

Hong Kong University Alumni Association of Ontario Annual Report 2008 – 2009

It is my honour to serve the board as President for another term and to enjoy the support from such a wonderful team of board members.

Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner

The year 2008 was a year of great excitement to us as Chinese. We celebrated in advance the Beijing Olympics that was held in August 2008 by inviting representatives from the Chinese Consulate to give us a feature presentation at the annual dinner on March 30th, 2008. Chinese Consul General, Madame Zhu Taoying along with her deputies as well as Deputy Director of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Mr. YC Chan, were present as our VIP's. The lively video show and interactive Q&A have stimulated discussion and keen interests among audience. The games that were watched by millions around the globe also demonstrated the growing strength of Chinese nation. At the Annual General Meeting, new board of directors for 2008 – 09 was elected.

Spring Hike at Rouge River Conservation Area

We re-visited Rouge River Conservation Area for the first taste of spring after a long winter. A cozy team of participants were joined by Deputy Director of HKETO, Mr. YC Chan on May 4th, 2008 for a 3-hour hike. It was rather smooth and leisurely. As usual, we ended the day with dinner and wine with friends from the Tai Chi Society and our hike leader, Mr. Thomas Wong.

Dinner with Pro-Vice-Chancellor

HKU Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Professor S.P. Chow, visited Toronto in March. We were glad to have dinner with him, Ms. Bernadette Tsui and Ms. Monica Wong from HKU Development and Alumni Affairs Office at Ambassador Chinese Cuisine in Richmond Hill on March 19th, 2009. It was a warm gathering. We have received a first-hand update on the progress

of Centennial Campus and preparation for the Centenary of alma mater in 2011.

Fall Hike on Seaton Trail

Fall is the best season to enjoy ourselves outdoor. We went for a level 2 hike (according to Bruce Trail Club difficulty level) on October 5th, 2008. Assistant Director Public Relations of Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, Mr. Stephen Siu, joined us to appreciate the fall colours. Seaton Trail offers some interesting landscape – undulating slopes and bending creeks intertwined with the beautiful foliage – all captured in the photography by Stephen that is available in our online photo album. Once again, we ended our walk with dinner and wine at Fisherman Villa Restaurant in Scarborough.

HKU Mentorship Program

This year, we have paired up nine volunteer mentors with exchange students from Hong Kong University who stay in Canada for one to two academic semesters to enrich their life and learning experiences. Mentors stay in touch with these students and provide assistance in settlement and keep them company.

We organized a pot-luck gathering of mentors and mentees at Pierre Fan's residence on November 29th, 2008. Despite heavy snow, the event was well attended and very enjoyable. We shared home-made dishes, exchanged a few jokes and viewpoints on current affairs. And of course, Wii games never fail to capture our attention. Mentee, Jessie Choi, was present to receive the travel award.

University Scholarships

Gabriella Cohen of York University; Mihaela Dirlea, Jeffrey Jeon, Doil Kim, Kateln Adach and Pavel Sergeyev of University of Toronto have received awards from Cultural Fund Scholarships to go on exchange programs with Hong Kong University and Chinese University.

As a result of the resolution passed at board meeting on October 22nd, 2008, criteria of scholarship have been revised to target outbound

students to the University of Hong Kong only. Same change has been effected with University of Toronto and York University.

Ontario Inter-Collegiate Chinese Debate Competition

We continue to support Ontario Inter-Collegiate Chinese Debate Competition. With their goals to promote communication and Chinese culture among participants from nine universities in Ontario, the alliance is going into its 18th year. Final contest was held on March 1st, 2009 and the champion team was University of Toronto.

Travel Award

A travel award of \$500 was granted to Jessie Choi, a HKU exchange student to the University of Waterloo.

North American HKU Alumni Joint Function – Las Vegas

The event was held on April 4th to 6th, 2009 in Las Vegas. Representatives from Ontario include Overseas Director, Evelyn Man and other alumni members.

Thank you for caring and serving our community of alumni members. With common background, we all strive to build a good network of friends that can give back to our alma mater and local community.

Respectfully submitted,

Loretta Hoi
President 2008/2009
HKUAAO