



THE PEARL TO GOLD QUARTERLY

Newsletter of HKUAA-Northern California Chapter

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Farewell Bernadette



Many of us know Professor Bernadette Tsui very well. She has been supportive of our programs for the last thirty-one years. She is the current Associate Vice-President and the Director of Development and Alumni Affairs of our alma mater. Some of us have read her book “The City with a Heart” and seen her in the movie “The City of Glass”. She will leave the position of Senior advisor to the President’s Office by year end and pursue her other areas of interest. We all wish her the best in the new journey.

QS World University Ranking

This year’s QS World University Ranking has come out. The top five universities are 1) MIT, 2) Cambridge, 3) Stanford, 4) Oxford, 5) Harvard. The top university in Asia is University of Singapore which is ranked no. 11. University of Hong Kong is no. 21. Other Asian universities in the top forty are Peking University, no. 12, Tsinghua no. 14, University of Tokyo no. 23, Seoul National University no. 29. Chinese University of Hong Kong is no. 38 and HKUScienceTechnology no. 40.

Summer Gathering with HKUST



Since the COVID-19 pandemic has slightly calmed down, we felt it was safe enough to hold an outdoor summer gathering. Close to 20 of our alumni and spouses were joined by as many alumni of Hong Kong University Science and Technology and other local universities at Montalvo Art Center in Saratoga. Attendants were divided into three groups depending on their ability to hike. The first group had to climb steep hill path with the help of hiking sticks. The second group’s walking up the hill path was less strenuous. The third group took a leisurely stroll in the gardens. After the hike, most participants had lunch on the garden lawn.

Alumnus Philip Wong's Triathlon



Some of us may have met alumnus Philip Wong who is the current president of the HKUAA New York Chapter. But most of us do not know that he is such an athletic person. He recently competed in the New York triathlon which includes competition in running, swimming and cycling. The result was quite good. According to Philip, that was the tenth anniversary of his participation in the New York triathlon. He first did it in 2012 and again in 2017. But in 2019, he was hospitalized with a neck abscess that required endotracheal tube and multiple surgeries in the treatment. He ended up spending one month in hospital getting intravenous antibiotics. During the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, he gradually started exercising. He decided on joining the 2022 NYC triathlon earlier this year. He is really happy that he was able to complete the race again. Let us all congratulate alumnus Philip Wong for his accomplishment!

Life changing events of alumni



Alumna Alice Xiuyu Feng had joined several of our events in the past. She studied Economics and Finance at UCLA and HKU and came to Stanford to get her Master degree in Financial Mathematics. She was a mentee of Larry Ng during her time at Stanford. She has been working at CVCapital U.S. since 2016. She decided to tie the knot in July at the San Francisco City Hall. Another life changing event of alumni happened earlier this year. Serena Wei Zou was a HKU exchange student at University of California at Davis in 2010. She did her post-graduate study at



Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. She moved to the Bay Area recently. She and her husband Kevin Wu settled down in San Jose. Their first baby Winston was born in early April this year. Now they are very busy taking care of the baby and their dog.



We have just got word that alumna Lilian Lien, President of the HKU Young Professional Alumni in North America, got married in early August. Congratulations, Lilian Qinyi!

Reunion with former mentee



Recently, Gloria Yu had a reunion with her former mentee, Karen Chan, who is also a friend of Larry Ng. Karen did an exchange at UC Davis and graduated at HKU in 2006. She did post-graduate study in oceanography at University of Washington in Seattle. She then worked as assistant professor at HKUST. She came back to USA as assistant professor at Swarthmore College in 2019. She had a good time with her former mentors.