The College is pleased to announce that a collaborative agreement was confirmed with The University of Hong Kong in early July this year under which selected students will have the opportunity to take courses in the Faculties of Arts, Education and Science at HKU starting from the academic year 2015-2016. Upon satisfactory completion of a HKU course, students will gain 3 credits for making up the total credits requirement for graduation.

This strong strategic partnership means that students will be awarded a certificate from HKU for the course they took at the University; an institution which enjoys a world-class reputation for its excellence in teaching, scholarship and research. Collaboration with an educational institution of this prestige is going to be a very special feature of Centennial College from this year onwards. For graduates to obtain their degree from the College with a certificate for taking a course at HKU will be an advantage of studying at the College, which other self-funded institutions in Hong Kong cannot yet provide. This very unique arrangement will give Centennial graduates an edge in a highly competitive educational environment.

At the Faculty of Arts in HKU, our students can opt for the following 4 courses:
- Foundations of American Studies, I: The origins of the Nation (semester 1)
- Poetry Past and Present (semester 2)
- Foundations of European Studies (semester 2)
- Hong Kong’s Long Twentieth Century (semesters I & 2)

The following 2 courses from the University’s Faculty of Education, aimed at students hoping to enter the teaching profession, will be available to learners at Centennial College:
- Becoming a Teaching Professional: Education in a Globalised Society I (semester 1)
- Becoming a Teaching Professional: Education in a Globalised Society 2 (semester 2)

Students can choose 2 courses from the Faculty of Science at HKU:
- How Things Work (semester 2)
- Weather and Climate (semester 1)

As a member of HKU Group, Centennial College shares the same academic ethos as that of The University of Hong Kong with a strong emphasis on the nature and purpose of discovery through higher education. With its unwavering commitment to enhancing the learning experience of students, through this collaborative endeavour, the aim of the College is to help our community of undergraduate learners develop their intellectual and personal strengths.
STUDENTS’ REFLECTION ON FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

JULIA CHIU: “The learning environment here in the United States at Endicott College in Boston is very different from Hong Kong. We are expected to initiate group discussions in the class. Teachers assist us in the thinking process and ask us to comment on either the reading materials for the week or on current affairs. I was not too comfortable speaking in class at first but I figured the best and fastest way to learn is to step out of my comfort zone. (Isn’t that the whole point of being an exchange student?) Of course, this meant that I had to be well-prepared for class and do a lot more reading in advance, but I found the experience very rewarding. One thing that surprised me was that local students seem to know very little about the world outside the United States. A few of my local friends here do not even hold a passport as they have never left New England, let alone the United States.

Apart from studies, I was fortunate to have met some amazing new friends. In the beginning, they made my homesickness bearable as I enjoyed hanging out with them. My roommates even held a surprise party for Chinese New Year. They set up the whole living room with Chinese decorations and ordered Chinese food, and I was extremely touched by their thoughtfulness. I have also become good friends with many international students and they continue to inspire me to see things from different perspectives. The exchange programme has not only helped with my personal growth but has also benefitted me academically as a ‘Global Studies’ Major.”

CARMEN NG: “I simply can’t believe that I have been in the United States for three months already. The weather here has become warmer now, which has made me much more energetic than the winter months, and I am finally getting to enjoy more outdoor activities. As there is a beach right next to our college, sometimes I go there with my friends to relax after classes. On-campus, the international education department organised an event called Global Village in which all international students like me were asked to introduce some local dishes from our hometowns. Since it was hard to find Chinese ingredients and we were given little time for preparation, I finally decided to make Hong Kong style French toast that we eat in Hong Kong Cha Chan Tens (even though I was worried that that it might not suit their taste). But luckily, most guests seemed to find it delicious and devoured it within minutes. During the event, I also had the chance to learn a lot by visiting other booths and listening to students present information about their own countries and cultures. Overall, we really had a fabulous time and felt glad that we had the opportunity to represent our hometowns and countries.”

ERICA CHAN: “Studying abroad in United States was the best decision I have ever made for it turned out to be a very rewarding experience. The first thing that really surprised me was how kind everyone was and the help we got as incoming exchange students. Each student was assigned one peer mentor for settling and moving into his/her room. I took a walk around the Endicott College campus in the afternoon and it felt so good to be there. Boston is just an amazing city. The grass was green and the weather was not too cold. But when I woke up the next day, the whole campus was covered in snow. Everyone was so excited to feel the snow and we began throwing snowballs at each other. My first snow experience was incredible; my friends and I even built an igloo.

During the first month of school, we experienced a lot of snow days (which was good news in a way because it meant that classes would be cancelled and we could have fun). It was a unique experience to see snow every day when I walked out of my room. I lived in a triple suite in Endicott Hall, and all of my roommates and suitemates were simply wonderful. They were all friendly and didn’t mind giving me a ride whenever I needed.

Apart from attending classes, I also spent some time in Boston sightseeing. I visited the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston Commons, Quincy Market among many other places. I also watched an NBA game at TD Garden and a Red Sox game at Fenway Park. It’s a city with so many enjoyable things to do!

I also got to meet and know people from the US, Mexico, Jordan, Switzerland, and many other countries. I learned so much from each of them. The best aspect about my time away was the friends I made and how these friendships have continued despite most of us being scattered across the world. I now consider most of my closest friends as those whom I met on exchange.”
In the summer edition of our College newsletter, we attempted to cover most of our year 2015 graduates’ success stories, and informed you about our students who received offer letters from various prestigious local universities into master’s degree programmes. Later, we heard more good news. Chung Man Siu (Bao Bao) and Fung Yuk Kei (Yuki) – both ‘Language & Communication Major’ students at the College – got admitted into MA in Creative Media (MACM) and MA in Communication and New Media programmes respectively at the City University of Hong Kong.

**Bao Bao** is eager “to start her new life” and says that she is truly grateful for this opportunity to study further.

**Yuki** too is elated and expresses her delight in receiving the admission letter while simultaneously acknowledging the support of people who helped her get to this point in life.

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### THE CENTENNIAL EXPERIENCE

_by Karena Lo_

As a new year-3 entry student in Centennial College, I did not expect things to turn out so splendidly. Centennial College offers a great deal of opportunities, schemes and activities for students to take part in - both academically and in the manner of extracurricular activities. This year, I joined the school choir and was very proud to become one of the Centennial Singers. We had regular practice each week and the members bonded with one another just like family members. In April, we had the chance to perform at the Hong Kong Cultural Centre on the occasion of the annual school concert of HKU SPACE.

Another remarkable experience for me was when I got invited to attend the RTHK interview. Although we were not doing a live show, I still felt extremely on-edge. Yet, I held myself together and the recording went smoothly.

Other than the extra-curricular activities, studying at Centennial College has been extraordinary adventure. I find that compared with other institutions, the teacher-student relationships are super close at our College. An educator once said, “Kids don’t learn from people they don’t like”. I absolutely agree with the quote and truly believe that teachers (more like mentors to me) in Centennial College are well-liked by our fellow students as they teach with their hearts and do everything possible to help when students encounter challenges in their studies.

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### INTERNSHIP AT QUANTUM CHINA ASSET MANAGEMENT

_by Ho Hiu Fung_

Within the asset management industry Quantum China Asset Management is a buyer firm involved in mergers and acquisitions for several listed companies in Hong Kong. Interns working in such a high intensity industry or company can gain plenty of knowledge and experience. Most employees who have been working in famous companies such as Quantum have years of experience and really know how to guide interns like me.

During this internship, I believe I learnt the most about the need for clear communication between employees. We need to establish a good working relationship with other colleagues and form a ‘network’ of people who can willingly help us or ask others to help us when we face problems. As expected, I did face many challenges because everything was new to me. I realise that I simply couldn’t have done without the help of my colleagues. Working with them has been a truly enjoyable experience even though there was a time when we all worked together on a project until 3 a.m. I have been told by my experienced colleagues that this intensive internship has already trained me more than what an average fresh graduate would expect to learn after 3 years of working at the firm.
CENTENNIAL CONNECTIONS

CENTENNIAL FORUM AND ESSAY WRITING COMPETITION PRIZE PRESENTATION CEREMONY

These were the challenging questions posed in this year's Essay Writing Competition. At the Centennial Forum cum Prize Presentation Ceremony, we were pleased to have Dr Petula Ho share her wisdom and thoughts on diversity in our society today. Dr Ho is Associate Professor at the Department of Social Work and Administration at The University of Hong Kong, and has researched extensively on gender, sexuality, media and culture. At the forum, she initiated lively discussions on public and private lives in the city and explored whether Hong Kong still provides the conditions for free offline and online expression of ideas. At the Prize Presentation Ceremony, a total of 12 students received awards for their excellent essays on the topic of diversity. We would like to extend our congratulations once again to the awardees!

HIGH TABLE DINNER

High Table is a tradition that Hong Kong universities have adapted from the dining style practiced in colleges of British universities such as Oxford and Cambridge, where faculty members, guests and students dine together in a formal setting. Centennial College held its first High Table Dinner in April 2015 and the staff and students were honoured to be joined by Dr Ricky Szeto, the Executive Director of Hung Fook Tong Holdings Limited. During his speech, Dr Szeto shared with students his secrets to success; the “5Ps”: passion, positivity, playfulness, persistence, and the ability to persuade and communicate well. Dr Szeto encouraged students to be willing to accept failures and admit mistakes, as these are crucial to effective leadership. With good food and inspiring company, all attendees enjoyed a pleasurable evening.
Besides bringing the monsoon season to its peak in Hong Kong, the month of August also causes a heightening of emotions among Hong Kong Diploma of Secondary School graduates as they seriously start contemplating about their post-secondary study paths instead of hanging out with their friends. This year’s Edufest aimed to provide a platform for senior secondary school graduates and their parents to find out more about the novel opportunities available for pursuing a tertiary education in the city. The two-day event held on the 8th and 9th of August 2015 at HKU Town Centre featured talks on preparing for university success, acquiring language skills, building a career in the media and PR industry, and appreciating the adaptations of pop music in Western and Chinese contexts.

Ms Snowy Choi, former TVB anchor and media personality, spoke about the qualities and qualifications necessary for a career in the media sector. Her talk was facilitated by teachers - Dr Angus Lam and Dr Aditi Dubey-Jhaveri - of the ‘Gender, Media and Culture’ team.

Students can easily access plenty of information online these days but still there remain many areas where they can benefit from direct contact with professionals in the field of education. Edufest filled this gap, offering students and their parents a chance for face-to-face interaction with College representatives stationed at 4 booths in Admiralty Centre. These teacher and student representatives answered visitors’ queries about all seven majors offered at the College and the course selections available within each of these majors while the feature talks and student sharings at the Edufest offered valuable insights into carefully selected topics.
Summer Discovery Academy

Would you like to experience college education in a day packed with mind-stimulating games and inspiring talks? This past July, prospective students were given the chance to do so in our Summer Discovery Academy, a day camp designed for senior secondary school students organised by the Office of Student Success. This year’s academy featured lectures on out-of-the-box advertisements by Dr Ailie Tang and business and accounting in a globalised world by Dr Helen Yee. Participants enjoyed team-building games during a visit to Cyberport, where they also got a chance to apply their in-class learning to film and produce their own advertising videos. Indeed, experiential learning is a centrepiece of liberal arts education at Centennial College!

Summer Boston Study Tour

This summer, 16 of our students spent a fortnight on an activity-packed and adventurous tour to Boston from May to June. Organised by the Office of Student Success (OSS), the Summer Boston Study Tour gave Centennial College students the opportunity to immerse themselves in American culture and experience home-stay with host families in the United States.

Generally, students spent their mornings attending English classes and some of their afternoons having lectures on American history, politics and culture.

However, their afternoons were filled with a series of experiential learning activities including visits to notable landmarks such as the Massachusetts State House, the John F. Kennedy House, the Museum of Fine Arts and sites along the Freedom Trail. The Harvard University tour gave students the chance to see the renowned institution for themselves. Of course, the famous Duck Tour had to be an essential part of the trip to complete the Boston tour itinerary.

We hope that through these overseas visits, Centennial College students will gain a more global outlook and a broader vision for their future.
The English Corner

The English Corner was established by Associate Professor, Dr Michael Wong, to provide a relaxed learning environment for students to encourage their use of English beyond the classroom. Its first event was organised in 2013 in which Mrs Ip Lau Suk Yee, Legislative Council Member, was invited as a guest speaker. During her speech entitled ‘The study of English as a window to the world’, she made use of her knowledge of western literature as well as selected samples of writings on contemporary geopolitical affairs, to express her views on the importance of studying English.

Later in 2014, Dr Rodney Jones, the Acting Head of the Department of English at City University of Hong Kong at the time, spoke on the topic titled ‘Mashing, modding and meimeing’ in which he highlighted the ways in which digital media can be used to complement and comprehend academic writing in English. He emphasised that in this technological era, digital literacy needs to go hand in hand with academic literacy, and showed how the distinction between the two is getting increasingly blurred.

More recently, this year, Assistant Professor, Dr Shelley Lu from the English domain, organised a seminar on the ‘Role of oral language in second language learning and development’. Dr Cherie Chan who is a Senior Lecturer at The University of Hong Kong was invited by Dr Lu to talk to students on the topic because of its relevance for our students who primarily use English as a second language.

Badminton Society

The Centennial College Badminton Society of the Students’ Union brings with it a fun, friendly and welcoming atmosphere that offers high quality badminton at both a competitive and social level. The Badminton Society functions as a great way to meet new people in the College and it holds regular tournaments, training and practice sessions.

The Badminton Society also organises briefing sessions for both its experienced and inexperienced players of different abilities, especially when an event such as the ‘Badminton Fun Day’ or the ‘Annual Intra-college Badminton Competition’ is about to be held. The ‘Annual Intra-college Badminton Competition’ usually has three types of matches. These include the Men’s Doubles, Women’s Doubles and Mixed Doubles.

Besides the enjoyment of playing the game, the purpose of the Society is also to promote fitness, exercise and sportsmanship. Students from all four years of the College have been actively involved in the activities of the Society. Tiffany Chau, Paul Chan, Vivien Chan, Emlond Yeung, Andrew Lo, Tung Pun, Raymond Kwong, Angus Tsui, Sandy Leung, Henry Cheong Lin, Franco Lai, Lan Hin Yiu Nancy, Nickie Chan, Michael Keith, Nick Chu and Kaylee Hung among several others have been enthusiastic members of the Society.

The Badminton Society of 2015 had the honour of representing Centennial College when the members received an invitation for a competition event organised by the Hang Seng Management College during July 2015. We sent out two teams which included the men’s doubles and the women’s singles. The Badminton Society was the first runner up for the men’s doubles while competing against Hang Seng Management College, The Open University of Hong Kong, Tung Wah College, and The Hong Kong Nang Yan College of Higher Education. Angus Tsui, Nick Chu, Ryan Li, Tang Kin Ling, and Nickie Chan fought strong in the grouping stage and had a wonderful experience in the competition.
Know About the Grants Received

As part of the Research Grants Council’s (RGC) Competitive Research Funding Scheme for the Local Self-financing Degree Sector (2015-2016), the College received a sum of HK$ 5,900,000 to build an interdisciplinary research and knowledge exchange platform under the Institutional Development Scheme. In addition, three of our faculty staff also received support under the Faculty Development Scheme. Dr Fiona Lock received a grant of HK$ 392,806 to study bird communities in urban parks of Hong Kong; Dr Sabina Mak received a grant of HK$ 540,500 to examine the academic discourse socialisation of EFL (English as a Foreign Language) students; and Dr Helen Yee received a grant of HK$582,062 to study the continued professionalisation of the accounting profession in China. The College also received an institutional grant of HK$ 1,568,000 this year under the Quality Enhancement Support Scheme (QESS) of Education Bureau for a project titled ‘Enhancing the Communicative Competence of Students in Academic Contexts: Adopting a Blended Learning Approach for English for Academic Purposes or EAP courses’.

• STAFF UPDATES •

Welcome Our New Faculty Member

Let’s extend a very warm welcome to Bill Moriarty who joined our College as a full-time faculty member in August this year. With his wide-range of experiences and qualifications in management, East Asian Studies and political science, he will be teaching courses for the political science and the business domain.

Congratulate Our Staff

Congratulations to our latest group of academic staff members on reaching a major career milestone. Li Wai Chung, Karita Kan and Helen Toraskar successfully earned their doctorate degrees this year representing the culmination of their hard work and reinforcing their commitment to learning, teaching and research.

Editorial Board

The College would like to thank Aditi Dubey-Jhaveri for her dedication and contribution to the first three issues of Centennial Connections during her time as editor-in-chief in 2014-15.

We welcome Bill Moriarty as the new editor-in-chief this academic year. Karita Kan and Helen B. Toraskar will continue as editors.