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Introduction

CELT has continued to work towards our mission to advance the quality of learning and teaching at HKUST. Key accomplishments from the academic year 2003-2004 include:

Faculty and Teaching Staff
Teaching Assistants
Students
Wider Education Community

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Special Feature

1. [Second Teaching and Learning Symposium Teaching Innovations: Continuous Learning and Improvement](#)
2. [Teaching and Learning Symposium 2004 Panel Discussion – "Sustaining and Growing a Continuous Teaching and Learning Improvement Culture at UST"](#)
3. [TIME - A Web-based environment for managing teaching related information](#)

1. Second Teaching and Learning Symposium Teaching Innovations: Continuous Learning and Improvement

The Second HKUST Teaching and Learning Symposium was held on 17 May 2004. The aim of the Symposium was to nurture and showcase continuous improvement in the quality of teaching and learning at the University; emphasizing collaboration of practices and innovations within the University community. A keynote speech and a luncheon seminar were given by Prof Jim Boyle of the University of Strathclyde and Dr Stephen Draper of the University of Glasgow respectively. Apart from a teaching and learning exhibition, over 30 papers were presented by the UST teaching community. They were categorized under these topics:

• Visualization and Simulation
• Web-supported Learning and Teaching
• Peer Learning
• Teaching Innovations
• Tertiary Language Learners Support
• 中文及普通話課程的設置與教學法

The Teaching Innovation Awards were also presented. The winners included:

• Prof Michael Wong and Prof T K Ng's teaching team from the Department of Physics
• Prof Rudolf Fleischer from the Department of Computer Science
• Prof Rashmi Adaval from the Department of Marketing
• Dr John Milton from the Language Center

For full stories, please visit http://celt.ust.hk/tlsymp04/tiaward/

**2. Teaching and Learning Symposium 2004
Panel Discussion – "Sustaining and Growing a
Continuous Teaching and Learning Improvement
Culture at UST"**

The symposium was brought to an end by a panel
discussion. The panel was composed of Prof Peter Dobson
as the panel chair, Prof Jim Boyle (the keynote speaker of
the Symposium) as the summarizer, Dr Stephen Draper,
and faculty representatives Prof Irene Lo from the
Department of Civil and Structural Engineering, Prof Michael
Wong from the Department of Physics, Ricky Lau as the
student representative. The conclusions made from different
voices have shed light on the possible initiatives that UST
can take to sustain its continuous teaching and learning
improvement culture.

The panel agreed that both the teaching community and the
students here look for quality teaching, which has to come
from a realization of its importance. "*…we are not
separating the good teaching and good research into two
different compartments; instead we think that they are
integrated together.*" An institution-wide motivation would
help to make it happen. There has to be a balance between
research, teaching and administration.

Another focus of the discussion was on our "*sharing of
teaching*" – teachers need to come together and talk about
it. A Teaching and Learning Symposium like this one is one
of the many ways for teaching professionals to come
together to share what works and what does not.
"Observing other people teach" could also be of great help
because it opens up new ways to bring good elements into
your own teaching. "Team teaching", which is being done by
the teaching staff in some of the departments at UST, is one
of the practices that could help to foster this sharing
culture. In addition to that, more attention needs to be paid
to the form of evaluations to be conducted because valuable
data should come out if the objectives are clearly defined.
Ideas of remedial actions would then come into shape for
improvement and innovations. A good feedback system
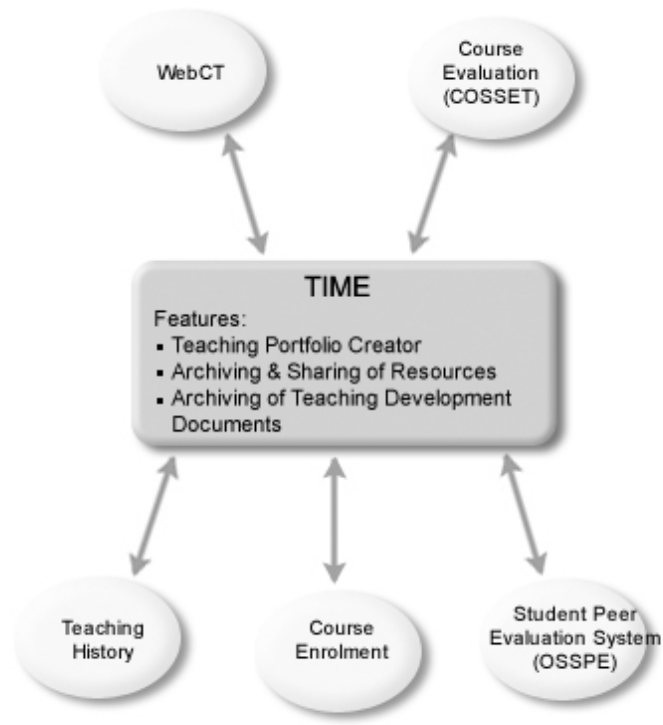
should exist between teaching staff and students.

3. TIME - A Web-based environment for managing teaching related information

After almost 21 months work, the development of the Web-based TIME system is nearing completion. It is now going through its testing phase. Once completed, the system will be released for trial by users. We hope this application will become a useful tool for faculty and instructors to manage their teaching resources and to support their teaching development effort. The main features of the system consist of:

- An online file cabinet where users can store and share their resources with anyone of their choice in HKUST and outside.
- Access to the user's past and current course evaluation reports, and hopefully in the future it will include information captured by other teaching related applications (e.g. OSSPE which is online system for student peer evaluation).
- A module for teachers to create their own teaching portfolio.

The system is expected to be launched by the end of this year. Members of the teaching staff who are interested can contact us to set up a trial account (Ms Fanny Lee, ctfanny). Special thanks go to the faculty and instructors who provided us with useful feedback on the design of the system.

A New Learning Management System for HKUST

This is a new initiative to develop our own learning management system which will probably replace WebCT by late 2005. CELT is now in the process of collecting opinions from faculty, instructors, staff and students about the features and functionality of the new system. Special thanks to those of you who took the time to meet with us to share your views and to help us plan the new system. Though we might not be able to implement all the features in your wish list, we certainly hope that the new system will be able to better cater for the needs of the university. More importantly, because the system is owned by the University, there is always the option for us to enhance it whenever resources are available. Members of the university who are interested in contributing to this project are welcome to contact us (Mr Eric Lo, ericlo).

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Updates & Highlights

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Highlights for Faculty and Teaching Staff

Following the success of the first symposium held in Winter 2001, the second **HKUST Teaching and Learning Symposium**, organized by the Senate Committee on Teaching and Learning and CELT, was held on 17 May 2004. For more details about the symposium, please refer to p. 1 & 2 of this edition.

A number of workshops and seminars were held to continuously support teaching for faculty members at UST:

- "Bridging the gap between instructional developer and content expert", with an objective to enhance the collaboration and understanding between the instructional developer and the content expert, brought by Dr Mike Keppell, Principal Lecturer and Head, Centre for Integrated Technology in Education, Hong Kong Institute of Education.
- "Complex Learning and Learning-Oriented Assessment" by Dr David Carless (HKIEd) and Dr Peter Knight (Open University, UK), in which some potential and challenges in transforming assessment practices were discussed, and the promotion of complex learning was reviewed.
- "New Directions for Learning - Highly Adaptive Computer-based Tutorial Learning", by Prof Alfred Bork, University of California, Irvine, in which he shared his experience in effective use of highly interactive multimedia technology to make order of magnitude improvements in learning at all levels.
- "Sharing learning resources: What's in it for me?" by Dr Ian Hart, Consultant, LEARNet (Hong Kong Learning Resources Network)and LRC3 (Learning Resource Catalogue), in which several issues about sharing valuable teaching resources among the university community are discussed.

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Highlights for Teaching Assistants

The *Teaching Assistant Program* was run smoothly in the academic year, with a growing number of TAs benefiting from the two-tier support system adopted in the previous semesters, by which CELT supports Teaching Assistant Coordinators (TACs) who in turn support their peers, the TAs.

In terms of training the TAs, CELT has continued to run the *Teaching Assistant Induction Program*. In Fall 2003, this facilitated over 300 TAs. They benefited from the mixed mode of on-line and face-to-face delivery of the modules and the program of collaboration with their experienced peers, with CELT staff acting as facilitators. New workshops such as "Maximizing PowerPoint Presentations", "Systematic Web Development with Frontpage" and "Dynamic Flash Presentations" were introduced and received positive feedback from the TAs.

The *Best TAC Award Presentation* was held on Apr 22, 2004. The results are as follows:

- Johnson Hexin ZHANG (CIVL)
- Susanna Shuk Ying HO (SBM)
- Ricky Wai Kay LAU (COMP)
- Jean Jin KONG (MATH)
- Nina Lam SIOW (BIOL)
- Derek Kin-Yip LO (BICH)

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Highlights for Students

New General Education Program

As the third in a series of Lifelong Learning, General Education courses, GNED006 Career Management Skills was launched in Spring 2004 for the first time. It is being offered in parallel with GNED001 Effective Thinking and Learning Skills and GNED005 Team and Leadership Skills, as a means to tie together the initiative to embed employability into HKUST undergraduate majors. Based on the Windmills Careers programme for undergraduates, the course has focused on lifelong career management, particularly 21st century career tactics for knowledge workers and was run in cooperation with the Career Center. The PEAKS (Portfolio of Essential Attributes, Knowledge and Skills) system was used by the students as an additional tool for personal development planning in the area of career management. A new course from the Creative Media series was also launched – GNED007 Creative 3D Visualization and Animation. With the aim to facilitate students in developing an aesthetic sense, knowledge and technical competence in exploiting the media and utilizing the tools for form exploration, artistic expression, effective communication, and presentation, the course focuses on 3D digital art together with concepts and basic techniques for 3D modeling, material definition, cinematography, animation, rendering, and digital collage.

Open Lecture for GNED Students

Mr Chip Tsao (陶傑), a popular writer in Hong Kong, came to UST to share with our students about critical thinking in an open lecture - ***"Success to Critical Thinking – the Experience of Chip Tsao"***. He shared his own thoughts and experience about being a critical thinker and offered tips for our students to excel in critical thinking. The lecture was well received by the students.

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Highlights for Wider Education Community

The **"Creative Thinking and Expression 3-Day Camp for Diocesan Girls' Junior School"** was held in mid June, to develop the creative thinking and expression skills for Primary 6 students to better equip them for their ongoing projects at school. The program consisted of a series of workshops including "Creative Expression", "Drama", "Debate", "Web Authoring" and "Video". Having spent 3 days at UST, the students brought the program to a fruitful end by delivering presentations in groups to demonstrate their enhanced creativity.

Results of **Hong Kong CyberFair for Schools 2004** have been announced and the award presentation ceremony was held in July. A total of 33 schools, 149 teams and 856 students registered for the competition in the two age levels. Ten Outstanding Awards have been chosen from each of the age levels (Primary level and Secondary level). Within the Primary level, one Outstanding Visual Award and five Honorable Mentions were selected; whilst at the Secondary level, two Outstanding Visual Awards and three Honorable Mentions were selected. This is a localized program for an international authentic educational program designed for students to conduct research on their community and present it through a web project.