HKU Graduates in Continuing Education

In July and August 2001, a survey was designed and administered by the School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPACE) to find out the learning needs of HKU graduates. The questionnaires were dispatched to over 40,000 HKU graduates in the form of insertions to Issue 3, 2001 of the Convocation Newsletter. Upon the closing date of September 1, 2001, 1,059 completed questionnaires were received.

The findings in this survey bring forth valuable information on the learning needs of our HKU graduates. Some key findings are presented below.

Are you undertaking any study programme at present? Yes 36.8%

Study mode: Full time 7.3% Part time 92.7%

Average tuition fee for the entire programme: HK$45,994

Do you have plans to undertake any study programme in the next 12 months? Yes 64.2%

What is your budget in continuing education for the next 12 months? HK$23,480

The findings of this survey indicate that about 60% of the respondents who were undertaking a study programme were between 20 and 30 years old. It may have an implication that graduates who are relatively inexperienced are eager to further develop their career path through continuing education. On the other hand, family and other social commitments may impede those more mature graduates’ ambition in the pursuit of continuing education.

The monthly income of respondents who were undertaking a study programme

50% of the respondents who were undertaking a study programme had an average monthly income of $10,000 - $30,000. To these learners, a tuition fee of HK$45,994 (see column on left) amounts to 13% to 38% of their annual income.

The ten most popular subject areas among the respondents who were undertaking a study programme

Languages, Management Studies, and Law were the most popular subject areas among respondents who were undertaking a study programme. It indicates that there are great demands in these areas in the job market.

What kind of qualification would be obtained upon the completion of this programme?

More than one third of the respondents who were undertaking a study programme would be conferred a Master Degree upon completion of the programme. It indicates that even a bachelor degree is insufficient in the current knowledge-based and highly competitive economy.

For more details, please visit www.hku.hk/convocat/pdf/space_survey.pdf
Social Sciences 1986 and 1976

Anniversary Dinners Door-to-Door

After the 10th Anniversary Dinner Gathering in 1996, around 60 graduates of the 1986 Social Sciences Class joined the 15th Anniversary Dinner held at the Hong Kong Jockey Club. As in 1996, the dinner was initiated by the luncheon group who met regularly in Central the past few years.

Everyone had a wonderful evening and looked forward to the 20th Anniversary Dinner. The group was very much inspired by the 25th Anniversary Dinner of the 1976 Social Sciences Class, which happened to be held at the function room next door on the very same night. They certainly have set a good precedent for the 1986 Class.

For those 1986 classmates who would be interested to stay in touch with the Class’ upcoming functions, please send a quick message to Richard Mak Kan-chong at richard.mak@lombardodier.com or 9393 5212.
Reunions

Science 1971 Reunion

The BSc Class of 1971 paid a homecoming visit to the University, 30 years after graduation.

After the reunion functions in Hong Kong, a group including classmates returning from overseas travelled further to the Silk Road, giving the reunion an additional historical and culture perspective.

As part of the 30th anniversary celebration, classmates donated money to top up the funds for the BSc Class of 1971 Prize set up in 1991. A total of $70,000 has been collected to date and will be conveyed to the University.

Space Missions

Alumnus Dr Peter Tin-Yau Poon 潘天佑 (BSc 1965) was ecstatic when the Mars Odyssey spacecraft successfully went into an elliptical orbit around the planet of Mars after a successful main engine burn in October 2001. Dr Poon is Telecommunications and Mission Systems Manager at Jet Propulsion Laboratory of the US’s National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), California Institute of Technology, for a variety of space missions, including the Cassini-Huygens mission to Saturn, Mars Global Surveyor, Mars Odyssey and joint projects with the European Space Agency, the German Space Agency and the French Space Agency.

Dr Poon with a 70 meter diameter antenna station in the background. It is a gigantic dish with an area close to an acre.