

## Edge

World's first 3D  
artificial eye

## Shaw Auditorium

Stunning facility  
makes debut

# An Eye for Science





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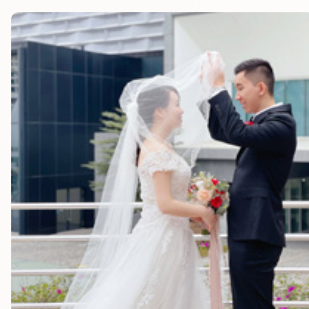
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## Moving boldly into the future

Dear Alumni,

With the graduation of 2021 having taken place, our alumni community now stands at more than 87,000, growing stronger with each year that passes. As a community, we stand united, resilient and ever seeking opportunities. In this spirit, we must embrace challenges, and exercise discretion and independent judgement when faced with unforeseeable events in life. Collectively, our alumni are among our most important stakeholders and closest supporters, and we aim to continually support the community wherever in the world they may be. On our 30th anniversary, we remain youthful, vibrant and energetic, nurturing talent and empowering innovation. Indeed, together we empower!

The 29th Congregation was the first in-person congregation ceremony since the Covid-19 outbreak, and I must say with pride that we relished every moment. We kicked off our 30th anniversary with the opening of the Shaw Auditorium, a state-of-the-art facility which will encourage and support the creative and artistic interests of our entire HKUST family. I welcome you all to come to enjoy the venue and to embark on new and old interests along with our students and colleagues.

As we continue to think not only within our immediate neighborhood but also about the wider environs, the opening of HKUST (Guangzhou) next year is set to be a major milestone. The unified HKUST-complementary campus will systematically enhance our endeavors to advance as well as to diminish the disciplinary boundaries, where appropriate, and create breakthroughs in science, technology and business that change the world.

As evidence of this work so far, take a look at the cover and feature stories in this edition, as we detail ground-breaking work in the field of vision impairment, drug-delivery, robotic



A wonderful meeting with our alumni leaders, where we acknowledged their support on campus

vision, and more by our alumni entrepreneurs and professor. It's the type of work we are becoming well known for, and is both important and exciting to see.

A warm congratulations to Bennet Tsui who becomes the President of HKUST Alumni Association – the team has many activities lined up so stay tuned. This all fits in perfectly, after a long period since the pandemic, the campus is bustling again. Face-to-face classes have resumed, and events started, in which I have treasured opportunities to meet with our alumni in person.

The 30th anniversary is a joyous time for HKUST members. The Alumni Reunion, our annual signature homecoming, will be held on March 5, 2022. We look forward to welcoming you back on campus and witnessing the achievements you have helped us to attain.

We wish you a healthy and prosperous 2022! Happy Holidays and see you on campus!

Yours,  
**Wei Shyy**  
President

Published by

**Development and Alumni Office**

The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology  
Clear Water Bay, Kowloon, Hong Kong

Tel: (852) 2358 6158  
Email: alumni@ust.hk

Fax: (852) 3743 0939  
Website: alum.hkust.edu.hk







Langston Suen  
2016 PhD Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
2012 MPhil Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering  
2010 BEng Chemical Engineering



Eddy Wu  
2006 PhD Biochemistry  
2002 BSc Biochemistry



Yu Yu  
2014 PhD Bioengineering  
2008 BSc Biology

Eye conditions are highly prevalent in Asia, and HKUST is leading the way with alumni gearing up to address needs.

Globally, at least 2.2 billion people have a vision impairment, and of these, at least 1 billion people have a vision impairment that could have been prevented or is yet to be addressed. Asia is home to more than 60% of the world's population. A range of factors from environment to genetic, means eye diseases are very common for Asians. But for a long time many people have suffered unnecessarily. It is for this reason that some of HKUST's leading alumni are working hard to improve drug delivery systems and help people in need.

#### Focus on drug delivery

But what do we mean when we discuss improving drug delivery? The concept has potential to revolutionize the world of medicine, primarily by getting drugs directly to the site where they are needed the most at an optimized dose and time, improving the efficacy of the drug and reducing toxicity. The area has become one of the most active research areas, and part of the drive to develop medicines of the future. For example, COVID-19 vaccines developed by Moderna and BioNTech utilized drug delivery technology to make their mRNA work in the body.

# An eye for science







“Nowadays there are even more opportunities, so I would urge current students to explore and make the most of it.”

### A scientific mission with personal vision

Imagine you have a problem with your sight, and the doctor told you that an injection was needed, directly into your eye. How would you feel? Market analysis shows three out of ten patients would be inclined to skip their appointment. **Langston Suen (2016 PhD CBME, 2012 MPhil CBME, 2010 BEng CENG)** began his journey towards the improvement of drug delivery systems because it was close to his heart. “I started working on drug delivery science, way before I started this company, because my mother got cancer back in 2006. While the target therapy didn’t work, I saw the side effects were much less than traditional chemotherapy, so it inspired me to see how I could lessen the pain of future patients,” says Langston.

Joining a laboratory run by Prof Ying Chau at HKUST as an undergrad, Langston began

to focus on using ultrasound to deliver drugs into the eye, rather than using a painful injection. It has been a long journey for Langston, who exemplifies the type of graduate HKUST seeks to develop – smart, tenacious, achieving, and yet very humble.

The Founder and CEO of Opharmic Technology, which has developed its very own non-invasive ultrasound technology for drug delivery, had driven himself to constantly improve and develop his solutions to make topical drug delivery to the eyes less invasive and challenging for patients. Opharmic’s proprietary ultrasound technology allows therapeutics to be delivered non-invasively, boosting convenience and speed while lessening the amount of pain that patients need to go through.

At present the solution is being used to treat retinopathy, which includes diabetic retinopathy and macular degeneration.

These diseases are not only uncomfortable and impair the vision of patients, but may also cause blindness in serious cases. Intravitreal injection, or where an injection goes through the patient’s eye ball to deliver drugs, is the standard of care for treating retinopathy, but comes with risk, discomfort and side effects, as one could imagine.

Langston started researching ultrasound-assisted diffusion during his PhD degree at HKUST. His pursuit of passion saw him collaborating with the likes of the Hong Kong Eye Hospital, and earned him accolades – Opharmic’s ocular drug delivery device won two special awards and a special jury commendation medal at the 45th International Exhibition of Inventions in Geneva.

So how does it work? Ultrasound ocular drug delivery technology goes through the sclera (the white part of the eye) using

a compact ocular drug release device featuring ultrasound-assisted diffusion. It slowly delivers the drug from the episclera into a patient’s eye. As the retina is located beneath the sclera, this is the closest way for the drug to reach the retina (the layer of tissue in the back of your eye that senses light and sends images to your brain).

The product completed pre-clinical testing in Hong Kong at the end of 2020, showing that the technology does not damage the eyeball and vision, and is as efficient as conventional intravitreal injection. Another bonus for the team is it can be delivered in a very cost-efficient manner, considering that many medical innovations have proven to be out of reach for all but the ultra-wealthy. The device design is similar to the ear thermometer, and is reusable, with the only consumable being the drug applicator, as it comes in direct contact with the patient. The cost is thus controlled at the same level as a syringe – so the patient only has to pay the doctor’s fee, drug and applicator.

Having graduated from HKUST, Langston joined the Hong Kong Science and

Technology Parks Corporation (HKSTP) Incu-Bio Programme. Opharmic recently won the Grand Prize Award and Product Development Award from the Medtech Innovator Asia Pacific Program. But does he feel like a start-up? Looking around Opharmic Technology’s impressive office in Hong Kong Science Park, Langston could appear to be the head of a listed company. “Although we have a hard-working start-up philosophy, we are establishing ourselves as a corporation with big pharma knocking on the door, so I’m glad to see we are helping patients in a real way, and that huge organizations see the potential for other applications,” he says.

At the center of Langston’s rise has been his time at HKUST, where he joined business competitions, represented the University in regional meets, and conducted much of his initial research. “The hardest time was when we first went to market. It was a wake-up call, and even painful, when trying to covert ground-breaking products into commercial applications. But you have to soldier through,” Langston says.

For Langston, some of his happiest times were at HKUST, where he could focus purely on research with comprehensive facilities and hardware at his fingertips 24/7. “Nowadays there are even more opportunities, so I would urge current students to explore and make the most of it,” he says. If students are able to follow in Langston’s footsteps, all while retaining their charm and modesty, HKUST has a bright future indeed.







### Arctic Vision is the hot ticket

**Eddy Wu (2006 PhD BICH, 2002 BSc BICH)**

is the Founder and CEO of Arctic Vision, which shares Langston's vision to deliver medical treatments for millions of Asians who suffer from eye disorders. Inspired by the animals who live in extreme conditions in the Arctic, either with perpetual darkness or daylight, Eddy is driven by unmet medical needs in ophthalmology, and benefitting the wider society. "I love this career, because of how many people have been saved, and how many people can play with their grandchildren, for example; because they are able to live in the light," says Eddy.

Let's just rewind this for a second – how does this all fit in with the Arctic? "The

animals facing the most challenges with sight are those living in the Arctic. It is in continuous darkness half of the time and in perpetual daylight during the other half. Reindeer, polar bears and arctic foxes must survive and thrive in this environment: But what is interesting is the type of evolutionary advantages these animals have developed to help them see better in such conditions," Eddy says.

Inspired by nature, 'Arctic Vision' implies that such 'Arctic Vision' is bringing hope to patients with ophthalmological conditions so that they can see better. It is a mission that needs innovators – not only do more than 2.2 billion people have a vision impairment globally, but contemporary lifestyles and changing dietary habits are

laying the gauntlet down even further.

The world is seeing the rise of the likes of diabetic retinopathy, myopia and aging populations that mean issues such as presbyopia, cataracts and macular degeneration are becoming more prevalent among the elderly. Some people place 721 million people in China, or around half the total population, as having uncorrected vision. Even in developed countries, there are issues to contend with; but when one examines the developing world, lack of doctors in remote areas, along with little access to early diagnosis and treatment of eye ailments, pose considerable issues.

Little wonder the likes of Tencent, Morningside, K11, Octagon, Loyal Valley Capital and Nan Fung Group are joining Eddy to fight for this cause. Depending on market sentiment, Arctic Vision may be looking for an initial public offering (IPO) in Hong Kong which features a robust market for Biotech companies seeking to list. "Greater China is our core business focus, but we also are targeting the likes of New Zealand, Australia, Korea and other Asian countries as well. Different markets have different problems and needs, and you

can see this just by stepping into different classrooms in universities around the world," Eddy says.

Eddy's aim is to collaborate with international companies to deliver or develop novel treatments in China and Asia for a range of ophthalmic conditions. In March 2020, the company signed an agreement with Clearside Biomedical – a Nasdaq-listed American drug company – to license, develop and market ARVN001 in Greater China and South Korea. The drug treats macular edema resulting from uveitis, which is an inflammation of the middle layer of the eye. "Investors in Asia need to understand your business, strategy, and get onboard with what you are trying to do. And on top of this, talent recruitment

“ I love this career, because of how many people have been saved, and how many people can play with their grandchildren because they are able to live in the light. ”



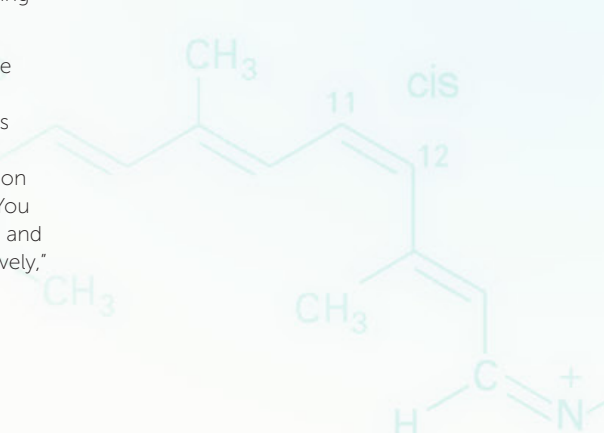
is a big issue, because what we are doing is completely new, and we need to start things from scratch," says Eddy.

Eddy was at HKUST for seven years, going all the way from bachelors' to PhD, and loved the young and energetic university that focused on all around training – Eddy also studied business and politics as well. "This knowledge was the foundation of my entrepreneurship, I had to understand standards outside of Hong Kong, and the competitive situation globally. This helped me in my career, especially at Novartis (where he spent a decade as Medical Director and Head of Health Economics for Asia Pacific, the Middle East and Africa) with all the colleagues from MIT, Harvard, Cambridge and those elite schools."

But there are other memories that make him smile. "When I was pursuing my PhD I would be staying in the laboratory for many

days in a row until the late hours, and even slept in the laboratory sometimes! It wasn't fun at the time, but now I look back at it fondly," Eddy says. He also makes sure to make some time for his hobbies. When he was a hall tutor at HKUST, he was already collecting toys and robots, and people would comment his room looked like a toy store. "Although I live in Shanghai, I have a store space in Hong Kong to store all my robots," he says with a laugh. Eddy also has a collection of antique cameras, including one that is more than 100 years old.

From the past to the future, what advice would he give to current students? "It's important to recognize that the world is changing so much, so I strongly advise students not to judge the future based on their current mindset and knowledge. You need to prepare to change, be creative and handle situations actively and not passively," Eddy says.







“The free and stimulating environment at HKUST allowed me to explore many different faces of myself.”



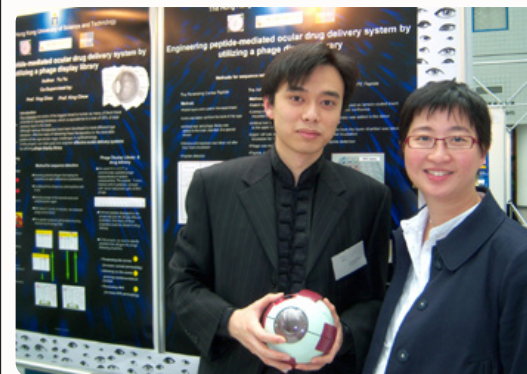
#### From music to medical science

**Yu Yu (2014 PhD BIEN, 2008 BSc BIOL)** is the Founder of Pleryon Therapeutics, which is a biotech company developing pharmaceuticals based on advanced drug delivery and biomaterials technologies. Their lead pipelines include two programs in ophthalmology, one for age-related macular degeneration and one for dry eye.

HKUST is a major part of Yu's life that defined both him and his career. "I came to HKUST in 2004 and left in 2017. As of 2021, this is 40 percent of my life. My experience at HKUST defined who I am. Of course, I spent most of my time struggling in the library, at the dorm and in the laboratory to keep up with the high standard of the 'University of Stress and Tension'. But I'm truly grateful for this experience because it helped me to find my true passion in science and gave me a solid academic background that supports my current work," he says.

At HKUST, Yu was known for his wide range of interests. "The free and stimulating environment at HKUST allowed me to explore many different faces of myself," he says. Yu took many courses outside of his field of specialization, from Linguistics, Buddhism, Music Composition to Pre-Qin Classical Chinese Poetry and more. But he is particularly fond of music. He learnt countertenor and tenor voice singing with HKUST music legend Prof Oliver Lo, and performed in many university and local events. For example, he took lead male roles in the first three HKUST Broadway musical productions, and founded HKUST's first acapella group Lasagna.

Pleryon Therapeutics started when Yu was an undergrad at HKUST in the Department of Biology. The entrepreneur took a course called "Biotechnology and its business opportunities", with none other than Prof Ying Chau. "I knew nothing about engineering but I needed to take a course in the School of Engineering so I chose the only one at that time that had a 'bio' in the name. Because I found that I had good 'chemistry' with Prof Chau, I started to work in her lab in 2007," he laughs. "At that time I knew nothing about drug delivery and biomaterials science, but through the guidance of Prof Chau, I became



really passionate about it as I dived deeper into the subject, and decided to pursue a career in this fascinating area. Subsequently I became a PhD student and later a post-doctoral fellow at Prof Chau's lab."

Fast forward eight years and Yu won the HKUST-Sino One Million Dollar Entrepreneurship Competition as a post-doctoral fellow in 2015, founding Pleryon Therapeutics with, you guessed it, Prof Ying Chau in 2017. "Prof Chau and I share the belief that, if we developed something that has a potential to help millions of patients, it is our obligation to pursue it despite the difficulties. The immediate issue is how can we survive, but long term is how can we create good products, that is the core, does it solve unmet needs? From a business point of view, developing new technologies has higher risk, but the potential return is huge." Yu says.

For many, Pleryon Therapeutics is ticking all these boxes and more. For example, they are establishing long-acting drug delivery for wet age-related macular degeneration, a leading cause of blindness. Patients need monthly injections directly into their eye(s) because the drugs don't last very long, and this new technology has the potential to make the drug last for at least 6 months. Other projects include a novel dry eye therapeutics, a biomimetic gene delivery platform, and protein mimetic polymer for osteoarthritis.

One of the issues for scientists in general is adapting to the world of business, and this is a challenge that every student at HKUST must face head on. "Entrepreneurship is challenging for scientists like myself because the science world speaks a different language compared to the business world. For example, in science, you need to focus on and talk about very specific problems in great detail in order to solve them. But in the business world, we need a lot of help from different sectors, so we need to be able to describe the big picture and speak 'human language' so that people understand and appreciate what you are doing."

Aside from this, Yu was also the president of HKUST Shaolin Martial Arts Society and learnt Kung Fu for many years with Master Andy Leung, the great-grand pupil of Master Wong Fei Hung.

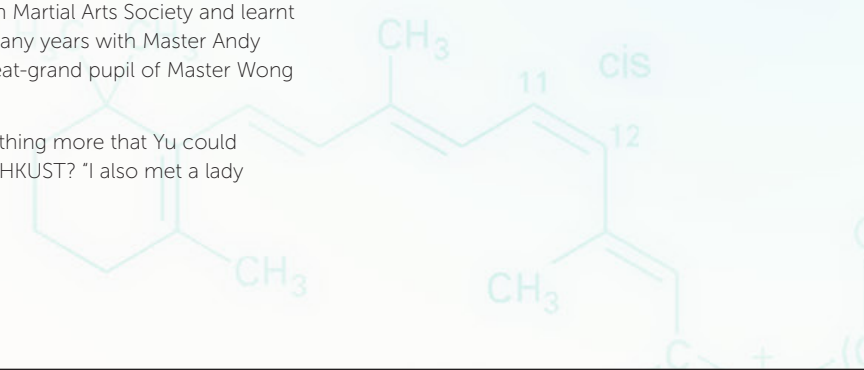
Was there anything more that Yu could experience at HKUST? "I also met a lady



at HKUST who later on became my wife, together we are raising twin boys, probably my best gifts from HKUST," he says.

So for current students who want to emulate these three superstars, what would Yu advise?

"Even in my wildest dreams, I could not have imagined how much my life would have changed after joining HKUST. My advice is don't just stick to your dreams, but embrace new opportunities and challenges," he adds.





# A future vision of humanity



Prof Zhiyong Fan is leading the drive to create a robotic eye to match or even exceed human abilities with a mission to bring hope to those with visual impairment.

When we think of the future, robots are part and parcel of that image. Nowadays, developments are bringing these seemingly fictional ideas closer to reality. Prof Zhiyong Fan, at HKUST's Department of Electronic and Computer Engineering, is responsible for some of this brave new world.

Prof Fan is leading an international team of scientists to develop the world's first 3D artificial eye, which aside from surpassing the capabilities of bionic eyes, also has the potential to exceed the abilities of human eyes. At the center of this mission is hope: humanoid robots will be able to aid humanity and new capabilities can be given to people with visual impairment.

## Science fiction offers inspiration

It's not much of a surprise, given Prof Fan proclaims to have been "obsessed by science fiction from an early age". During his childhood in China, they "imported lots of Hollywood movies about time travel and space travel, and my favorites over time are the likes of *Star Wars*, *Star Trek*, *Terminator*, and *I-Robot*," Prof. Fan says.

Prof Fan came to HKUST in a somewhat fortuitous manner. "I was looking for a job and a friend suggested Hong Kong – all I knew was movies and Jackie Chan," he says with a laugh, recalling the flight over on Cathay Pacific, the first time he had flown the airline. "The food was way better than the US-based airlines," Prof Fan adds. The natural surroundings and sea view struck him as amazing, and he accepted the offer to be an assistant professor, after nine years in the US. Prof Fan was a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences of University of California, Berkeley from 2007 to 2010. He had previously received his Ph.D. from University of California, Irvine in 2006 in Materials Science.

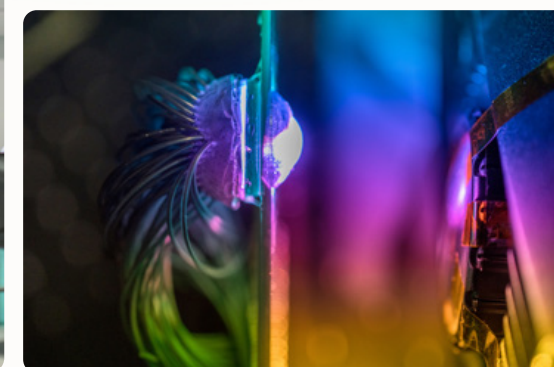


His futuristic project has two components – on the one hand it will be able to greatly change the lives of people who suffer from severe visual impairment and blindness; on the other side, electronic 'sight' functions for cell phone cameras, autonomous driving, drones and even space exploration will be radically improved, especially with wider vision. "Cameras are the best way to avoid obstacles and are cheaper and lighter than sensors, it's no wonder Tesla is only using cameras," Prof Fan says.

## In the eye of the beholder

How does this all work? Humanity has spent decades in an attempt to replicate the structure of the biological eye. Right now, the best humans can do is prosthetic eyes in the form of spectacles aided by cables, offering 2D images and poor resolution. Surely, thought Prof Fan and the team, this situation could be improved significantly. So they set about with a dream to develop an Electrochemical Eye (EC-Eye) that not only replicates the structure of a natural eye, but might even provide sharper vision with functions such as the ability to detect infrared radiation in darkness (i.e. the ability to see in the dark).

This breakthrough was provided by a 3D artificial retina made of nanowire light sensors, which in the future could very well be connected to the nerves of the visually impaired patients. As nanowires have a higher density than photoreceptors in the retina, light signal reception is increased and resolution might even surpass that of the human eye. Adding to the fascination, an electrochemical process has been adopted from solar cells, meaning each photo sensor on the artificial retina might also serve as a nanoscale solar cell.



Will this type of research, for example, be able to help the blind see? Prof Fan suggests caution and patience are needed. "Look, it is really difficult to 100 percent reconstruct vision, and this can be partially done, and it's not a high-resolution picture, so we are still quite far away but working towards that goal," he says. Still, the achievements are impressive, and came in collaboration with the University of California, Berkeley. Research and trials are now in progress, and Prof Fan says, "ten years for the human side is already optimistic". Indeed, the road is long but also worth the struggle.

## Looking forward

The scientific community remains impressed. Findings have been published in the prestigious journal *Nature*. Indeed, these ideas from the realms of science fiction are now coming into fruition. If you think this sounds absolutely amazing, you would be completely correct, the progress has been nothing short of miraculous. But sitting down with Prof Fan, one is struck by his humility and down-to-earth nature. For one, he enjoys playing football at the HKUST pitch twice a week, playing in a striker position. Talking to him, one can tell he enjoys life on campus, almost as much as he has an ambition to reshape the future.

Luckily for our community, he is here to stay, and raring to go. "The type of process of discovery we are going through is in my blood, I love the process of creating something new," Prof Fan says. It is also the spirit that drives HKUST forward in research, learning and hope.



# Landmark auditorium ushers in bold new era

The opening of our impressive Shaw Auditorium commenced HKUST's 30th anniversary celebrations in style.

Modern, elegant and impactful, the opening of our Shaw Auditorium on November 17, 2021 formed the centerpiece of HKUST's 30th anniversary celebrations, ensuring the joyous occasion was commemorated in style. To make the day extraordinary, more than 500 guests joined us in the festivities, all made possible by the Shaw Foundation Hong Kong's generous HK\$150 million donation to establish the Auditorium.

## A cultural icon arises

Designed by Danish architect Claude Bøjer Godefroy, the Auditorium emphasizes sustainability, boasting a seating capacity of around 850 for concerts and over 1,300 in flat floor configurations for concerts, theater performances, lectures, exhibitions, and ceremonies. The Shaw Auditorium also provides flexibility with supporting facilities for seminars, rehearsals, small-scale performances, and gatherings both indoors and outside.

The Shaw Auditorium is placing HKUST on the arts and culture map, with a new center of learning and gathering, while furthering the humanistic and creative development of the University. With the opening of HKUST(Guangzhou) on the horizon, culture is taking pride of place at the University, with a focus on whole-person development beyond science and technology, the fostering of East-meets-West cultural exchange, and the synthesis of arts and science.



Excitement as guests officiate the Opening Ceremony



All eyes on the Shaw Auditorium Plaque and Run Run Shaw Bust Unveiling Ceremony



A stunning juxtaposition of utility and creativity

## Student life transformed

With all the new facilities in place, HKUST is promoting an interplay of art and technology by making art-related courses compulsory for most programs. There are new courses such as the Extended Major in Digital Media and Creative Arts, and Computational Media and Arts. With this in mind, the ceremony opened with vocal and instrumental performances by HKUST alumni and students, including professional alumni Warren Lee, Kwok Ho Lam, Pauline Tang and Edwin Wan. It concluded with a concert by the Hong Kong Philharmonic Orchestra, the perfect start to a new artistic era for HKUST.

The wonderful occasion was enhanced by Chinese and Western music performances by HKUST alumni and students



Pauline Tang



Edwin Wan



Kwok Ho Lam



Warren Lee



Yanliu Qiao and Yanyang Qiao



The HK Philharmonic Orchestra was a star billing during the Opening Concert



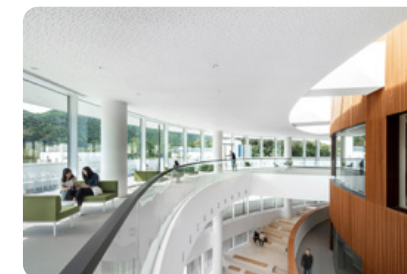
A friend of HKUST and renowned baker Christina Man makes a cake in celebration of the Shaw Auditorium Opening



Learn more about the Shaw Auditorium



The stunning Main Hall



The Open Foyer is light and airy



The Balcony hosts impressive views



The Mona Shaw Plaza, set to be an iconic gathering spot



A commemoration for Dr Tse Yuen Man



We look forward to a bright future



# Offers, discounts, network

Download the  
Alumni App!



HKUST is known for the business acumen of its graduates, and in recent years, we have seen more and more alumni entrepreneurs across a whole spectrum of industries. What better way to support them than by downloading our **Alumni App** and activating your **Alum eCard**?

You can receive **special offers and discounts** of alumni products and services via the Alumni App. With categories including **Food & Beverage, Beauty & Health, Home & Renovation, Style & Fashion** and more, it's just the ticket to experience the best of what our alumni community has to offer.

You can also use the app to access the library, sports facilities, receive campus offers, and even discover new job opportunities. **So what are you waiting for? Download the Alumni App, and activate your own Alum eCard now.**

Google Play



App Store



# We are Family

The new President of the HKUST Alumni Association (HKUSTAA) has big ambitions to strengthen our community. Let's find out more!

HKUST alumni are renowned for their ability to "think differently", and that is exactly what **Bennet Tsui (2007 BBA Marketing and Information Systems)** aims to do as the new President of the HKUST Alumni Association (HKUSTAA). Bennet is working under the principles of Alumni First – being part of the 'A1 Team' dedicated to helping alumni connect under "We are Family". This means unconditional care, providing immediate help, inspiring and advising each other.

Bennet has big plans to engage more members with innovative events that tap into current trends and the A1 philosophy of "Alumni Inspire Alumni". The Founder of 5 Miles Lab, a digital marketing agency, Bennet aims to bring more interactive and digital experiences to HKUST alumni, boosting wellness events, activities around community service, and entrepreneurship networking.

"At HKUST, I had a wonderful hall life and studying was so much fun, so I hope we can keep this type of experience up for alumni as well," Bennet says. Highlights for Bennet from HKUST include an exchange semester in Mexico, and this type of adventurous spirit epitomizes what Bennet is all about – exploring, searching and meeting new people to benefit the community.

Having served HKUSTAA for nine years, he sees the potential for collaboration. "I'm so grateful to have the chance to be President. Our motto is 'Alumni inspire Alumni', we want to organize some

events to reinforce this philosophy," Bennet says.

New and exciting events have included a craft beer workshop that allowed alumni to learn more about local brews, and understand more about the differences between craft offerings and overseas beers. There are other chances for alumni to connect with each other at social events such as the latest vegan Christmas party, along with the opportunity to support charitable causes such as animal welfare and adoption, and community service, with the likes of giving out gifts to the elderly.

This year, mental and physical health are at the top of the list of issues to address. "People are stressed out, especially during COVID-19, and wellness is really important, along with supporting alumni with parenting tips. Delivering inspiration to alumni will form a central part of my mission – let's bring some positive energy to alumni," Bennet says.

Events will be available both in-person, and of course digitally, given that Bennet has a digital marketing background. He even plans to have some events that offer tips from KOLs (Key Opinion Leaders) on social media marketing to learn "new survival skills".

At the heart of Bennet's initiatives are learning more, enjoying life, and bringing enrichment to alumni. "This is a process of discovery, we hope to offer events that are inspiring and tailor-made for our alumni."



Website



Facebook





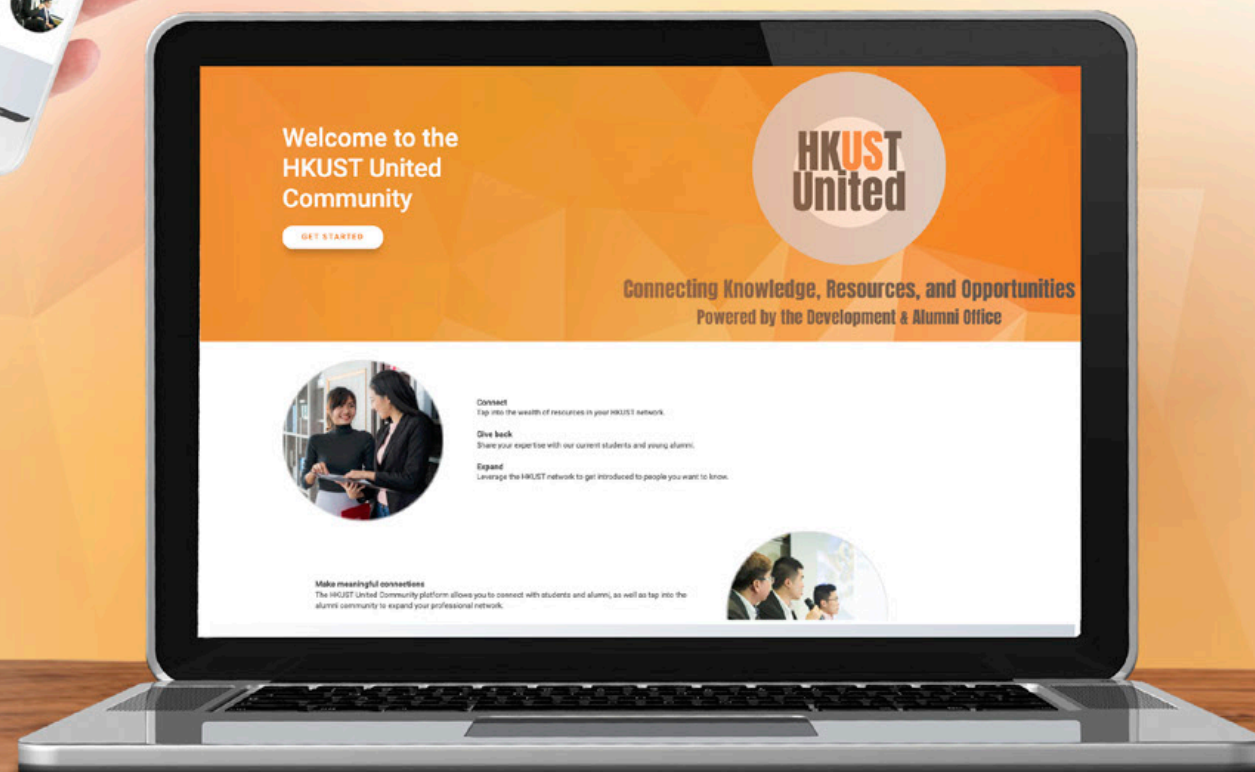
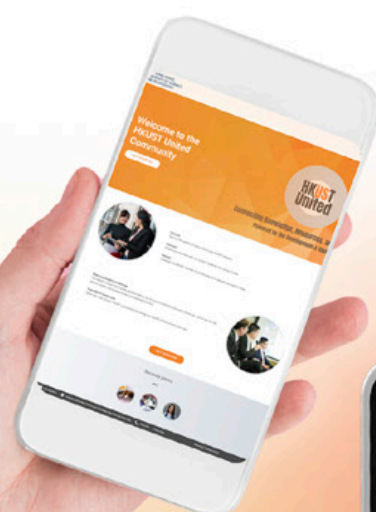
# We need you! Support our graduates



HKUST stands united, and we want all our alumni to give their support! An overwhelming response has been received since the HKUST United program was launched in 2020 to support our students and new graduates during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants are given the opportunities to leverage on our extensive alumni network through career and startup advice, job opportunities and other support, which are offered by enthusiastic alumni worldwide.

The program has a new online platform for HKUST community members at (<https://hkustunited.com>) to engage, find mentors, connect with like-minded individuals, post events and job opportunities, as well as promote businesses and services offered by HKUST entrepreneurs. The HKUST United community is now 350 members strong and still growing!

→ Sign up now



## A new era: the Co-op Program

Students are more aspiring than ever, and more alumni are reaching out to recruit HKUST talent. The Co-op program was launched to meet these growing needs. In 2020, a Co-op program in partnership with the School of Humanities and Social Science (SHSS) was launched for undergraduate students. It is the first credit-bearing program at HKUST that offers exclusive pre-employment training hosted by seasoned alumni professionals; one-on-one mock interviews conducted by alumni in senior management positions; 6-month paid internship opportunities with our partner employers; and guidance from alumni mentors in the fields that Co-op students are interested in.

## A Student's opinion:

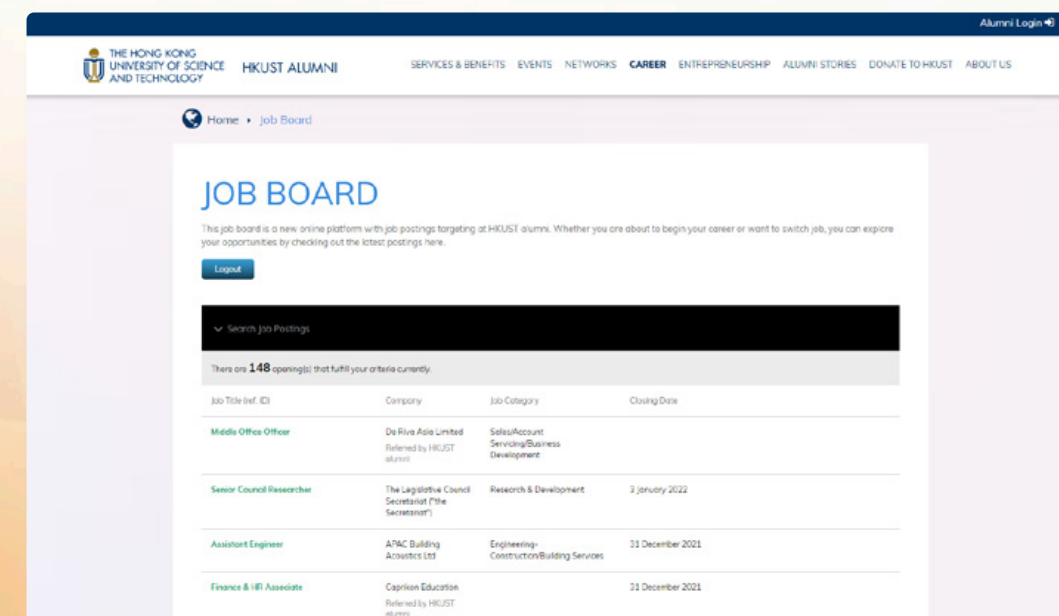


**Hugo Chu**  
Year 4, BSc Global China Studies

The Co-op Program has sharpened my skills in internship hunting. Students have an alumnus assigned to them as mentor. I'm delighted that I am given the opportunity to intern at Lidl Asia!

## Opportunities for employers to hire!

Do you want to hire the best? Look no further than here! The HKUST Alumni Job Board is regularly updated with a diverse range of job and internship opportunities for HKUST students and graduates. Please email your job ad to [alumni@ust.hk](mailto:alumni@ust.hk)



Search for jobs →





# Fun, happiness and community

The excitement is back! HKUST is witnessing a full range of in-person events and programs on campus, across Hong Kong, Mainland China and internationally. Our close community ties are getting even stronger. So look forward as we host even more programs as we continue our celebration of the 30th anniversary. Stay tuned for the action!

## 1 Development and Alumni Office

Alumni Leaders Appreciation Gathering  
Entrepreneur Gathering in Science Park



## 2 HKUST Convocation

Distribution of care packs to students at the beginning of the fall semester



## 3 HKUST Alumni Association

Aberdeen Coastal Sampan Tour



## 4 Alumni Dragon Boat Club

Dragon Boat Workshop for Kids in collaboration with CCC Tuen Mun Church Kindergarten



## 5 Alumni Golf Club

Indoor Golf Practice



## 6 MBA Alumni Toastmasters Club

Raise a Glass – joint wine tasting and sharing session with Alumni Wine Association

Annual Speech Contest

Regular Meetings



## 7 Engineering Enterprise Management Alumni Association

HK Cultural Heritage Sightseeing

Career Talk



## 8 Alumni Wine Association

Mak's Brewery Tour

Sharing on "How good the pairing of cheese with California wine can be?"

Wine Tasting – Test Your Palate



## 9 Guangzhou Alumni Chapter

Guangzhou Chapter Founding Day



## 10 Beijing Alumni Chapter

Workshop – How can enterprise participate in charities

## 11 Shanghai Alumni Chapter

Meeting with delegates of HKUST  
Fok Ying Tung Graduate School



## 12 Ontario Alumni Chapter

Dim Sum Lunch Meeting



## 13 Northern California Alumni Chapter

Lunch Gathering

Virtual Mid-Autumn Gathering





# All the world's a stage

A theater enthusiast, who is also a budding business woman and sportsperson, Anjali Kanthan (BBA Year 3) is fast making a name for herself at HKUST. The double major in Economics & Marketing grew up in Hong Kong and is a true third culture kid with an international family rooted in Tamil culture. She took the lead principal role of Ruth Sherwood in HKUST's Broadway Musical "Wonderful Town!" in September 2021, all while juggling major sporting commitments in both tennis and hockey. She might be rather busy, but Anjali still found time to talk to us.

## So why did you choose a double major in Economics & Marketing?

I like seeing the world through an economic lens, and I enjoy the psychology behind marketing a lot. So I can apply things I learnt about behavior and do something practical with it. What a cool combination! I've been interested in these areas since studying for my International Baccalaureate at West Island School in Hong Kong.

## Everyone wants to know more about your experience taking the role of Ruth Sherwood in HKUST's Broadway Musical "Wonderful Town!"...

We have a very musical family, everyone sings or plays an instrument, I grew up around music, English, Hindi, Tamil, Spanish and more! When I saw the announcement, I was like OK, I 100% have to do this. I had met Isaac Droscha and Mandy Petty in my first semester, having taken the course Music Theater and Dance. I fell in love with them, and promised myself I would work with them. So as soon as I got the email, I knew what to do. Going on stage felt so natural, what an amazing experience. We rehearsed every day for months and it was one of the most challenging things I have ever done. And I was interning too, so my day was running from 7am to midnight every day. It never felt like work, just pure passion. The reaction from the community was beautiful. I will be on exchange in Barcelona so I'm not sure I will be able to make it to the next show, and that makes me pretty sad.

## You are very sporty as well...

My two main sports are field hockey and tennis, and I play tennis for the University too, and last year became president of the Tennis

Society. There are so many people with amazing attitudes who just want to learn, it is so encouraging to see that and it inspires me. So it was really crazy with the theater project, and I ended up taking a break from sport for a bit.

## And on top of that, how about your business endeavors?

I am part of the HKUST Women in Business Society, that has guest speakers giving talks, networking sessions, and workshops, along with practical elements such as CV building workshops. These things really bring us together as women, and breakthroughs in male dominated fields. It's powerful and it's part of the reason I love HKUST. I'm not going to lie, this place is not easy academically, when you come to HKUST, you will focus on your academics – it teaches you the value of putting in time and effort. At the same time, I'm sure you can see that I balance work and play – make sure you always have space to enjoy yourself!



# Wonderful updates from your classmates

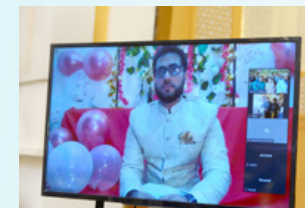
Life is full of excitement for these HKUST graduates. Find out more about their news and happiness! We want to hear all about you, so remember to share your photos and updates with us via the QR code.



## Winnie Lam & Ryan Wong

2010 BBA FINA & MGTO

So happy to be together! We have entered a new chapter in our lives! It all started at HKUST, which brought us together when we first met on the campus in 2009. We just tied the knot on December 5, 2021.



## Chaudhry Muhammad Furqan

2021 MPhil ECE

What times we are living in! I am pleased to share with you that Abeera Fatima and I have had our wedding online. I am working in Hong Kong and due to the pandemic, I could not go back to Pakistan. It was fun though!



## Charles Guo

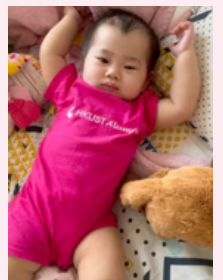
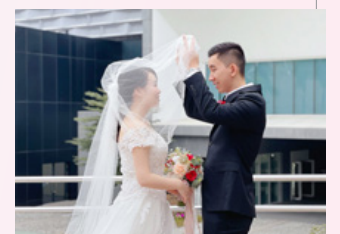
2012 MSc MECH

We are delighted to share that we have had a traditional Chinese wedding in 2021, lucky that the pandemic did not stop us.

## Grace Xu & Patrick Chau

2016 MSc EHS 2016 BBA FINA

Good things come from surprising places! Our paths came together in 2015 when we joined voluntary services in Cambodia. Five years after that, we finally tied the knot!



## Kee Wong

2012 BEng ELEC

A bundle of joy has arrived! We are excited to welcome baby Kyra to our family.



## Karan Ko

2014 BBA OM & MARK

This is a professional highlight: I am honored to be named in the Influencer Awards 2021 for Hong Kong Living. I founded K.Kommunications in 2018 to give a voice to smaller businesses across the city.



## Ben Zheng

2011 MBA Shenzhen

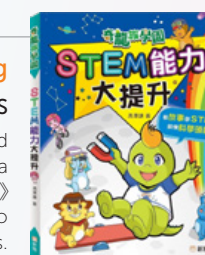
In 2017, I established my startup Lucky Tone, specializing in designing and manufacturing of commercial and professional audio systems, with several angel investors. In 2020, I have got second round of strategic investment from Temeisheng, a leading loudspeaker manufacturer in China.



## Exodus Sit

2020 BSc MATH

Soaring to the Moon! I have recently published my new book 《星空解碼：從天文觀測到星野攝影》 to promote popular science through science communication, starting from astronomical observation to astrophotography.



## Stephen Fung

2004 BSc PHYS

To contribute more to the field of STEM education, I wrote a STEM book 《STEM 能力大提升》 delivering STEM knowledge to primary school students.

## Samina Seth

MBA 1996

I'm entering the exciting world of startups after a 15 plus year international banking career! I have co-founded Walee (www.walee.pk), Pakistan's largest and fastest growing influencer marketing and social commerce platform.





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ECONOMY

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## Moving is easy as 1,2,3

Moving to a new place can be very stressful, whether it is to a city or even country. Our **Relocation Program** helps alumni and exchange-out students settle by putting them in touch with friendly local alumni. We have a network of alumni in **over 100 countries and cities around the world** – most of the popular destinations are covered.

**Please get involved!** We encourage you to join the program as a **Relocation Host** or **Relocation Guest**. Our Relocation hosts provide useful advice on helping people settle in. As a guest, we'll put you in touch with hosts as well!



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