



創建人文 啓導社會  
INSPIRING THROUGH HUMANITIES

As one of the three founding faculties, *the Faculty of Arts* is celebrating its 90th anniversary. The first Arts students were admitted to the Faculty in October 1912 and four of those BA students were among the small group of graduates to receive their degrees at the University's very first congregation in 1916. Since then the Faculty of Arts has grown to become one of the flagship faculties of the University of Hong Kong and its graduates have made significant contributions to the development of Hong Kong, China and the wider regions of East and Southeast Asia.

We are very proud of this long tradition in higher education and of the many achievements of our alumni and will forge ahead in continuing to provide graduates who will, through their achievements, move Hong Kong and the Region forward.

**The Faculty would like to invite you to join in the various activities planned for this year:**

## Distinguished Alumni Lectures – an annual series of keynote lectures delivered by distinguished Arts alumni

### First series: "The Humanities and Society"

Delivered by:

- **Mrs Anson Chan 陳方安生** (BA 1962)  
May 31, 2:30 pm, Rayson Huang Theatre
- **Mr Martin Lee 李柱銘** (BA 1960)  
June 14, 3:00 pm, Rayson Huang Theatre
- **Mr John Chan 陳祖澤** (BA 1964)  
September 20, 3:00 pm, Loke Yew Hall
- **Dr Alice Lam 林李翹如** (BA 1963)  
October



## Homecoming Banquet

Date: **November 14, 2003 (Fri)**

Time: **7:30 pm (6:30 pm cocktails)**

Venue: **Convention Hall, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre**

### Enquiries

Tel: 2859 2733

Email: [artsfac@hkucc.hku.hk](mailto:artsfac@hkucc.hku.hk)

Web: <http://facarts.hku.hk/homepage/>

## Homecoming Banquet

### Reservation Form

Please complete and return by **July 31, 2003**.

**To: Faculty of Arts, HKU, Pokfulam, HK (fax: 2548 5231)**

I would like to (please tick as appropriate):

reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) / \_\_\_\_\_ table(s) (\$650 each; \$7,800 per table; 12 persons per table).

reserve \_\_\_\_\_ table(s) as corporate sponsorship (\$9,000 per table).

and enclose a crossed cheque payable to "The University of Hong Kong" for HK\$ \_\_\_\_\_.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Degree & Year of graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_ (Office) \_\_\_\_\_ (Mobile)

Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

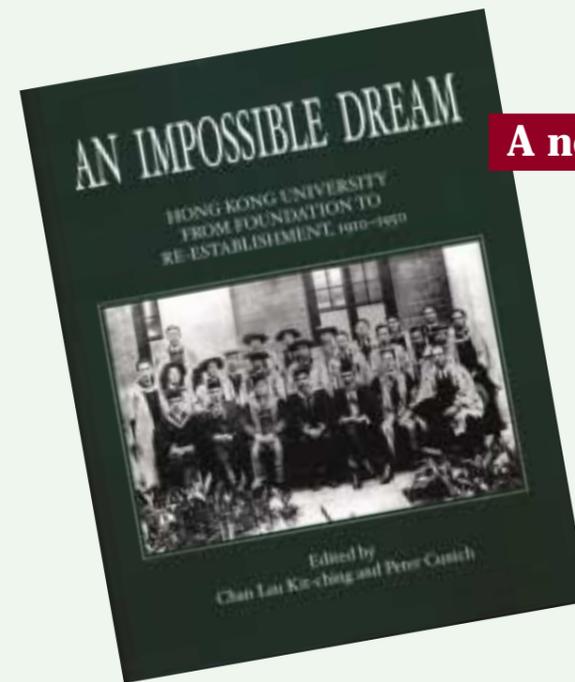
Address: \_\_\_\_\_

To celebrate the 90th Anniversary, a series of activities have been organised. It started with a garden party in October 2002 organised by the Department of History, the launch of *An Impossible Dream: Hong Kong University from Foundation to Re-establishment 1910-1950*, The Hong Kong Art Archive (<http://web.hku.hk/~hkaa/>), a series of recitals featuring classical and jazz pianists, a concert co-presented with Hong Kong Arts Festival Society: *Meeting with Steve Reich: Drums, trains and other hypnotic repetitions*, and an exhibition on Ancient Taoist Art from Shanxi Museums jointly organised with University Museum and Art Gallery, The Administration of Cultural Relics in Shanxi and Hong Kong Taoist Association.

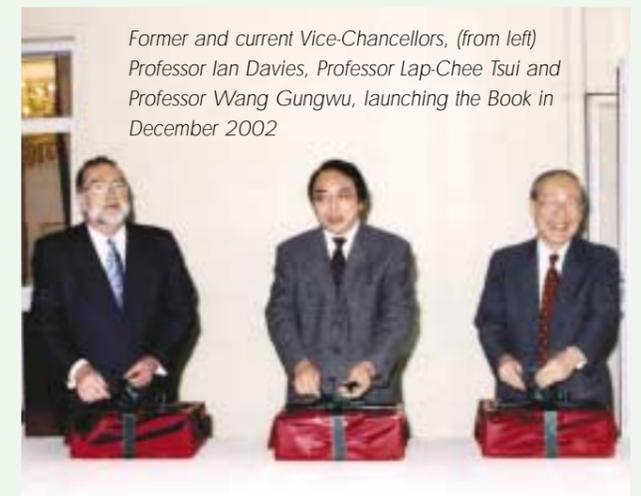
Last December, Professor Pai Hsien-yung (白先勇教授) was invited to deliver a talk on Kunqu: 崑劇裡的“男歡女愛” accompanied by a Kunqu performance by the Suzhou Kunqu Opera Theatre (江蘇省蘇州崑劇院) which was jointly organised by the Department of Chinese and the Leisure & Cultural Services Department, HKSAR and sponsored by the Wah Ching Fund for Promoting Chinese Culture (華正中國文化促進基金).



白先勇教授，現代中國文壇上的一顆明星，潛心研究崑曲藝術，有一代宗師風範。



## A new book on the early history of HKU



Former and current Vice-Chancellors, (from left) Professor Ian Davies, Professor Lap-Chee Tsui and Professor Wang Gungwu, launching the Book in December 2002

The story of HKU's early history has been told many times before, but this new book on the subject, published by Oxford University Press to mark the 90th anniversary of the University, adopts a more scholarly approach to the subject than has ever been attempted previously. The editors of the book, Professor L K C Chan and Dr Peter Cunich of the Department of History, explain that the volume attempts to make a major contribution to our understanding of the early development of higher education in Hong Kong. "It aims", said Dr Cunich, "at placing HKU in the regional and international context of higher education before the Second World War".

The twelve essays which make up the volume have all been written by specialists from the History Department, both current teachers as well as former staff and graduates, so it is a work which shows great affection for the University while being an impressive work of scholarship. As Professor Wang Gungwu said at the launch of the book in December, the story of HKU is a noble one which needs to be retold anew with each passing generation of students in order to remind us of the difficult struggle which was necessary to establish HKU as one of the finest universities in East Asia.

For a long time it did seem that the establishment and continuation of HKU was indeed an impossible dream. The book relates the succession of financial crises which brought the University to the verge of bankruptcy a number of times, the difficulties of student recruitment, and ultimately the heavy impact of the Japanese Occupation which closed the University from 1941 until 1946. But it also reveals the flame of determination which enabled staff and students to continue dreaming throughout these difficult years. There are chapters which deal with student life during the 1920s and 30s, the arrival of women students, the large contingent of Malayan Chinese students who came to HKU, and the dedication of students and staff alike during the wartime years. In fact there is something to interest every graduate in this book, whether it

be a survey of teacher training between the two world wars, or the establishment of St John's and Morrison Halls.

*An Impossible Dream* reveals that dreams do come true, but it takes a lot of dedication and fortitude. These are valid observations at a time when HKU is dreaming of being one of the top twenty-five universities in the world!



Alumni meeting in Shanghai in 1937

*An Impossible Dream: Hong Kong University from Foundation to Re-establishment, 1910-1950* (OUP, 2002) is available for alumni at the special price of \$315 and may be ordered through the Department of History Office by contacting Ms Iris Ng at tel: 2859 2861, fax: 2858 9755, or email: [history@hkucc.hku.hk](mailto:history@hkucc.hku.hk). Overseas alumni wishing to order at the full price (\$350) plus postage of \$90 (within Asia) or \$115 (outside Asia) should place their orders through Oxford University Press, Academic and Trade Unit, 18/F Warwick House East, Taikoo Place, 979 King's Road, Quarry Bay, Hong Kong (fax: +852-2516 3208, tel: +852-2516 3208, or email: [chansuan@oupchina.com.hk](mailto:chansuan@oupchina.com.hk)).