

LEARNING MATTERS at LINGNAN

For internal circulation only



35/2002

From the Editor:

10 August 2002

'Learning Matters at Lingnan' are short papers that aim to promote a dialogue on teaching and learning. I encourage all staff to consider this as a vehicle for sharing thoughts on educational issues as they might affect us at the University. If you feel you have something which might be appropriate for inclusion in an issue of this publication, then please forward it to the TLC. I would be delighted if staff (and not only academic staff) from outside the Teaching and Learning Centre were to be prominent or even occasional contributors.



Another Round of Successful TDG Competitive Bidding

Some great news to share at the beginning of a new academic year — the University has been awarded a total grant of more than HK\$7.6 million in the latest round of competitive bids for Teaching Development Grants (TDGs) made available by the University Grants Committee (UGC) for the triennium 2002-2004. A total of 129 applications were received by the UGC from the eight UGC-funded institutions earlier this year, competing for a share of more than \$115 million in funds. Thirty-eight of these proposals were eventually approved, including three out of the four projects submitted by Lingnan.

Same as in the last round of TDG competitive bidding, Lingnan topped all local institutions in terms of success rate which was again a record high at 75%. The result was encouraging. It reflected that the direction of teaching development undertakings by the University was on the right track, and its efforts were further reinforced. There are altogether three successful applications, namely, *Liberal Arts Education, Lifelong Learning and Engaging the World* (博雅教育、終身學習、懷抱天下) which is a very large-scale project of the Teaching and Learning Centre; the *Hong Kong Cooperative Learning Centre: Effective Learning Strategies* led by Professor Dean Tjosvold of the Management Department; and the *Chinese Learner English Argumentative Writing Project* under the supervision of Dr. Lorrita Yeung of the English Department.

All three projects will commence work in the new academic year 2002/2003 and will need your support and participation. To give you some preliminary ideas of what in particular the TLC project is about, the following is a summary of the aims and tasks to be achieved by the project.

The LLE Project – Liberal Arts Education, Lifelong Learning, and Engaging the World

This project is a carefully defined inter-institutional initiative of 3 years' duration that aims to advance the timeless ideals of university education: *Liberal Arts Education, Lifelong Learning, and Engaging the World* (博雅教育、終身學習、懷抱天下). Whilst these maxims underlie the mission of Lingnan University in particular, they manifest the very high aims of university education shared by institutions in Hong Kong and many in the world to produce critical thinkers, communicators, problem solvers, decision makers and lifelong learners; people with a capacity for rehearsal, reflection and review that enables them to perfect their response to the changing issues they confront.

To achieve these ends, the following three components are instrumental:

1. Setting up a Bookworm Club for university students providing coordinated activities and incentive schemes to encourage students to read with pleasure, to learn and to deepen their knowledge as they engage in lifelong learning.
2. Collaborating with university teachers to develop curricular and instructional courseware that addresses specific pedagogical needs for the teaching of problem-solving and critical thinking skills.
3. Creatively deploying Videoconferencing and NetMeeting facilities to extend learning beyond the classroom to engage students in intellectual discussions and exchanges with students and scholars in other institutions as well as those outside of Hong Kong to help cultivate an international outlook for analysing problems from a cross-cultural perspective.

Each of the three components is a significant initiative on its own, but when combined, will form an integrated holistic approach to advance the highest goals of university education.

This project seeks to provide a process of teaching and learning which unfolds over time as students move through a designed set of experiences, be it self-improvement through reading for pleasure, or collaboration on courseware development that addresses specific curricular and pedagogical needs, or even engagement in the world through Videoconferencing and NetMeeting activities.

All these learning experiences are the cornerstone of liberal arts education and lifelong learning. They help to bring into focus not only what happens in the classroom but also opportunities for self-enrichment as students enjoy the fun of reading, as well as experiences that require the cooperation between teachers and students and those that extend beyond the classroom and even Hong Kong when students participate in intellectual discussions and interactions with overseas peers and scholars at a distance.

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This issue and the back issues of 'Learning Matters at Lingnan' can be retrieved from the following URL – <http://www.ln.edu.hk/tlc/level2/td.htm>.