

Alumni Newsletter

MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF DEPARTMENT



Department of Biology June 2020

Warm greetings to all former students of the Department of Biology. This Newsletter intends to update our vibrant graduate community of our recent news and developments, and to let you re-establish your links with the Department.

We are deeply grateful to the HSBC 150th Anniversary Charity Programme's unstinting and substantial support for the establishment of Hong Kong's first Institute of Bioresource and Agriculture (IBA), fostering both sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation.

In the past few years, we have been working toward meeting new initiatives. One of which is the launch of the city's first and only government-funded multidisciplinary agriculture-related programme "BSc (Hons) Bioresource and Agricultural Science" in 2019 by the IBA and the Department of Biology.

Our enthusiasm for and quality of our research is highly recognised. Staff in the Department have successfully secured research grants administered by the University Grants Committee and Research Grants Council, which have supported our cutting-edge biological research in the past five years. With teaching excellence and state-of-the-art facilities, we strive to provide an unrivalled environment for our students.

An active alumni community relies on your active participation. You are warmly invited to connect with us by visiting us, writing to us, or joining us as part of our vibrant and professional HKBU Biology community.

Professor Jonathan Wong, MH, JP
Head of the Department of Biology, Hong Kong Baptist University

ACADEMIC STAFF (ACADEMIC YEAR 2019-2020)



INSTITUTE OF BIORESOURCE AND AGRICULTURE : FOSTERING SUSTAINABILITY



Garnered with the generous donation of HK\$37 million from the HSBC 150th Anniversary Charity Programme, HKBU established the Institute of Bioresource and Agriculture (IBA) in 2018, the first institute in Hong Kong which combines sustainable agriculture and resource conservation, and a learning centre, the Sustainability Gallery.

The Sustainability Gallery (S Gallery), furnished with immersive multimedia such as 4D, AR, VR and motion sensing, is one of the IBA's key initiatives. It is open to the public, schools, and organisations.

Free admission and RSVP online. Visit [HERE](#)

NEW PROGRAMME : BSc (HONS) IN BIORESOURCE & AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE

FIRST INTAKE ACADEMIC YEAR 2019/20 (UNDER BACHELOR OF SCIENCE BROAD-BASED ADMISSION JS2510)

It is our great pleasure to announce that the Department of Biology and the Institute of Bioresource and Agriculture (IBA) have officially launched the four-year BSc (Hons) Bioresource and Agricultural Science degree programme in 2019, which is the first and only government-funded multidisciplinary programme that integrates agriculture with bioresource management.

Students will acquire hands-on experience via a mandatory Summer Internship. It paves the way to promising career prospects such as bioresource management, agricultural production, agribusiness (e.g. branding and marketing), food industry, landscaping, and environmental consultancy, etc.

Visit [HERE](#) for the salient features of the BSc (Hons) programme.



RESEARCH SPOTLIGHT

▲ HKBU BIOLOGISTS DISCOVER AND NAME NEW FIREWORM SPECIES IN HONG KONG WATERS



Professor Qiu Jianwen discovered and named new fireworm species in Hong Kong waters with his team members Research Assistant Wang Zhi, Senior Research Assistant Zhang Yanjie and Research Fellow Xie Yang. Since the summer in 2018, swarms of fireworms, which contain neurotoxins that can produce a painful burning sensation around the area of contact with human skin, have been seen near swimming beaches in Tuen Mun and Tsuen Wan, threatening many beachgoers.

More

▲ HKBU INVENTS NANOSTRUCTURE THAT STIMULATES GROWTH OF STEM CELLS FOR PARKINSON'S DISEASE TREATMENT

The research team led by Professor Ken Yung Kin-lam (right), Professor of the Department of Biology, and Dr Jeffery Huang Zhifeng, Associate Professor of the Department of Physics at HKBU, has developed a pioneering nanomatrix that can stimulate neural stem cells to differentiate into nerve cells and can offer help for treating Parkinson's disease. **More**



DISTINGUISHED STUDENTS AND ALUMNI

▲ ALUMNA RECEIVES TWO WOMEN ENTREPRENEUR AWARDS

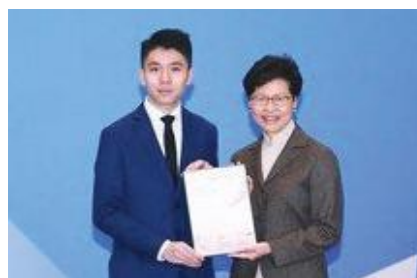


November 2019 - Dr Cathy Lui, a Biol alumna, CEO and co-founder of OPER Technology Limited, a biotechnology start-up company established from our department, received the Young Achiever of the Year award by the American Chamber of Commerce at the Women of Influence Awards in Hong Kong and the Greater Bay Area Outstanding Young Women Entrepreneur Award. Video sharing [HERE](#)

BIOLOGY STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS

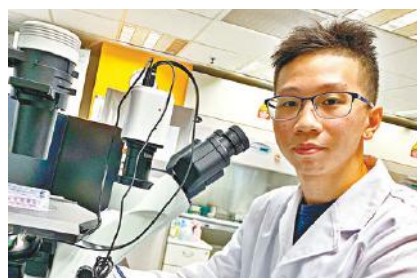
▲ OUTSTANDING BIOLOGY STUDENT AWARDED INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY SCHOLARSHIP

November 2019 - Mr Thomas Wu (Year 2) received a scholarship of HK\$150,000 under the Innovation and Technology Scholarship Award scheme, enabling him to broaden his horizons on an overseas attachment programme in 2019. The scholarship will support his neuroscience studies in Singapore for one semester.



▲ MR ALEX WONG WAS AWARDED THE SCHOLARSHIP FOR EXCELLENCE 2019

Mr Alex Wong Chun-wai was awarded the Scholarship for Excellence 2019. He received a full scholarship to support his four-year PhD study on cancer research at the University of Manchester, UK. [More](#)



MSc IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC HEALTH MANAGEMENT WORLD HEALTH ORGANIZATION (WHO) INTERNSHIP

▲ WHO INTERNSHIP SHARING BY MISS CO CO HO AND MISS BAI LING



Miss Co Co Ho was selected as an intern of the Department of Food Safety and Zoonoses at WHO to assist with works involving the Joint FAO/WHO Meeting on Pesticide Residues (JMPR) from January to May 2019.



Miss Bai Ling was selected as an intern of the Department of Public Health, Environmental and Social Determinants of Health at WHO to assist with the Drinking-water Quality Surveillance Report from April to August 2019.

Video sharing [HERE](#)

Past Events

February 2019



ALUMNI SPRING GATHERING BY FACULTY OF SCIENCE

Honorable guests attended the Spring Gathering: Professor Ng Ching-fai, former President and former Dean of Science of HKBU; the Honorable Charles Peter Mok, Legislative Councillor (Information Technology), Legislative Council of HKSAR Government; Professor Tong Chong-sze, Vice President (Administration and Development) of The Open University of Hong Kong; Dr Daniel Kwong, former Associate Dean of Science; Professor Ko Jan-ming, former Head of the Faculty's Department of Civil Engineering; Mr Alan Wong, Chairman of Advisory Committee of the Faculty of Science; Mr Leung Ka-wing, Chairman of Steering Committee on Alumni Relations of the Faculty of Science; and Mr Alex Leung, President of HKBU Alumni Association.



Biology alumni enjoyed a fun-filled reunion and caught up with the academic staff from the Department of Biology.

29-31 May 2019



TAIPEI WASTE MANAGEMENT FACILITIES STUDY TOUR

A three-day trip hosted by Professor Jonathan Wong, Head of the Department and Director of the Institute of Bioresources and Agriculture was organised to enhance and strengthen students' knowledge of environmental and waste management via treatment and resource recovery, and to implant students with relevant theories and technologies.

June to August 2019



ECKERD COLLEGE SUMMER RESEARCH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Six BIOL students conducted research at Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida, USA from 17 June to 2 August 2019. The projects included (1) geochronological analyses of deep sea sediment; (2) dolphin monitoring to investigate the health of the local bottlenose dolphin population; and (3) investigation of microplastics in water, seagrass and in the gut of mammals (e.g. manatee).

Ting Jiat Yin (Year 3) (front) and Chen Tian (Year 2) (second from left) together with local students participated in the 26-year Eckerd College Dolphin Project led by Professor Shannon Gowans and Professor Peter Simard of Eckerd College.

July 2019



BIOLOGY ALUMNI VISIT THE SUSTAINABILITY GALLERY

Biology Alumni and their family members had fun playing immersive multimedia games.

November 2019



BSc (HONS) IN BIORESOURCE & AGRICULTURAL SCIENCE INFORMATION TALK FOR PRINCIPALS AND SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS

A flashback to November 2019, when the Department hosted an Information Talk on Revitalisation of Agriculture in Hong Kong and the introduction of the brand new BSc (Hons) Bioresource and Agricultural Science programme.

Past Events

January 2020



CAREER TALK 2020

In light of escalating demands for jobs in biotechnology and environmental science, our Year 2 to 4 students attended a career talk organised by The Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups. Students were acquainted with a wide range of career information for multiple career choices.

9 May 2020



BEAT THE VIRUS, BU & I

Join Hands to Prepare HOCl Hand Sanitiser for Distribution to the Community Programme

To combat COVID-19 in the community, the Department received a generous donation of one tonne of disinfection materials worth HK\$300,000 from Mr Brian Cheng, Managing Director of GreenWalls Bioengineering (HK) Limited.

Thanks to the joint effort of Biology alumni, staff, students from Lok Sin Tong Yu Kan Hing Secondary School, and organic ambassadors from the Hong Kong Organic Resource Centre who generously volunteered to help. The HOCl hand sanitiser was distributed free to beneficiaries which included 100 elderly homes, primary and secondary schools, and NGOs.

Watch the **INTERVIEW** of Professor Jonathan Wong on the effectiveness of HOCl hand sanitiser.

Watch the **VIDEO** of the event.



Alumni volunteers with Dr Stephen Sze, Mr Brian Cheng and Prof Jonathan Wong (middle).



Beneficiaries include secondary and primary schools, elderly homes, and NGOs.



HKDSE candidates sanitised their hands before entering the examination centres.

27-29 May 2020



JUPAS VIRTUAL CONSULTATION DAYS

This year, HKBU held the first JUPAS Virtual Consultation Days. Academic staff from our Department presented to prospective students a series of live webinars. The webinars consisted of programme information, thematic talks, alumni/student sharing and interactive Q & A sessions.

Visit [HERE](#) for details

19 June 2020



SEED TALK - "BUILDING FUTURE CAPACITY THROUGH SCIENCE" BY DR CATHY LUI ORGANISER: ALUMNI AFFAIRS OFFICE

Dr Cathy Lui, Chief Executive Officer of OPER Technology Limited delivered the online webinar from 16:00 – 17:15 hosted by Professor Ken Yung. She shared the opportunities in biomedical science and her road to becoming an innovator and entrepreneur.

ALUMNI AFFAIRS OFFICE, HKBU

▲ HKBU HOMECOMING DAY 2020 - 31 October 2020

Visit [HERE](#) for details



HONG KONG ORGANIC RESOURCE CENTRE

▲ ORGANIC FARMERS' MARKET - 27 June 2020 (Saturday)



Let's eat healthily and go organic without travelling a long way out to the farm. Visit the Organic Farmers' Market at North Point to get reliable and fresh in-season organic fruits and vegetables directly from organic farmers and show them our support. Bring your family and enjoy the game stalls with souvenirs and free sanitiser.

Time: 11:00 – 17:00

Venue: North Point East Pier (Near Harbour North Phase 2)

INSTITUTE OF BIORESOURCE AND AGRICULTURE

▲ INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON SUSTAINABLE BIOWASTE MANAGEMENT 2020



The conference themed "Sustainable Biowaste Management" aims to deliberate on advancement in biowaste management and its role in biocircular economy. It will provide a great opportunity and platform to exchange your views, visions, and experience on bio-technology, bio-fertilisers and bio-products, and climate change abatements related to biowaste management.

Visit [HERE](#) for details

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

▲ SCHOOL OUTREACH TALKS IN LOCAL SECONDARY SCHOOLS - 11 September – 11 December 2020



To promote science literacy and to provide up-to-date information on our undergraduate programmes, our Department members have been actively delivering a series of talks on recent scientific developments and admission information at local secondary schools. Please do not hesitate to invite your teaching counterparts to **REGISTER** for the upcoming talks. Our academic staff will visit the secondary schools to deliver the talk to S4 to S6 students.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF BIOLOGY ALUMNI ASSOCIATION



The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic has caused disastrous damage globally: loss of jobs, loss of wealth, and loss of loved ones. Despite all the difficulties and bad news, we are pleased to inform you that in an endeavor to scale up our work in combating COVID-19, a number of Biology alumni responded to the invitation by Professor Jonathan Wong, Head of the Department of Biology, and took part in a volunteer activity on 9 May 2020. Alumni assisted to dilute and pack HOCl-based hand sanitiser and delivered them to more than 80 beneficiaries which included elderly homes, primary and secondary schools, and NGOs. We are very grateful to our alma mater for using scientific methods to test the effectiveness of the hand sanitiser. Professor Wong and our alumni gave their kind words of encouragement and support. It was a fun and enjoyable day for all.

Thank you for your time and for your generous donations to help combat COVID-19 and we look forward to a similar activity and other meaningful activities in the future, which would give us opportunities to share our feelings, to collaborate, to unite, to give thanks to our alma mater, to serve and contribute to society. I hope that through these activities, everyone will be more aware of societal needs, more caring to the people around us, and contribute more to make this world a better world.

Dr Stephen Sze

Alumni Sharing

LEO POON LIT MAN 潘烈文 (BSc 1994)

▲ Professor, School of Public Health, The University of Hong Kong



Professor Poon is currently the Head of the Public Health Laboratory Sciences Division, The University of Hong Kong. He is one of the first scientists to decode the first SARS coronavirus sequence and is currently researching COVID-19.

Professor Poon received his doctoral training in Sir William Dunn School of Pathology at the University of Oxford (1996-1999). He has strong interests in emerging viruses. His work primarily focuses on influenza virus and coronavirus. He has published over 200 peer-reviewed articles and was awarded a Senior Research Fellowship by the Croucher Foundation in 2017. He has ranked in the top 1% of the world's most-cited scientists each year since 2005 by Clarivate Analytics (H-index: 66). He also serves as an expert for several international organisations, such as WHO, FAO and OIE.

CHRISTINE CHAN WAI YEE (BSc 1996)

▲ Golf Course Superintendent, The Jockey Club Kau Sai Chau Public Golf Course Limited



Christine won the GCSAA's International Winner for the Environmental Leader Golf Award in 2016.

"During my third year of study, I conducted a research project to study the leaching effects on golf course soil and this led to my first job and initiated my career in the turf grass industry. Prof Jonathan Wong was my mentor while I was a student at HKBU and continues to provide support. He provided guidance and full support in my study during my Master Degree of Agriculture (Turf Management) in the University of Sydney as the Supervisor in Hong Kong and he provides me insight at my current job to continuously equip myself with updated local and global environmental and agricultural information. It is my great pleasure to continue to contribute in the HKORC and IBA. I also learnt a lot in a recent field trip and it is great to see that HKBU has lauded the first agriculture program in the Department of Biology to meet the needs in the region."

Do you Recognise Them?

The Department of Biology has nurtured outstanding graduates who succeed in a wide array of fields. Check them out now.



Kenneth Chan Kin Man (1986)
Vice President (Sales)
Jacobson Pharma Corporation



Tsien Chik Yuen (1988)
Senior Immigration Officer
Immigration Department
HKSAR Government



Albert Wong Kin Wai (1989)
Chairman
Association of IT Leaders in Education;
IT Manager
Ying Wah College



Tony Chan Yiu Tong (1990)
Deputy Director
SGS Hong Kong Limited



Dr Desmond Hau Kowok Po (1990)
Chief Executive Officer
Bio-Gene Technology Ltd.
Pangenia Inc.
DiagCor Life Science Ltd.



Ho Chi Cheung (1990)
Associate Technologist
Hong Kong Baptist Hospital



Peter Lee Sau Yat (1991)
(AP & JP GM) Asia Pacific General Manager
Abcam HK Ltd.



Kenny Lam (1991)
Managing Director
Head of Healthcare, Asia
HSBC



Wilson Chan Yip Keung (1991)
Commercial Director, Asia
BASF



Dr Calvin Lee Kai Fai (1991)
Associate Professor
Obs & Gyn, HKU



Prof Leo Poon Lit Man (1994)
Professor
School of Public Health, HKU



Christine Chan Wai Yee (1996)
Golf Course Superintendent
HKJC Kau Sai Chau
Public Golf Course Ltd.



Tang Kwok Fai (1998 BSc, 2003 EPHM)
Senior Environmental Engineer
Chun Wo Construction &
Engineering Co. Ltd.



Suen Ka Chun (2003)
Vice Principal
Po Leung Kuk Laws
Foundation College



Simon Tsoi (2004)
General Manager
Smart Cells International



Melody Leung (2006)
Lecturer
HKUST



Dr Li Wai Chin (2003 BSc, 2007 PhD)
Assistant Prof
Department of Science and
Environmental Studies, EdUHK



Leung Siu Ying (2005 BSc, 2008 MPhil)
Part-time Lecturer, UOWCHK
Community College CityU &
Department of Geography, HKBU



Cathy Lui Nga Ping (2008)
Director
OPER Technology Limited



Samuel Ma King Lun (2010)
Kassod Arbor Tree
Consultancy & Services Ltd.

Internship
Opportunities

Stayed
Connected

DEPARTMENT OF BIOLOGY

▲ INVITATION TO OFFER SUMMER INTERNSHIP FOR UNDERGRADUATES

The Department endeavours to enhance the competitive edge of BIOL students by providing them with internship positions at renowned corporations located in Hong Kong and the region.

Alumni are now invited to offer internship positions to our undergraduates.

Details of Summer Internship

	Summer Internship of BSc (Hons) Bioresources & Agricultural Science (BAS)	Summer Internship of BSc (Hons) Applied Biology (AB)
Internship period	June – August 2021	
Working hours	Minimum of 180 hours	Please specify (e.g. 40 hrs/week)
Target students	Year 2	Year 1 to 3
Remuneration	Hosting companies may provide transportation allowance (voluntary) to interns	Please specify
Requirements	Please specify	
Enquiry	Dr Anna Leung	Dr Patrick Yue
Deadline	15 October 2020	

PLEASE UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

By signing up to our alumni network, you will receive alumni relations email communications, news and event invitations from the Department.

Stay in touch and please update your details [HERE](#)

SHARE YOUR NEWS

Share Your Precious Moments of Life and Send Us a Note...

You will receive a gift by filling in an **ONLINE FORM** to update us about your stories of success, happy moments (from engagement, marriage or new baby, to a new business or career move), or recent activities.

Contributions & Comments are Welcome

We welcome your contributions and updates, in the format of photographs or texts, as well as your feedback, on the Newsletter. All submissions should be addressed to us via email at biol@hkbu.edu.hk or fax at 3411 5995. The Department reserves the right to edit and publish submitted articles.

Contact
Us



www.biol.edu.hk



biol@hkbu.edu.hk



[hkbubiol](https://www.facebook.com/hkbubiol)



[hkbusas](https://www.facebook.com/hkbusas)



[ephm](https://www.facebook.com/ephm)



[hkbubiol](https://www.instagram.com/hkbubiol)