention for children’s learning. Their contribution in the form of donated gifts to be used as souvenirs or prizes for the activities was greatly appreciated.



22nd Primary STEM Project Exhibition “Smart Toys”

Co-organised by the Centre for Education in Environmental Sustainability and the Department of Science and Environmental Studies at The Education University of Hong Kong, along with other parties, the 22nd Primary STEM Project Exhibition (PSPE) was held on 16 May 2019 at the Hong Kong Central Library. More than 1,000 primary students and teachers from local schools and schools in the region, for instance in Guangdong, Shenzhen and Macau, participated. Prizes were awarded to outstanding works for their creativity.

The aim of the “Smart Toys” exhibition was to enhance students’ STEM ability and encourage innovation and self-directed learning through observing, reasoning and experimenting. Nearly 200 projects were on display, and students shared their experience in integrating STEM elements to create or modify their smart toys.

Professor Winnie So Wing-mui, Chairperson of the organising committee for the exhibition, said, “Through these exhibits, the students have demonstrated creativity, innovation, curiosity and joyfulness in their exploration and experimentation, and have come away with a sense of achievement. This is believed to be crucial for effectively promoting students’ interest and motivation in STEM learning, as well as teaching.”

The Exhibition was sponsored by TeleEye Founders’ Charity Foundation Limited.



International Conference on Computational Thinking Education 2019 cum Coding Fair by CoolThink@JC

To inspire children's digital creativity and promote computational thinking-coding education, the four-day International Conference on Computational Thinking Education 2019 cum Coding Fair, organised by CoolThink@JC, was staged between 13 and 16 June 2019 at The Education University of Hong Kong. The event attracted over 1,000 world-renowned academics, frontline education practitioners, IT professionals, and teachers and students from local primary schools, among others.

Officiating at the opening ceremony were Mr Rex Chang Wai-yuen, Deputy Secretary for Education of the HKSAR; Mr Leong Cheung, Executive Director, Charities and Community of the Hong Kong Jockey Club; Professor Stephen Cheung Yan-leung, President of EdUHK; and Professor Matthew Lee Kwok-on, Vice President (Development and External Relations) of the City University of Hong Kong.

The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust took a proactive approach to initiate CoolThink@JC in 2016, which has since introduced computational thinking into the upper levels of a broad range of primary schools, and created a body of evidence and experience to stimulate longer-term discussion and curriculum revision.

At the Conference, scholars from 17 countries or places were invited to share and discuss their experience in implementing computational thinking education or related research. Keynote speakers included Dr Leigh Ann Delyser from CSforALL in



the United States; Professor Looi Chee-kit from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore; Professor Jan Vahrenhold from the University of Münster in Germany; and Professor Valentina Dagienė from Vilnius University in Lithuania.

Concurrently, a four-day Coding Fair, under the theme of "Code, Music & Sports", was kicked-off on 13 June 2019 at EdUHK, featuring a series of activities (e.g., a sailboat from the Physical Education Unit of the Education Bureau to demonstrate the integration of coding and sports), coding workshops, parent seminars, booth exhibitions and bouncy games. The Fair was well received and attracted nearly 7,000 online registrants.

Another event highlight was the weekend parent seminars with guest speakers Mr Stark Chan Yik-hei ("Son of the Star"); Miss Hillary Yip Ying-hei ("The 14-year-old CEO"); Mr Philip Lam Tin-yin (Co-Founder of NEX Team Inc); and Mr Rex Sham Pui-sum (Co-Founder of Insight Robotics Ltd). Also on the programme were music performances by child actor Leander Lau and artiste Mr Moley. To encourage further learning after the Fair, the organiser gave out 800 micro:bits (mini programmable devices) and 800 expansion boards to participating children who had completed designated activities.

EdUHK Confers Honorary Fellowships on Four Distinguished Individuals

On 29 March 2019, The Education University of Hong Kong named four distinguished individuals as Honorary Fellows in recognition of their remarkable contributions to the University, the school sector and the community. They were (in alphabetical order of surname):

- Ms Amy Chan Lim-chee, BEM, JP
- Mr Chu Tsz-wing
- Mr Fok Woo-ping, and
- Ms Sarah Lee Wai-sze, BBS, MH



Additional HK\$150 Million Earmarked to Enhance Learning, Teaching and Research

In the Spring Reception with the media on 12 February 2019, The Education University of Hong Kong President, Professor Stephen Cheung Yan-leung, announced that the University would earmark an additional HK\$150 million in the next three years to enhance learning, teaching and research. This will entail the recruitment of new academic and teaching staff, in addition to the ongoing global search for Chair Professors and Professors. With its strengthened academic capacity, the University is poised to take the lead in driving educational innovation and research excellence in support of teacher education in Hong Kong.

The President said he was pleased to note some of the major accomplishments (listed below) EdUHK had achieved after retitling in May 2016, thanks to the concerted efforts of the University community:

- Winning international accolades and awards, including 11 awards on educational innovation in prestigious competitions held in Geneva, Toronto and Nuremberg;
- Emerging first in both the number of funded projects and the amount awarded in the Education discipline in the 2018/19 Research Grants Council's General Research Fund and Early Career Scheme funding exercises;
- Launching the State Key Laboratory in Marine Pollution (SKLMP) (EdUHK Branch) and the Research Centre for Transmission of Cantonese Opera to advance research frontiers in marine pollution and Cantonese Opera culture respectively;
- Promoting pleasurable learning in schools through animated projects on Chinese Language and Chinese History, among others;
- Supporting teacher education in Belt and Road countries, including Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Vietnam and the Philippines. The Vietnam project, which covered eight major teacher training universities, was a nation-wide consultancy project awarded by the World Bank in November 2017.



Renewal of EdUHK's UNESCO Chair

The Education University of Hong Kong held a ceremony on 2 May 2019 to mark the third appointment of the UNESCO Chair. The appointment, first awarded to EdUHK in 2011, has been renewed for another four-year term and renamed the UNESCO Chair in Regional Education Development and Lifelong Learning.

The newly nominated UNESCO Chair holder is Professor John Lee Chi-kin, who is currently Vice President (Academic), Chair Professor of Curriculum and Instruction, Director of the Centre for Religious and Spirituality Education, and Co-Director of the Centre for Education in Environmental Sustainability at EdUHK.

Addressing the ceremony, Professor Lee outlined the major focal points over the coming four years of appointment, including support for UNESCO's Sustainable Development Goals, the development of 21st century skills and positive values, capacity building across education sectors, and technical and vocational education and training (TVET). Other UNESCO priorities and strategies, such as life and values education, environmental education and intercultural education, would be attended to as well.



EdUHK Wins Five Awards at the Geneva's Invention Expo

The Education University of Hong Kong won four Silver awards and one Bronze award for its five innovations in the 47th International Exhibition of Inventions of Geneva held from 10 to 14 April 2019. The innovations covered a wide range of applications, including pedagogical innovation, AI for education, green aquaculture and healthcare technologies, which redraw the boundaries of education and quality of life.



Please scan the following QR code for details.



EdUHK President's Commendation Scheme Recognises Students' Achievements

The Education University of Hong Kong held the President's Commendation Scheme Awardees Reception on 27 March 2019 to praise students on their outstanding achievements beyond academic studies in the past year. Eight students were awarded the President's Appreciation for excellent performance in Arts and Culture, or Sports. One student was awarded the President's Commendation, the highest level of recognition in the Scheme, for her distinguished performance in the field of Arts and Culture.

The Whole Person Development Award was introduced last year to promote all-round development and recognise students' achievements in co-curricular activities. Four students were named on the Dean of Students' List, the highest Award, for their leadership and outstanding achievements in organising such activities.

Addressing the ceremony, EdUHK President Professor Stephen Cheung Yan-leung congratulated all the award winners on their outstanding achievements, adding that regardless of their talent and interests, the awardees had one thing in common: "They are active in co-curricular activities and have a strong desire for personal growth. This characteristic fits in well with the objective of the Scheme, which is to encourage students to learn both in and outside the classrooms to broaden their horizons and boost whole person development."



Record High Salary for EdUHK Education Graduates

According to the latest Graduate Employment Survey (GES) released by The Education University of Hong Kong, 99% of the graduates from its Bachelor of Education programmes were employed or had chosen to further their studies within three months of graduation. Their average monthly salary registered a year-on-year increase of 7.1%, reaching a record high of HK\$26,971. Graduates of the Postgraduate Diploma of Education programmes (PGDE) had a similarly high percentage of employment. All 168 respondents were employed or had opted for further studies, and the average starting monthly salary reached HK\$27,527.

The Student Affairs Office conducts the GES from October to December each year to assess the employment status of EdUHK's full-time graduates. A total of 674 graduates, 506 from full-time Bachelor of Education programmes and 168 from PGDE programmes, participated in the 2018 survey, and the response rate was 94%. Findings over the past decade indicate that EdUHK graduates have been much in demand in the field of education, as evidenced by their consistently high rate of employment or further studies, and the rising level of their average starting salary.

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