



40<sup>th</sup> SAAS<sup>HKU</sup>  
anniversary  
統計及精算學系

1967 ~ 2007



Faculty of Science  
The University of Hong Kong

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Contents



# 40th Anniversary

1967 ~ 2007

Department of  
Statistics & Actuarial Science  
The University of Hong Kong



Statistics &  
Actuarial  
Science  
統計及精算學系



**Professor  
Wai Keung Li**  
*Chair Professor and  
Head of Department*

The Department is proud of its achievements in its first 40 years. It is the first department of statistics in Hong Kong and it is also the first department to offer a full actuarial science degree in the Far East and the Greater-China region. It has a world class research profile featuring, among other things, two Guy Medallists (1988 and 2007) in Silver from the Royal Statistical Society, a winner of the Krumbein Award from the International Association for Mathematical Geology (1995), a recipient of

Year 2000 National Natural Science Award (Class II) of China, two Croucher Foundation Senior Research Fellows and five winners in all the four highest categories of research awards established by the University. Its B.Sc. (Actuarial Science) has been a top programme among all tertiary programmes in the territory over the last 14 years and its programmes in Statistics and Risk Management have also attracted the best students among the competing programmes in Hong Kong.

Yet, all these achievements are impossible without the substantial support of the society, the industry, the government, the university and our treasured alumni. It is my earnest wish that through tonight's event we can have a better network with our alumni and friends. I look forward to having more interactions with our alumni after tonight. Thank you for coming to this re-union dinner and please enjoy.



## A Story of 40 Years and Beyond

At HKU, the discipline of Statistics existed as a special teaching unit within the Department of Mathematics prior to 1967, consisting of a senior lecturer and a lecturer. It provided a compulsory year-course for all first year Science students of about 80 and two courses for about 15 second and third year Arts students. (In around 1960, the University's annual intake was only about 350.)

In 1967, the Faculty of Social Sciences was established. The Statistics Unit left Mathematics to join the new Faculty as an independent Unit. The initial idea was that it should provide services of quantitative research methods for the other five Departments of the new Faculty. The Unit was upgraded to a proper Department a year later. The Faculty of Social Sciences admitted 120 students yearly at the early stage. All first year students were required to read a statistics paper, the equivalent load of two semester courses. The Department of Statistics also provided a few other second and third year courses.

The Department grew gradually, gaining status. Professor S.H. Saw was appointed to the founding Chair in 1969. He developed the second and third year courses up to half of a degree curriculum, to be combined with another half in other disciplines such as Economics. Emphasis was on applied statistics, such as Economic Statistics, Demography, Survey Sampling, Marketing Research, Industrial Statistics, Statistical Methods and others. Professor Saw left HKU in 1971 to take up the post of Chairman of the newly-established National



Statistical Commission of Singapore. Even so, he continued his support for the Department: he donated a fund for the Saw Gold Medal in 1971 and another fund for two Saw Swee Hock Scholarships in 2006.

The Department had no Chair Professor until 1976, when Professor John Aitchison, F.R.S.E., came as Head, initially on secondment from the University of Glasgow where he was Titular Professor in Statistics. The University was on the verge of a dynamic expansion, which was to take it way beyond its then student number of 5000, and Quadrennial Planning was a high priority at the time, particularly for new degree structures. To see through the unfolding developments, Professor Aitchison stayed on as Head until retirement in 1989. Gradually, theoretical elements were added to the courses and more courses were introduced to the new curriculum, including even a one-term course in basic actuarial science. While the main reconstructed honours degree was within Social Sciences, the Department was also heavily involved in teaching in the Faculties of Arts and Science.

Professor Aitchison's arrival sparked off great interests in consultation, research and publications in the Department. More teaching members were recruited. The Department changed from one of playing a supporting role to other disciplines in the Faculty to one of a fully fledged and standard university department of statistics, like its counterparts in overseas universities. Professor Aitchison's own research conducted in Hong Kong pioneered the analysis of compositional data, which are positive multivariate data that sum to unity, such as household expenditure patterns and material composition of rocks. His seminal work in this area of statistics has earned him a Guy Medal in Silver from the Royal Statistical Society (U.K.) in 1988 and a Krumbein Award from the International Association for Mathematical Geology in 1995.

The founding of the Hong Kong Statistical Society in 1977 owes much to Professor Aitchison's efforts, who poured over the government's very restrictive red-tapes then concerning the formation of a new society. The Society's address has been with the Department ever since he was elected the founding President. He also put much effort into setting

up a Computer Room furnished with a number of new personal computers when the Department moved to the Run Run Shaw Building from the Knowles Building. Not only did it help solving the numerical problems in research at the Department but also computer implementation could be demonstrated in our teaching for the first time. The significant contributions that an independent department of statistics could make to the cultural and educational life of a university were quickly recognized by other tertiary institutions in Hong Kong, so much so that they also started to set up their own departments of statistics, sometimes under slightly different names. Two years before his retirement, Professor Aitchison launched a part-time M.Soc.Sc.(Applied Statistics) programme in 1987, which has gradually evolved into the present course structure of the Master of Statistics programme.

Professor Richard Cowan succeeded Professor Aitchison as Chair Professor in 1989. Given the large number of courses offered by the Department and the diversity of backgrounds of the students as well as the existence of multifarious study programmes, Professor Cowan led the department into making substantial changes in our course structure by systematising the study programmes with the introduction of clearly defined streams of courses taken by different groups of students in the University. Professor Cowan also foresaw the increasing demand for skills in practical data analysis and statistical computing on our graduates. In response to this, he placed much emphasis on computer-aided elements in the curriculum. He formed a Data Analysis Team in the Department and put Professor Ng in charge of it; the latter shared the same vision and had substantial expertise in SAS, which formed the backbone in statistical software for the Department. The Team was to launch the new computer-aided courses in data analysis using SAS with hands-on teaching and learning, particularly during those critical years of software migration from main-frame with terminal machines of

different keyboards to mini-computers of changing types. As the courses began with real problems that the students would learn to resolve at the end of the courses, they were probably the earliest prototype of problem-based learning in the University. Large enrolments were attracted to these courses and their pre-requisite courses.

In 1993, Professor Cowan decided to build on the one-semester course in basic actuarial science to a full B.Sc.(Actuarial Science) degree. Dr. K.C. Yuen, the only teacher with professional qualification in actuarial science at the time, was instrumental to this development. The programme was launched in 1994 with 20 student places and, in the year immediately following, became the number-one programme in JUPAS in terms of average score of 3 best A-Level subjects. This highest ranking in quality has been maintained consistently ever since, although new enrolments have seen an almost four-fold increase.

As a result of Professor Cowan's leadership in teaching and learning, the Department's total enrolment in 1994-95 was 38% higher than 1990-91, which provided a very significant boost to the Department's finance. The Department was able to recruit new teachers and supporting staff and to acquire more sophisticated equipments for teaching and research. Professor Cowan also seized the opportunity for space expansion when the university invited units to move to the new Meng Wah Complex. He designed the present layout of the Department, particularly with one computer room and two computer laboratories. In the meantime, the M.Soc.Sc.(Applied Statistics) programme was updated and renamed Master of Statistics. Professor Cowan stepped down as Head in 1995 and resigned from the University in 1997, leaving the Department once again without a Chair Professor.

Professor K.W. Ng served as Head in 1995-1996. He led the Department through the first UGC Research Assessment

Exercise in 1996. Based on intake quality, market analysis and support from large players in the industry, the Department obtained the University's endorsement for the first expansion of the B.Sc.(Actuarial Science) programme from 20 student places to 35 as part of the University's

1998-2001 triennium plan, which was later approved by the UGC. In this year, Professor Ng discovered a simple inversion of the celebrated Bayes Formula under the positivity condition. He went on leave to the Hong Kong Baptist University as (full) Professor in Mathematics from September 1996 to August 1998.

Professor W.K. Li served as Acting Head for one semester and then as Head until December 1999. The late 1990s marked the beginning of fundamental changes in higher education in Hong Kong. The most significant was the greater emphasis on original research. The University positioned itself by creating a new scheme of Distinguished Visiting Professorship in anticipation of some major shift in the UGC funding policy. Professor Li's nomination of Professor Howell Tong from the U.K. as a Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Department was successful, beating the Chinese University of Hong Kong

(by one day!) in attracting the latter to the University. Professor Howell Tong arrived in 1997 initially for two years under the scheme. He was appointed Chair Professor in 1999, thus filling the vacant chair. His academic standing and administrative experience were quickly spotted by three successive

Vice-Chancellors, who appointed him the Founding Dean of the Graduate School in 1998, Acting Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Research) in 2000 and Pro-Vice-Chancellor (Administration and Development) in 2002, positions which he held till his return to the London School of Economics in 2004.

The Department went through the University's Internal RAE (1998) under Professor Li's Headship. Upon the commencement of new quota of student places for B.Sc.(Actuarial Science) for the triennium 1998-2001, the Department changed its name to the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, thus becoming the first department with this name in the Far East and

in the Greater-China region. Apart from the B.Sc.(Actuarial Science), the Department had about this time three study themes for students to choose under the B.Soc.Sc.(Statistics): the Mathematical Statistics, Applied Statistics and Risk Management themes. These themes have evolved today into



the two Science Majors: the B.Sc.(Statistics) and the B.Sc. (Risk Management). The research strengths in time series analysis and financial statistics (H. Tong, W.K. Li, K.W. Ng, W.S. Chan, H. Yang, P.L.H. Yu, K.C. Yuen, L. Zhu) were at an all time high in the late 1990s, a fact well recognized by the University, which rated Financial Time Series in the Department as an area of research excellence and granted a budget of one million dollars to support the activities in this area, such as supporting a post-doctoral fellowship and conferences. Specifically, the Department organized the Hong Kong International Workshop on Statistics in Finance and the Symposium on Financial Risk and Statistics, both in July 1999. One of the keynote speakers in the symposium was Professor Granger who would become a Nobel Laureate in Economics in 2003.

Professor K.W. Ng was Acting Head when Professor Li took his long leave in the second half of 1999. Professor Ng later took over the Headship, which lasted six years until December 2006, when it was passed to Professor Li, who still holds the post at the time of writing. During this period, the biggest challenge facing the Department was the conflict between two opposing forces: first the substantial shrinkage of the Departmental budget as a consequence of the reduction of the block-grant to the University from the UGC; second the pressure for extra resources in order to increase and improve research output as demanded by the University in response to the UGC's new policy. Around 2000, the University started to abandon its previous funding policy that effectively kept a close linkage between a department's budget and its enrolment number. The new resource-allocation model, however, could have an impact on a departmental budget in a way too complicated to explain here. Suffice it to say that in the event the Department suffered badly despite the admirable performance of the Department in terms of both teaching and research in the eyes of its peers inside and outside the University. In fact, the Department's budget from the block-

grant was reduced continuously for several years, each time by 2% to 3%. This unfortunate situation came to a stop only after the Department moved to the Faculty of Science in 2004 in accordance with the decision of the Senate.

Unless alternative sources of income were forthcoming, it was almost impossible to operate under successive budget



cuts, because the Department had to sustain the human resources and research projects already in place based on the budget level set after the 38% growth in student enrolment from 1990-91 to 1994-95. As the Chinese saying goes: there are opportunities in crises. About this time, the Director of

the Social Sciences Research Centre was on secondment to the Government's Central Policy Unit. The Dean of Social Sciences asked Professor Ng to be Acting Director of the Centre with the mission to turn it financially independent from the Faculty. Concurrently with his duties in the Department, Professor Ng accepted the challenge and took it as an opportunity. Wearing two hats for about two years and a half, he succeeded in not only making the Centre financially independent from the Faculty ever since, but also providing some extremely welcome supplementary funding for the Department; this tied the Department over the very difficult financial period that ended only with the M.Stat. programme becoming fully self-funded. The programme has since continued to provide critical supplementary funding for the Department. Generous donations from Mr. Patrick Poon and Professor S.H. Saw, together with a matched amount from the University, also helped a lot, particularly in actuarial research and encouragements to students in statistics.

It is worth noting that the Department had been a very active constituent of the Faculty of Social Sciences before it moved to the Faculty of Science. Indeed, for a long period of time, teachers of the Department of Statistics were successfully and successively elected Dean of the Faculty of Social Sciences: Professor J. Aitchison, Dr. S.C. Fan, Professor J. Bacon-Shone, and Dr. S.M. Shen. Professor Fung and Professor Li served as Associate Dean respectively for three years and one year and two months. Professor Ng was Chairman of the Faculty's Research Committee for two years. Professor Bacon-Shone left the Department in 1994 to become full-time Director of the Social Sciences Research Centre. Dr. S.C. Fan's family later donated a fund to support the on-going S.C. Fan Memorial Lecture Series.

Since 1999, the Department has set itself the mission of becoming a top research-led department at an

international level. To date, it has very strong ties with the international academic community and has organized or co-organized a total of 23 international conferences and workshops. The total number of post-1999 visitors to the Department is 356, compared to the total of 130 before 1999. World class academics such as Professor Peter Hall (FRS) and Professor Hans Gerber, who received the Life Time Contribution Award from the International Actuarial Association, have been appointed visiting professors of the department for many years. Professor Clive Granger, who received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 2003, visited the department again in 2006 and gave a



public lecture. Three recipients, namely Professors J. Fan (Princeton), X. L. Meng (Harvard) and W.H. Wong (UCLA), of the prestigious President's Award of the Committee of Presidents of Statistical Societies of North America have been appointed as Honorary Professors of the Department, while another (Professor T.L. Lai of Stanford University) is serving on its Advisory Board. Professor Howell Tong has

been appointed Distinguished Visiting Professor since 2004 so as to formalize his continuing ties with the Department.

The Department has a very proud record of academic honours won by its teachers. Details are given in the website <http://www.hku.hk/statistics/>. Briefly, they have won all the categories of research awards established by the University in 1998, including the highest honour bestowed by the University. Specifically, the Department has won the Distinguished Research Achievement Award (H. Tong), the Outstanding Researcher Awards (W.K. Fung, W.K. Li), the Young Outstanding Researcher Award (S.M.S.

first Hong Kong citizen elected to a Foreign Membership of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. In 2007, he was the first Chinese to receive the Guy Medal in Silver from the Royal Statistical Society (U.K.) in its 114 years of history. Few departments of statistics in the world can boast even one Guy Silver medalist but our Department has had two. In addition, nine teachers of the Department are elected members of the International Statistical Institute, two elected Fellows of the American Statistical Association and two elected Fellows of the Institute of Mathematical Statistics.

Lee), and the Outstanding Research Student Supervisor Award (W.K. Li). Outside the University, Professor Li and Professor Fung have each been a Croucher Foundation Senior Research Fellow. In recognition of Professor Tong's path-breaking research in non-linear time series analysis, he was, in 2000, the sole winner (in Mathematics) of the National Natural Science Award (Class II) of China and the

In the Internal Research Strategic Exercise in 2003, it scored 4.5 out of 5 and in the 2006 UGC RAE, it scored 88.04% which was slightly above the University average. (HKU was ranked 18th amongst the world's top 200 universities according to the THES-QS World University Rankings 2007.)

In addition to academic excellence, the Department believes strongly that it is important to serve the society by producing

high quality graduates well trained in statistics, actuarial science and risk management. It has strived with its best to equip its students with the state of the art in each and every course it runs.

The Department also believes strongly that its success is impossible without the hard work of its staff, teaching and non-teaching, the strong support of its students, its alumni, the industry/commerce and the society in Hong Kong. It looks forward to closer links with its alumni and industry/commerce in the future. In a modern society, the relationship of Town and Gown has elevated to a higher plateau. The experience of top North American universities such as Harvard and Stanford has demonstrated vividly the important contributions that industrial and commercial institutions can make to the cultural and educational life of the society in which they operate through their generous donations to the local universities. The Department is confident that with generous support from similar institutions in Hong Kong, China and the neighbouring regions, it will be able to compete with the best internationally and achieve its mission of becoming one of the top Departments of Statistics in the world, thereby making even greater contributions to the advancement of the society in Hong Kong and China in the many years to come.



### Research monographs by members of the Department

1. Aitchison, J. & Brown, J.A.C (1957). The Lognormal Distribution: With Special Reference to its Uses in Economics. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2. Aitchison, J (1986). The Statistical Analysis of Compositional Data. London: Chapman and Hall.
3. Aitchison, J., Kay, Jim W. & Lauder, Ian J. (2005). Statistical Concepts and Applications in Clinical Medicine. Boca Raton: Chapman & Hall/CRC.
4. Chan, Kung-Sik & Tong, Howell (2001). Chaos: A Statistical Perspective. New York: Springer.
5. Chan, Wai-Sum, Li, Wai-Keung & Tong, Howell (ed.) (2000). Proceedings of the Hong Kong International Workshop on Statistics and Finance: An Interface. London: Imperial College Press.
6. Chan, Y.K., Ho, F.W.H., Ng, K.W. and Shen, S.M. (1991). A Practical Guide to Sample Surveys. Hong Kong: Hong Kong Statistical Society.
7. Chan, Y.K., Ho, F.W.H., Ng, K.W. and Shen, S.M. (1992). A Practical Guide to Sample Surveys (in Chinese). Hong Kong: Hong Kong Statistical Society.
8. Fang, Ji-Qian, Xu, Yong-Yong, Yu, Song-Lin, Su, Bing-Hua and Ng, K.W. (1997). Medical Statistics and Computer Experiments, (30 chapters and 678,000 words in Chinese). Shanghai Science and Technology Publishing Co., Shanghai, China.
9. Fang, Kai-Tai, Kotz, Samuel & Ng, Kai-Wang (1990). Symmetric Multivariate and Related Distributions. London: Chapman and Hall.
10. Fung, Wing-Kam & Hu, Yueqing (2008). Statistical DNA Forensics: Theory, Methods and Computation. Chichester, England; Hoboken, NJ: John Wiley & Sons.
11. Lai, Tze-Leung, Yang, Hailiang & Yung Siu-Pang (2004). Probability, Finance and Insurance. Singapore; River Edge, NJ: World Scientific.
12. Lam, Yeh (2007). The Geometric Process and its Applications. Singapore; Hackensack, NJ: World Scientific.
13. Li, Wai-Keung (2004). Diagnostic Checks in Times Series. Boca Raton: Chapman & Hall/CRC.
14. Tong, Howell (1990). Non-linear Time Series: A Dynamical System Approach. Oxford: Oxford Science Publications.
15. Tong, Howell (1993). Dimension Estimation and Models. Singapore; River Edge, NJ: World Scientific.
16. Tong, Howell (ed.) (1995). Chaos and Forecasting: Proceedings of the Royal Society Discussion Meeting. Singapore: World Scientific.

# Department Activities



*Department Picnics*



*Celebration Ceremony for the Naming of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science*



*Department Lunches and Dinners*



*Best Demonstrator Awards*



# Congratulatory Messages



**Professor Lap-Chee Tsui**  
*Vice-Chancellor and President*

On behalf of the University, may I offer my warmest congratulations to the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary celebrations.

The Department was founded in 1967 (then known as the Department of Statistics), and over the past four decades has seen considerable growth and impressive developments. It has not only achieved a world class profile in academic research, but has also become a well-recognised and respected department locally in teaching and learning. Its graduates have gone on to make a mark of their own, in their respective professions and throughout society.

It is the years of dedication and ongoing hard work of those in the Department, past and present, that have resulted in such remarkable achievements and contributed to the University's growing international standing. I am sure I can continue to count on the support and loyalty of the Department's members and alumni to continue supporting the University's endeavours, so that together, we can make the HKU experience a unique and cherished one for generations of students to come.



**Professor Sun Kwok**  
*Dean of Science*

The Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science has been an integral part of the University for 40 years, renowned for its world class profile in pioneering research. Such a glamorous history of the Department provides an auspicious and happy occasion to highlight the notable contributions of its teachers and graduates on pursuing academic excellence. May I offer my heartfelt congratulations to everyone associated with the Department for their achievements to date.

As the forerunner of Actuarial Science Programme, Risk Management and Statistics Majors in Hong Kong, the Department continues to rank at the top among all local tertiary study programmes. Owing to the superb training of these professions, our graduates have found fulfilling employment in banking, finance, insurance, marketing research, Government, scientific research and universities, etc.

Throughout its celebration year, I look forward the Department to consolidating its past achievements and scaling new heights in the years to come. May this milestone mark the continuation of the achievements for the Department and all its members.



**Professor Swee Hock Saw**  
*Donor of Saw Gold Medal and Saw Swee Hock Scholarships*  
*PhD 1963 LSE*  
*Founding Chair of Statistics*  
*HKU 1969-1971, Honorary Fellow of LSE*

I congratulate the staff and the students of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science for their excellent achievements in the last forty years, and wish you all the best in attaining greater heights of success in the years ahead.





**Professor John Aitchison**

*Emeritus Professor*

I am delighted to congratulate the Department on reaching its 40th birthday in very good shape. I came to the University in August 1976 as Head on a one-year, possibly two-year, secondment from the University of Glasgow and became so caught up in the dynamic growth of the University within a flourishing Hong Kong that I stayed for thirteen years until retirement in 1989. The academic aspects of the Department's development are well set out in the historical report in this pamphlet and so I will confine my comments to other aspects of the period 1976-89. University statistics departments are possibly unique in their very wide relations with other units, not only in teaching across Faculties – Arts, Science, Social Sciences, Medicine – but, because of the uncertainty and variability that pervade many disciplines, they form substantial links with other departments and the teaching hospitals in consultative work. This is not entirely an altruistic activity since consultative problems often provide excellent projects for students, a feature of the degree structures, and, of course, the tougher problems often form the basis of Master and PhD degrees.

University Departments have Heads but I think most would admit that their departments are really kept viable by the secretarial and supporting staff. This was certainly the case during my headship, with Lucile Kwok in charge and then Irene Cheung still in charge. Of the ancillary staff my fondest recollection is of Ah Kwong, whose cup of tea, brought with his broadest smile, provided a brilliant start to each day. I have worked in departments in five universities, and by far the happiest and most sociable has been the Department in HKU. Any academic event would be celebrated by dim sums at Wah Fu and later at Chi Fu with all members of the Department participating. I look forward to some excuse for such another dim sum.

I am delighted to say Happy Birthday to the Department and to have had the privilege of playing some small part in its development.



**Professor Howell Tong**

*Distinguished Visiting Professor*

Founded in 1967, the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science (formerly the Department of Statistics), although the oldest in Hong Kong, is in its middle age by comparison with the oldest department of statistics in the world, which was founded in 1911 at the University College, London. Against this historical perspective, it is, by any measure, the most remarkable achievement that the Department has established itself, in just 40 years, as a centre of learning and research in statistical science including actuarial science, with a well deserved international reputation. It has distinguished itself in consistently attracting students of the highest quality in Hong Kong into its undergraduate programmes. The quality of its postgraduates is also the envy of many of its opposite numbers in North America and Europe. Over the past 40 years, many of its alumni have held highly responsible positions in all walks of life inside and outside Hong Kong.

The Department has a proud record of present and past teaching staff, decorated by prestigious prizes locally, nationally and internationally. Among the current teaching members, there are many bright young colleagues, who will undoubtedly continue the fine tradition of excellence in teaching and research and bring the department to ever greater heights.

It is my privilege to have been a member of this special family since 1997. I am always proud to relate to my international colleagues my strong ties with one of the finest departments in the world--The Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science at HKU.



**Professor Kai Wang Ng**  
Former Head of the Department

I am very fortunate to have witnessed the Department's development since 1979. I came to the Department initially on unpaid leave from the University of Toronto. Experiencing the Department's growth with Professor Aitchison at the helm, I resigned my Associate Professorship with tenure at Toronto in 1983 and stayed in the Department until my retirement in 2006. Now working in the Department after retirement is my pleasure and, indeed, privilege.

It was my great honour to be the Head of such a successful university department of statistics and actuarial science on three occasions. Each of the headships met with serious challenges and timely opportunities to the Department, all tied with the developments of the University and the economic turns in the community. I am particularly pleased that, in addition to a well-established culture of teaching and learning, the Department has built and is maintaining an environment which is very conducive to research.

Our proud alumni and friends have helped the Department all along in these 40 years. I am confident that they will extend their staunch support to the Department for the next 40 years.

Happy 40th Anniversary!



**Mr Joseph C K Yam**  
Chief Executive, The Hong Kong Monetary Authority

I would like to send my warmest congratulations to the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science on its 40th anniversary.

Over the years, the Department has made a great contribution to the development of Hong Kong as an international financial centre by nurturing more than a thousand graduates in the statistics, risk-management and actuarial fields. Its world-class and state-of-the-art academic research has also given profound insight to the field of statistical and actuarial science worldwide.

I wish the Department continued success for many more decades to come.



**Mr Hing-wang Fung**  
Commissioner for Census and Statistics

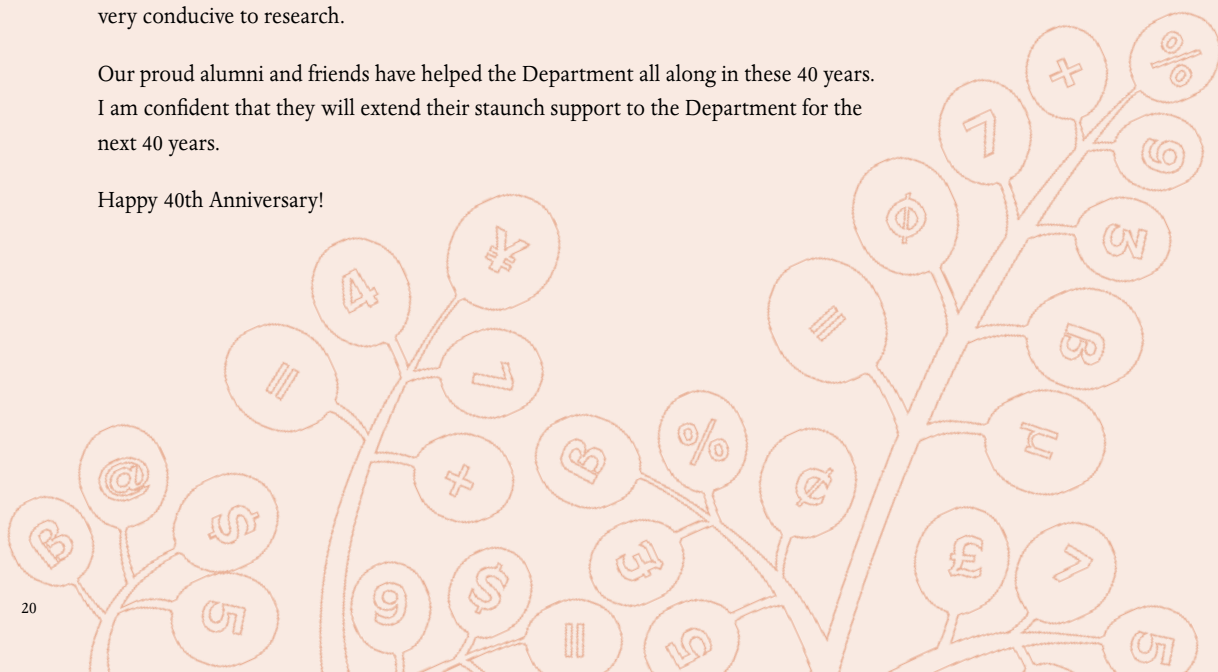
I wish to extend my sincere appreciation to the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science on its 40th anniversary for its distinguished efforts in pursuing academic excellence and in nurturing visionary professionals in the realm of statistics.

Hong Kong has seen profound changes in its social and economic landscape in the last four decades. In the face of challenges and uncertainties posed by the future, more and more people are looking to statistics to make informed, evidence-based decisions in different endeavours.

Over the past forty years, the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science has offered its students a rigorous yet rewarding curriculum covering a host of courses in a wide spectrum of core as well as emerging statistical disciplines. High quality research work has been one of the cornerstones of its success. The remarkable growth of the Department is not only a vivid testimony of academic pursuit but also a keen response to the rising aspiration of the community.

Learning is never confined to professional knowledge and skills. We also learn from the wisdom and experience of fellow students and eminent alumni, among whom are a good mix of talents. As a former student of the Department (B.Soc.Sc.(Economics & Statistics) 1973), I feel privileged to have been maintaining close ties with the Department in various ways over all these years. In every minute of my career, I have benefited from it.

Looking ahead, I am confident that through the concerted efforts of dedicated staff, supportive alumni and innovative students, the Department will look into the future with new impetus and scale new heights in the years to come.





### Mr Kwok-chuen Kwok

*Government Economist*

I wish to offer my congratulations on the 40th Anniversary of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science. As Hong Kong becomes an increasingly sophisticated global business and financial hub, there is a rapid increase in demand for professionals who are well trained in statistics and actuarial science.

Indeed, a good mastery of basic statistical and actuarial knowledge and concepts enhances considerably our analytical capabilities. It gives us not only an edge in our work and in our many day-to-day decisions, but also new perspectives in what happens around us in the increasingly sophisticated world. To those of you who do not believe truly in this description, I recommend a book entitled "Fooled by randomness" that I read last year.

The Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science has grown with the rest of Hong Kong in the past four decades and has contributed in its own way in the process. I am proud to be a member of the alumni and I wish the Department many more successes in the years to come.



### Mr Clement Cheung

*Commissioner of Insurance*

I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, University of Hong Kong on the 40th anniversary of its establishment.

Actuarial science has indeed come very far since the ancient times when it emerged as a scientific tool to assess and value risk for communal support and assurance, evolving over the years alongside economic and social developments. In an uncertain world of today, this mathematical discipline complements modern financial theory and exerts a heavy influence on capital resource deployment as well as corporate strategy formulation.

Since its inception in 1967, the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science has acquired a strong reputation for world-class research, insightful advice and quality graduates. I am sure the Department will sustain impetus in these areas to uphold the status of Hong Kong as an international financial centre.



### Mr Patrick Tak-kuen Nip

*Deputy Secretary (Health), Government Secretariat*

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science of the University of Hong Kong, I write to express my heartfelt congratulations to the faculty members and staff of the Department for your significant achievements made over the years.

I graduated from the University of Hong Kong in 1986 with my bachelor degree in Social Science with major in Economics and minor in Statistics. Although I took only a few papers in Statistics (B. Soc Sc (1986)), including the class taught by Prof Li Wai-keung, the statistical knowledge and analytical skills acquired have proved to be very useful and important for public policy analysis. May I wish all the students of the Department every success in their future endeavours!



### Mr Frederick Wing-huen Ho

*Former Commissioner for Census and Statistics (Hong Kong 1992-2005)*

Statistics are the basis for evidence-based decision making, which is generally accepted as important in government administration and business strategy

formulation. Indeed, statistics invariably feature in rational public policy debates and thus make significant contributions to democracy.

I had been aware of this even before I took up studies at the Masters Degree programme of the Department (M.Soc. Sc.(Applied Statistics) 1989) in my mid-career days. But I thought I should equip myself with many more statistical techniques. I did the right thing. The studies much enriched my theoretical and practical knowledge and assisted me in discharging my duties more effectively.

In its forty years, the Department has gone from strength to strength and contributed greatly to the Hong Kong academia and community. I am sure this will continue well into the future.





### Mr Kwong Yiu Tang

*Former Government Economist (1993-2004)*

It is true to say that statistics permeate our everyday life. They convey substance and a sense of dimension, leading the way to quantitative analysis of all phenomena in the real world. Our economic and social well being today would not have progressed as far, without that as a helpful aid to planning and decisions. On the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science of the University of Hong Kong, I congratulate the Department and all the staff for their constant pursuit of excellence in statistics, both as an intellectual discipline and as a practical tool, for the benefit of our entire community. Let their fine effort and dedication prevail to the long time ahead.



### Mr Leslie Tang

*President of Hong Kong Statistical Society*

I am pleased to offer my warmest congratulations to the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science of the University of Hong Kong on the celebration of its 40th anniversary.

During the past four decades, the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science has accomplished many remarkable achievements, which have been recognized internationally. In particular, Professor

Howell Tong, Distinguished Visiting Professor, was awarded the Guy Medal in Silver 2007 by the Royal Statistical Society. Professor W.K. Li, Chair Professor and Department Head, and Professor Tony Fung, Chair Professor, were awarded the Croucher Senior Research Fellowship Award for 2003-04 and for 2008-09 respectively. Also, many academic staff of the Department are members of the International Statistical Institute (ISI), a reputable international scientific association which has profound influence in the world of statistics. They are elected as members of the ISI by virtue of their distinguished contributions to the development of statistical and actuarial methods.

In face of keen competition unleashed by globalization, the need for high caliber statistical and actuarial professionals to maintain Hong Kong's status as a major international financial centre has become pronounced. Over all these years, the Department has developed high quality undergraduate and master degree programmes to equip our next generation with the necessary skills and knowledge. Indeed, the graduates of the two programmes are well praised by local and international employers.

Looking ahead, with its reputation acquired over the past forty years, I am confident that the Department will continue to play a crucial role in supporting the development of statistical and actuarial science in Hong Kong and worldwide.



### Mr Patrick S C Poon

*Donor of Patrick Poon Donation*

*Chairman of Operation Committee*

*Director, China Pacific Life Insurance Co., Ltd*

I am very pleased to extend my congratulations to the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science on its 40th anniversary.

The Department should be proud of its achievements over the past four decades. Since 1967, it has contributed to Hong Kong society in a variety of ways such as education, professional and community services, and needless to say in cutting-edge academic research in statistics, actuarial science and risk management. It has trained many generations of graduates who now hold or have held key and strategic positions in the industry and in society. I studied statistics at HKU from 1968 to 1970 as a science undergraduate and is a beneficiary. The Department is clearly a stronghold of education and academic research in the greater-China and Pacific region, particularly in the area of actuarial science.

On this happy occasion, may I wish the Department all the best in its future developments and wish it every success in the years ahead.





### Mr Edmund Tse

*Chairman & Chief Executive Officer  
American International Assurance Company, Limited*

I would like to extend my warmest congratulations to all of you at the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science on the Department's 40th anniversary.

You should feel justly proud of the great success that the Department has achieved over the past four decades. Since its founding in 1967, the Department has dedicated itself to the education and training of Hong Kong's top statisticians, risk managers and actuaries. Its contribution to society has been enormous, in particular the significant role it plays in helping develop the local insurance and finance industry.

As a world leader in insurance and financial services with a dominant presence in Hong Kong, we at AIG are grateful for the Department's contribution in nurturing many of our star employees.

As an alumnus of the University of Hong Kong, I am especially pleased to see the international recognition that the Department has gained in academic research. Today, it is regarded as one of the top universities of its kind across the Asia Pacific region.

May I take the opportunity of this joyous occasion to congratulate Professor W.K Li and his team on their outstanding accomplishments, and wish you all every success in the years to come.



### Mr Roger K H Luk

*Retired Banker*

We use numbers everyday, whatever we do and wherever we go. Mathematics is the science of numbers and statistics is the science of applied mathematics. We also use statistics everyday, knowingly or unknowingly. For decades, the Department has relentlessly promoted the use of statistics to help make better living and do better business.

In this age of global economy and financial markets, statistics plays an indispensable role in quantifying and managing market and enterprise risks. On this celebratory occasion of 40th Anniversary of the Department, Hong Kong looks to our Alma Mater to continue training statistics professionals and promoting the popular and proper use of statistics in daily life.



### Mr Dominic Lee

*Senior Vice President  
American International Assurance Company, Limited*

The Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science has rendered vast relief to the acute shortage of supply of good calibre actuarial trainees in Hong Kong in the past 10 years. Before that, only overseas universities offered students with actuarial background, but not local universities.

Starting from 1997, the first batch of actuarial graduates from the University of Hong Kong made themselves available for employment. These were students of top calibre. Many of them got their fellowship qualification within 3 to 4 years after graduation, as compared to the worldwide average of 7 years. With the success of this actuarial program, several local universities followed the University of Hong Kong to offer actuarial courses in their curriculum. Now, Hong Kong has developed to become one of the locations in the Far East having strong actuarial resources. As of 2006 year-end, Hong Kong, with 237 Fellows of the Society of Actuaries (FSA), ranked first in terms of the country/area with the largest number of FSA's outside North America.

For this reason, I congratulate the University of Hong Kong for its foresight in establishing the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science forty years ago.



### Mrs Estella Chiu

*Regional Chief Actuary and Head of Investment & Insurance Risks, HSBC Insurance*

More than a decade ago, the Department of Statistics of the University of Hong Kong launched a full-time undergraduate degree program in Actuarial Science. The program was the first of its kind in Hong Kong and has demonstrated the foresight of the Department.

Ever since its start, the program has been attracting top students in Hong Kong as well as from Mainland China. It has served as an important breeding ground for young talents, preparing them for the challenge of becoming an actuary. Over the years, graduates of the program have made significant contribution to the insurance, retirement, banking and finance industries.

The continuous growth of insurance and financial services in Asia has again heightened the demand for actuarial talents in Hong Kong and for the Region. I believe the Department will continue to be the centre of excellence for teaching and academic research in the field of Actuarial Science. I look forward to continuing my connection with the Department and would like to offer my sincere congratulations to the faculty on their success.



Meeting with Mr Patrick Poon



# Conferences / Meetings



Public Lecture by  
Professor Sir Clive Granger  
Nobel Laureate in Economics, 2003



Hong Kong International Workshop on  
Statistics in Finance & Symposium on  
Financial Risk and Statistics



International Conference on  
Threshold Models and New Developments



# Alumni Sharing



**Professor Kara Chan**  
*MSocSc(Applied Statistics)*  
*Hong Kong Baptist University*

I studied the M. Soc. Science (Applied Statistics) program because of my new move as a professional statistician at the Census and Statistics Department in 1987. The curriculum carried strong theoretical vigor. Our class showed tremendous enthusiasm in learning. At the time when data mining was considered quite new, our professors gave us jumpstart. We were required to dig deep into the data and let the data speak for itself.

The program serves as a solid foundation for my further study and my subsequent career as a social scientist. The statistical tools facilitate my research and the supervision of research postgraduate students. I am very thankful to my dedicated professors.



**Ms Kitty Suet-lai Chan**  
*BSocSc*  
*Census and Statistics Department,*  
*HKSARG*

It's my honor to write a few words in this brochure. Time flies and today we see the blossom of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, which quietly fosters brilliant elites and leaders for our society. With its excellence in teaching and research in a renowned world class university, its achievements are significant and conspicuous. I am sure the Department will continue to live up to its missions in serving the community. May I congratulate the Department on its 40th Anniversary and wish it every success in providing the best education to our future pillars.



**Dr Wai Chan**  
*MSocSc(Applied Statistics)*  
*Chinese University of Hong Kong*

My heartiest congratulations on the 40th Anniversary of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science! Over the last 40 years, the Department has made enormous contributions not only to the statistics profession, but also to our society at large. I myself was fortunate enough to be a graduate student there in the late 80's. The programme provided me with a very comprehensive and systematic training in statistics, which has undoubtedly shaped and made possible my career in this field. I would like to thank all the professors and staff of the Department. Let's celebrate this wonderful moment. May the success of these years lead to an even more successful and prosperous future!



**Ms Iris Chau**  
*BSc(Actuarial Science)*  
*American International Assurance*  
*Company (Bermuda) Limited*

Our university days were full of fond memories - laughter during the Statistics Society orientation camp, chitchat in Chong Yuet Ming and study groups in Main Library. I am thankful that the actuarial science class has not only brought me long lasting friendship with my classmates but also a meaningful career as an Actuary. On this memorable occasion, I wish to congratulate our department for nurturing a group of young professionals for Hong Kong in the past and the years to come. I look forward to seeing more new faces from our Alma Mater!



### Mr Alfred Cheung

BSc(Actuarial Science)  
ING Life Insurance Company  
(Bermuda) Limited

As a graduate of Actuarial Science in 1997, I am indebted to the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science for the quality tertiary education. The course provided me with a great opportunity to pursue academic excellence, and more importantly, my views were broadened under the guidance of various impressive lecturers. I am grateful that the education at the university built the cornerstone of my career. On its 40th anniversary, I wish the department every success in the years to come.



### Mr Pak-Hong Cheung

MSocSc(Applied Statistics)Munsang  
College (Hong Kong Island)

My formal linkage with the Department dated back to 1989, when I was admitted as a part-time student for the two-year programme leading to MSocSc (Applied Statistics). It was a rewarding and interesting experience to me as most of my classmates were practising statisticians but I had been working in the education sector, initially as a mathematics teacher, then as a teacher-educator at HKU. The programme not only equipped me with the essential knowledge of statistics, but also facilitated my work as a school administrator. The two years saw my enjoyable interaction with the staff and other programme participants, which I cherish. Happy Anniversary!



### Dr Cheung Hei Choi

MStat  
Queen Elizabeth Hospital

It's always my dream to become one of your family members.

For a non-statistician like me who don't know much about calculus or matrix, it is almost a miracle to get into the field and enjoy the wonderful world of statistics. It's your patience and omnipotence that makes my dream come true.

On this 40th Anniversary, I would like to convey to all of you the heartfelt thanks and appreciation from all the MStat alumni (2006) for the exemplary job you've done in education and research. Throughout these years, you have made the Department a brand name for reliability, accuracy and efficiency. It entails steadfast work and commitment by various generations of colleagues and is part of the Department's legacy for many more generations to come.

Happy Birthday, Department of Statistics & Actuarial Science. I'm always proud of being one of your family members.



### Mr Wai Kit Choi

BSc(Actuarial Science)  
HSBC Insurance (Asia-Pacific) Holdings  
Limited

The Department has always been giving her greatest support on student development. Studying in the Department was one of the milestones in my life. Without the Department's nurture in both practical knowledge and moral education, I would not have entered the community so confidently. In return to such favor of the Department, it would always be my pleasure to assist in any Department events, especially in helping current students prepare for challenges after graduation. Once again I would like to send my gratitude to our beloved Department as well as all the working staff.



### Ms Anastasia Chow

MStat  
Portfolio Risk Management, Consumer Credit  
Risk, HSBC

Congratulations on your 40th birthday!

This special day brings back fond memories of the days I called myself a Statistics and Actuarial Science student of the University of Hong Kong. I am proud and honoured to find myself standing once again on the ground that has over the past four decades been attracting world class elites who have bred and nurtured countless individuals to professionalism. Thank you, the department and the professors, for the contribution you have made to the well being of the society. I wish you all, professors, alumni members and fellow students, every success in life.

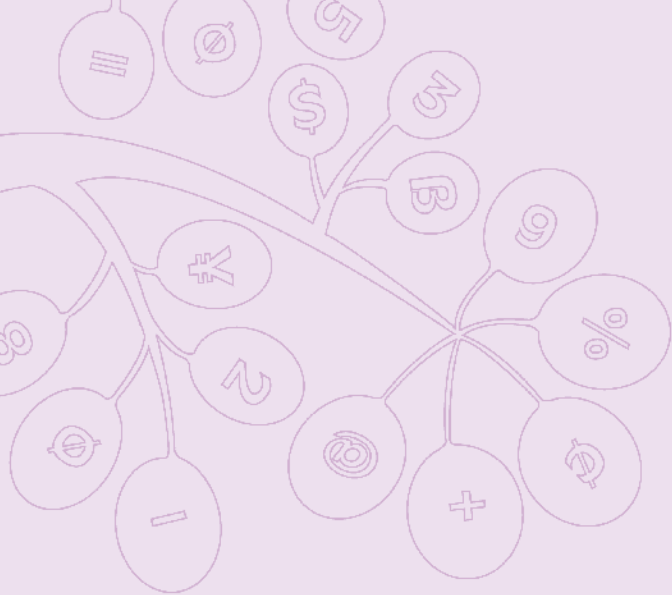


### Dr Richard Co

BSocSc  
Chicago Mercantile Exchange Group

Much like fine wine, my appreciation for the Department of Statistics only grows with time.

Based on first hand observation, I sincerely believe that, when pit against students from any other top notch Universities, our graduates are second to no one in terms of the quality of education received. Our faculty members deserve all the credit for the wonderful first 40 years of the department. Let's raise our glasses to the next 40 great years!



### Ms Lily Fong

*BSocSc*

*Census and Statistics Department,  
HKSARG*

It gives me great pleasure to join the celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science.

Statistics is an interesting subject with applications in many different areas. Statistical knowledge contributes to a better understanding of the society and various aspects of the real world. Analysis of past and present data provides insights to the future in an objective way. The value of statistical knowledge is further enhanced when it is applied in an integrative, collaborative and creative manner.

On this momentous occasion of its 40th Anniversary, may I wish the Department every success in the years ahead and thank the teaching staff for their dedication and guidance to the students all through the years.



### Ms Josephine Kam

*MSocSc(Applied Statistics)*

*Retired*

Having been the first batch of graduates of the first Master Degree in Applied Statistics in 1987 is an earmark to my life. Lecturers and classmates of different fields and professions have helped widening my scopes of knowledge and exposure. It is rewarding and interesting to apply the statistical measures such as probability, parametric & non-parametric tests, different distribution with time series, volatility modelling, multivariate changes with varying covariance and correlation to our daily life. Wish all of us can enrich our lives by the essence of the statistical inference. With gratitude, I salute to all the teachers and staff of the Department of Statistics & Actuarial Science.



### Mr John Hon-kwan Lam

*MSocSc(Applied Statistics), MPhil*

*Census and Statistics Department, HKSARG*

I am proud to be the first batch of graduates of the Master Degree programme in statistics of the Department. Apart from providing quality training in statistical theories and applications, the programme facilitated exchange of experience among persons working in different fields. In fact, the friendship formed with the lecturers as well as many classmates has proven to be an invaluable asset in my life. Statistics have been increasingly important in our daily life. For the last four decades, the Department has trained up many statistics professionals to contribute to the ever-growing dynamic community. It is a great honour for me to be one of them to contribute to the community.



### Mr Simon Lam

*BSc(Actuarial Science)*

*HSBC Insurance (Asia-Pacific) Holdings  
Limited*

It is glad to learn that our Department has attained its 40th Anniversary this year. Congratulations!

With the continuous support from our Department, we have learnt and experienced a lot these years.

In recent years, our Department has played a more important role in establishing an alumni network for all of us and I am proud to be one of the alumni here. May I wish our Department all the best in establishing a stronger alumni network and creating an even more successful story for the University of Hong Kong in the coming future.



### Mr Dominic KT Leung

*BA*

*Census and Statistics Department, HKSARG*

I like mathematics, particularly the immense intellectual challenges that come with those abstract theories (e.g. finite and infinite infinity). I chose statistics to balance my intellectual aspirations with career realities — a choice I always recollect with satisfaction. It has enriched my lifestyle too. Horse racing was once my pastime when I could spare the time. It was a testing ground of many of my statistical thoughts. It became good fun (and an investment fund with handsome yield). In these years, I am glad to see the immense growth in statistical applications in different areas. There are now far more job opportunities for mathematical and statistical graduates, notably the financial sector.

On this anniversary, let me give my hearty congratulation to the Department. She has done much to make the statistical profession one essential for economic and social growth and one appealing to our young talents to join.



### Dr Clifford Wai Fung Lam

*BSc(Actuarial Science) Student*

*London School of Economics*

Joined the Department from 1996 to 1997 for 1 year and went to the University of Oxford to continue his study. This coming August he'll be teaching at the London School of Economics as a lecturer in its Dept of Statistics.

There are a lot of fond memories in my first and only year in the department. From having a three-day intense and fun orientation camp at the beginning of the year, to group study in the main library for the final examinations, stimulating intellectual and social activities never ceased. It was certainly a colourful and exciting year to be remembered. I'm particularly grateful to the professors who have given their full support and encouragement to further my study at the Oxford University, anchoring my interest in statistics as an academic profession. Wish all the professors and students many fruitful and wonderful years to come!

# Student Activities



Group Photos



JUPAS Information Day



Open Day



M. Soc. Sci. Students





### Dr Shing On Leung

*BSocSc*

*University of Macau*

Had the Chair and Head Prof W. K. Li not told me, I wouldn't have realized that our Department is now on its 40th birthday. I remember Prof Aitchison's charm in giving his lectures, and related activities contributing to the statistical education in Hong Kong. During the past 40 years, the statistical literacy of our society has improved and our Department has definitely contributed a lot. With the advances in technology, statistics are much easier to compute but difficult to interpret, especially in social sciences and education. We have walked for a distance but still a lot ahead.



### Mr Wolfe Chun-wah Li

*MPhil*

*Hong Kong Housing Authority,  
HKSARG*

During my study in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, I have gone through intensive training on Statistics, and had ample opportunities to discuss with talents in the departments on both academic and career development. Currently, I work as a Statistician and have the opportunity to apply what I have learned. It is noted that Statistics are now more widely adopted in various sectors of the Society. In fact, statistical modeling is incorporated in various business intelligence approaches like mass-customization and segmentation for analyzing gigabytes of transactional data. Also, management does treasure the insights so derived as it is an efficient and effective way for scenario and risk assessment.



### Mr Alvin Wing Kong Li

*BSc*

*Census and Statistics Department,  
HKSARG*

On this 40th anniversary of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to its distinguished achievements in fostering learning and academic research.

As we celebrate this joyous occasion, it is indeed comforting to see the influence of the teachings of the Department has been manifested over the years in making a valuable contribution to the progress and development of Hong Kong.

I am heartened by the progress the Department has made and I wish to convey my best wishes for the continued growth and successful development of the Department in the years ahead.



### Dr Shiqing Ling

*PhD*

*Hong Kong University of Science  
and technology*

The 40th birthday of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science is coming. I would like to give it my greatest congratulations. Ten years have passed since I left the Department. It is this Department which gave me my academic life. I have always missed the years in which I studied there. It is in these years which I truly learnt how to do my research. My supervisor and some of my friends still work there. Each time I visit there, I have the feeling of being returning home. I would like to give my deepest appreciation to the Department and thank all of its staff.



### Ms Agnes Kit Mui Lo

*BSocSc*

*Census and Statistics Department,  
HKSARG*

It gives me great pleasure to send my heartiest congratulations on the 40th anniversary of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science.

During the past forty years, the Department has not only nurtured high caliber graduates in the area of Statistics equipped with the professionalism, competencies and knowledge to serve the community but has also progressed with time to include new study areas of growing interest.

On this memorable occasion, may I wish the Department every success in the years ahead and thank all the teaching and supporting staff for their dedication, guidance and friendliness all through the years, which have benefited me tremendously in my statistical career.

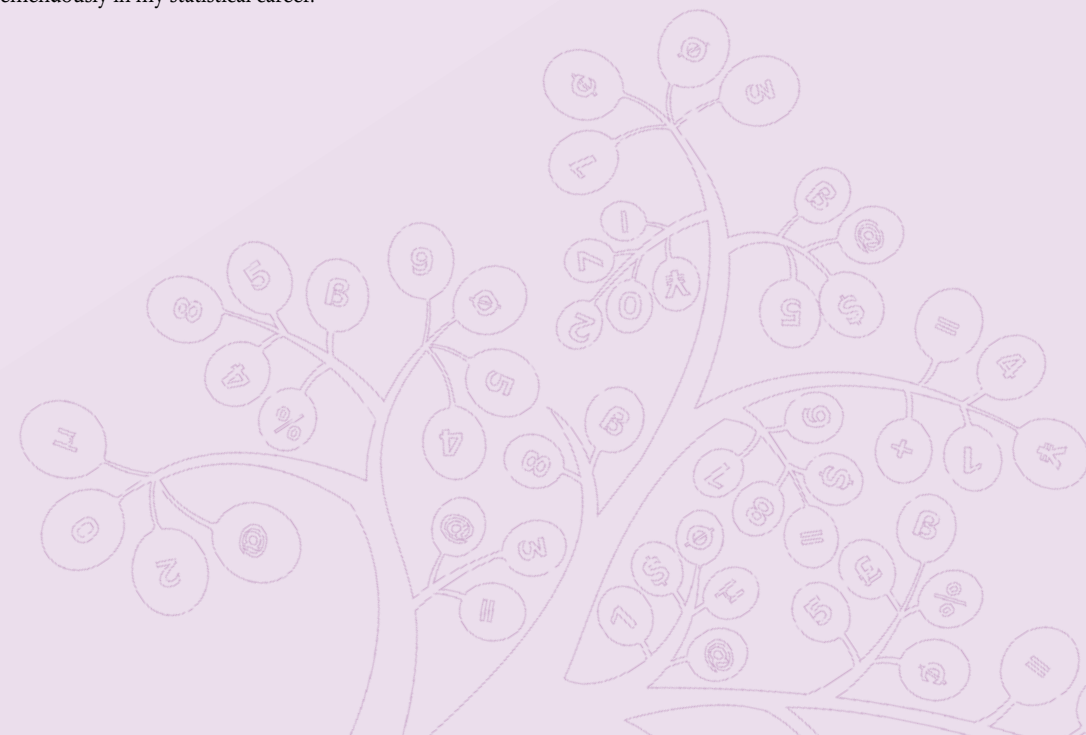


### Mr Keith Kin-chung Pang

*BA*

*Census and Statistics Department, HKSARG*

It is my great pleasure to congratulate the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science, HKU, on the occasion of its 40th Anniversary. The success of every aspect of our society depends upon the quality of our people. The Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science has been dedicated to nurturing generations of professionals through high-quality education programmes that fulfill academic, commercial and community needs in Hong Kong. May I wish the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science to continue in its march towards academic excellence; bring out to the community capable, responsible, bright and dedicated graduates; and contribute to our society.





**Dr Wan-Kai Pang**

MPhil

Hong Kong Polytechnic University

I obtained my MPhil degree in the department in 1993. I must say this was no easy. The work was hard and the training was tough too. But it paid off at the end. Subsequently, I completed my PhD study in the UK without much difficulty. This is because I had a solid foundation in Statistics from my MPhil degree. I must also mention that all the staff of the department are very friendly and helpful too.



**Mr Yiu-Choi Siu**

BSocSc

Census and Statistics Department,  
HKSARG

Ever since I took the statistics course in the first year of my study at HKU, statistics have become an important part of my life, from my university education to my career. I worked as a demonstrator in the then Department of Statistics soon after my graduation, and had sweet memories of the warm support that I received from all the teaching and administrative staff of the Department at that time. My special thanks to Professor J Aitchison and Dr W K Chiu who led me to the fascinating world of statistics!

I am most happy to extend my heartiest congratulations to the Department on its 40th Anniversary.



**Dr Mike So**

PhD

Hong Kong University of Science and  
Technology

Congratulations on the 40th anniversary of the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science!

Being a PhD graduate of the department, I'm proud to see the remarkable contribution of the department in nurturing talents with good statistical knowledge and in leading high-quality research beneficial to the society. We can forecast that the demand for the statistical usage in both academic and business environments will grow exponentially and the department will continue to play a significant role in this information age.

Congratulations again! I wish the department every success in this year and for many years to come.



**Ms Bonnie S M Tin**

MPhil

Census and Statistics Department,  
HKSARG

It was long time ago but I can still remember my joyful time at the Department of Statistics when I was studying the Master of Philosophy and being a tutor. The Statistics Department was just like a big family. We had lots of fun discussing research matters, attending courses / seminars, being invited to have dim-sum lunch, arranging parties and joining whole-day hiking. I was proud of myself being one of the members of the Statistics Department and I wish the Department all the best in the coming future.



**Dr Albert K L Tsang**

PhD

Census and Statistics Department,  
HKSARG

The Department has given me the best memory in my life. I cherish the days and nights I spent in the Department reading, researching and chatting. Old faces in the old place will never fade.



**Ms Pauline Wai Yin Tsang**

MPhil

Census and Statistics Department,  
HKSARG

Studying at the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science has been one of the most enlightening moments in my life. I learnt much from my supervisor, who guided me to grow not only as an academic but also an all-round individual. I got to know interesting peers, too. The close bond among me, my supervisor, my peers and the Department simply lasts forever and keeps me strong in the days to come.

May the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science continue to sparkle and thrive in academia!



**Mr Wai-yi Wang**

BSocSc

Census and Statistics Department,  
HKSARG

In my over twenty years of career as a Statistician in the Census and Statistics Department, I can always remember the teachings of inspiring lecturers in the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science (formerly Department of Statistics). They have taught me not only subject knowledge, but also the right attitude to acquire knowledge through self-motivated learning. This has benefited me tremendously in my professional career as well as my personal development. By making me a better learner, I become a better person. My sincere gratitude to lecturers in the Department for what they have given me in the past, and in the years to come.



### Mr Billy Wong

BSc(Actuarial Science)

Watson Wyatt Hong Kong Limited

It has almost been 10 years since my graduation from the Actuarial Science program under the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science. My memory recalls a lot of intellectual challenges as well as meeting nice people of various characters in my university life. All of these have equipped me to face the business society and developed my career in the profession of actuaries. I am very proud of my decision to enroll in the Actuarial Science program of HKU and hope the program and the Department of Statistics and Actuarial Science will continue to be successful for another 40 years!



### Dr Heung Wong

PhD

Hong Kong Polytechnic University

I graduated in 1995 from the Ph.D. programme of the Department of Statistics, in a part-time mode, under the supervision of Professor W.K. Li. During my five years of study, I had many discussions with Professor Li and other members of the Department. Since then, I have been impressed by the lively atmosphere of the Department and the teachers' enthusiasm towards research. I am still doing research with Professor Li and some graduates of the Department from time to time. The Department has really given me a life-long learning environment and experience! My congratulations at its 40th anniversary!



### Mr Henry Kwok Wing Woo

MStat

Lands Department, HKSARG

It is my great pleasure to write in celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Department. MStat is a prestigious programme offered by HKU, the leading university in H.K., in the area of Applied Statistics. Also, the Department has an exceptional pool of expertise in this area - both in its teaching and research. I had the "honour" of being a very "special" student of our class - I was the only person who was older than anyone who taught me or studied together with me. However, the "seniority" did not give me any advantage but rather additional challenge to catch up with all the young and bright students in my class. It really took no little motivation for me to do so, but my gain from the course far outweighs the efforts. Absolutely top-notch, the intensity and sequence of the programme kept one connected to the core learning experience, which in turn provided insights and new skills firmly in the various statistical disciplines. The extended understanding of statistical methods, which heightened my ability to read behind figures, as well as the sharpened judgment acquired, which I have applied to my work, have certainly made my years in the Course very fruitful. My expectations were met and far exceeded! I strongly recommend the programme to all those who aspire to enhancing their knowledge and competency in Applied statistics.

May I wish the Department ever more successes in the years to come in its teaching and research!



### Mr Simon Wai To Yeung

BA

Census and Statistics Department,  
HKSARG

Writing this message really reminds me the good old days of attending the lectures of the Department in the Knowles Building, learning the statistical theories and methods from the esteemed lecturers, and enjoying the all-rounded support and fertile environment in cultivating my skills and mind. In addition to the academic excellence in the statistical arena, the practicality issues had also been well addressed in the coursework by the Department such as understanding the applications appearing in well-known journals and publications from official statistics. The solid nurture has turned into impetus during my delivery of statistical services in various government bureaux / departments for more than 25 years. I would like to take this memorable occasion to offer my sincere thanks and congratulations to the Department.



### Mr Augustus Yuen

BSocSc

Retired

It will be amazing if one takes a count to see how many actuaries and senior risk officers have been nourished by the Department throughout these years. Without this group of professionals, it is hard to imagine how the insurance and the retirement fund industry can serve the society so effectively today. I am proud to be one of this group and I am sure the Department will develop a better and versatile breed for the industry in the future.



## 40th Anniversary Sudoku

Closely related to a Latin square in an experimental design, the game of Sudoku has become a craze internationally.

In celebration of the 40th Anniversary of the Department, a special 40th Anniversary Sudoku designed by Dr. Philip L.H. Yu

is given below. The rule of the game is: Enter the nine words {H, K, U, Stat, &, Act, Sc, 40, th} into the blank spaces.

Every row must contain one of each words. So must every column, as must every 3x3 square. Try it now!

&		Stat	U		th	H		40
Sc	H	K	Act	40		&		U
th		40	H		&	Stat	K	Act
Act	Stat	Sc	40	th	H	U	&	K
40			K		Sc	Act		
K	Sc	&	th	H	U	40	Act	Stat
		H	Sc		K			&
U	th	Act	&		40	K	H	Sc

*Thank you for joining our  
40th Anniversary Dinner  
on  
11 April 2008*



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