

**ALUMNI ASSOCIATION OF  
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG  
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**2018-2019**



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## President's Report

It is my pleasure to serve as your President of the Association. The past year was a year of significance in the University of Hong Kong and also the wider Hong Kong society. In December 2017, Professor Xiang Zhang was appointed as HKU's 16<sup>th</sup> President and Vice-Chancellor with a vision to build HKU into "Asia's Global University". In our last AGM dinner in September 2018, Gregory Wong and Paul Li gave an interesting and informative presentation of Prof. Zhang's background and academic achievement. We are looking forward to meeting Prof. Zhang in the future, and I have indicated to the HKU Development & Alumni Affairs Office (DAAO) that we would like Prof. Zhang to visit us next year in the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Association.

In 2018/2019, we finished a huge membership campaign and were happy to recruit 60 new members into our Association, and I was glad to see many of them enthusiastically attended our activities and events. As I told new members in the Welcome Party in November 2018 that establishing new connections with alumni was one of our most satisfying tasks; bonding alumni together re-affirmed our cultural past and helped our integration into the multicultural Canadian society.

Like past years, the Association organized activities throughout the whole year, including summer outdoor events (Walk in Burnaby Lake), a talk given by Dr. CP Lau, our past president, on the topic of "Cannabis: the Good, the Bad, and the Ugly". In Christmas Party, we celebrated the holiday season with good food in the Hood 29 Bistro; we enjoyed the Trivia Games, Charade and were treated with musical performance by Vanessa Kwan and carols singing from Harry Lee and Victor Roza Pereira.

In Spring Dinner, we hosted a Mahjong Friendly Competition with 16 very skillful alumni players competing in two rounds and Yeda Hong became our champion. We also welcome the exchange students from HKU and they shared their cross-cultural learning experiences. The night went on with lantern riddles and sharing New Year Fai-chun. Last year, our mentorship program served eight HKU exchange students; and we also supported two UBC and SFU students exchange with HKU through our Endowment Funds.

Looking back, the Association could not function well without the marvelous support from our directors on board. I would like to mention Paul Wong, a member who maintained our web-site and did a marvelous job in our new members recruitment project. It is the dedication and good will of our members that I can count on to maintain the Association in the years to come.

Best wishes to you and your family!

Koon Ming Ho

President 2018/19

Alumni Association of the University of Hong Kong, British Columbia

# Board of Directors: 2018-2019



President  
Koon Ming Ho



Vice-President  
Rebecca Lee



Secretary  
Fenella Sung



Treasurer  
Douglas Cheung



Membership Secretary  
Patrick Kwan



Eric Chui



Yeda Hong



Vincenta Ko



Priscilla Lau



Paul Li



Angela Lo



Yiu Shing Sz



Rosanna Wong

## Directors' profiles

### Rosanna Wong

I was one of the charter students/guinea pigs of the Law Department when it was established in 1969.

It was the first time Hong Kong was able to produce its own lawyers as a result of pleas from people, including one of the most senior Chinese barristers (who later became my 契爺), who advocated that without a local law school, the legal profession would be a monopoly of the rich who could afford to go to England to study law. The Law Department started merely as a part of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Law. Our department facility was separated from the main campus, in an old red brick colonial building on Caine Road. So we missed out on the main campus excitement and experience, but we gained from spending three years in a "cosy" environment: since all the teaching and administrative staff were also new to the scene, we got to know each other very well, especially when there were only about 40 students in the first year. What did I get from my HKU education? It is the cornerstone of my legal career in HK and Canada, and what's more, some of the friends I made in Law School have become precious lifelong best friends.

### Eric K Chui

Graduated in 1974 from HKU Civil Engineering, I have been practising INSURANCE ever since for the last 45 years. I was particularly delighted to have made good use of my engineering knowledge to help the Insurance Industry in Hong Kong especially in Contractors /Engineering Insurances. I was lucky to get involved in many large Building/Civil engineering Projects such as MTR Initial Contracts, Taikoo Shing, High Island Reservoirs in arranging their Insurance Packages in 1970s.

HKU means so much to me as I was one of the most 'beneficial' students. I was admitted in 1971 and at the same time "invited" to reside in University Hall by the warden –Mr. John Llewellyn-who was my 伯樂 (千里馬). He supported and guided me to the JUC to obtain the Grant, Loan and Bursaries to solve all my financial problems for the entire 3-year university life.

Another unforgettable experience was to have met up with the 17-year old daughter of our then Exchange Lecturer from Nottingham, UK who brought me an apple every time we strolled through Pokfulam Reservoir .....

And the best part of my University Life is my Hall Life including the 2-week Orientation. It made me so much mature and smarter. In this aspect I had written an Article in January, 1975 and printed on Kultur 文苑( Arts Faculty Monthly Magazine ).

Of course I have been helping HKU Alumni Association as a committee member both in Hong Kong since 1976 and BC, Canada including being a volunteer MENTOR for few times in 2000s.

## Yeda Hong

I graduated from the Faculty of Law with a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B.) in 1999 and a Postgraduate Certificate in Laws (P.C.LL.) in 2000.

Like many law students, I spent most of my time in the Law Library. I went there almost every day where I met friends, read materials before classes, did legal research, discussed cases, and also took some rest between classes. I am so grateful that a lot of life-long friendships have been built since those days.

During my second year, I was elected to be a Student Member of the Faculty Board. I joined the Board meetings and I still remembered at that time we were discussing a combined degree of law and other disciplines. I also sat in a review panel dealing with cases in which PCLL students appealed their grades of their final exams. I did not reach that stage yet but could tell how stressful a PCLL student would be when they faced their professional exams. It was an eye-opening experience for me.

## Yiu Sing Sz

幼喜維園戲 髻齡入彩虹(1) 自顧非填鴨 誰知得附龍  
七六鬢宮出(2) 工程道始通 青雲窺有路 “四仔”見成功(3)  
一朝驚劫亂 千里避秦鋒 親友情難捨 工師夢已終  
他鄉為異客 遠逸若飛鴻 開步從頭起 新交一笑逢  
賞花觀瑞雪 閒話笑談中 渡日不拘地 心安處處同

註：(1)入住彩虹邨 (2)1976年工程系畢業 (3)“四仔”為當時大學流行語：屋仔、車仔、老婆仔、BB仔

## Rebecca Lee

I had been a big fan of dramas with Emperors and Empresses of both China and the Western countries. Hence I chose to study history as I liked to know more about the Emperors and heroes of different eras. My first week with Arts Department in HKU was so unforgettable. Every building, every room seemed a great wonder to me. Every course sounded so interesting and the lectures were so inspiring. I remember the course "China after 1911" was a new one and was so popular, or maybe over subscribed. The lecture room was crowded with fellow History students from Year 1 to Year 3, and some others from various Departments too. Many lecturers in the Department of History were pipe smokers and wore suits with plaid patterns. I thought that they all looked like great scholars in movies, but in fact they were in real life.

The spots I loved at campus were the Main Building and the Lawn outside the Chemistry Building. It was so nice to have a chit chat or a group discussion there. I loved the azaleas all over the slopes around Main Building too. They were so beautiful.

I realize the experience I got at HKU had prepared me well to face the challenges in my life. This is an unexpected gift that I would never have by only reading from textbooks.

## **Priscilla Wong Lau**

I was very excited to be accepted in Social Work training which seemed to have fulfilled my life-long desire to serve others in the community. However, it was both a blessing and a curse to journey with an exceptional small class of 7 girls and 1 boy for the whole program. At graduation in 1973, the poor guy had to repeat another year of study and only 7 girls survived; hopefully it was not our fault!

Owing to the long fieldwork hours and heavy loads of assignments, I felt rather deprived of a normal university life, with few extra-curricular activities. Fortunately, I had time to join the monthly meetings of the Christian Association where I made good friends from different faculties. I also treasured most my 2 years' hostel experience at St. John's College where I enjoyed my independent living. I surely missed the yummy apple pies that I could order from the chef every now and then!

## **Koon Ming Ho**

I attended HKU from 1989 and graduated with MSc in the program of Industrial / Manufacturing System Engineering in 1992. Working full-time and newly married, I attended the program one day a week and did not have extra time to spend on campus life or join students' activities. My most memorable moment of HKU was attending an alumni sports fun day with my wife and daughter at the Stanley Ho Sport Complex in probably 1993. I met hundreds of alumni on the fun day. We were also divided into teams to compete with one another in the field and track. I was a relatively young alumnus and was asked to take part with my daughter and wife in some obstacle-course track events. I did not remember whether my team eventually won any honor but that's not important because it was a very fun and enjoyable day for the whole family. It's probably why I like to continue to participate in alumni events.

## **Patrick Kwan**

I graduated Electrical Engineering in 1974. In my first year, I went to the Sports Center very often, as it was close to the Engineering faculty building. I still remember playing badminton singles with our PE teacher, and I could jump smash and beat the teacher. And of course it was because I was much younger than him. Actually my badminton skill was not that formal as I also played tennis at the same time. I also represented Old Halls in the inter-hall tennis matches. I am grateful to the summer intern arrangement. I was allocated to a US company producing digital ICs, as an assistant to a test engineer. I got familiar with digital ICs and had various IC samples, which helped me get an A grade in the final year project. And the internship also helped me get a 35%-salary increase in half a year in my first job, as a computer test engineer in a leading US mini-computer firm in HK.

I am now the badminton lead in our alumni badminton team. I also practice Taichi for 28 years since I immigrated to Vancouver. I have been teaching Taichi for more than 10 years. Anyone who is interested in playing badminton or understanding more about Taichi, just let me know.

## **Paul Li**

Trained in Salesian School for thirteen years;  
Attended HKU Science in order to become a school teacher;  
Contributed as group leaders in O camps;  
Served as the HKU Katso chairperson;  
Graduated in the Joint Declaration year;  
Taught in secondary schools for six years;  
Studied for higher degrees in Toronto;  
Conduct scientific research in universities until now;  
Joined alumni associations and served as VP.

## **Fenella Sung**

I graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 1982 with a creative writing portfolio in short stories. The intensive writing exercise challenged me to look at daily life through diversified perspectives, to make connection of things seemingly unrelated, to try making some sense of them by revealing the hidden layers of human experiences. Writing has since become my lifelong passion: observing the phenomenon, analyzing with a critical mind, understanding with a compassionate heart, then expressing in words. The early writing experience of my university days has helped me through the many stages of my journalistic career and community services. It remains as relevant as ever, until today.

## **Douglas Cheung**

I graduated from the School of Architecture in 1986 and have moved to Vancouver since 1988. I am a registered architect in BC and have my own architectural practice focusing on healthcare projects. Ever since I joined the HKUAA BC in 1990, I have met a lot of great friends along the way. In 1995-96, I was the president of HKUAA BC. Looking back at my university life, I spent most of my time in Knowles Building and Ricci Hall. Being a Riccian had made a big impact on me as an individual. I also played a lot of soccer in the faculty team, hall team and university team.

## **Angela Lo**

I am always interested in literature and that's why I chose to study both English Literature and Chinese Literature (1976-79). I was the Assistant Secretary of the Chinese Society in my second year of study, so I spent most of my time hanging out in the Chinese Department. I also lived in St. John's College and participated in many hall activities. St. John's was the major part of my university life and where I met my better half and made some lifelong friends. HKU has shaped my world vision and was pivotal in my life experience. I love HKU.

# Annual General Meeting

Koon Ming Ho

After an important AGM ended, alumni, friends and representatives of other alumni associations gathered together to enjoy the dinner. It's worthy to mention that five new life-member candidates from our current membership drive attended the AGM dinner with their families on September 22, 2018. They came to meet new friends, caught up with old friends, and listened to three HKU exchange students and mentees talking about their experiences in BC.

The highlight of the evening was the program “Knowing Prof. Xiang Zhang, our new HKU President and Vice-Chancellor”. Gregory Wong and Dr. Paul Li gave an interesting and informative presentation of Dr. Zhang’s background, academic milestones, achievement and his high-tech research on nanotechnology and nanomaterials. Well done Gregory and Paul. We also heard Prof. Zhang’s vision on HKU in a video produced by HKU DAAO. We are looking forward to meeting Prof. Zhang in the future, and to seeing HKU advances under his leadership.



## New Members Welcome Party

Koon Ming Ho

On a cool but sunny November afternoon, the new members welcome party was conducted at UBC Global Lounge, a campus setting that could bring back memories of our studying days in HKU. During our membership drive, 60 new life members have joined the Association, and they are recent and elder HKU graduates spanning from 1965 to 2015. We were glad that sixteen of them were present with their family or friends in the welcome party on November 17, 2019.

The Association President, Mr. Koon Ming Ho welcomed our guests, new members and their families. Koon Ming gave a message that the Association helped to extend the network of “zijiren 自己人” for Chinese diaspora in BC; and our collective experiences helped each other to integrate our lives in BC, Canada. Koon Ming Ho and Rebecca Lee, our Vice-President, presented HKU souvenirs to all attending new life members.

Afterwards, we had coffee, tea, fresh fruits, and home-baked cakes during a small group conversation for old and new members to know each other. The thrill in the afternoon was a Hongkong quiz that ignited our competitive spirit. And the two top prizes were won by the remarkably knowledgeable alumni Cathy Mew and Fion Lo. In the end, we conducted a tour of the UBC/ HKU Global Lounge and described the history of the place.



# Taichi workshop

Patrick Kwan

A Taichi Workshop was held on November 26, 2018 for thirteen HKU alumni, their family members and friends. The main purpose is to introduce, explain and how to (by demonstration and with hands on) for the following topics:

1. The importance of correct postures, standing and sitting. One of our alumni went home after the workshop and found out from his wife that she was so amazed that he was 2 inches taller.
2. How to apply Taichi principles in our daily life in order to avoid hurting ourselves. No matter how young or how old we are, we could not afford hurting ourselves anymore, one mistake is too many.
3. How to walk relaxingly, with Taichi principle and correct posture. Another alumnus always applied this walking method during her hiking, and found that she could use less effort and became not so tired.
4. No force versus muscle power
5. How to relax and balance without force, through the first Taichi form.



## Christmas Lunch

Rebecca Lee

Noel! Noel! It is time of the year again. Christmas is a time for sending your great thoughts to your loved ones, a time for carol singing, a time for songs and music and – it is always a time for happy gatherings.

We had our Christmas Lunch at a cozy bistro, Hood 29 at Vancouver on Dec 15, 2018. Fifty-four people came and we had great food, great coffee and great drinks. Everyone enjoyed meeting old friends and seeing new faces.

This might have been the most proactive gathering ever. After the meal, it was game time. We had an exciting warm up with Favourite Songs from Movies and TV Series Trivia. It was really great fun and many were keen to raise their hands for giving out the answers. The next game was Charade – it was a game of team work, of innovative acting and of wild imagination. Everyone enjoyed the games so much. For once, we were young and energetic again. We felt we went back to the Orientation Camp.

The climax had yet to follow. We had the great performance of Miss Vanessa Kwan. She sang many songs including two composed by herself. Those were so impressive and a joy to the ears. Of course, Christmas parties should end with Sing Along Session. We had the guitar duo, Harry Lee, our past President, and Mr. Victor Roza-Pereira to lead us singing many Christmas songs. The whole dining room was filled with happy faces and elated spirits. This gathering really had left great memories for everyone attended.





# Spring Dinner

**Yeda Hong**

Our Spring Dinner took place at Continental Seafood Restaurant in Richmond on March 2, 2019. A total of 75 alumni and friends attended.

This year we hosted a Mahjong Friendly Competition before the start of the dinner, which attracted a number of skillful alumni to join as players. We had two rounds of competition and finally our champion went to Yeda Hong, one of our board directors. It was very fun and this was followed by a festive banquet with traditional Chinese New Year lantern riddles. Thanks to Yiu Shing Sz for his untiring effort to prepare this game for us. We also took the opportunity to welcome our new members and exchange students from HKU.

The highlight of the night was the lucky draw and all of our alumni and guests went home with fine prizes and/or auspicious Fai Chun written by Allan Kwan. It was an enjoyable evening for everyone!





## Spring Workshop

Rebecca Lee

The widespread use of marijuana, the illegal growing of the plant, the benefits of using them and the crime associated with it had become great concern in Canada since at least a decade ago. In October 2018, the use of recreational marijuana had been legalized. There were heated discussions about the pros and cons of obtaining marijuana easily at certain designated stores, and the possible effects on society. We are very keen to learn more about marijuana in various aspects.

We had the honor of having Dr. C P Lau, a fellow alumnus of 1969 and also our past President, to deliver us a very interesting talk “Cannabis--The Good, The Bad and The Ugly” on May 25 2019 at Global Lounge of UBC.

Dr Lau had given us a comprehensive introduction of the history, the botany and the chemistry of marijuana, which was commonly known by various names like pot, weed or hemp. The talk also covered the medical use of the plant and the development of the use of it as a recreational option. We learned a lot about the acute effects and the chronic effects of the frequent use of marijuana.

At the Question and Answer session, all participants showed great interest in discussing issues like keeping cannabis out of the hands of children and youth, avoiding accidental overdoses at driving or at work, curbing illegal sales, and regulating the quality and safety of pot.

The talk was well received and inspiring. Thanks to Dr. Lau for giving us such a detailed presentation on this timely topic. We definitely benefited from the information and the exchange of opinions at the talk.





# Burnaby Lake Walk

Rosanna Wong

Despite worries the days before the Burnaby Lake walk on July 27, 2019, the weather turned out to be nice. Fifteen people joined the walk which started from the Burnaby Sport Complex. We walked leisurely for about 2 hours while chatting with old and new friends and enjoying the scenery. We came to Piper Spit Wildlife Sanctuary where we were greeted by flocks of geese and ducks having fun in the lake. We also spotted a lonely crane. Before we turned back, we went up the viewing tower where we had a spectacular view of Metrotown far away. After the walk, some of us went to have a delicious lunch and stuffed ourselves fully and heartily with Shanghainese cuisine, without any feeling of guilt, because we had burnt so many calories in the 11-km walk! On top of that, the day happened to be the 65th birthday of one of our directors who joined the walk.



## Mentorship Program

**Koon Ming Ho**

In the 2018/19 year, there were a total of eight HKU exchange students in BC matched as mentees with our Alumni Association. Mentors included Vince Ko, Paul Li, Sharon Kwok, Rebecca Lee, Koon Ming Ho, Yeda Hong, and Douglas Cheung. Besides mentoring through personal contacts, the mentees were invited to our Alumni gatherings and to meet our alumni family and to share their cross-cultural learning experiences.



Mentees and Mentors in 2019 Spring Dinner



A mentee (second from left) attending Christmas Party