Dr William Mitchell has been named Jo Murphy Chair in International Education and Director of the Centre for International Education, succeeding Dr James W Vardaman who retired recently. A professor of political science, Dr Mitchell has enormous experience in the international arena, both as an academic and in other areas of service. Dr Mitchell is interested in the emergency response to earthquakes, and has written articles for numerous publications, such as Middle East Journal, the Journal of African and the Journal of Earthquake Engineering.

On 30 September, Dr Mitchell paid a familiarisation visit to HKBU and met with Prof Herbert Tsang, Vice-President (Research & Support Services) and Director of LEWI, and other colleagues. Welcome aboard, Dr Mitchell!

According to a report from Statistics Sweden, Lund University is the most attractive institution of higher learning in Sweden. The report is based on a survey of upper secondary students who will graduate in 1999/2000. “Upper secondary graduates and other prospective students are our most important target group when it comes to reaching out with information about the University and with respect to upholding and strengthening the University’s reputation,” remarked Prof Boel Flodgren, Vice Chancellor of the University.

“Successful students, a stimulating, creative study environment, international competitive research, teachers in close dialogue with students - helping students to grow and succeed – and close cooperation and involvement with our constituents,” continued Prof Flodgren, “all these aspects coalesce to give a university its reputation. And that reputation must always be defended through heightened efforts and renewal.” Congratulations, Lund University! (Annual Report: Lund University 1999)

After over twenty years’ distinguished service at UWS Hawkesbury, Prof Mavis Bickerton retired on 28 July 2000.

As Dean of International Affairs and Education Business Development, Prof Bickerton was instrumental in the development of the collaborative relationship between UWS Hawkesbury and Hong Kong Baptist University. As a long time partner of the David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies and the International Institute for Business Development, Prof Bickerton has witnessed the inception and development of these two academic consortia. She also played a key role in the introduction of the Bachelor of Health Science Nursing and the Masters of Primary Health Care in Hong Kong. All of us here at HKBU wish her a happy retirement!

Dr Sybolt J Noorda was appointed as President of the Universiteit van Amsterdam on January 1st 1999 for a four years term after the sudden death of late President JanKarel Gevers. Prior to his presidential appointment, Dr Noorda served on the Board of the University with responsibilities for finance, information and communication technology, contract development and student affairs.

On 27 April, Dr Noorda paid a familiarisation visit to LEWI and met with Dr Daniel Tse, HKBU’s President and Vice-Chancellor, and other senior colleagues, and discussed matters of mutual concern. Welcome aboard, Dr Noorda!
Successful cooperation between HKBU and Tsinghua University

Co-sponsored by HKBU and OECD Programme on Institutional Management in Higher Education (IMHE), a very successful seminar on university management was held at Tsinghua University. More than eighty participants, coming from Australia, Britain, France, Hong Kong SAR, Indonesia, Japan, the Netherlands, the Philippines, PRC, Scotland, South Korea, and the USA, attended the seminar. Representatives from some of LEWI's overseas member institutions and most of its member institutions in the Chinese mainland were also represented, thanks to the generous support of the David C. Lam annual activities fund.

The seminar addressed changing patterns of university management at a time when China is considering changes to its educational system. Many Chinese authors presented papers, some of which will be published in *Special Issues in Chinese Higher Education*. Others will contribute background information for the autumn 2000 study of Chinese higher education by IMHE.

The success of the seminar will lead to further co-operation between the three partners. IMHE has proposed to invite HKBU and Tsinghua University to collaborate again, this time to become its regional correspondence centre in China. As IMHE’s regional correspondent, HKBU and Tsinghua University will hold a seminar on leadership and university management in Hong Kong on May 11 - 15, 2001. The seminar will be restricted to 25 participants only and will be conducted in small groups, each of which will be led by an IMHE tutor.

HKBU joins hands with Ohio University and others to boost Chinese medicine

In 1998 HKBU launched Hong Kong’s first full-time degree programme in Chinese medicine, and the University recently pioneered a new frontier in the development of Chinese medicine. It formed the world’s first international consortium for the promotion of Chinese medicine education and scientific research. Members of the consortium include the Medical School of Ohio University and eight key universities of Chinese Medicine in the Chinese Mainland in Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Heilongjiang, Chengdu, Shandong, and Guangzhou. At a conference organised by the State Administration of Traditional Chinese Medicine of China in February 2000, members agreed to develop an authoritative textbook of Chinese medicine for the use of Western medicine schools, and to mount multi-national cooperation in the study and practice of Chinese medicine. Representatives of the consortium were confident that Chinese medicine would be commonly practised worldwide in the 21st century. A four-member working group headed by HKBU will make further plans for the consortium.