In our Annual Report last year, we reported on the very positive gains that Lingnan has made in our academic research, with our RAE Index almost doubling from 38.85% in UGC’s 1999 RAE to 67.9% in an internal RAE in 2003 conducted by six external members using UGC standards.
In January 2005, we received further recognition where the HKEJM ranked our Department of Economics third among Hong Kong’s seven universities in a research performance survey. The survey compared the number of articles published by academic staff in international economics journals and the number of Competitive Earmarked Research Grants (CERG) per full-time academic staff member. Our Philosophy Department was ranked 157th by the Philosophy Lists Evaluative Survey of Graduate Philosophy Departments, which ranked 711 philosophy departments around the world. We topped the list among local institutions.

While we know that ranking lists are always debatable, the above rankings which based on fairly well-defined criteria provide a solid indicator that our academic staff are enjoying a growing reputation both locally and internationally. With more articles appearing in premier journals and books published by reputable presses around the world, our research output and academic activities are making us more noticeable on the global academic map.

Following a campus visit in June 2005, the RGC also commended us for our research achievements in view of the limited resources available. They commented particularly favourably on the research productivity of our hard-working faculty, especially considering our heavy teaching loads and that many of the most productive scholars at the University held key administrative posts. The RGC Members also recognised the University’s decision to focus on priority areas.

To ensure that faculty members have sufficient time and opportunity to engage in research and development, the University allows them, through rearrangement of their
teaching schedules, to take up to 12 months’ study leave to concentrate on research, study and writing full time. During 2004/05, seven faculty members took research and study leave for a period of six months each.

Staff are also encouraged to participate in conferences and scholarly activities locally and internationally, in order to keep abreast of the latest developments and to share their experiences in their fields of expertise. During the year, a total of 77 academic papers were presented. Besides reporting on their research findings, staff were able to gain feedback before publishing their work. In 2004/05, a total of HK$800,000 was committed to conferences and other staff development activities.

During the year, the RPSC also allocated HK$2.3 million to support 47 research projects undertaken by our academic staff.

### Research Activities and Highlights

**Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences**

Promoting interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary academic activities, our Institute of Humanities and Social Sciences (IHSS) brings synergy to the work of various research units: the Asia-Pacific Institute of Ageing Studies (APIAS), Centre for Asian Pacific Studies (CAPS) and Centre for Public Policy Studies (CPPS) in the social science areas; and the Centre for Humanities Research (CHR) and Kwan Fong Cultural Research and Development Programme (KFCRD) in the humanities areas. In addition to organizing, supporting and sponsoring interdisciplinary research, the IHSS also identifies
suitable subjects for research as well as themes for its seminar series and annual interdisciplinary conference.

In 2004/05, activities focused on the quality of life, spirituality and the pursuit of happiness. Three seminars concentrating on secondary school education and spiritual issues were held in the first semester. In the second semester, four seminars under the theme “Lessons from History” were held, which examined cultural, political, social and historical issues arising from different past events.

In June 2005, the IHSS’s interdisciplinary conference on “Progress, Happiness, and Public Policy” was organized in conjunction with the Hong Kong Society for Quality of
Life under the sponsorship of the Centaline Charity Fund Ltd. Attended by philosophers, historians, political scientists, economists, sociologists, psychologists, religious leaders, social workers and many others, the conference examined what constitutes progress, whether people today are happier than their ancestors, what makes people happy, and what role policy can play in enhancing happiness within the population. A volume entitled “Happiness and Public Policy: Theory, Case Studies and Implications” will be published by Palgrave Macmillan, edited by Prof. HO Lok-sang and Prof. NG Yew-kwang.

In 2004/05, the Arts and Social Sciences Programme Research Budgets continued to allocate 10% of its budget to fund the IHSS’s interdisciplinary research projects. Two research projects, “Happy Farming Programme: An Exploratory Study from an Inter-Generational Perspective” and “A Happiness Index and Determinant of Happiness Study”, were completed during the year. The results of these studies were presented at the above conference, and a report has been posted on the IHSS website.

**The Hong Kong Institute of Business Studies**

As the research arm of Lingnan’s business programmes, our Hong Kong Institute of Business Studies (HKIBS) aims at stimulating business-related research that will enrich our programmes and enhance our research productivity. The Institute has firm links with the local business and international academic communities.

To encourage collaborative research among the faculty, seven research clusters that broadly embrace a number of related projects were established during the year. Five projects/papers have already been completed, while another ten are in
progress. Six research seminars focusing primarily on business and economic developments in the PRC were also held during the year, while a number of articles and commentaries were published in international journals.

With the completion of the large-scale joint-research project, "The Developments and Prospects of Economic Development in the Pearl River Delta and its 'Economic Integration' with Hong Kong and Macau" in the 2003/04 academic year, a volume on Economic Co-operation between Pearl River Delta, Hong Kong and Macau (港澳與珠江三角洲的經濟合作) will be published by the Joint Publishing (HK) Co. Ltd in late 2005. This volume is expected to become an important reference for scholars and officials interested in the region.

In addition to these activities, the HKIBS took a leading role in coordinating events in the local and regional business communities. In August 2004, the Institute co-organized the "2004 Academy of International Business (AIB) Southeast Asia Regional Conference" held in Macau, with some 70 papers presented in 18 concurrent sessions. In December 2004, the Institute co-organized another conference in Macau, the “10th International Conference on the Coordination System for the Chinese Economies”, with The Institute for Sustainable Development, Macau University of Science & Technology and the Hong Kong Society for Asia-Pacific 21.

In collaboration with the Hong Kong Pei Hua Education Foundation Ltd, the HKIBS also organized and conducted “The Third Hong Kong Seminar for Minority Nationalities of China” during late May to early June 2005. This two-week programme welcomed 37 senior officials from
11 Chinese provinces (some from as far afield as Inner Mongolia and Tibet) to Lingnan, addressing such topics as Hong Kong’s economic development, financial, education, legal and political systems, rural and urban development as well as environmental protection policies. Participants also received first-hand information through visits to some of Hong Kong’s leading business organizations, including The Bank of China, Hong Kong Jockey Club, Hong Kong International Airport, the Hong Kong Trade Development Council, Hong Kong Cable Television Ltd, Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, Hong Kong Monetary Authority, and the MTR Corporation.

A public seminar on the “Economic Outlook of the Mainland and Hong Kong — CEPA and the Development of the Pearl River Delta” was also held in January 2005 in conjunction...
Lingnan University was a key organizer of the Pacific Rim Conference on Globalization and Regionalism in Hong Kong. The Hong Kong Economic Association’s third biennial conference and the Western Economic Association International’s (WEAI) sixth biennial conference both took place in 2005. The two economic associations thus jointly organized the Pacific Rim Conference in Hong Kong, with Lingnan University and the University of Hong Kong as co-organizer/sponsor. Covering over 40 concurrent sessions with topics ranging from corporate risk management, housing market and economic growth in China to economic issues such as privilege and discrimination, monetary policy, exchange rates, risk and investment, foreign trade, the Conference provided a forum for both academic and professional economists to discuss issues of global and regional concerns, and facilitated the exchange of ideas across the Pacific and around the world. Mr. Frederick MA Si-hang, Hong Kong’s Secretary for Financial Services and the Treasury, was the distinguished guest speaker, while key economists attending the conference included Nobel laureate Prof. James J. HECKMAN, World Bank representative Mr. Deepak BHATTASALI, and Asian Development Bank representative Mr. Jesus FELIPE.

Others

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