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TED NEWSLETTER

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CityU Tiger@Community
**Illuminating Hearts: Students Spread Joy
and Warmth during the Mid-Autumn Festival**

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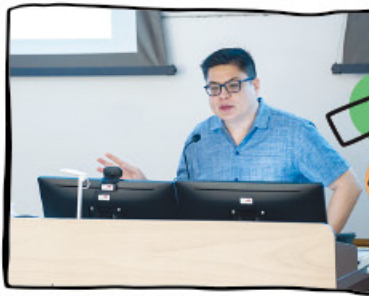


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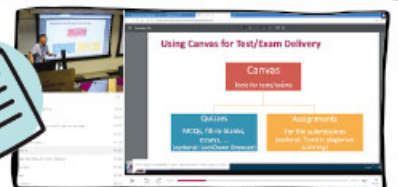
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CITYU TIGER@COMMUNITY

Illuminating Hearts: Students Spread Joy and Warmth during the Mid-Autumn Festival

By Kylie Wong

The Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival, holds a cherished place within Chinese culture as a deeply rooted tradition. During this special occasion, families and loved ones gather to savour delightful mooncakes and seasonal fruits while basking in the gentle glow of the moon. The festivities come alive through enchanting lantern events that illuminate the night, spreading across various districts in Hong Kong. To ensure that everyone can partake in these vibrant celebrations and create lasting memories, a diverse range of captivating activities are organised by different local parties every year.

Beyond the joyous festivities, the spirit of love and care was extended as Tiger students actively engaged in community service events. Thanks to the Student Development Services (SDS), Tiger students were given registration priority for selected community events. In September, two community events related to the Mid-Autumn Festival were successfully held and enthusiastically promoted to the Tiger community through the newly launched initiative "CityU Tiger@Community." One event focused on making handicrafts for the elderly, while the other celebrated a century-old dragon dance ritual. Let's take a closer look at the highlights of these two events and explore the meaningful contributions made by our Tiger students.



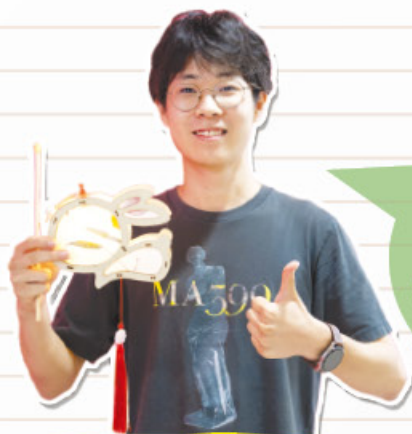
Celebrating Togetherness: Handicrafts for the Elderly

To express love and care for the elderly during the Mid-Autumn Festival, students actively took part in a handicraft workshop where they learned the art of crafting paper lanterns step-by-step. The workshop commenced with a video presentation highlighting the meaningful initiative aimed at supporting the elderly in Hong Kong. Students were given the opportunity to unleash their creativity by crafting their own unique paper lanterns. Subsequently, these beautifully handcrafted lanterns were sent to the Hong Kong Sheng Kung Hui (HKSKH) Multi-disciplinary Outreaching Support Teams for the Elderly (Kowloon East), bringing joy to the residents of private elderly homes across Hong Kong.



Q1 What motivated you to join this activity?

Q2 What did you learn from this experience?



Mr Charlie Cheng Qianyu, Year 2,
Computer Science

1 The Mid-Autumn Festival in Chinese culture is a symbol of reunion, and I think the elderly residing in care homes may feel lonely during this festival. As someone who is also staying in Hong Kong alone, I consider this a chance to share the joyous festival atmosphere with them.

2 I felt a strong sense of responsibility as I made these lanterns, knowing that they were meant to bring happiness to others.



1 I like this festival very much. Knowing that the lantern I made would be shared with others made the experience immensely meaningful to me. This led me to decide to join this endeavour.

2 I enjoyed the process of creating the lantern as it was incredibly interesting. I started by separating the materials into different parts and then carefully assembling them to form a lantern. The end result was truly beautiful!



Miss Maddie Li Letu, Year 2, Linguistics
and Language Applications



1 This activity was truly fun and meaningful because it allowed me to extend love and warmth to the elderly, who may not have been able to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival with their families.

2 This experience made me more aware of social needs in our community and reinforced the importance of spreading kindness within it.



Miss Chow Sin-nga, Year 3,
Translation and Interpretation



The Glowing Dragon of Tai Hang: A Spectacular Mid-Autumn Festival Tradition

Another meaningful community event revolved around the Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance, a breathtaking spectacle that captivated both local residents and tourists. This year, the ancient ritual featured a magnificent 220-foot-long dragon, comprising 32 segments adorned with straw and lighted incense sticks. This awe-inspiring creature was then paraded through the bustling streets of Tai Hang for three consecutive nights. This fascinating tradition originated in 1880, when it was used to combat a plague by residents of a small Hakka village. Accompanied by ringing gongs and thumping drums, the fire dragon dance involved more than 300 performers and was believed to bring good fortune and safeguard the community. Today, the Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance is officially listed as a National Intangible Cultural Heritage and continues to attract crowds for the blazing spectacle each year.



After a three-year pause due to COVID-19, this cherished "living tradition" made a triumphant comeback. The narrow streets of Tai Hang were packed with excited spectators on the eve of the Mid-Autumn Festival. Our Tiger students, serving as official ambassadors, joined the fiery dragon as it paraded through the neighbourhood. They distributed informational postcards prepared by the Tai Hang Residents' Welfare Association and offered assistance to both local residents and tourists during the dance.



**CityU Tiger@
Community**



Q1

Did the activity meet your expectation(s)?

Q2

What were your takeaways from this activity?
How do you think this experience will help you?



“

1

The activity exceeded what I expected! It was incredible to see how skilfully the young men controlled the Fire Dragon. I also enjoyed learning more about the history of the Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance and why it is so important.

2

This event has deepened my knowledge of intangible cultural heritage and heightened my awareness of the importance of preserving and promoting these invaluable traditions. These experiences have strengthened my connection with the community.

”



Miss Chen Tsz-ching, Year 3, Computer and Data Engineering



Mr Gavin Xue Zhiwen, Year 1, Global Business

“

1

This event met my expectations. I had a wonderful time and also got to experience the local culture.

2

I have learned the importance of giving back to our society through active participation in community service. This experience has not only encouraged me to engage more in social activities but also equipped me with valuable skills in effective communication with others.

”

“

1

The activity exceeded my expectations. Not only was I able to introduce the origins of the Tai Hang Fire Dragon to tourists, but I also gained a wealth of knowledge about the actual practice itself.

2

Prior to participating in the event, I felt a bit shy about conversing with foreign individuals due to my limited fluency in English. However, as a result of the activity, I gained confidence in speaking English and was able to communicate comfortably with tourists. I even had the opportunity to offer them souvenirs.

”

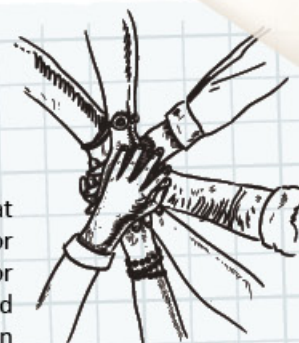


Miss Mimi Wong Wing-yen, Year 3, Chinese and History

Embracing Community: A Journey of Joy, Growth, and Skill-Building

Through engaging in community events like these two, students have discovered that community work goes beyond making a positive impact – it's also a great chance for personal growth and self-discovery. Whether it was crafting lanterns for the elderly or participating in the exhilarating Tai Hang Fire Dragon Dance, our Tigers have expanded their horizons, honed their leadership qualities, and sharpened their communication skills. These incredible experiences have taught them the value of empathy, cultural understanding, and vital life skills that will undoubtedly benefit them in their future endeavours. Great job, Tigers, for making a difference in such a friendly and uplifting way!

To all our fellow Tigers, don't worry if you have missed these two events. More incredible opportunities for community work are on the way this academic year. Embrace the chance to actively participate and embark on your own journey of personal growth and impact. Together, let's make a difference, one act of kindness at a time!



Tiger@Community



CITYU TIGER WELCOMING CEREMONY 2023

Roaring into the New Academic Year

By Kylie Wong

The CityU Tiger Welcoming Ceremony (the Ceremony) roared to life at City University of Hong Kong (CityU) on 26 September 2023, signifying the commencement of an exciting, transformative journey for approximately 1,000 elite Tiger students. Esteemed guests – including Professor Freddy Boey Yin Chiang (President), Professor Lee Chun-sing (Provost and Deputy President), Professor Johnny Ho Chung-yin (Director of the Knowledge Transfer Office), Professor Kenneth Lo Kam-wing (Director of the Talent and Education Development Office (TED)), Professor Alvin Lai Chi-keung (Associate Director of TED), as well as Associate Provosts, Deans, Associate Deans from Colleges and Schools, and Heads and Directors from Departments – graced the Ceremony with their presence. Their presence amplified the grandeur of the event as they shared in celebrating the Tigers' remarkable achievements.

President Boey warmly welcomed the Tiger students and congratulated them on their acceptance into the CityU Tiger Programme (the Programme). He emphasised the importance of excelling in academics and fostering innovation throughout their learning journey at CityU.



Unveiling Two New CityU Tiger Initiatives

The Ceremony also presented a golden opportunity for Tiger students to explore the abundance of resources offered by the Programme, designed to foster their personal and professional development and empower them on their path to becoming future leaders.

During the Ceremony, Professor Kenneth Lo introduced two new CityU Tiger initiatives:



CityU Tiger@Community

This initiative accentuates the active engagement of Tiger students within the community, aiming to empower exceptional students to make meaningful contributions to society while developing robust interpersonal skills. With the dedicated support of SDS, Tiger students will receive priority registration for various community events organised by SDS. During the inaugural summer pilot run, our Tiger students took part in visits to local elderly homes, conducted workshops to teach children the art of making bouquets for their loved ones, and participated in beautifying canoes. This immersive, hands-on experience goes beyond the classroom and extends into the community, providing Tiger students with transformative learning journeys that explore new dimensions of knowledge and personal growth.



CityU Tiger Crash Courses 101

This is another new initiative designed to cultivate a culture of peer-to-peer knowledge sharing among Tiger students. This activity encourages students to share their skills, passions, and expertise through one-off, intense crash courses, creating an environment of immersive and interactive learning for all participants. Whether students take on the role of mentors or mentees, they gain valuable transferrable skills throughout the entire process. The positive feedback we received during the summer pilot run has set the stage for a diverse range of activities planned for this academic year.

In addition to these new initiatives, a series of featured talks, training sessions, and workshops conducted by industry veterans, seasoned entrepreneurs, distinguished CityU faculty, and esteemed alumni are also being launched this academic year to help Tiger students realise their capabilities and to motivate them to explore the endless possibilities that lie ahead.

Celebrating Diversity and International Flair

One unique aspect of our Tiger community is its incredible diversity and international flair. This year's Tigers come from 39 countries and regions, bringing together a delightful blend of cultures, perspectives, and life experiences. This multicultural environment creates an extraordinary opportunity for our students to learn from one another, fostering a global outlook that enriches their learning adventure at CityU.

Let's meet some of our amazing Tiger students:



Miss Julia Alice Blocki – Hallo! I'm a Year 2 Psychology student from Germany.

Today, I realise that university life is much more than just grades and exams. It's clear to me now that the Programme is specifically designed to help us develop important skills beyond academics. I cannot wait to meet like-minded people and have fun participating in various activities!

I am eager to be a part of the Tiger x PALS! programme and enhance my communication skills through meaningful interactions with my peers. Additionally, I look forward to sharing my experiences with junior students at CityU.



Miss Shao Chuting – 你好! I'm a Year 2 Biomedical Sciences student from Mainland China.



Miss Patricia Christie Djauhari - Halo! I'm a Year 2 New Media student from Indonesia.

The Programme has a lot to offer, and I am eager to join the Tiger Ambassadors Programme. I hope to collaborate with my fellow Tigers and learn how to organise activities for my peers. I believe the experience will help me explore my unique work style, which will be valuable for my future career.

The Programme is a fantastic opportunity for students to grow and belong to an elite community. That said, what I enjoyed the most was meeting such outstanding, like-minded students from all over the world who share the same passion for learning and positively impacting our society.



Mr Nathan Philippe Gregori – Bonjour! I'm a Year 3 Management student from France.



These exceptional individuals represent just a fraction of the remarkable talent embodied by this year's Tiger students. If you are eager to meet more of these inspiring individuals, be sure to join our upcoming Tiger activities!

Last but not least, we would like to extend our deepest gratitude to our Tiger Ambassadors and student leaders for their invaluable contributions to the event. Creating a warm and engaging atmosphere, our dedicated Tiger Ambassadors, who are at the core of our Tiger community, specially organised an interactive game booth for this year's Tiger students. Their tireless efforts and unyielding enthusiasm significantly enhanced the experience for this year's cohort.

TED will continue to support these high-achieving students in their journey to become the future leaders, innovators, and change-makers we believe they can be. Please stay connected with us to witness the incredible achievements that Tiger students will accomplish this year!



CityU Tiger Webpage

CITYU TIGER CRASH COURSES 101

Ready, Set, Apply - Join the Tiger Community as a Tiger Mentor!

By Kylie Wong

Imagine yourself seated at a chef's table, awaiting a thoughtfully curated dining experience. That's precisely what CityU Tiger Crash Courses 101 offers – a platform where dedicated Tiger mentors orchestrate fun and engaging one-off courses for their peers, who seek to broaden their skills, passions, and knowledge.



In October, two captivating courses were conducted. Cindy's crash course delved into the riveting world of crime, exploring fundamental concepts such as murder and drug offences. Ken's course was tailored for coding beginners, using an interactive tool called "Python Turtle" to make coding interesting and stimulating. Both courses received positive feedback and enthusiastic responses from the participants.



Behind the Crime Scene: Unveiling the Basics of Criminal Law

18 October 2023

By Cindy Leung (Year 3 LLB Student)



Miss Cindy Leung Sin-yeuk, Year 3,
Bachelor of Laws

Learn Programming Steadily by Drawing with Python Turtle

CityU Tiger Crash Courses 101



Mr Ken Lung Lok-hin, Year 3,
Bachelor of Science in Computer Science



We asked Cindy and Ken to reflect on their experiences as Tiger mentors and to share insights on their crash courses.



Why did you choose this topic to share with your peers?



I chose this topic because I'm deeply fascinated by criminal law and its connection to our daily lives. Many students often wonder why alleged murderers are charged with murder, especially after watching crime movies. My goal is to provide a comprehensive overview that helps students grasp the essentials of a crime.

I chose to teach "Python Turtle" because it's user-friendly, especially for those with little to no knowledge of coding. From basic codes to programming techniques, participants learned to create computer-generated pictures and animations while mastering programming concepts easily in a short time.



What motivated you to become a Tiger mentor?



After watching the movie "A Guilty Conscience," I discovered that some of my peers were quite interested in understanding the basics of criminal law. This inspired me to deliver a crash course to share the knowledge I acquired at CityU.

When I heard that the Tiger Programme was seeking mentors to teach fellow students, I saw it as an opportunity to share my knowledge of, and passion for, programming. Programming is a versatile skill applicable in various fields, including art. This led me to think, "Why not share my knowledge with others?"





What's the most surprising or unexpected thing you've learned while preparing for the course?



One of the most unexpected challenges I encountered while preparing for the crash course was simplifying complex legal concepts. It required extensive research and a thorough review of the course materials to ensure accuracy. I focused on sharing the most important cases and legislation with my peers in a clear and understandable way.



The most surprising thing I encountered during the preparation was the difficulty of fitting all the planned content into the actual course. I initially had a tendency to include a lot of information. However, I quickly realised the importance of adapting and catering to the needs of participants who were new to coding. It was a valuable lesson in finding the right balance and prioritising essential concepts.



What's the most rewarding aspect of being a Tiger mentor?




I find it incredibly rewarding to see my peers benefiting from my crash course! It's satisfying to witness their engagement and know that I've made a positive impact. I also appreciate the opportunity to connect with Tiger peers from different backgrounds!



The most rewarding part for me was getting to teach a group of university students, which was an unexpected opportunity. Being a Tiger mentor has helped me improve my communication skills, especially in delivering information effectively. It's a fulfilling experience all around!






Can you share a funny or memorable moment that happened during your crash courses?



One memorable moment from my crash course was witnessing the students' enthusiasm for applying the knowledge they had learned to solve a case. They eagerly asked follow-up questions about possible defences related to murder. As a mentor, it brought me great satisfaction and fulfilment to see the students actively engaged in discussions and using what they learned for case analysis.

For me, it was a joy to witness the students' newfound understanding of the course content. Not only did I feel a strong connection with them, but I also realised that I could contribute to expanding their horizons for the future. Additionally, some participants even came up with innovative ways to draw pictures using Python Turtle, which further deepened my own understanding of the programming language.



What advice or words of encouragement would you like to share with your Tiger peers who are interested in becoming mentors themselves?



Just go for it! It's a fantastic opportunity to share your expertise with fellow peers on this meaningful platform.

My advice to aspiring Tiger mentors is to be well-prepared, organise your content effectively, and take into consideration the proficiency level of your mentees. Most importantly, enjoy the process! It's a rewarding experience that you don't want to miss!



Tiger crash courses have brought surprises and memorable moments, making it a fulfilling experience for both Tiger mentors and mentees. If you're a Tiger student interested in becoming a mentor, we encourage you to take Cindy and Ken's advice and embark on this fulfilling journey of knowledge-sharing and personal growth. Stay tuned to our website for upcoming announcements so that you won't miss out on the next opportunity!



Crash Courses 101

Embracing Changes and Exploring New Frontiers: FEATURED TALK by Professor Rosa Chan

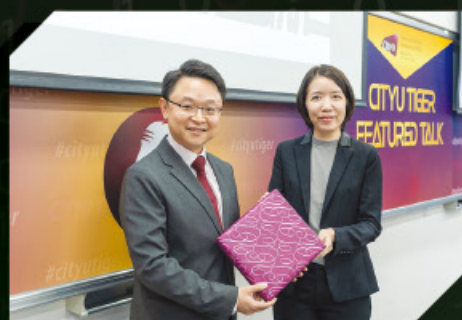
By Li Xiayi

Stepping outside one's comfort zone is transformative. Students and faculty heard from Professor Rosa Chan Ho-man as she gave a Featured Talk hosted by TED on 25 October 2023.

Professor Kenneth Lo, Director of TED, kicked off the event by welcoming the attendees and introducing Professor Rosa Chan Ho-man as the guest speaker from the Department of Electrical Engineering. During her engaging presentation, Professor Chan shared her personal experiences of studying and travelling abroad with the support of various academic scholarships. Her message of the transformative power of stepping outside one's comfort zone resonated deeply with the participants and reminded them of the incredible growth that can come from embracing changes.



Professor Rosa Chan Ho-man



Professor Kenneth Lo (Left)

With a series of optical illusion examples as an introduction, Professor Chan captivated the audience with her research on neural interfaces. Her research lies at the intersection of engineering and neuroscience. This combination of disciplines opened up exciting possibilities, sparking curiosity and inspiring students to explore new frontiers. Another of the highlights of the event was Professor Chan's thought-provoking quote: **"When there is an opportunity, go for it. Don't be scared of changes."** This simple yet powerful statement encapsulated the essence of her message, encouraging students to overcome any fears and take bold steps towards their goals.

The event concluded with a lively question-and-answer session, providing students with an opportunity to engage directly with Professor Chan. The session further deepened their understanding and fostered insightful discussions.





Tiger student, Mr Akib Arifeen, Year 1, Computer Science

I was really fascinated by the growth and promising future of neuroscience. This Featured Talk really encouraged me to pursue professional qualifications in this field.



Tiger student, Miss Hu Jiayuan, Year 2, Biological Science

What I liked most about this Featured Talk was how Professor Chan shared her own exchange experience with us. It was fascinating to hear that she enjoys watching animations. She showed us that our real-life hobbies can truly inspire and motivate us to pursue special directions within our beloved fields.



Mr Mohammad Shaarib Ahamed, Year 3, Physics

During the talk, Professor Chan shared her personal journey of transitioning from electrical engineering to neuroscience, which deeply touched me. I took a lot of notes about her valuable insights. It reminded me that regardless of our current stage in life, there are always new opportunities waiting for us. If we have other interests, it is never too late to pursue them.



SCMUN CONFERENCE 2023

Uniting Young Leaders at CityU for Global Solutions

By Kylie Wong



An enthusiastic group of future ambassadors gathered on campus for the See Change Model United Nations (SCMUN) Conference 2023 on 12 and 13 August 2023. MUN is an international programme modelled on the United Nations that gives participants opportunities to practice diplomacy skills as they approach real-world issues.

The conference marked CityU's inaugural participation as a supporting organisation, with TED on hand to facilitate the event. More than 200 participants, ranging in age from 12 to 18, representing 45 schools from Hong Kong, Macau, Mainland China, the United Kingdom, and the United States, gathered on the CityU campus to learn about diplomacy, international relations, and the functions of the United Nations through the conference. Through role-playing as country



Mr Lester Garson Huang

representatives, participants worked collaboratively to tackle global issues. Participants were divided into four committees, enabling them to collaborate, negotiate, and engage with delegates from diverse backgrounds to deliberate on pressing global issues.

The conference commenced with a warm welcome from Mr Lester Garson Huang, SBS, JP, Council Chairman of CityU. Alongside engaging discussions, SCMUN delegates had the opportunity to enrich their experience by visiting the State Key Laboratory of Marine Pollution and attending enlightening talks delivered by CityU professors. Professor Chan Chi-hou, Director of the State Key Laboratory of Terahertz and Millimeter Waves, shared insights on **"Antenna: An Enabling Technology for Communications and Sensing."** Meanwhile, Professor Ray Cheung Chak-chung, Associate Provost (Digital Learning), explored the topic of **"Demystifying Machine Learning and its Underlying Mathematics"** with the young participants.

The conference this year covered a range of topics, including the following:

Committee	Topic
World Meteorological Organization (WMO)	Aftermath Alleviation in the Face of Increasing Numbers of Tropical Storms
Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	Agrifood Systems of the Future and Their Implications on Food Security
UN Women	Women in Bottom-up Peacebuilding and Track II Diplomacy
General Assembly First Committee Disarmament and International Security (GA1 DISEC)	Addressing the Potential Security Risks of a Biotech Revolution in Military Affairs



Professor Chan Chi-hou



Professor Ray Cheung Chak-chung



Miss Maryana Yarshova, a Year 2 student studying for the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, was appointed as the chairperson of one of the committees. ***"It was my first time taking on the role of chairperson of a committee,"*** she said. ***"While I had prior experience as a delegate, including participating in Harvard World MUN 2023 in Paris, the responsibilities were quite distinct. As the chairperson, I needed to listen attentively to speeches, tally votes, conduct roll calls, and more. It required complete focus on the task at hand. Despite the demanding nature of the role, witnessing the debate unfold under your own guidance was a truly gratifying experience."***



To ensure a smooth and enjoyable experience for all participants, a dedicated team of 16 Tiger Ambassadors was on hand to assist with the on-day logistics of the conference. Their commitment ensured that the conference ran smoothly and efficiently, enabling SCMUN delegates to fully engage in the sessions and fully maximise their experience at CityU.

Outstanding delegates from the conference were nominated to attend prestigious international MUN conferences. Congratulations to all the delegates on their remarkable achievements!



A Warm Welcome back to School and the Success of PALS!

By So Ka-yan

More students than ever are taking part in the Peer-Assisted Learning scheme using Supplemental Instruction (PALS) this semester, thanks to TED's intensified promotional efforts and strengthened relationships with faculty.

In Semester A 2023/24, TED worked closely with faculty to include 19 courses from 10 academic departments, offering 55 PALS sessions. More than 380 students registered for PALS as a result of this cooperation and enhanced promotional campaign. Posters and banners highlighting the benefits succeeded in getting more students interested in and registering for PALS.

As TED moves forward, we remain committed to supporting academic learning and fostering a collaborative community while enhancing our promotional efforts and strengthening our partnerships with faculty to ensure the continued success of PALS.

PALS

Peer-Assisted Learning scheme using Supplemental Instruction



Student Orientation Workshops

243

Attendance

Total four sessions

Leader Training Workshops

66

Attendance

Total three sessions

Workshops for English For the Medium of Instruction (EFMI)



51

Attendance

Total three sessions

About PALS

PALS is a scheme that places students at the centre of their learning experiences. By promoting peer collaboration and support, PALS aims to create a unique and lively learning environment that encourages personal growth and academic success.

As Semester B will soon commence, we invite you to explore PALS and discover the multitude of opportunities it offers. Simply scan or click the QR code to learn more about PALS and how you can get involved.



PALS

Unveiling Updates in the GE PROGRAMME REVIEW

By Patrio Chiu

In line with the guidelines of the Quality Assurance Committee (QAC), the GE Programme underwent a rigorous review process this year. The primary objective of this review was to ensure that the programme adhered to international standards and continued to evolve in a manner that promoted improvement. To facilitate the review, a panel of three distinguished External Academic Advisors (EAAs) from esteemed universities was assembled to conduct an in-depth examination of the GE Programme.

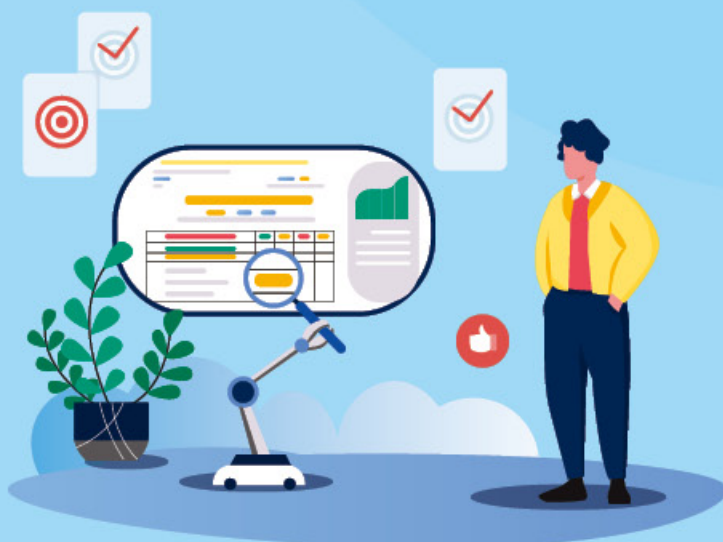
The review process employed a dual-pronged approach, evaluating the alignment and relevance of the GE Programme with its Intended Learning Outcomes (GE-PILOs). That involved the collection of direct evidence from Assessment Tasks (ATs) of GE courses, and indirect evidence derived from course leaders' and students' feedback on their teaching and learning experiences.

The review process extended invitations to all 76 GE courses offered in Semester B of the 2022/23 academic year. These courses spanned a diverse range of subjects within the three distributional areas: Arts and Humanities; Study of Societies, Social and Business Organisations; and Science and Technology.

After conducting a comprehensive analysis of the evidence collected, the EAAs were impressed with the GE Programme's curriculum, course design, and assessment methods employed within the GE Programme, noting that they aligned with the highest international standards. The GE-PILOs were praised for their well-defined nature and comprehensive coverage of crucial student learning elements.

The EAAs concluded that most students had successfully achieved the stated learning outcomes of the GE Programme. Additionally, they offered valuable advice for further enhancing and updating the GE Programme. Professor Leung Tsang, an EAA from the University of Michigan, suggested continuous integration of the latest scientific discoveries and innovations into the GE classes. Dr Marco Garrido, an EAA from the University of Chicago, recommended expanding the curriculum's scope to foster more abstract, philosophical, and universal thinking among students. Furthermore, Dr Robin Loon Seong Yun from the National University of Singapore advised the inclusion of a more global perspective within the curriculum.

This review process clearly demonstrated the commitment of the GE Programme to maintaining and enhancing its quality, ensuring that it remains at the forefront of educational standards.



Professor Leung Tsang

Professor, Department of Electrical
Engineering and Computer Science
University of Michigan

Dr Marco Garrido

Associate Professor,
Department of Sociology
University of Chicago

Dr Robin Loon Seong Yun

Associate Professor, Department of
English, Linguistics and Theatre Studies
National University of Singapore



List of External Academic Advisors



GE Programme

Dr Marco Garrido's ENLIGHTENING VISIT to CityU

By So Ka-yan

In November, TED had the privilege of hosting Dr Marco Garrido, an Associate Professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of Chicago. Dr Garrido, who served as an EAA for CityU's GE Programme in the 2022/23 academic year, had a series of productive meetings during his visit.

During his time here, Dr Garrido met with the Chair of the QAC, the Chair and members of the GE Programme Committee (GEPC), the Director of the Southeast Asia Research Centre, and GE course leaders. He also had the opportunity to sit in a GE class and engage in discussions with our students.

In addition to these engagements, Dr Garrido delivered a seminar titled "Rethinking General Education: Embracing a Liberal Arts Approach for Holistic Student Development." The seminar provided a comparative analysis between CityU's GE Programme and that of the University of Chicago, highlighting the potential of reading foundational texts to foster new perspectives in students' thinking and the importance of historical context for critical thinking. Dr Garrido's presentation sparked thought-provoking discussions among faculty and students, leaving a lasting impact on our community.

Reflecting on the GE Programme, Dr Garrido shared, **"I believe it (the GE Programme) should aim to cultivate a form of thinking that is more abstract, philosophical, and universal. This mode**

of thinking is not only applicable to the social sciences but is necessary to enhance the consideration of concrete issues."

He continued, **"While textbooks may be necessary for providing summary accounts of great ideas, it is equally important for students to think beyond specific cases and grasp the bigger picture. The great texts, with their focus on the significant ideas of our time, can help them achieve this."**

Dr Garrido praised CityU's GE programme, acknowledging its excellence while also suggesting opportunities for growth. **"I believe the GE programme at CityU is largely excellent. However, I think there is room to further cultivate abstract and critical thinking in students. This will not only enhance the programme's international competitiveness but also better prepare its students to become not just good citizens but global citizens."**

The visit was a resounding success, thanks to the active participation and engagement of all parties. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Dr Garrido for his time, expertise, and valuable contribution. We look forward to fostering more cross-institutional collaborations in the future.



"The GE Programme should aim to cultivate a form of thinking that is more abstract, philosophical, and universal."



Dr Garrido's Seminar

Starting Your University Study with the **LASSI SURVEY**

By Raymond Chan

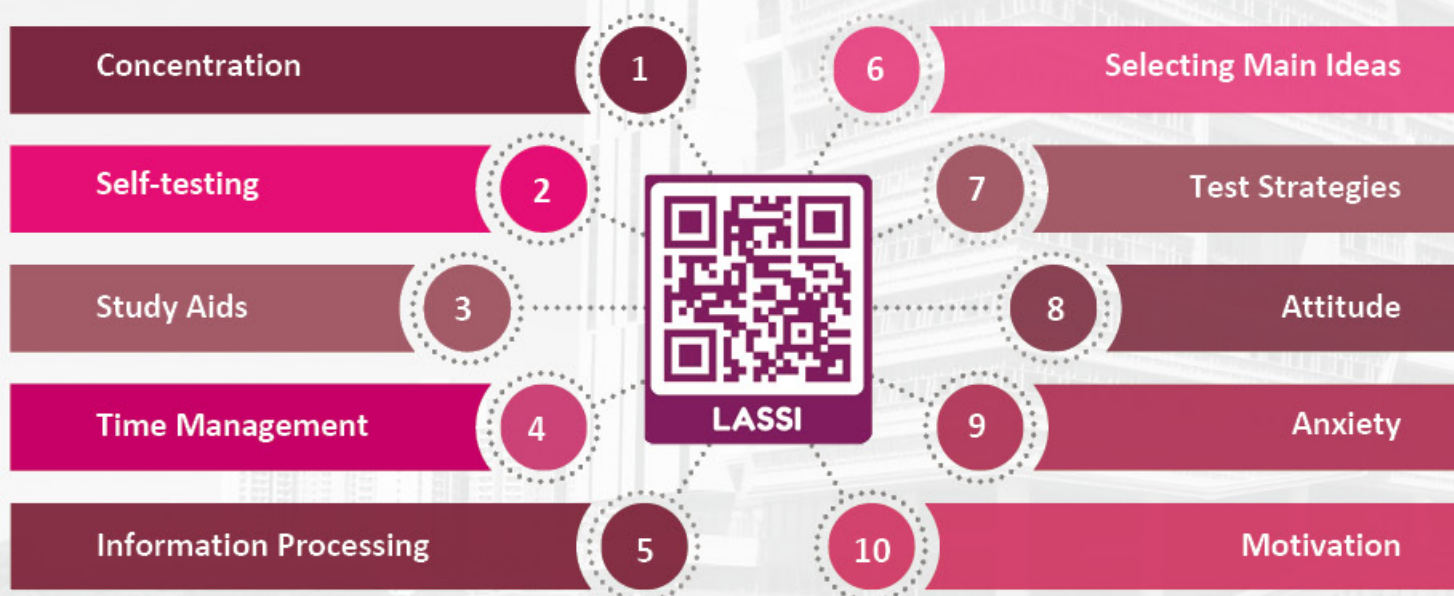
Do you still remember the very first day of your university journey? What did you do, and how did you feel?

During the JUPAS admission period, TED arranged the Learning and Study Strategies Inventory (LASSI) for Year 1 students to identify their strengths and areas for improvement for academic success. TED also provided support to the Institutional Research Office in conducting the Student Profile Survey and collecting data for the University Grants Committee (UGC).

What is LASSI?

LASSI is an inventory of study and learning strategies. Knowing and then using such strategies can make a difference in achieving academic potential. LASSI consists of 10 categories of learning and study strategies, comprising 80 items. LASSI helps students develop an awareness of their utilisation of learning and study strategies across the three domains of Self-Regulation, Skill and Will. The primary objective of the survey is to help students identify their strengths and weaknesses, enabling them to take further action to achieve their academic potential.

Many local students used to rely on private tutors or attend classes at tutorial centres, in addition to poring over past examination papers and studying marking scheme keys. All of these efforts were aimed at attaining optimal results in public examinations. However, this comprehensive “learning support” package is no longer available to them during their university study journey.



The Importance of the Year 1 Study

TED recognises the importance of the first year in a student's academic journey at CityU. This period is crucial for university students as it marks the transition from secondary school to university life. To support our Year 1 students, TED strongly encourages them to complete the LASSI, which is specifically designed to evaluate students' study skills, attitudes, and approaches to learning. By completing the LASSI, students gain valuable insights into their individual strengths and areas for improvement, enabling them to tailor their own study strategies for optimal success. TED believes that by taking the LASSI and utilising the feedback provided, our Year 1 students will be better equipped to navigate their academic responsibilities confidently and maximise their potential for success at CityU.

To ensure a smooth transition, TED also offers the Expert Learners Seminar Series (ELSS), specifically designed for freshmen to achieve their academic potential. Stay tuned for our future newsletters, featuring stories about the ELSS and its invaluable contributions to student success.





TED Highlights the CityU Tiger Programme at CITYU INFORMATION DAY 2023

By Frankie Fan

CityU successfully hosted its annual Information Day (Info Day) on 7 October 2023, attracting nearly 20,000 eager campus visitors. Despite Typhoon Signal No. 3, the event proceeded as planned, featuring an informative showcase of the CityU Tiger Programme by TED. With an attractive array of exhibitions highlighting undergraduate programmes, admissions information, and campus life, the aim was to actively engage secondary school students, parents, and the public.

The CityU Tiger Programme is dedicated to nurturing the talents of tomorrow and transforming students into future global leaders. With steady guidance and support from world-class faculty, these talented students can expand their knowledge, cultivate their skills in their respective fields of study, and prepare for a promising future. The Programme brings together high-flying students to pursue intellectual excellence and empowers them through inspirational, interactive, and innovative learning.

During Info Day, visitors gained invaluable insights into the diverse activities of the Tiger Programme and witnessed its positive impact on students' personal and professional development. Prospective students and their families engaged with Tiger Ambassadors, gaining a deeper understanding of the programme's benefits and the remarkable opportunities it offers.

In addition to the CityU Tiger Programme, Info Day offered a comprehensive view of CityU's vibrant campus life, learning opportunities, and scholarships. Admission talks, exhibitions featuring various academic programmes, and laboratory visits provided visitors with a comprehensive understanding of the latest programmes and advanced developments at CityU.



From Learning AI THEORIES to PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

By Raymond Chan

TED offered the academic staff development programme ***"Building AI Knowledge and Skills for Curriculum Development"*** in July and August 2023.

Stage One

Participants from CityU and the UGC-funded universities completed two video-based modules on the basics of AI in Teaching, Learning, and Assessment in July, followed by participation in two face-to-face AI seminars delivered by Professor Charles Lang and Dr Paul Corrigan in August.

Stage Two

CityU participants who completed Stage One became eligible to submit an AI Action Research (AIAR) Plan for integrating AI into one of their CityU courses in August.



Stage Two participants also became eligible for applying for a Teaching Development Grant (TDG) by submitting the AIAR Plan to the Chair of the TDG Panel. Successful applicants received a grant ranging from HK\$80,000 to HK\$100,000.

Eighteen AI-TDG projects were approved and implemented in Semester A, 2023/24:

1

Professor Santiago Alonso Sousa

Veterinary Clinical Sciences

AI-Integrated Teaching Project in Equine Medicine and Surgery

2

Professor Andrew Chan

Management

Beware Cultural Taboos: Evaluating AI-generated Advice about Doing Business in Foreign Host Countries in UG Course MGT4227 International Business

3

Professor Katie Chan Kei-hang

**Biomedical Sciences
Electrical Engineering**

Technology-Driven Calculus Learning for Biology Students: Enhancing Student Motivation and Learning Experience

4

Professor Chan Siu-ming

Social and Behavioural Sciences

Engaging the Disadvantaged Groups and Addressing Community Issues with Artificial Intelligence

5

Professor Chow Kwan-ting

Biomedical Sciences

The Use of Artificial Intelligence for BMS2803: Biology of Cells

6

Professor Alan Fung Chi-chung

Neuroscience

Designing Neuroscience Experiments with the Help of AI for Teaching Purposes



We are delighted to have had the opportunity to hear from recipients of the AI-TDG fund, Professor Katie Chan (Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical Sciences and the Department of Electrical Engineering), Professor Sai Kishore Ravi (Assistant Professor in the School of Energy and Environment), and Professor Andrew Chan (Associate Professor in the Department of Management). They shared their experiences on how TED's academic staff development programme *"Building AI Knowledge and Skills for Curriculum Development"* and the AI-TDG projects have significantly enhanced the quality of students' learning.



Professor Katie Chan

"My teaching motto is '**See one, Do one, Teach one.**' With the AI-assisted Lecture Preparatory Session, I believe the use of digital learning technology would facilitate students learning key concepts proactively before the lesson and more effectively during class time. Also, I adopted the Mastery Learning approach to integrate the educational AI tools to enhance the Intelligent Quiz Questions Pool. I look forward to the positive impact brought by the AI-TDG project and will share the project's output and outcomes in the Online Exhibition with the CityU community in January 2024.

I would also like to thank Professor Charles Lang (Columbia University) and other TED's invited speakers for their inspiring talks, as well as TED's strong support in assisting project leaders to create enhanced and fun learning experiences for our students."

"My teaching philosophy centres on the symbiotic blend of technology and theoretical knowledge. Recognising the gap between traditional learning methods and the evolving energy sector, the TDG grant enabled me to explore AI-simulated role-playing exercises for problem-based energy education. Upon introducing these exercises, I perceived palpable enthusiasm and curiosity among my students. Drawing inspiration from the Constructivist Theory of Learning, these AI-enhanced exercises enable students to apply core concepts, such as energy physics and thermodynamics, in conceiving solutions to energy problems while also weighing economic and environmental factors. This project allowed me to offer an enjoyable method for students to not only understand the 'what's' but also grasp the 'why's' of energy education so they can appreciate how it prepares them for industry challenges. The discernible uptick in student engagement and motivation solidifies my belief in the adoption of new technologies to enrich and elevate the students' learning experience."



Professor Sai Kishore Ravi



Professor Andrew Chan

"The application of AI in teaching International Business students aims to guide them in making the correct decisions in a complex business world, thereby advancing cross-cultural understanding in human civilisation. In the AI-TDG project entitled '*Beware Cultural Taboos: Evaluating AI-generated Advice about Doing Business in Foreign Host Countries in UG Course MGT4227 International Business*,' our objective is to equip undergraduates with the critical ability to make good use of AI to solve cross-cultural communication issues in international business contexts. This is particularly useful when navigating the often implicit and hidden cultural minefields and taboos that home-country business executives may encounter. This project provided an ideal opportunity for me to develop ChatGPT ask-AI activities and inspire my students to apply AI in finding solutions."

In conclusion, the AI-TDG projects and "**Building AI Knowledge and Skills for Curriculum Development**" programme at CityU have significantly enhanced students' learning experiences. Through the integration of AI technology, educators have engaged students and improved outcomes. These initiatives reflect CityU's commitment to innovative and effective teaching practices.



AI in Learning and Teaching

CityU welcomes the launch of the FUND for INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGY-in-EDUCATION

By Raymond Chan

CityU warmly embraces the launch of the Fund for Innovative Technology-in-Education (FITE), a new initiative championed by the UGC and supported by the Quality Assurance Council.

With a funding allocation of HK\$100 million, this initiative offers exciting prospects for local universities to embark on projects that integrate innovative technologies into learning and teaching. The allocation also includes HK\$20 million specifically for Inter-Institutional Collaborative Activities (IICA), encouraging universities to join forces in the pursuit of groundbreaking projects that transcend institutional boundaries.

Throughout the funding application process, TED played a crucial role in providing administrative support to the Office of the Provost and Deputy President (OPVDP). From the Call for Applications to facilitating effective communication with academic units and faculty, TED ensured a streamlined journey towards institutional submission to the UGC.

We are pleased to announce the approval of seven applications led by CityU, comprising six FITE projects and one FITE-IICA project.



Professor Alfred Ho (PIA)

Exploring the New Frontier of Learning in the Web3 Economy through a Metaverse Pilot and Academic-Industry-Community Collaboration (FITE)

Professor Brian Kot (PH)

Dead Useful in Virtopsy Era: Integrating Innovative 3D Digitisation Technologies into Anatomical and Forensic Pathology Teaching (FITE)

Professor Condon Lau (PHY)

Enhancing Cross-disciplinary Education in AI Image Generation (FITE)

Professor Patrick Lee (SEE)

Enhancing Environmental Engineering Students' Competency in Sensor Technology and Artificial Intelligence through Studying Indoor Air Quality (FITE)

Professor Li Haoliang (EE)

Advancing Social Responsibility and Academic Integrity of Artificial Intelligence in Higher Education (FITE)

Professor Wang Shiqi (CS)

Developing an Interactive and Immersive Digital Learning System for Advancing Digital Competency (FITE)

Professor Antoni Chan (CS)

Enhancing Learning in Engineering Courses via ChatGPT-enabled Learning Tools (FITE-IICA)

To foster collaboration and engagement within the CityU community, the project teams presented at the **CityU Digital Learning Seminar: Innovative Technology-in-Education** on 25 October 2023. Professor Ray Cheung, Associate Provost (Digital Learning), extended his heartfelt congratulations to the project teams, underscoring the University's consistent support for innovative technology in education. He invited seminar participants to join the Digital Learning Community, encouraging them to actively contribute their expertise and insights. By becoming "Champions" of digital learning, both project teams and dedicated faculty can shape optimal learning experiences for CityU students, transcend traditional boundaries, and embrace the transformative power of innovative technology.



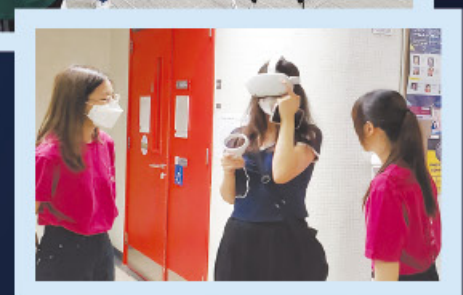
The University was honoured to have Mr KT Tay from Singapore, the former Chief Information Officer of Nanyang Technological University (NTU), share NTU's successful experience on how "Technology Enhances Learning (TEL)."

We were also delighted to have the project team led by Professor Alfred Ho (Head of the Department of Public and International Affairs) and Professor Antoni Chan (Associate Head of the Department of Computer Science), as the recipients of the FITE grant, joining us to share valuable insights on their FITE/ FITE-IICA projects.



Professor Alfred Ho's team

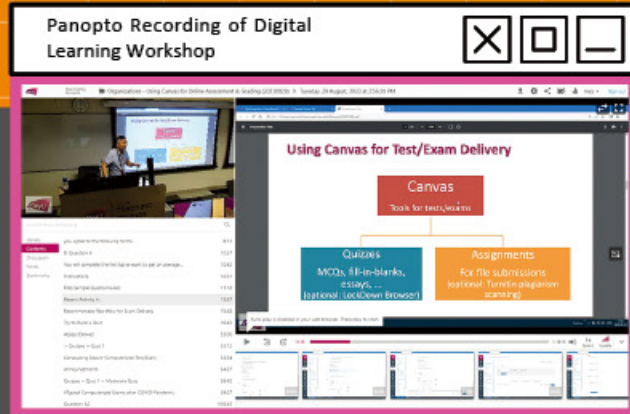
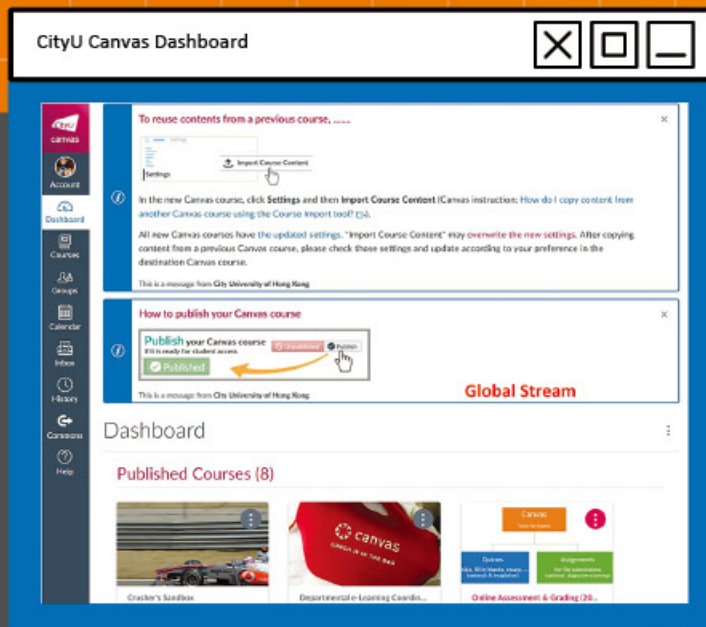
The project is a collaborative effort to develop a metaverse pilot for the University, involving faculty members, researchers, and technology companies experienced in virtual reality, AI, and Web 3.0 development. It aims to create a metaverse pilot site hosting courses and non-credit-bearing extracurricular activities. The project will modify existing courses and integrate technological tools to promote flexible, interactive, and student-initiated learning. In addition, a new platform for extracurricular activities and e-portfolio building will be co-created, linked to the CityU Learning Outcomes and student development efforts. Blockchain technologies will be used to allow secured transactions and information exchange. The team hopes the pilot project will foster technological entrepreneurship and start-up business development among students and faculty members.



Professor Antoni Chan

My teaching motto is "**learning critical thinking through exploration and inquiry.**" In engineering education, there is an ongoing pursuit of innovative and effective learning tools. With advancements in technology, our team grasps the opportunity to explore new technologies that enhance the learning experience for engineering students. One such opportunity is the development of learning tools based on ChatGPT to enrich education in engineering courses.





DIGITAL LEARNING Workshop Series

By Crusher Wong

The Digital Learning Workshops offer valuable staff development opportunities for utilising Canvas, CityU's unified learning management system. Two face-to-face workshops cover various topics, including content dissemination, communications, design, and delivery of assessment tasks. Participants also learn about the integrated tools within Canvas, such as Turnitin for plagiarism prevention, Panopto for lecture capturing, and Zoom for interactive online classes. The workshops discuss CityU-specific digital learning arrangements, such as the launch of the CityU GPT chatbot. The workshops are conducted in the Computing Services Centre (CSC) Teaching Studios, where each seat is equipped with a desktop computer, allowing participants to explore hands-on classes and computerised examinations.

The workshops are offered before each semester to assist educators and support staff in preparing their Canvas courses. The workshop schedule is published on the TED website and the CityU Announcement Portal (CAP). In case of a scheduling conflict, colleagues can register for the Self-Access Canvas Workshop for Educators by visiting CityU's Canvas. This provides immediate access to Canvas' training materials structured for CityU teachers.

Enrolment for all digital learning workshops is done through the Administrative Information Management System (AIMS). Staff development records are available for performance appraisal purposes, and participants who complete certain workshop activities will receive digital badges as recognition.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our digital learning workshop sessions. Please visit the webpage by scanning or clicking the QR code for more details on the intended learning outcomes and other information about individual workshops.



MENTORING (NEWER) FACULTY: A Roundtable Discussion

By Paul Corrigan

Mentoring is a process for further development in a discipline that includes various measures to facilitate this process while addressing the needs of the mentee.

This was the key message from a distinguished group of senior and junior faculty who attended the latest Senior Scholars Roundtable organised by TED on 27 September 2023. The roundtable featured esteemed members, including Professor Kenneth Lo (Director of TED), Professor Virginia Harper Ho (SLW), Professor Esterina Nervino (EN and MKT), and Professor Maria Babak (CHEM), who shared their insights and experiences as mentors and mentees. The engaging discussion captivated an audience of 26 academic staff.

Dr Susanna Calkins, the Founding Director of the Nexus for Faculty Success at Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science in the United States, chaired the roundtable. In addition to moderating the discussion, Dr Calkins presented her research on the dynamics between mentors and mentees, providing a valuable framework for understanding and conceptualising the mentoring process.

The Senior Scholars Roundtables were established in 2021/22 to support senior faculty members in fulfilling the “Guidelines on Staff Development for Academic Staff” promulgated by CityU’s QAC. The roundtables are open to all academic staff and offer them opportunities for professional development. The topics for the roundtables are derived from a comprehensive needs analysis conducted by TED that includes the perspectives of Chair Professors and Professors. Past roundtable topics have included English as the Medium of Instruction and Teaching Innovation.



AI in the Curriculum is the Focus of EXPERT EDUCATORS SEMINAR SERIES

By Paul Corrigan

TED organised two Expert Educators Seminars in September and October 2023 to support faculty in integrating AI into their courses. These highly interactive seminars attracted approximately 100 participants, including colleagues from CityU's local sister universities.



On 20 September 2023, Dr David Santandreu Calonge led a seminar titled **"AI-powered Tech and Generative AI in Learning and Teaching,"** which was attended by 59 participants. The seminar covered a range of AI tools and products that university educators can use to engage their students on a deeper level. Dr David Santandreu Calonge, currently Director of Academic Development at Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence in Abu Dhabi, also received the CityU Teaching Excellence Awards in 2003/04.





Subsequently, on 10 October 2023, Dr Amanda Irvin hosted a hybrid seminar with 45 participants, addressing the theme **“Don’t Let the Urgent Overshadow the Important: How Learning Works in the Age of Generative AI Learning and Teaching.”** Dr Irvin, Senior Director of Faculty Programs and Services at the Center for Teaching and Learning at Columbia University in New York, led participants through a series of steps, illuminating how AI is evolving in education, how perceptions of AI have changed over the past year, and the importance of linking AI practices to credible teaching and learning principles.



“TED is committed to maintaining the momentum for the meaningful application of AI in the university curriculum,” said Professor Kenneth Lo, Director of TED. *“These seminars play an important role in our strategic initiative, providing ongoing support to faculty presently using AI in their courses and encouraging those considering future implementation.”*



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