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The Mystery of Music Raising the Tone

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NEWS ROUND-UP

- 1 ♦ **Mega-donation**
- 1 ♦ **Patients are Human Too!**
- 2 ♦ **Asian Tsunami**
 - **Helping Victims to Rebuild**
 - **Hydrologists Provide Clean Water**
 - **Wave of Interest in Department's Work**
- 4 ♦ **A Primer on Hong Kong's Ecology**
- 5 ♦ **Safety First**



RESEARCH

- 6 ♦ **The Economic Fall-out of Smoking**
- 7 ♦ **A Magnetic Combination**
- 8 ♦ **The Language of Music (cover story)**
- 10 ♦ **Non-Invasive Detection of Down's Syndrome**
- 11 ♦ **Can Nationality be Taught?**



TEACHING AND LEARNING

- 12 ♦ **The Importance of Family**



PEOPLE

- 13 ♦ **Law Scholar in Top Ten**



STUDENTS

- 14 ♦ **Solar Campus**
- 15 ♦ **The Key to Successful Leadership**



ARTS

- 16 ♦ **Becoming a Writer**
- 17 ♦ **Taking the Tram**



Mega-donation

The University's development as a leading international institution received a major boost with the donation of a generous \$1 billion from the Li Ka Shing Foundation, in May.

The gift is the highest sum ever donated to a university in Hong Kong. The Vice-Chancellor, Professor Lap-Chee Tsui said he was 'delighted' at the news and thanked Mr Li Ka Shing, Chairman of Cheung Kong (Holdings) Ltd and Hutchison Whampoa Ltd, for his generosity.

In a message to staff he said: "This unprecedented gift not only represents a strong endorsement of our excellence but also sets a milestone for philanthropy. The benefaction will propel the University to new heights."

In recognition of his philanthropic support the University Council, in another unprecedented move, agreed to propose to Mr Li that the Faculty of Medicine bear his name.

"It is the wish of the Li Ka Shing Foundation to support the general development of the University and research and academic activities in the broad area of biomedical education," said the Vice-Chancellor.

"The naming of the Faculty of Medicine is recognition not only of the generosity of Mr Li and the Foundation but also of the achievements and contributions of the Medical Faculty in the past and its commitment to its future endeavours.

"This will indeed be a strategic partnership of excellence between a premier institution and an outstanding philanthropist," he added.

The Li Ka Shing Foundation was established in 1980 to co-ordinate donations towards medical, educational, cultural and other community welfare projects. Together with other private charitable foundations established by Mr Li it has made donations of approximately \$7.6 billion to date.

Patients are Human Too!

Medical students are to be encouraged to brush up on their bedside manner and learn new skills as part of a new curriculum to be unveiled this summer.

The leadership programme aims to groom our medical students for leadership and policy-making in the future, according to Dean and Chair Professor of Medicine, Lam Shiu Kum.

It will also provide them with support for 'whole person' development and will initially be offered on a voluntary basis before becoming a compulsory part of the curriculum in the next academic year.

Then each student will be required to take at least a one half-module on leadership development throughout the five years of their undergraduate training.

"It will be built into the curriculum and will be a conscious effort," said Professor Lam.

He added that although young doctors tend to be technology-savvy they sometimes tend to neglect the more human side of patient treatment.

"There is a huge medical-technological explosion and young people tend to like this so the humanity side, the leadership side and the 'whole-person' side also needs to be taken care of," he added.

"Hong Kong has become an advanced city and many future leaders will come from this University. We think it is almost our duty to provide this training to our graduates."



ASIAN TSUNAMI

Helping Victims to Rebuild

While most of us were digging deep into our pockets to help victims of the devastating Indian Ocean tsunami, Paul Cheung was setting himself up as a one-man relief agency.

Dr Cheung, Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, is the 'lead shepherd' of the APEC Industrial Science and Technology working group, received from a colleague in Indonesia an urgent e-mail on January 1, 2005 asking for help in securing a desalination system to provide drinking water for survivors in the area.

Within two weeks, Dr Cheung had started Project Clean Aqua, raised more than \$500,000 from his personal funds, friends and family, flown to the United States to inspect, purchase and learn to operate a desalination system, and escorted it to the Posko (Camp) Jengjala for survivors in Aceh.

He arrived to a land flattened, de-vegetated and littered with corpses and debris. With the help of Ted Kuepper, an expert in desalination systems and Executive Director of Global Water, a non-profit non-government organization in the US, he successfully installed the system in Camp Jengjala in Lhok Nga, just outside Banda Aceh.

"It was a humbling experience," he said. "The people were amazing, they had lost everything – their homes and families – but they had internal strength. They quickly moved on to build up their lives again, rather than trying to find blame. Hong Kong people could learn a lot from them."

The camp is designed to hold about 500 people and feed another 1,500, but had only enough money to keep going for three months when Dr Cheung came along. He and his major donors felt they could be more effective by concentrating their money on the one camp and letting the local people use it for the purposes they thought best.

"It turned out the desalination system was not the most urgent need. They needed money, so that's what we gave them. It will be up to the people there to decide how to use it – they know where the need is," he said.

The camp's operating costs are US\$10,000 a month and it will take about a year to construct new homes for survivors, with each home costing about US\$1,500 (HK\$12,000) which is the cost of material only. The people in the camp help each other to rebuild their homes. One by one they are rebuilding, the first two houses have been finished to be shown as 'model homes'.

"The people in these areas want to help themselves. The best thing we can do is tell them they are not alone and bring them what we can. They have to help themselves," Dr Cheung said.

Hydrologists Provide Clean Water

An engineering academic relieved some of the hardship in the aftermath of the Asian tsunami by hand delivering 15,000 water purification tablets to the Sri Lankan government.

Dr Amithirigal Jayawardena, Senior Lecturer and an expert in hydrology in the Department of Civil Engineering, bought the tablets in Hong Kong with colleague Associate Professor Dr Lam Kit Ming, paying for them out of their own pockets.

Then he boarded a flight for Colombo and dropped the tablets off at the National Water Supply and Drainage Board of the Sri Lankan government.

"As a result of the tragedy, many of the wells near the coastal areas have been contaminated with sea water making them unsuitable for domestic use," he explained.

"Water had to be transported from different sources and stored in small tanks at strategic locations in the affected areas for the villagers' use. The water purification tablets were meant to be used in these tanks to kill pathogenic bacteria," he added.

The tablets would have supplied about two to three weeks worth of drinkable water to villages along the west coast.

"As far as water supply is concerned the problem has been managed quite well by the government; there has been no outbreak of water-borne diseases," he said.

Responding to a call from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers for volunteers, he has also signed up with the Red Cross in Hong Kong to make himself available for any long-term reconstruction advice that any affected country in the region might need.

Wave of Interest in Department's Work

The after-effects of the Indian Ocean tsunami are continuing to ripple through the Department of Earth Sciences which, as the only science department in Hong Kong with an expertise in this area, has been called upon to answer the many concerns that were churned up by the event.

The government's Security Bureau has sought the Department's input on the risk of a major tsunami hitting Hong Kong, and thousands of people, mainly school children, have attended talks by Earth Sciences academics, far exceeding expectations.

Scholars are also working with seismology experts on the Mainland to investigate the possibility of a tsunami warning system for the South China Sea and to explore and establish collaborative research programmes. Meetings have been held with the Hainan and Guangdong Seismological Bureaus, and the Seismological Bureau of the Central Government.

A devastating tsunami is believed to have last occurred along the South China coast in the early 1780s, killing about 40,000 people, but there is a scarcity of information about other such events. The department is keen to develop research in this area, according to Dr Chan Lung Sang, who, with Dr Jason Ali both Lecturers in the

Department and Professor Jonathon Aitchison, Head of the Department are at the forefront of efforts to provide tsunami-related information.

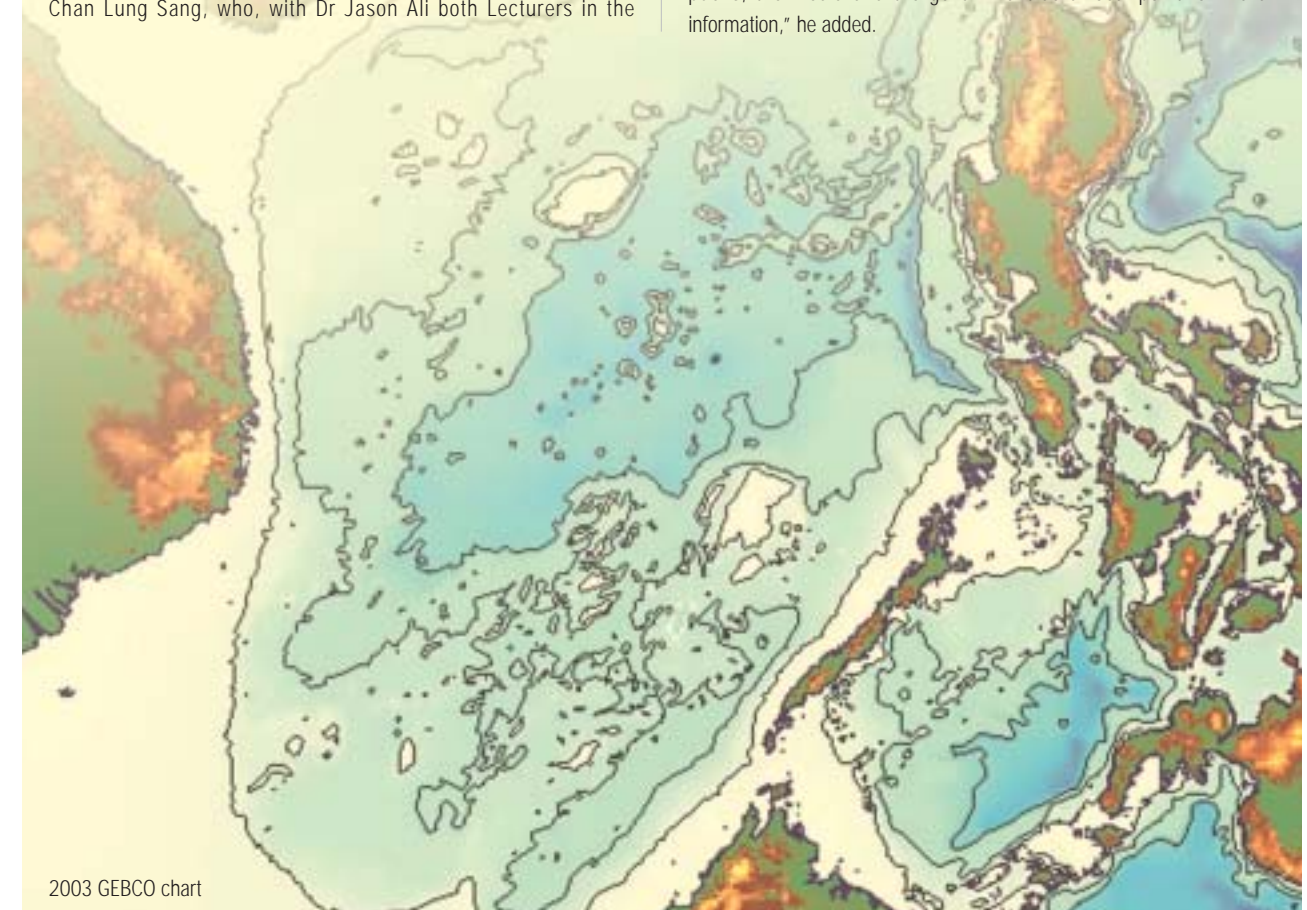
"This research will not be easy because the literature doesn't separate tsunami events from tidal surges caused by typhoons or heavy storms. But if we can have an accurate record of previous events, we can do a reasonable assessment of the tsunami risk," Dr Chan said.

Earthquakes can trigger tsunamis and Dr Ali pointed out that the nearby Manila Trench, which runs along the Western Philippines, has a similar tectonic configuration to Sumatra, the epicentre of the earthquake that set off the Indian Ocean tsunami. Combining information about past tsunamis and what is known about earthquake occurrence will help the scientists determine the risks.

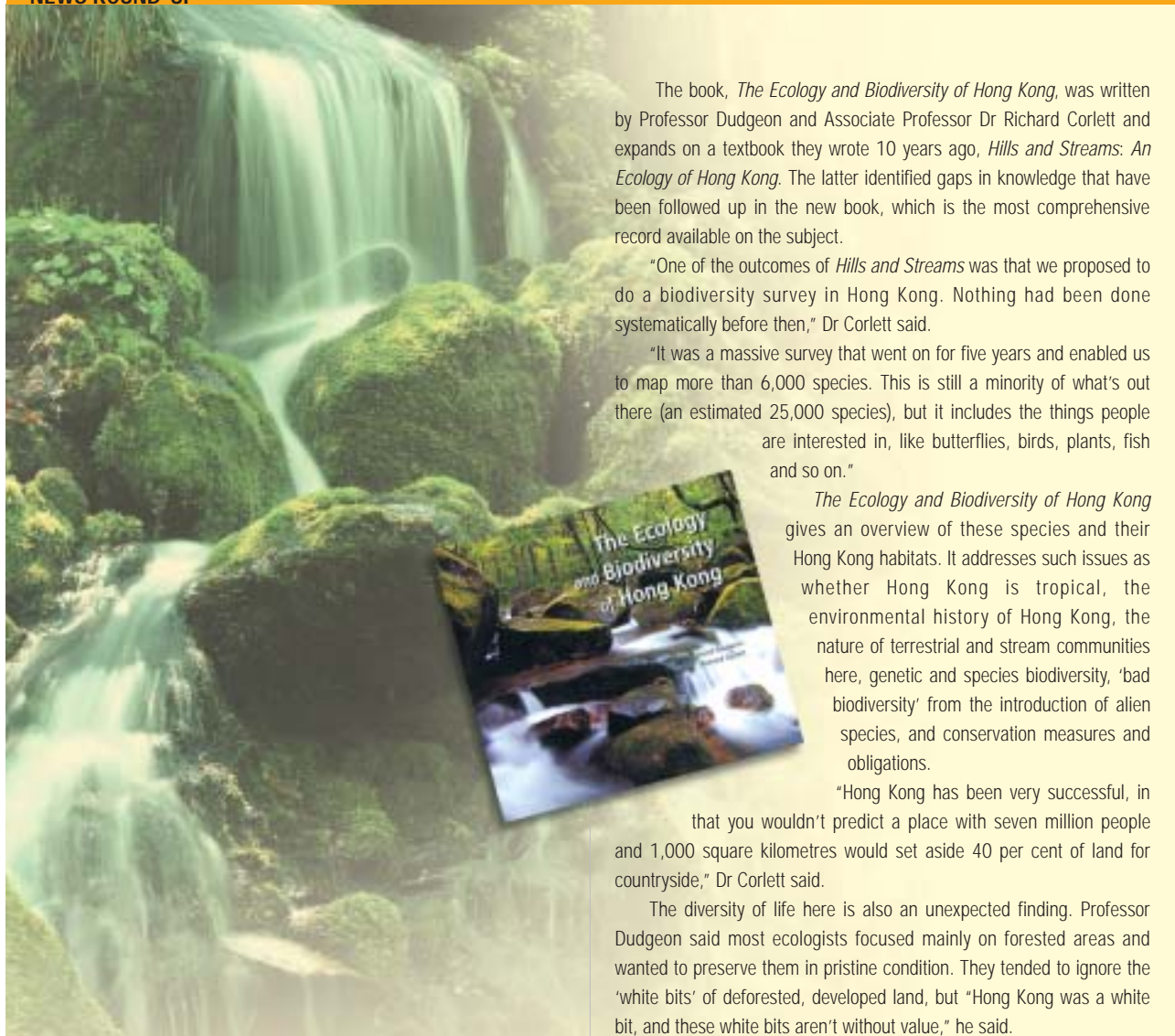
In the meantime, the Department's academics have also been busy dealing with requests for more information about tsunamis from the media and the public.

A public talk at the Rayson Huang Theatre originally intended for 300 people pulled in more than 1,200 and required satellite links to lecture rooms to accommodate the audience. Large numbers also attended talks given at Hong Kong's Science Museum, Central Library and more than a dozen secondary schools.

Dr Ali said this has all been good for the Department and the University. "What's been really interesting is that we're being seen by the public, the media and the government as a focal point for 'hard' information," he added.



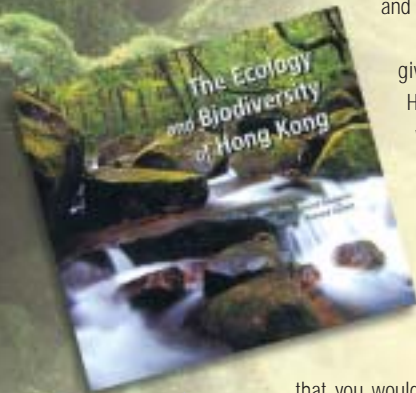
2003 GEBCO chart



The book, *The Ecology and Biodiversity of Hong Kong*, was written by Professor Dudgeon and Associate Professor Dr Richard Corlett and expands on a textbook they wrote 10 years ago, *Hills and Streams: An Ecology of Hong Kong*. The latter identified gaps in knowledge that have been followed up in the new book, which is the most comprehensive record available on the subject.

"One of the outcomes of *Hills and Streams* was that we proposed to do a biodiversity survey in Hong Kong. Nothing had been done systematically before then," Dr Corlett said.

"It was a massive survey that went on for five years and enabled us to map more than 6,000 species. This is still a minority of what's out there (an estimated 25,000 species), but it includes the things people are interested in, like butterflies, birds, plants, fish and so on."



The Ecology and Biodiversity of Hong Kong gives an overview of these species and their Hong Kong habitats. It addresses such issues as whether Hong Kong is tropical, the environmental history of Hong Kong, the nature of terrestrial and stream communities here, genetic and species biodiversity, 'bad biodiversity' from the introduction of alien species, and conservation measures and obligations.

"Hong Kong has been very successful, in that you wouldn't predict a place with seven million people and 1,000 square kilometres would set aside 40 per cent of land for countryside," Dr Corlett said.

The diversity of life here is also an unexpected finding. Professor Dudgeon said most ecologists focused mainly on forested areas and wanted to preserve them in pristine condition. They tended to ignore the 'white bits' of deforested, developed land, but "Hong Kong was a white bit, and these white bits aren't without value," he said.

Having said that, the authors hope their book will help to prevent the destruction of areas of ecological value, by alerting people to those areas that need protection.

"Consultants and developers used to argue that we didn't know enough about Hong Kong's ecology and biodiversity. But it is clear from this book that a huge amount is now known. You can't use ignorance as a defence for environmental damage," Dr Corlett said.

The Ecology and Biodiversity of Hong Kong appears in three versions – English, traditional Chinese and simplified Chinese versions – with a view to giving it a wide audience. It is published by the Friends of the Country Parks and Joint Publishing Ltd and has been supported by the government's Agriculture, Fisheries and Conservation Department and the Friends of the Country Parks, and costs \$150.

A Primer on Hong Kong's Ecology

Two ecologists have stepped out of the narrow confines of scientific literature to publish an overview of Hong Kong's ecology and biodiversity, with a higher purpose in mind.

Professor David Dudgeon of the Department of Ecology and Biodiversity said: "Academics were often rewarded for producing arcane scientific papers, but those do little to save the natural environment. Citizens are the ones who do that. With this new book, we're making information available to people about the environment they have, so they can decide whether or not they want to protect it."

Safety First

The University has employed two new specialist safety officers following the recommendations in the recently published *Report on the Review of Health and Safety Management*.



The Report suggested a number of procedures for upgrading the University's commitment to health and safety in the workplace and highlighted the need to develop additional expertise in biological safety and construction safety.

"These were the two areas which were considered most risky. But we do not have appropriate expertise to deal with these issues," said Director of Safety, Dr Des Mabbott.

So the University has recently employed two such experts – Edward Kwok and Dr Mike Mackett.

Edward Kwok has worked in construction for almost three decades and is an expert in the relevant safety issues.

From 1992 to 1996 he was employed by the Airport Authority, as Senior Safety Advisor, responsible mainly for the terminal building at Chek Lap Kok. He saw the project develop from the initial reclamation, when he oversaw safety in dredging, landfill, use of large dump trucks and stockpile work right through to the final completion of the main terminal building. He was also responsible for safety on the construction of the main railway terminus and control tower, as well as the police and fire stations.

"I was lucky to be sponsored by the Hong Kong government to receive on-the-job training for an international diploma from the British Safety Council. Then I worked on attachment with the British Airport Authority at Heathrow," he said.



Kwok emigrated to Canada in 1996 but returned to Hong Kong three years later to work as a resident safety manager at West Rail until 2003, where he oversaw safety issues on the construction of two stations.

Also no stranger to academia, Kwok a part-time lecturer for ten years at The Chinese University of Hong Kong where he taught construction supervisor courses.

At the University his job will be to develop a health and safety management system for the entire Estates Office and various departments involved in construction. His work will cover existing buildings and all new project works. He will also be tailoring courses on safety for the Estates Office staff.

Biological Safety Officer, Dr Mackett, joins the University from the Health and Safety Executive, the UK body which regulates health and safety in the workplace. While there he was actively involved in inspecting universities, companies, industrial plants and hospitals, particularly in the assessment of risk for genetic modification.

Here at the University he will initially assess the work carried out with biological agents, with particular regard to genetic modification.

His dual academic and regulatory background will serve him in good stead in his new position.



"I was an honorary lecturer in the Department of Medicine of the University of Manchester so I had contact with people in the medical school but I was actually in the Paterson Institute for Cancer Research in Manchester from 1983 to 2000."

He agrees that the regulatory framework in the UK is quite different to Hong Kong and that the University acknowledged it needed some advice and help in the area of biological safety.

"Researchers were asking for answers to questions that they needed to know and no-one here was in the position to answer. So I will be here to advise but also to regulate," he explained.

Mackett will also be concentrating on issues of high risk like work carried out on the Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) virus and bird flu. "These are areas that I'm going to have to look at quite closely."

He has a strong background in virus research having completed his PhD at St Mary's Hospital, London in the molecular analysis of poxviruses before working at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, Maryland, where he helped develop a system that allowed poxviruses to express foreign genes and showed that they could be used as vaccines.

At the Paterson Institute he worked on the Epstein-Barr virus developing vaccines.

The Economic Fall-out of Smoking

The alarming financial cost of smoking has been revealed by a HKU-led team of academics in a shocking new study.

The fruit of five years of research shows that smoking is responsible for \$5.3 billion a year in health-related costs.

And this, they say, is a conservative estimate dwarfing the government's own guess that smoking costs approximately \$900 million a year.

The team took into account the effects of passive smoking and all the costs linked to smoking-related diseases, including strokes, heart disease and major cancers. It also considered the loss of income resulting from a patient's shortened working life.

According to the study, the overall estimate of the costs of direct health care for diseases caused by active and passive smoking is \$2.6 billion for acute and chronic health care; \$0.9 billion for long term care (mainly in nursing homes); and \$1.8 billion for productivity losses each year.

This is Hong Kong's first comprehensive study of the economic fall-out of cigarettes on the health service. The team included research project leader, Associate Professor Sarah McGhee, Head and Chair Professor of the Department of Community Medicine Professor Lam Tai Hing, Chair Professor Anthony Hedley and health economist, Helen Lapsley from the University of Queensland, Australia.

They estimate that almost 7,000 people die annually from active and passive smoking. Of these almost 4,000 are premature deaths before the age of 75.

Professor Lam said he believed the results would provide a good footing from which to challenge the tobacco industry and would further reinforce the government's campaign to ban smoking in Hong Kong restaurants and bars.

The controversial reforms are aimed at reducing harm to the 85.6 per cent of the population that do not smoke.

Dr McGhee said: "Until now we have not had a comprehensive, reliable, up-to-date estimate of the cost of diseases caused by tobacco, including passive smoking.

"Having this information at our fingertips should remove any shred of doubt that we need to move ahead with more effective smoke-free laws as soon as possible."

The team also stressed that \$50 million annually would go a long way towards supporting services that help people kick the habit. The figure represents just one per cent of the total cost of smoking to Hong Kong. They also called for \$15 million to be set aside by government officials for tobacco research.

The study follows on from earlier research released in January this year that indicated that living with a smoker and inhaling second-hand smoke increases stroke deaths by 50 per cent.

That research was conducted by academics in the same Department working alongside the University of Oxford and the government's Health Department.

The report, published in the *British Medical Journal*, showed for the first time that the damage caused by passive smoking to arteries in the brain is an important preventable cause of death from stroke.

McGhee, lead author of that report said that the evidence for a direct cause and effect relationship between passive smoking and fatal illnesses was very strong and the risks increased with the number of smokers living with a non-smoker.

"The findings show that anyone with regular exposure to second-hand smoke is at a much increased risk of serious and life-threatening diseases."

She added that one in five of all deaths from a stroke in non-smokers are attributable to damage from second-hand smoke.

"Assuming conservatively that 50 per cent of the population aged over 35 is exposed to second-hand smoke, the best estimate is that 1,324 death per year in non-smokers from heart, vascular and lung diseases, and cancers are strongly associated with passive smoking at home or work," she said.



A Magnetic Combination

Earth scientist Jason Ali and historian Peter Cunich have been puzzling over the unusual orientation of 18th century English churches for the past four years. Now they have an answer and it comes from another unlikely pairing.

Edmund Halley, the brilliant scientist immortalised by the comet that bears his name, and architect Nicholas Hawksmoor, the 'Devil's Architect' best known for his foreboding baroque churches, likely collaborated to achieve exact east-west alignment for several places of worship in London. To achieve that goal they would have had to use modern science – the first time it was applied in architecture.

The results have been published in journals far removed from Dr Ali and Dr Cunich's fields of expertise – the *Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians* and the Royal Astronomical Society's *Astronomy and Geophysics*. *Nature* has also reported on their findings and the University's Department of Architecture hosted a talk by the pair, who met by chance when Dr Ali missed a bus and Dr Cunich offered him a ride to the University.

"We could never have got this far with this project individually because it requires the skills of both an historian and a scientist," Dr Cunich said. "The findings tell us a lot about the architecture and history of the time, as well as providing unique insights into Great-and-the-Good who 300 years ago were beginning to assume power in England."

The churches were being built when the Church of England and the state were trying to establish England as the centre of Christianity, with London being the 'New' Jerusalem. The east-west orientation idea in building design was part of grander scheme to get back to a primitive, 'purer' form of the religion.

Hawksmoor and Halley both played important roles in the church building programme. Hawksmoor was keen to achieve exact orientation for his churches, while Halley (a building commissioner) was an expert in geomagnetism and could get true N-S-E-W by using corrected compass bearings. Dr Ali and Dr Cunich suggest the two joined forces, Halley using his knowledge to help Hawksmoor achieve precise alignments on two East End churches.

"These measurements could not have been guessed at and they would have been very difficult to achieve without the kind of expertise that Halley had," Dr Ali said. "The Chinese also used compasses, but structures we've measured in various Chinese cities, as well as Hong Kong's walled villages, indicate that their measurements were never exact or systematic."

Apart from shedding light on church orientation, the research is the first to report on the Hawksmoor-Halley relationship and gives a new angle on Halley's religious beliefs. His biographers

have concluded that he was irreligious, but Dr Cunich said he might have been in sympathy with the idea of London being turned into the 'New' Jerusalem.

"We don't know what his religion was, but we can say that he did have a deep interest in these buildings," Dr Cunich said. "A reasonable argument you can make from the evidence is that perhaps he was supporting this new interpretation of what it meant to be a Christian."

The findings complement earlier work by the pair on medieval churches which appear to have been orientated using the rising/setting sun on auspicious days in the Christian calendar.

Next up, Dr Ali and Dr Cunich are aiming to produce a social history of the church building period, followed by investigations of the Khmer temples in Indochina, and cities, temples and burial complexes in China.



The Language of Music



Songwriters are often asked whether the lyrics or music came first. But in tonal languages, the relationship between music and words is far more complex. Do the words determine the melody, or is it the reverse?

Two University researchers, and friends, set out to investigate the matter. In the process, their University-funded project has been picked up by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) for use in its World Heritage series to record and preserve cultural traditions from around the world.

Associate Professors Dr Adams Bodomo of the Department of Linguistics and Dr Manolete Mora of the Department of Music were keen to test emerging theories that question the accepted wisdom about songs in tonal languages. Until recently, in the study of African music, the meaning of the words was assumed to take precedence over melodic beauty, so if a word had a high tone, the melody would shift to a high note.

The two men went to Dr Bodomo's native Ghana to record songs, folk tales and music and dance performances by the country's Dagaare-speaking people. Dagaare has two tones.

They then spent months sifting through the recordings, pulling out those that were intellectually and culturally important and of good quality, and analysing the results.

What they found supported suspicions about the role of language in determining melody.

"We found the correlation was weak and not as strong as it has been made out to be. Aesthetic considerations are much more important than previously thought," Dr Mora said.

"I may be sticking my neck out at this point to say this, but music has the power to bring groups of people together. You can see this in the way that it underpins ritual and ceremony, and the songs we've analysed are ceremonial songs. That may be why

music takes precedence here – it has the power to engage people in symbolic behaviour."

Dr Bodomo said the meaning of the words could still be conveyed in context, even if the need to create a good musical phrase overrode linguistic construction.

He also drew attention to the fact that their work is helping to preserve the products of an oral culture. It was this aspect of the project that attracted attention from UNESCO.

"Some of these things are disappearing as children grow and leave the village. One of our aims was to record and document their traditions. We talk about environmental preservation, this is preservation of a culture," Dr Bodomo said.

The results of their work have been presented at several seminars and an international conference, and will soon be published by UNESCO. Dr Bodomo has also adapted them as teaching materials for courses such as the African Studies programme he runs in the summer, with input from Dr Mora.

In addition, a PhD student is picking up their thread and investigating the relationship between language and music in Cantonese. "This is one of the reasons why diversity in a university is important, it provides a broader range of examples for comparative study," Dr Mora added.

For details of the University's Summer Programme 2005 which includes, amongst the courses offered, a programme on the music and culture of West Africa, visit the University's website on <http://www.hku.hk/summer>.



Non-Invasive Detection of Down's Syndrome

A team of University doctors is developing a groundbreaking non-invasive method of detecting Down's syndrome in unborn babies.

The technique, which measures the nose of foetuses, has shown promising signs of accuracy in research conducted overseas. Foetuses with the condition tend to develop a nose bridge that is about half the length of those in normal babies between the 16th and 20th week of pregnancy.

The data however, cannot be applied in Hong Kong as Chinese babies tend to be smaller and have different facial features.

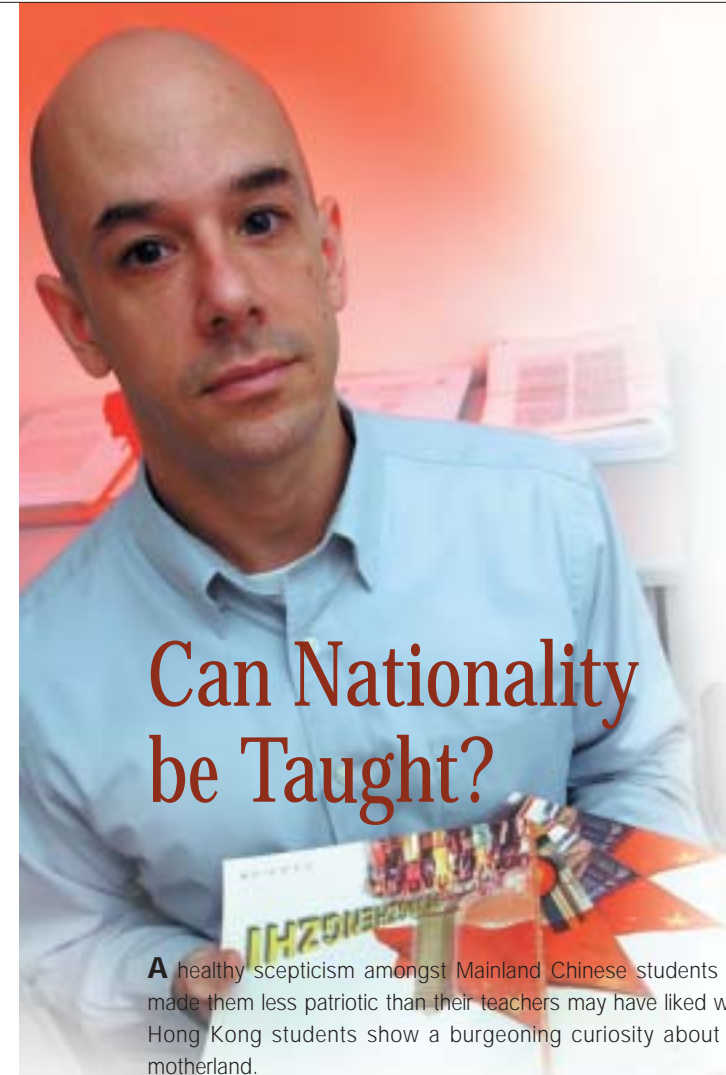
So Dr Lee Chin Peng, Honorary Clinical Associate Professor of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and his team are gathering their own data. Some 200 babies have already been

studied and another 800 samples will be taken over the next two years to obtain a more accurate local standard.

When completed the data will be added to existing methods for detecting Down's syndrome including measuring the thickness of skin on the back of the neck and blood tests. These replace the invasive amniocentesis test in which amniotic fluid is taken from the placenta. Although it has a 90 per cent accuracy rate it also increases the risk of miscarriage to one in 200.

"We don't want to take any risks," said Dr Lee. "So we'd like to see an alternative prenatal test with almost equal accuracy to amniotic fluid testing."

The rising increase of later pregnancies in women means tests need to be improved. Dr Lee estimated that 22 per cent of pregnant women in Hong Kong were aged 35 or over. The risk of Down's syndrome in this age category is one in 400 and increases one per cent for those giving birth at 40 and over.



Can Nationality be Taught?

A healthy scepticism amongst Mainland Chinese students has made them less patriotic than their teachers may have liked while Hong Kong students show a burgeoning curiosity about the motherland.

These are some of the revelations in Dr Gregory Fairbrother's prize-winning PhD thesis. Fairbrother, a Research Assistant Professor in the Faculty of Education, clinched one of the Li Ka Shing prizes with his thesis entitled *Political Socialization and Critical Thinking: Their Influence on Hong Kong and Mainland Chinese University Students' Attitudes Towards the Nation*.

In it he explores his interest in political education and its effect on the patriotism of students in Hong Kong and Mainland China.

"In colonial Hong Kong there was very little about teaching students to know anything about China or to have any sort of patriotic sentiment," he said.

"I got interested in this area during the whole transition period, in the run-up to 1997, when they started to change the curriculum and introduce more about China.

"I had never really thought about how schools would teach someone to be their nationality, but I thought it was very interesting and it would be interesting to compare civic education in Hong Kong with how they do it in China. There's quite a contrast."

What he found was that there was very little civic education in Hong Kong but in Mainland China, starting in the 1990s, a whole campaign of patriotic education was launched.

"Before that the political education was very Marxist and Mao-oriented and they realized, even before 1989, that people were losing faith in that ideology. And so what some scholars have written is that the Communist Party felt they needed something more realistic, something that most people could identify with."

So education became much more focused on patriotism in the 1990s. In 1994 the government launched a policy on patriotic education.

Fairbrother spent about four months in a school in Mainland China where patriotic education was high on the agenda.

"They had a patriotic song singing contest and various other things that are quite normal activities but they try to bring out how it contributes to patriotism. My main focus was on university students because these were the people who had gone through this type of education."

But many students complained that this type of education was too close to indoctrination, believing they were naturally patriotic and did not need to be told incessantly.

"Some students in China said they felt their teachers were trying too hard to make them feel patriotic and some of them said that when they got to university they discovered that the things they'd been taught in school were not realistic."

Here in Hong Kong most students had learned very little about China other than a straightforward history of the country.

"But then when they got to university some of them came into contact with Mainland students or went on exchange programmes to the Mainland and they displayed a new sense of curiosity about China," he said.

"That led to the idea I got about critical thinking. The Mainland students were sceptical and at the same time came into contact with different perspectives on China. The Hong Kong students, on the other hand, developed their critical thinking through curiosity.

"In China, students felt their schooling had had the biggest impact on their patriotism whereas the Hong Kong students felt the biggest impact came from the media. That was the socializing part of the thesis."

Fairbrother found that the scepticism probably made Mainland Chinese students less patriotic but on the other hand the classroom climate was a big factor in the way political attitudes developed, and the Mainland students who felt they were able to express their opinions in class tended to be less sceptical.

"Indirectly it also made them more patriotic. In Hong Kong the factor that had the most influence on their attitudes was curiosity, and the more curious students were about China, the more patriotic they were," he added.

The Importance of Family

The need to consider the whole family, and not just the patient, is being emphasised in the training of family physicians at the HKU Family Institute.

As part of their whole-family approach to treatment academics at the Institute are equipping general practitioners with the skills to recognize another perspective in understanding their individual patients.

The Institute, set up in 2002 with a Lotteries Fund grant, has also been training psychologists, psychiatrists, social workers, paediatricians and other medical practitioners in taking a more family-oriented approach to treating individual health issues.

"In our teaching we emphasise how these family relationships affect a person's physical and psychological symptoms. The two are often related," said Director of the Institute and Associate Professor with the Department of Social Work and Social Administration, Dr Lee Wai Ying.

She argued that this organic approach to physical and mental health was typical in Europe and the United States and had been promoted in Hong Kong for many years but many clinicians still tended to practise on an individual basis.

"But there's a strong need to see the family together. With the Chinese many problems, like depression, psycho-somatic problems and eating disorders, are relational-based."

She said that although the popular conception of disorders like anorexia was that they result from the social value placed on being slim, the truth was often more complex.

"Young people here are very attached to their families to the point where living at home can become a problem. If the family is in trouble the kids will be the first to be sensitive to it and they sacrifice their own health in the process.

"We also need to consider the cultural perspective and the trans-generational problems of having three generations living in a small space."



A lack of space, she said, means that many children sleep with their mother while the father sleeps on the living room sofa.

"The emotional bonds between mother and child then become so strong that it becomes very difficult for children to look after themselves. And if there's tension in the parents' relationship the child absorbs that pain every day.

"So in working with kids and adolescents, the family background is particularly important."

Although the Institute sees around 200 cases a year it is essentially a research and training ground for medical practitioners.

"We see cases mainly for training purposes. Our primary goal is focused on master programmes and doctoral programmes because we think it's more important to have trainers in the field," said Lee.

Law Scholar in Top Ten

A HKU scholar has become the only woman to be elected one of 'Ten Outstanding Young Jurists in China' in 2004, by the China Law Society.

Dr Xue Hong, aged 35, was also the youngest to receive this prestigious award and the only one engaged in private law research.

Xue, a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Law, joined the University two and a half years ago from the Foreign Affairs College in Beijing where she was Associate Professor.

She specializes in intellectual property and information technology law and has been a member of the Expert Panel of the Ministry of Commerce for the Doha Round of Negotiation for the Multilateral Registration System of Geographical Indications since 2002.

Geographical indications include the protection of traditional products such as Chinese rice wine or Chinese tea.

Xue established the first internet user organization in Mainland China with the support of the Internet Society of China and she also represents the internet users of the Asia-Pacific region in the internationally non-profit corporation, Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers. The organization is responsible for allocating internet addresses and domain names.

"I am very honoured to have received this award and would like to express my thanks to my teachers and colleagues in the Faculty of Law," she said.

"This award has given me tremendous encouragement to do further research in my chosen field."

Professor Johannes Chan, Dean of the Faculty, said he was delighted to see Xue receive such a prestigious award. "It is duly deserved for Dr Xue's distinguished scholarship. We are proud to have staff of such calibre and expertise."

The award, jointly organized by the China Law Society, *Legal Daily* and the *China Youth Daily*, is given out only once every three years.



Solar Campus

Students and staff from eight universities came to our campus in March to celebrate the Kyoto Protocol and place their handprints on a sun-shaped board, symbolizing support for renewable energy. The University was represented by staff from the Estates Office and the Office of Student Affairs, as well as academics,

other staff with an interest in sustainability and students. The event was organized by Greenpeace to promote the use of solar energy and other renewable energy sources within local universities. This event was one of many organized around the world to celebrate 'Kyoto'.



The Key to Successful Leadership

The Young Leaders of Tomorrow Community Scholarship Scheme is a popular programme that takes the University's brightest students and nurtures them for leadership. Here one Young Leader outlines what the scheme meant to her.

Valentina Wong, is studying for a Bachelor of Social Sciences (Government and Laws) degree. She received a Young Leader's Scholarship in 2002-03 and said: "Being young and learning to be a leader are precisely the two reasons why I decided to join the Young Leaders Scholarship Scheme."

Now that she has completed the programme she considers it one of the 'most enlightening, if not drastic changes of my life'.

She has impressed her teachers and fellow students as master of ceremonies at various University functions and has travelled around Europe on exchange programmes.

"During my fruitful year of exchange to the UK, I was not only intellectually inspired, I also found travelling alone an extremely rewarding experience – an achievement that could keep me talking for hours," she said.

During her nine months of exchange studies she visited Greece, Italy, Paris, Amsterdam and up to ten counties in the UK.

"At the end of the academic year, I decided to spend a month in Seville, Spain, polishing my Spanish skills at a language institution," she added.

At the University of Nottingham she founded the Nottingham Exchange Students' Society (NESS) and came to realize that being a leader means far more than the ability to mobilize.

"To have the courage to initiate, commit and also have passion in whatever you think is right, is the key to successful leadership. But obviously, it is easier said than done.

"It is true to say that the Young Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship recognizes our achievements, yet it also empowers us to explore more exciting possibilities in the years to come. My next 'exploration' is to pursue postgraduate studies at the London School of Economics.

"As the saying goes, once a young leader, always a young leader. Or rather, always a leader."



Becoming a Writer

Booker Prize winner, Alan Hollinghurst, delighted staff and students in March when he delivered the inaugural Man Booker Distinguished Lecture, at the University.

The winner of the 2004 Prize was in Hong Kong as part of the city's International Literary Festival and expressed great relief over not being asked to talk about his own work. "My record as a lecturer is not good" he said but he went on to engage listeners with his wit and good humour.

In his talk, entitled *Becoming a Writer*, he spoke about his great love of architecture and his early ambition to become an architect. "I loved plans. As a child my most absorbing fantasy was to design houses."

But he went on to reveal his passion for poetry and literature saying that from a young age he was 'always quiet and happy in solitude', going on walks in his mind.

A former deputy editor of the *Times Literary Supplement* Hollinghurst had originally hoped to write poetry but said the muse deserted him in 1985 when he signed a contract with Faber. "Poetry is more suited to youth," he said. "But novels generally take years to write. Sometimes you grow out of them before you finish them."

Over the last 20 years Hollinghurst, who can spend up to five years writing a novel, has established a strong reputation as writer of gay fiction. He has said he 'writes about gay life from a gay perspective unapologetically'.

Earlier in the day he had spent over an hour talking to students in the Department of English about the art of writing.



Taking the Tram

Glance at any photograph of a Hong Kong street from the last hundred years and chances are a tram will be slowly rattling through the scene.

The city's trams have borne witness to a myriad of changes in the last century and continue to carry passengers like stoical elephants, ambling leisurely through a jungle of glass and concrete.

They may not be Hong Kong's oldest form of transport but they reek of nostalgia and have a wonderful capacity to take one back in time. The trams move through some of Hong Kong Island's oldest districts offering a glimpse into a world that much of Central has long left behind. Old shops selling shark's fin and Chinese herbs skirt the streets of Western and the lively markets of Kennedy Town still attract tourists.

There was a time when trams clattered along the shoreline, before successive reclamations pushed back Des Voex Road from its harbour-front home and into the heart of the city. Now, skyscrapers screen the view of Kowloon and passengers indulge, instead, in people-watching.

In celebration of the centennial anniversary of these enduring icons the University Museum and Art Gallery's staging a nostalgic exhibition of Hong Kong tramways from a collection of fascinating photographs loaned by Mr Cheng Po Hung, who also wrote an accompanying book.

The exhibition runs alongside a collection of more contemporary photographs by David Young, Rick Poon and Ellen Tam.

Early Hong Kong Tramways takes a look at the urban development along the tram tracks from their construction in 1902. The trams began operating through Hong Kong in July 1904, initially beginning their journey from the West in Kennedy Town and ending on the more Eastern part of the island at Causeway Bay. An additional route to Happy Valley ensured that enthusiastic punters could arrive at the races with the minimum of effort.

Two years later the tramways were extended to Shau Kei Wan and they have continued to evolve along with the urban landscape ever since.

All these tramways were, of course, preceded by Hong Kong's most famous, the Peak Tram which has been carrying passengers up into the clouds for a spectacular view of an ever-changing city for 117 years.

Hong Kong's trams stand as a testament to its enduring reputation as a city that takes pride in transporting its burgeoning population with the minimum of fuss and expense.

The Exhibition will end on July 3, 2005.

