Message from the Dean

From Good to Great

In the past half year much wisdom and learning has flowed in the Faculty from the mouths of legal luminaries in Hong Kong and beyond. One of the highlights must include the rousing graduation speeches of Permanent Justice of the Court of Final Appeal, Roberto Ribeiro, and that of Professor (and one time Justice) Anselmo Reyes. A galaxy of private law stars appeared for the “Obligations IV” Conference, helmed by our own Professor Michael Tilbury, and for a few days the Faculty was awash in their light. The glitterati of Hong Kong public law were gathered for “The Umbrella Movement: Unfolding the Rule of Law” – Professors Albert Chen, Johannes Chan, SC and Simon Young; our honorary Professor, Henry Litton, NPJ, Mr Ronny Tong, SC, Ms Gladys Li, SC, Dr Margaret Ng and Mr Eric Cheung – to discuss what is perhaps the most significant social movement in the history of Hong Kong. The ever-engaging retired Justice of the Australian High Court and Honorary Professor Michael Kirby dropped by to enlighten us on Human Rights in North Korea and Same Sex Marriages. Lessons of life lurked at every turn, from the delightfully witty speech of Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma at the 45th Anniversary Gala Dinner to the songs and music of love and optimism – and what happens when you wish upon a star - At the Hong Kong University Law Alumni Association Choir Concert.

But what stood out most strongly when I pondered over what to say in this note is an answer given by Hong Kong’s 2016 Rhodes Scholar, Geoffrey Yeung (LLB 2014) in an interview he gave, which is quoted in this Newsletter: I want to pursue a career that focuses on advancing human rights and making the voices of the marginalized groups heard in society.
I think this sentiment marks the difference between a good Faculty and a great one. A good Faculty seeks to make itself better – its research and publications profile speaks of quantity and quality, its teaching of a consistently high standard. A very good Faculty does that very well. Yet the focus is still that of self-improvement and how others regard us. A great Faculty is a very good one which has managed to make the subtle but significant transition between the ambition to be the best institution it can be, and the aspiration to be an institution that helps others to be the best they can be. It no longer asks what it can do to make itself look good, but what will make others look better.

At HKU Law Faculty, I believe we are on the path to greatness, and if we stay the course, we shall get there. Much selflessness often goes unnoticed. Generations of teaching faculty spend years, and even lifetimes, delivering the best classes they can give – not to win any public-acclaim, but in the conviction that the interests of our students in receiving legal education has been and must remain of the highest priority. Much research goes on, not to fatten the publications portfolio, but with the hope that the fruit of such efforts will be useful in solving real problems facing our society. More obviously, we engage in what is known in University circles as “knowledge exchange” – a sort of direct community service done by academia. The most notable example is the Faculty’s “Free Legal Advice Scheme” to offer preliminary legal advice to the public. Another is the Refugee Stream of the Clinical Legal Education Course which aims to protect the rights and interests of asylum seekers and refugees.

It has been said often enough that the recent political upheavals in Hong Kong have been highly controversial and have the potential of deeply dividing the community. Yet I am optimistic about at least one dynamic – the phenomenon of students, faculty and other members of the University community being committed to a cause which has no direct bearing on self-interest and advancement but one which, it is believed, benefits other members of society. This is a mark of maturity and a force which, if properly nurtured, will propel the Faculty to greatness.

The way forward is then to harness this energy of selflessness, as Geoffrey Yeung tells us, to seek out those who are marginalized, whether it is because of race, age, alienage, disability, poverty, sex or sexual orientation, whether they be in Hong Kong or elsewhere, and to help them find a voice. The Faculty of Law is uniquely placed to study and create awareness on the phenomenon of marginalization and its attendant injustices, and in particular that which fuel and support it, and then to come up with strategies to improve the situation. Research, teaching and knowledge exchange will naturally come together.

It is known to some that the first building of the University of Hong Kong was made possible by the donation of a large sum of money in 1909 from a poorly educated Parsi from Bombay, Sir H N Mody, who nonetheless succeeded in business. When Mody was asked what motivated him, he said that he wanted to provide to others what he himself was denied. Selflessness was, literally, a founding principle of HKU.

Michael A
Professor Michael Hor
Dean, Faculty of Law
January 2015
The HKU Rhodes Scholar advocating for human rights

Geoffrey Yeung (BBA(Law) 2012; LLB 2014; PCLL) has been named the 2015 Rhodes Scholar for Hong Kong. The Rhodes Scholarship is one of the oldest and most prestigious academic awards for postgraduate students in the world. Each year, one Rhodes Scholar from Hong Kong is selected to join over 80 other Rhodes Scholars from around the world to study at the University of Oxford.

“When I received the call, I was so excited that I put down the phone and literally jumped. I am so grateful and it still feels very unreal to be selected as a Rhodes Scholar,” said the 27th Rhodes Scholar from Hong Kong.

The Scholarship is unique for recognising outstanding leadership qualities and commitment to service, and for supporting intellectual students who demonstrate a strong propensity to emerge as “leaders for the world’s future” in their pursuit of a postgraduate degree. Rhodes Scholars, including former US president Bill Clinton, have gone on to serve at the forefront of public service or have advanced the frontiers of art, science and medicine.

Scoring 10As in the HKCEE, Geoffrey is a graduate of the Diocesan Boy’s School. A student with a personal dedication to civil society and equality, he impressed the selection committee with his energy and personal commitment to working with disadvantaged members of society. “What is important is to show your vision and passion in leading and bringing changes to society.” In his Valedictory address at the 102nd Congregation, Geoffrey hoped law graduates would “at some point in time and to whatever extent, use our (their) unique knowledge for the public interest and to help those in need.”

Geoffrey plans to study for a Bachelor of Civil Law at Oxford starting in 2015. “I want to pursue a career that focuses on advancing human rights and making the voices of marginalised groups heard in society.”

Geoffrey actively participates in civil rights activities such as the HKRAC-HKU Refugee Legal Assistance Clinic programme, which gives law students the opportunity to provide services to asylum seekers and refugees in Hong Kong.

Geoffrey plans to pursue either an academic or a career at the Bar. He would like to be a human rights lawyer in the future so as to bridge marginalised groups and society.
192nd Congregation

From 2014, there will not be a centrally organized Degree Congregation. Instead, all faculties would organize their own congregations. The Faculty had 2 sessions this year, one on 15 November, conferring the LLB degree; and one on 1 December, conferring higher degrees including PhD, SJD, MPhil, all LLMs, MCL and JD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Session 1</th>
<th>Session 2</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15 November 2014</td>
<td>Date 1 December 2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LLB</td>
<td>Degree(s) conferred PhD, SJD, MPhil, all LLMs, MCL and JD</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pro-Chancellor Dr the Honourable Sir David Li</td>
<td>Presiding Officer President and Vice-Chancellor Professor Peter Mathieson</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Hon Mr Justice Ribeiro Permanent Judge Court of Final Appeal</td>
<td>Guest of Honour Professor Anselmo Reyes Professor of Legal Practice</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr Geoffrey Yeung (LLB 2014)</td>
<td>Vote of thanks by Ms Kristie Chung (JD 2014)</td>
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Congratulations

Congratulations to Dr Shahla Ali, Assistant Professor in Department of Law, on being awarded the 2014 Research Output Prize for “Consumer Financial Dispute Resolution in a Comparative Context”, and the 2013-14 Outstanding Young Researcher Award.

Daniel Matthews, Assistant Professor Daniel Matthews joined the Faculty in August 2014. Dr Daniel Matthews will focus on teaching the BA and LLB in Literary Studies programme. He has a broad interest in interdisciplinary and critical approaches to law, with a particular focus on critical legal theory, deconstruction and law and literature. His current work focuses on questions of jurisdiction, drawing on philosophical, literary, cinematic as well as legal resources. He is also working - with Illan rua Wall (University of Warwick) and Matt Stone (University of Essex) - on a history of the critical legal studies movement in Britain. He is a member of the Editorial Committee of Law and Critique, having previously been the journal’s Associate Editor. Away from academia, he is a keen musician, traveler, table tennis player and film-goer.

Shitong Qiao, Assistant Professor Shitong Qiao joined the Faculty in August 2014. Shitong received his LLB degree from Wuhan University in 2007 and his LLM degrees from Peking University in 2009 and from Yale University in 2010 respectively. He is now completing his JSD at Yale University. He passed the National Judicial Examination of China and is qualified to practise law in New York State. Mr Qiao’s current research focuses on property and social norms. He has given opinions on the Chinese land regime to government agencies both inside and outside of China, including the Shenzhen city government and the Ontario Securities Commission. His publications appear in Iowa Law Review, American Journal of Comparative Law, and other international journals. Mr Qiao is also the Deputy Director of the Chinese Law LLM programme of the Faculty.

Congratulations also go to Charles Chiu (BBA[Law] 3), who was one of the four students from The University of Hong Kong, winning the Shadow a CEO Programme, organized by the Classified Post; and to Tom Ng (BBA[Law] 2011, LLB 2013, PCLL 2014), who was awarded the Des Voeux Chambers Oxford Scholarship.

Meet Our New Staff


Average Scores of JUPAS Applicants Admitted to HKU in 2014

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>ENGLISH LANGUAGE</th>
<th>CHINESE LANGUAGE</th>
<th>4 CORE SUBJECTS &amp; BEST 2 ELECTIVES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LLB</td>
<td>6.65</td>
<td>5.94</td>
<td>6.10</td>
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<tr>
<td>BA(Literary Studies) &amp; LLB</td>
<td>6.54</td>
<td>6.67</td>
<td>5.79</td>
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<tr>
<td>BBA[Law] &amp; LLB</td>
<td>6.36</td>
<td>5.84</td>
<td>6.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BSS(GL) &amp; LLB</td>
<td>6.30</td>
<td>5.54</td>
<td>5.91</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Note: Conversion of HKDSE grades into scores: 
Level 5** = 7, 5* = 6, 5 = 5, 4 = 4, 3 = 3, 2 = 2, 1 = 1, unclassified/ others = 0
Centre for Medical Ethics and Law collaborates with University of Cambridge on emerging issues in medical ethics, law and policy

Following the launch ceremony on 16 September with the University of Cambridge to mark the collaboration of the two leading universities on emerging issues in medical ethics, law and policy, Professor John Spencer, Professor Emeritus of Law, University of Cambridge gave a public lecture on “Criminalising sickness? Liability for the transmission of disease” that evening. Despite Typhoon Kalmaegi, the lecture attracted about 200 participants. Professor Spencer explored the moral, legal and logistical dimensions of imposing civil or criminal liability for transmitting illness to another person. The lecture focused on a UK rule that an HIV-positive person may be found to have maliciously inflicted grievous bodily harm for knowingly having unprotected sexual intercourse with an unaware partner. Researchers and advocacy groups have pointed out that an additional stigma and burden are potentially imposed upon the sick by such legal consequences. The wider relevance of the topic and the future of legislation concerning the transmission of illness are of considerable interest in Hong Kong, where emerging infectious diseases are of constant concern and high in public awareness.

With the generous support of the WYNG Foundation and the international collaboration with Cambridge, the Centre will be able to draw on the expertise of visiting scholars and deepen research connections among staff.

(From left) Dr Ron Zimmerman, Hatton Trust; Professor Peter Matheson, President and Vice-Chancellor, The University of Hong Kong, Dr Anthony Ng, WYNG Foundation; Professor John Spencer, Hatton-WYNG Medical Law, Ethics and Policy Programme Distinguished Advisor, Chair of the Faculty Medical Law, Ethics and Policy Committee; Mr Terry Koon, Co-Director, Centre for Medical Ethics and Law; Professor Martin Daumont, Master of Trinity Hall and Head of the School of the Humanities and Social Sciences.

Student Exchange with Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge

On 17 September 2014 the Faculty and Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, signed a Memorandum of Understanding about student exchanges. Beginning with Michaelmas Term 2014, every year up to two students from Hong Kong will study in Cambridge for a year. This student exchange is a further step in strengthening the ongoing co-operation between the two institutions.

Sir Alan Firsh, Master of Gonville and Caius College (left) and Professor Johannes Chan, SC (hon) signing the MOU.
Events

1. Two of the keynote speakers: The Hon Justice Ribeiro (first from the left) and The Hon Sir Anthony Mason (first from the right) at the Conference “Obligation VII”, 15-18 July 2014.

2. Professor Tony Carty at the CCPL Seminar “Reflections on the Scottish Referendum” on 25 September 2014.

3. Professor Bruno Zeller, Professor of Transnational Commercial Law, University of Western Australia, spoke on “The Elusive Term of “Good Faith” in Contract Law: Is There an Acceptable Transnational Definition?” at The Hocheloga Lecture on 9 October 2014.


5. “Conveyancing Practice since Kwok Siu Lau -v- Kan Yang Che (1913) and the Importance of the Land Registration Ordinance in the Context of Land Transactions in Hong Kong” by The Hon Mr Justice Henry Litton, NPJ on 4 November 2014.


For thee, we celebrate
In thee, we thrive!
A HERITAGE OF COMMUNITY

LAW ALUMNI REUNION DINNER

In celebration of the 45th anniversary of the founding of the Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong, the HKU Law Alumni Association organized a dinner on 29th November 2014 at the Convention and Exhibition Centre to mark this memorable occasion.

The venue of the Dinner was decorated with photos and publications of law students of different generations, taking our guests down memory lane. The Dinner was filled with events lined up for the evening, including a keynote speech given by The Hon Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma, a presentation ceremony to our Honorary Life Members (Mr Kenneth Kwok SC, Hon Justice Patrick Chan NPJ, and Professor Johannes Chan SC), a thrilling quiz testing our guests' knowledge of the law and the Faculty, and performance of songs about the Faculty and the study of law written by our talented students over the past 45 years. It was a wonderful evening filled with laughter and a warm occasion to get together with former and current teachers, distinguished guests and former schoolmates.
Welcoming Address by Ms Elaine Liu, President of The University of Hong Kong Law Alumni Association.

Keynote speech by The Hon Chief Justice Geoffrey Ma, GBS.

Welcoming Address by Professor Michael Ho, Dean of Law.

Photo booth service at the registration counter.

String ensemble performance at the cocktail reception.
Professor Michael Wilkinson introducing the three Honorary Life Members.

Ms Elaine Liu presenting the Honorary Life membership to Mr Kenneth Kwok, SC.

Video clips from The Hon Patrick Chan, GBM and Professor Johannes Chan SC (Hon).

Mrs Penny Smith, Alan Smith and Wilson Chow.

Mr and Mrs Bernard Downey, Mrs Majorie Evans, Mrs Majorie Rea and the Class of 1972.
Class of 1980 winning the quiz.

The then sports captain Mr Eric Cheung leading the Law Cheer.

Quiz Time – “Treking Down Memory Lane”.
Singing songs of the law school written in 1970s and 1980s, accompanied by Mr Ronny Tong, SC.

Everyone rises for the Law Anthem.

Members of Class of 1982.

Members of Class of 1975.

Alumni and friends from Sir Oswald Cheung’s Chambers.
Members of Class of 1976.

Professor Michael Wilkinson and Professor Roda Mushkat with members of Class 1986.

Members of Class of 1977.

The Hon Chief Justice and alumni from the Judiciary.

Members of Class of 2001.
HKU Law Alumni Choir Concert

“When You Wish Upon A Star”

The University of Hong Kong Law Alumni Choir (the “Choir”) celebrated its 5th anniversary with a Disney-themed concert entitled “When You Wish Upon A Star”, held on 15th November 2014 at the Grand Hall, Lee Shau Kee Lecture Centre, HKU. With an entertaining emcee, glamorous costumes, fantastic stage visual designs and lighting effects, the Choir, together with an orchestral group composed of law students and graduates of the Faculty, dazzled the audience with their musical talents. A wide range of songs from classic to modern Disney movies were performed, including all-time favourites “When You Wish Upon A Star” from Pinocchio; “Zip-a-dee-doo-dah” from Song of the South; “Be Our Guest” from Beauty and the Beast; “Can You Feel The Love Tonight?” from Lion King; and of course “Let It Go” from the newest sensation Frozen. The concert turned out to be a great success and was widely acclaimed by those who attended.
The manliest Elsa ever, our Master of Ceremony, Mr Edwin Choi.
Career Support: for students and for employers

This year, the Faculty is enhancing its career support. One of the initiatives is workshops by Ms Elvira Chang, our Career Development Manager, on pursuing a legal career in different streams in the profession.

Before joining us, Elvira was a Corporate Finance lawyer at Reed Smith Richards Butler and subsequently the Professional Support Lawyer & Training Manager at Slaughter and May. She is currently lecturing the PCLL Listed Companies Elective small group sessions. Besides hosting workshops, she also runs individual (or small group) counselling sessions regarding students’ career choices and other problems they may encounter.

Students may check portal emails for updates, upcoming events and job vacancies; visit our Career Resources Centre Website (www.law.hku.hk/career/), and enjoy our Facebook page (www.facebook.com/HLkuLawCareersResourceCentre).

As for employer outreach, the Faculty organized a Tea Reception on 26 November 2014 for law firm representatives. By providing more information about our programmes and new GPA system, we hope we can help identifying suitable candidates for law firms and enhance recruitment opportunities among our students.

Professor Lusha Ho (above) and Ms Alexandra Norton (below) introducing our programmes.

Ms Elvira Chang, Career Development Manager.

Professor Michael Ho spoke at the Tea Reception on 26 November 2014.