



UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL CONVOCATION
HONG KONG BRANCH

THE CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 18-03-2018

CHAIRPERSONSHIP

Dr. Raymond Yuen formally assume the Chairmanship on January 1, 2018. Thank you to Prof. Veronica Pearson, our immediate past chairperson for her long-term commitment and tremendous contributions towards the alumni affairs in the past 8 years. Prof. Pearson will not be disappearing entirely having offered to devote some of her time to fund-raising with a particular concentration on small regular (monthly) donations via standing order. This approach will allow us to create a predictable income stream to support the annual scholarship we offer to a young Hong Kong graduate to study for a one-year Masters' degree at Bristol University. Currently the value of the scholarship is GBP15,000 – a sizable sum for a small organization like us to find on an annual basis. So you may still receive emails from Prof. Pearson in the future doing this new job on behalf of our alumni, please support us!

ACTIVITIES

UoB Alumni Snake Soup Dinner 2017: We have maintained our tradition of a snake dinner to share joy and happiness, and together we celebrate the end of

another fruitful year, with approximately 14 people attending on 06 December 2017. We are grateful to our Events Coordinator, Derek Wu, for organizing this great treat for all of us at the restaurant run by The Chinese Banks Association Ltd Club. We haven't tried this venue before for our annual treat and have our Events Coordinator, Derek Wu, to thank for finding this restaurant and gaining access for us to what is usually a private member's club. We all have a very enjoyable evening. We look forward to our Bristol Alumni dinner towards the beginning of next year.

UoB Alumni Lamma Island Hike: We also maintained our second tradition of a hike Bristol Alumni HK Association will organize another walk on Feb 4th, 2018, Sunday. Once again, we are grateful to our event manager, Mr. Derek WU to his effort with the assistance of Derek's father and younger brother (a devoted hiker who agreed to be walk leader). Nearly 20 of us participated in a pleasant walk across the Lamma Island between Yung Shue Wan and Sok Yu Wan, about 7 km. Even It was a cold wintry day, the hikers enjoyed the walk very much, with gentle inclines and many rewards in terms of views, fresh air and snacks along the way, particularly with the little tour guide by our local experts Joe, Andy and Box on the history of the island. Big thanks to those who joined us, and we look forward to our next hike to Peng Chau!

UoB Hong Kong alumni: careers expert panel and networking reception 2017: Moreover, the Vice Chancellor of Bristol University, Professor Hugh Brady, led a delegation of Bristol University academics and administrators on a visit to Hong Kong for a second consecutive year. They hosted a careers expert panel and networking reception for Bristol University alumni in the Conrad Hotel on 2 November 2017, 7.00 PM - 10.00 PM, with our Honoured Guest Dr Denis Chang CBE; and a short lecture by speaker Professor Robert Bickers, Professor of History, University of Bristol). On top of the main reception gathering, we also supported a panel of University of Bristol alumni

experts (including our Exco Members Kenneth NG and Derek WU), speaking about how to develop professional and successful career in various industries, and share their expertise and experience since leaving Bristol. Both sessions were well attended and we look forward to his next visit in Hong Kong.

SCHOLARSHIP REPORT 2017-18

The 2017-2018 was awarded to Alfred LAM Chun Wang to study the one year MSc programme in Finance and Investment at Bristol University. We have received a total of 19 applications for scholarship. We formed a panel of four, including Veronica Pearson, RYANNE LAU, KC LAM and Raymond Yuen. 8 outstanding candidates have been shortlisted for the interview session held on April 1st at the University of Hong Kong.

This time, the selection panel has been impressed by the talents and professional experiences shown by all candidates, and at least three very well-qualified candidates the panel agreed were eminently appointable, with minor variations in their outstanding features and the choice was a tough one to make. I believe this evidently shows our scholarship continues to attract high quality applicants to pursue master's study at Bristol University, even the amount of GBP15,000 can no longer cover a full fee for most programs – perhaps we have to consider to slightly increase the amount next year.

This year 2017-2018 we originally pick a young bright paleontologist Fion Ma from HKU Earth Science Department with a promising scholarly career (with a strong aspiration and an impressive record to research in the areas of pre-historical ecology and biomechanical studies - in particular her interest in studying 'Gigantoraptor' - a dinosaur with presumed habit of stealing and eating other dinosaur's eggs). Fion Ma who has been granted an conditional (2:1 hon) offer for to MSc in Palaeo-biology at the University of Bristol, UK in

2017-2018. Regretfully she eventually has decided not to accept the offer because her favorite supervisor will no longer working at Bristol.

Finally we offered the scholarship to our second choice who is also young and promising talent, Alfred Lam, who is a fresh graduate from BBA at Lingnan University with outstanding academic result and the selection panel was very impressed by Alfred for his passion and commitment to Financial Technology. We consider him to be a young man of great promise; He seemed to us to have just the right balance of qualities that we look for in our scholars. Happy to report that so far he is managing to both work hard and enjoy his new environment at Bristol.

Reflection by Alfred LAM, MSc Finance and Investment 2017-2018

The United Kingdom is one of the frontrunners in FinTech sector. As a FinTech enthusiast, the University of Bristol is the best choice for me to pursue my postgraduate degree in Finance and Investment because Bristol is the home of many FinTech firms in the United Kingdom. Besides, the University has been offering various networking opportunities with current practitioners since our first week at Bristol. I truly feel that Bristol is a city full of opportunities and I am blessed to be surrounded by lots of talents from across different disciplines.

Apart from developing algorithms and conducting researches, my first two weeks at Bristol has already been so rewarding as I met so many inspiring friends from different countries. I look forward to beginning my adventures with my new friends here in the best city to live in the United Kingdom.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to the committee of University of Bristol Alumni Association, Hong Kong Branch for their kind support and encouragement. I hope to contribute to Hong Kong with the education and insights in FinTech which I obtained from Bristol after my return.

2018-2019 Scholarship: The closing date for application has now passed and we will be interviewing on April 14 at CUHK. We had 14 applicants this year by the due day 28 Feb (comparing to 19 last year), which is also a very respectable number; I scanned the applications briefly and there are quite a number of well-qualified candidates. We found a way, with the assistance of Bristol University, to reach out to more of the Hong Kong applicants to BU's one year Master's programmes.

As a usual practice, we shall begin with shortlisting to pick around 6-8 applicants for the interview - it is usually done by the chairperson and ONE another panel member by matching each other's choices. Our criteria are fairly straightforward; we tend to favour people who have had some work experience after graduating with Bachelors' degrees; if there are any who have first class honours degrees they will be interviewed, just because a first is so hard to get and does suggest significant academic potential; and we look for people who are interesting, have done something different, or clearly have a passion of some kind. We are looking for more than just being good at getting high grades; we expect greater things from our scholars than that. We do consider people with lower second honours degrees as long as they are outstanding in other areas, but all being equal we would prefer at least an upper second.

Dr. Raymond YUEN,
Chairperson,

Bristol University Alumni Association, Hong Kong Branch