

HKUAAO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2020

Sept 23 2020, 7 p.m. via Zoom

President's Report for 2019-2020

Submitted by Lilian Ma

I have the privilege to serve as HKUAAO president last year and this is my report on behalf of the Board for the year 2019-2020. Due to the extraordinary circumstances posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, starting around mid March 2020 in Ontario, when public events were cancelled and shut down, we were unable to call for a traditional AGM and dinner as in past years. While the pandemic continued into the summer, the HKUAAO Board of Directors decided to hold a virtual A.G.M. on Sept 23 2020 via Zoom, as the legislation had been amended by the Ontario government to allow for virtual meetings for organizations under the Ontario Corporations Act. As well they have extended dates to call an AGM' for non-profit organizations like us, despite no such provisions in our Constitution. .

The Board Directors for 2019-20 included: Lilian Ma (President), Wilson Chan (Immediate past president), Augustine Chan and Romeo Au (VPs), Tim Cheng (Treasurer), Pierre Fan (Secretary), Franki Cheng (Cultural Affairs), Raymond Leung (mentor program), Verdi Yau (communications) Maggie Poon (membership), and Directors at large: Glendy Sze (hiking events),and Dennis Au Yeung and Margaret Law as well as Evelyn Man (overseas director) We are also honoured to have the assistance of **Honorary Chairman**, Professor Lap-Chee Tsui and **Honorary Advisors**, Irene Chu, Peggy Sum and Bassanio So.

Despite COVID-19 impeding our ability to hold events after March 2020, we had quite a few events prior to the onset of the pandemic. I believe our members and their families and friend had enjoyed the various indoor and outdoor functions to their heart's content.

Indoor events:

(1) AGM 2019

Our 34th, AGM and dinner was held on April 14 2019 at Premier Ballroom and Convention Centre at Markham. It was well-attended by Alumni members, Board Directors, mentees, families and friends. Special Guests as well as representatives from the HK Economic and Trade Office and the Joint University Alumni Association (Hong Kong Universities) were also present. .

We started off with in video greetings from the HKU President and Vice Chancellor, Professor Zhang Xiang. A special keynote speech by Ms. Emily Mo, Director of The

Hong Kong Economic and Trade Office, on the latest news of the Great Bay area around Hong Kong, added to our celebration. Attendees had fun of meeting one another, enjoyed karaoke music, witnessed presentation of awards to outstanding Alumni, photo sessions etc. I hope all our Alumni and family, friends are safe and healthy during this trying time. For more details about the AGM please see our Newsletter Issue #62 sent out in August 2020 on our website (<http://www.alumni.hku.hk/hkuaaont/document/newsletter62.pdf>).

(2) HKJU (Ontario) Talent Show and Gala Dinner on October 6, 2019

We were a key participant at this JU event. This is an excerpt from Romeo Au's report, who with Augustine Chan, represented the HKUAAO at the HKJU meetings: "The Joint U event was hosted by Chu Hai Alumni Association who suggested a talent show instead of a sport activity as in past years for a change. The idea received huge support from all alumni associations. The event was held at Infiniti Strings' concert hall in Markham with professional audio and video facilities. A rehearsal was arranged two weeks before so participants could acquaint themselves with the venue and audio/visual facilities to raise a notch in their performance. You could not believe how good the performances were. All participants had shown their utmost professionalism, dedication and put on their best effort to entertain the audience. Together with the audio, video and special effects, the 200 people audience could not have imagined how these 'amateurs' could put up such an excellent show.

Over 30 HKU alumni came out to support to our mini musical drama led by HKUAAO members Eddie Ho, Maggie Poon, Margaret Law and Verdi Yau. Their act won the Favourite Performance Award, one of four Awards given out. Congratulation to the winners and all performers and helpers. Without them, we could not have had such a wonderful and enjoyable afternoon to share with our families and friends.

As usual, JU committee had arranged a gala dinner right after the Talent Show and almost 300 alumni, guest, families and friends had attended. They made use of this banquet to celebrate all the hard work for all JU activities organized in 2019. HKUAAO had 60 alumni came to share the fun."

Thank you Romeo and Augustine for your presence at JU on our behalf to connect up with the alumni of all other Universities from HK.

Outdoor events:

(1) HKUAAO Spring hike on May 26, 2019.

The annual Spring Hike event was held successfully with good participation of approximately 40 alumni, their families and friends in the beautiful nature trails in Rouge Valley. After the hike, about 18 people stayed and enjoyed a nice dinner together.

(2) HKJU Summer Picnic – Sibbald Point Provincial Park on June 22, 2019

Almost 100 JU alumni, families and friends attended the summer picnic in Sibbald Point Provincial, south east of Lake Simcoe, about an hour drive from downtown Toronto. The picnic provided a chance for us to take a break and enjoy the countryside on a lovely sunny day.

HKUAAO had a contingent of 12 people joining in with others of various Universities/colleges from Hong Kong. Various activities were organized including hiking along the park and the lakeshore, photos shooting, games and BBQ- roasted pigs. The organizer also brought in a professional photographer taking aerial photos for us with a drone.

(3) HKUAAO 2019 Fall Hike on September 29, 2019

The Fall Hike on Sept 29, 2019 took place in the Bob Hunter Memorial Park in Markham. The park, being part of the Rouge National Park System, commemorates Bob Hunter (1941-2005), a Canadian environmental champion who worked tirelessly to protect biodiversity and celebrate nature. It was a beautiful Sunday with fresh Crispy Fall air. We did this jointly as in the past with a Tai Chi Group with a total of 40 participants and then followed with a visit to the nearby farm, Judy's Tropical Farm. The hike ended with a dinner in a restaurant in Markham.

We thank Hannah, Augustine, Liza, Glendy and Tom Wong as well as many other volunteers for organizing our hiking events.

2019-2020 Mentoring Program:

We have always maintained a mentoring program with the HKU students visiting Ontario Universities. This year, Mr. Raymond Leung is our mentorship director. Here is his report on mentoring activities:

1. First Semester - we have 6 exchange students from Business & Economics, Arts, Engineering, Science and Laws staying at the Ottawa U, York U, Queen's U and U of Toronto. Six mentors had participated for mentoring the students to the end of the semester.
2. Second Semester - we have 8 exchange students from Business & Economics, Arts, Engineering, Science and Education staying at the Western U, York U, Queen's U and U of Toronto. Seven mentors had participated for mentoring the students. However, the mentoring program had been cut short with the students returning to Hong Kong in mid-March 2020 due to the CONVID-19 virus.

In late August we received news from HKU Alumni office that there is a temporary halt of the student visit due to the pandemic in September 2020 for the fall term. However January 2021 will be pending.

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

We also have special interest groups catering to special interests of members.

Hiking

The hiking interest group was led by Hannah Cheung. Their activities had already been folded into our hiking reports above.

Birding

COVID-19 did not hamper the birder's activities. That group led by Dr. Michael Lam had been constantly active using social media to exchange pictures, reporting on the whereabouts of bird sightings. Report from Dr. Lam is as follows:

The birding interest group is a loosely associated alumni members who are interested in bird watching.

Due to COVID-19, and also due to variation of time commitment of members, regular bird hikes were not arranged lately. As birding is an outdoor hobby, it depends very much on weather, time of year and availability of interesting birds. The practice of social distancing also put group activities at a halt.

Nevertheless, members have been doing bird watching in small groups, whenever their schedule and availability fitted fine. News of arrival of new birds and bird photos are shared on our birding WhatsApp group. We have shared our birding experiences and information, and learned more about birds in the past seven years.

Table Tennis

I received this report from Mr. Dan Lam, leader of the Table Tennis Group: The HKU TT Group has been active for the first three quarters of the year with alumni attending the clubs in Toronto and Mississauga playing on a regular basis among themselves and against other club members, although no formal competition has been organized. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit Ontario in February/ March, and the TT clubs shut their doors, alumni have stopped playing. The clubs have recently reopened to a limited capacity and it is hopeful that with a lowering of infections, alumni can resume their active participation in this sport.

Badminton

Romeo Au leader of this group reported that this group had been dormant this year, specially after COVID-19, all the venue for play in schools had been closed.

Wine Tasting

Dennis Au-Yeung and Tim Cheng reported that this group had been quiet this year.

Karaoke

Lily Lee and Eddie led this group. For Karaoke, our members join force with the JU where they have a vibrant group of karaoke activities, led by Larry Lai from JU, prior to the pandemic but has been only using social media to connect since COVID – 19 as activities are barred.

Group leaders

I would like to say a special thank you to all the leaders for these special interests groups for their time and energy to maintain interests among members for their social benefits and enjoyments. Many of them have been doing this for a long time and over a number of years. Thanks to them, our members can enjoy more fun among a friendly atmosphere.

Regrettably, both Dr. Michael Lam and Mr. Dan Lam will retire as leaders for their special interest groups, so we would like to thank them for their outstanding service for many years. We encourage members to volunteer and come forward and contribute as leaders for these groups. Please feel free to contact me or any of the Directors of the Board if you wish to become a leader.

Communication

Last but not the least, Verdi Yau and Maggie Poon had been faithfully taking care of newsletter and e-notices to all members as well as maintaining membership. They kept members in touch with news from the Association, our Alma Mater as well as news about our members and friends helping out with COVID 19 relief efforts. Their efforts kept our communications flowing during these difficult times. We want to say a big thank you to them specially when they have work and parental duties on top during the pandemic.

Conclusion

I would like to thank all the HKUAAO board members, all the Advisors and our Hon. Chairman, for their devotion and generosity with their time and energy to improving and maintaining the reach and progress of our Association. I want to specially express my deepest gratitude to all the alumni and volunteers for their invaluable support to our Association's activities, and in particular, Pierre Fan, who will be resigning from the Board. We also welcome new members who have joined our organization. Only through our members' deep commitment can we continue to build our continual trust and ties

through our common bond, through our continued love and common bond as HKU graduates and staff. It is my hope that we continue to meet every challenge successfully as we move forward into the future.

Respectfully submitted by,

Lilian Ma on behalf of the Board of Directors

President 2019/2020

HKUAAO