



## A Golden Jubilation Celebrating Science Faculty's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



Guests and members of the Faculty joined in a toast, wishing the Science Faculty ever greater achievements in the next 50 years and beyond.

The Science Faculty was established at the same time as the University, in 1963. Of humble origins, our Faculty has grown and developed tremendously over the past 50 years. As a way to celebrate the occasion of her golden jubilee and to recognize the contributions of our past and present teachers, staff, students, alumni, and friends, the Faculty held an anniversary banquet on 1 June 2013, where the Faculty also unveiled her commemorative publication.

Hundreds gathered for the Science Faculty 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banquet at Ho Sin Hang Hall, S.H. Ho College, CUHK, on Saturday, 1 June 2013. Several generations of Science Faculty students – including those alumni who studied at the Faculty upon establishment to our current students – were on-hand to stand witness to the tremendous changes over the past five decades through the sharing of precious photos and cherished stories. A welcome speech was given by Pro-Vice-Chancellor **Prof. FOK Tai-fai**

to congratulate the Faculty on her 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, followed by brief remarks by Faculty Dean and alumnus **Prof. Henry N.C. WONG (73/UC/CHM)** on his astonishment of the growth of the Faculty, and looking ahead to another 50 years of achievements and advancements. For photo highlights from the Banquet, please click [here](#).

At the Banquet, guests not only enjoyed a pleasant reunion with former classmates, teachers, colleagues and friends, each guest also received a copy of the Science Faculty 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Publication. A concerted effort by all units of the Faculty, the Publication encapsulated the history of the Faculty from her establishment to the present, including the formation and development of the various academic and support units, as well as stories of the years gone by from our teachers, colleagues, alumni and students. The Commemorative Publication had also been selected as one of the "Outstanding





Prof. CHU Ka-hou (left) and retired professor Dr. MARK Kai-keung (right) of the School of Life Sciences were intrigued by the Faculty's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Publication.



The Commemorative Publication is now available in both hardcover and paperback editions.

Greater China Designs (Graphic Design)" projects at the Hong Kong Art & Design Festival 2013, an honour to be shared among all the contributors and designers of the Publication.

If you would like to obtain a copy of the Publication, please contact the Science Faculty Office via telephone at **3943-7727** or via email at **CUHKSciFac50@cuhk.edu.hk** for further information.

## New Area of Excellence Awarded to Study Organelle Biogenesis and Function

We at the Faculty of Science are proud to announce that **Prof. JIANG Liwen** of the School of Life Sciences has been granted a new Area of Excellence (AoE). Over the past decade, Professor Jiang and his team of researchers have obtained significant breakthroughs in the areas of plant organelle research and protein trafficking, and his work has been published in a number of world-leading plant science journals.

Some of the most important and complex biochemical processes take place within cell organelles. These membrane-bound compartments are also essential for cell-cell communications, organism homeostasis, growth and development, and responses to the environment. In an effort to decipher the mystery behind organelle biogenesis and function, Professor Jiang and his team of researchers will be establishing the Centre for Organelle Biogenesis and Function, and will make use of a combination of cellular, molecular, biochemical, physiological, genetic and omics approaches in model organisms. Their research is expected to make significant contributions to the



Prof. JIANG Liwen

advancement of understanding how organelle biogenesis and function in important biological processes, such as cell wall formation and stress signaling pathways in plants. Their research will have potential applications for the biotechnology industry to improve the value of plants as biofuel feedstocks, and to enhance crop productivity in high-stress environments.

# Hearty Congratulations!



## Grand Challenges Explorations Grant Awarded for Innovative Global Health Research

**P**rof. Michael K. Chan, Director of School of Life Sciences, had been awarded a US\$100,000 Grant Challenges Explorations grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for an innovative global health and development research project entitled 'Novel dawadawa therapy for intestinal helminthic infections'.



Prof. Michael K. CHAN

Professor Chan and his collaborator, **Dr. Manoj Nair** of The Ohio State University in the United States plan to engineer a new formulation of dawadawa, a staple food

in western Africa, which can be used to treat and prevent infections by soil-transmitted nematodes. Since dawadawa is a staple food already, there is great potential that it can be delivered efficiently and at low cost to the high risk population.

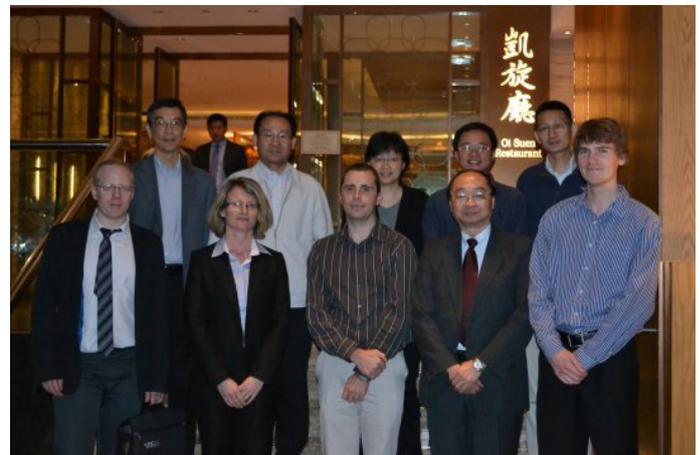
'We are extremely enthusiastic about receiving this grant as it will allow us to explore whether the novel technologies we are developing can be used to treat infectious disease,' said Professor Chan.

Professor Chan's project is one of 58 grant-receiving projects announced by the Gates Foundation in the first funding round of Grand Challenges Explorations, an initiative to help scientists around the world explore bold and largely unproven ways to improve health in developing countries.

## Researchers from Hong Kong and France Meet

**O**n 14 March 2013, members of the Science Faculty met and exchanged ideas with researchers from France. Organized by the Consulate General of France in Hong Kong & Macau, **Dr. Yoann SALLAZ-DAMAZ** (CNRS researcher) and **Dr. Christophe BERZIN** (CEA Engineer) from the Institute of Structural Biology of Grenoble (IBS, CNRS/CEA/University Joseph Fourier) visited the Science Faculty while there were in town for The International MultiConference of Engineers and Computer Scientists. These two guests from afar were received by Faculty Dean **Prof. Henry N.C. WONG**, Associate Dean for Research **Prof. XIE Zuwei**, as well as **Prof. Shannon AU**, **Prof. SHAW Pang-chui**, **Prof. XIA Jiang**, and **Prof. ZHENG Bo**.

After a research presentation in the field of protein crystallography by members of our Faculty, Dr. Sallaz-Damaz and Dr. Berzin then presented results of their research work about robotics applied to crystallography led at the synchrotron of Grenoble (Ref IBS). The presentations were followed by a visit to the Faculty's laboratories, where the visitors were shown the first choice equipment of the Science Faculty.



The meeting would pave the way for more research collaborations in the future.

Both sides hoped that this first meeting between researchers of the IBS and CUHK would be the first step of a successful collaboration between the two Institutions, contributing to the development and reinforcement of scientific collaborations between France and Hong Kong.

(Courtesy: **Consulate General of France in Hong Kong & Macau**)



## Opening Ceremony of Shiu-Ying Hu Herbarium *cum* Wu Jieh Yee Symposium

The opening ceremony of Shiu-Ying Hu Herbarium was held successfully on 22 May 2013, officiated by **Dr. LAU Kai-man**, representative of Wu Jieh Yee Charitable Foundation Limited; **Ms. Jenny Ng**, Chief Executive Officer, HealthWorks (International) Company Limited; **Prof. John HU** and **Mr. HU Zhao-ming**, representatives of Hu's family; **Prof. Benjamin WAH**, Provost, CUHK; **Prof. FUNG Tung**, Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor, CUHK; and **Prof. CHU Ka-hou**, Acting Director, School of Life Sciences, CUHK.

The Shiu-Ying Hu Herbarium, established by the late **Prof. Hu Shiu-ying**, Honorary Professor of Chinese Medicine and Honorary Senior Research Fellow of the School of Life Sciences, houses the widest range

of plant specimens in Hong Kong. In memory of Professor Hu's lifelong devotion and contributions to botanical research, a Chinese holly was planted in the garden of the Divinity School Chapel and President Chi Tung Yung Memorial Building during the ceremony. The School of Life Sciences also organized the Wu Jieh Yee Symposium to introduce Professor Hu's research achievements. Various scholars from the mainland and overseas were invited to share latest development of botanical research.

The Shiu-Ying Hu Herbarium houses a collection of about 38,000 plant specimens, mostly collected and archived by Professor Hu. The herbarium is registered in the Index Herbariorum, a global directory of public herbaria managed by the New York Botanical Garden in collaboration with the International Association of Plant Taxonomists. It is now situated in the Science Centre of the University, promoting various research, education and social service programmes, including but not limited to collection and preservation of protected native flora, research on authentication of economic and medicinal plants, digitization of the existing collection to form an online botanical information database, establishment of a visitor centre and public website, as well as organization of various courses, public lectures and volunteer programmes to promote botanical research and transfer knowledge to the community.



Guests at the Opening Ceremony

## International Conference on Nucleic Acid Enzymes and Enzymes in Human Diseases (NAEEHD)

To commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Chinese University and the Science Faculty, Biochemistry Programme of the School of Life Sciences held the International Conference on Nucleic Acid Enzymes and Enzymes in Human Diseases from 16-21 June 2013. The meeting aimed at enhancing our understanding of natural sciences and also enabling us to better utilize these enzymes in medicinal sciences and biotechnology. There were keynote speeches, talks and poster presentation. Some 50 research scientists for nine countries or regions including **Sir Richard Roberts**, Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine



Group photo of conference participants

and **Prof. Sen-Fang Sui**, Tsinghua University and Member of Chinese Academy of Sciences gave talks on their fields.



## Recent Honours

### Faculty Member Named SIAM Fellow of 2013

The Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics (SIAM) announced that **Prof. Raymond CHAN Hon-fu**, Department Chairman and Choh-Ming Li Professor of Mathematics, has been elected as a Fellow of the Society. Professor Chan has been elected by the Society "for advances in numerical linear algebra and imaging science, including the theory of Toplietz solvers." He has developed superfast iterative solvers for different kinds of Toeplitz systems arising from various applications,



Prof. Raymond CHAN Hon-fu

overcoming the instability problem and high computational cost in direct solvers, especially for problems in high-dimensional spaces. His techniques and methods have laid down the theoretical foundation and framework for the study of iterative Toeplitz solvers.

The SIAM Fellows Program recognizes the outstanding contribution of select members of the Society for their excellence in research, industry, education, and other ways furthering the cooperation between mathematics and the world of science and technology.

### Chemistry PhD Candidate Alumni Awarded Croucher Named RGC-Fulbright HK Senior Research Fellowship Junior Research Scholar



NG Wai-lung

**NG Wai-lung**, a PhD candidate at the CUHK Department of Chemistry, has been named one of eight RGC-Fulbright HK Junior Research Scholars. The award supports PhD students to conduct PhD dissertation research in the USA, and Mr. Ng is the sole recipient of the award from

CUHK this year. His research topic is on synthetic organic chemistry with the goal of making potential drugs for treating Type-II Diabetes. In July 2013, he embarked on an 8-month research visit hosted by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

**Prof. KWONG Fuk-ye**, alumni of our Faculty who is now at the Department of Applied Biology & Chemical Technology at The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, received the Croucher Senior Research Fellowship 2013 for his excellent scientific achievements. Professor Kwong had made many breakthroughs in new catalyst design and synthetic methodology establishments, and had even filed two US patents to put his discoveries to good use.



Prof. KWONG Fuk-ye

Professor Kwong conducted his postgraduate research under the supervision of **Prof. CHAN Kin-shing** of the Department of Chemistry, and earned his Ph.D from our University back in 2000.

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# Congratulations to All!





## Donations to the Faculty



The Science Faculty had received a number of donations in the recent months. We greatly appreciate the donors' generous support of our programmes and efforts, and we will continue to strive for excellence in our teaching & learning, research, and services to the community.

On the occasion of the Science Faculty's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we have identified the following five key areas for strategic development:

- building more research exchange programmes with leading institutions around the world and especially in the Greater China region,
- raising funds to offer more entrance scholarships and attract the best young talent,
- encouraging faculty members to make more short-term academic visits to establish collaborations,
- developing new academic programmes in emerging dynamic fields, and
- fostering new research initiatives in scientific frontiers.

We would like to express our sincere gratitude to our recent donors (in alphabetical order by surname):

Mr. CHAN Yiu-wing 陳耀榮 (87/NA/CHM)	HK\$1,000
Prof. Stephen CHEUNG Yan-leung 張仁良 (82/UC/MAT)	HK\$1,000
Prof. CHU Ming-chung 朱明中	HK\$1,000
Prof. CHU Cho-ho 朱礎豪 (70/UC/MAT)	GPB100
Dr. LEUNG Kwan-chi 梁關致 (94/GS/BCH)	HK\$1,000
Prof. Thomas MAK Chung-wai 麥松威	HK\$10,000
Prof. TSUI Lap-chee 徐立之 (72/NA/BIO, 74/GS/BIO)	HK\$10,000

If you would like to give to the Faculty, please contact the Faculty Office via telephone at **3943-6264** or via email at [sfo@cuhk.edu.hk](mailto:sfo@cuhk.edu.hk).

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