Ateneo de Manila University

The Ateneo de Manila University commemorated the 15th death anniversary of a great alumnus and dedicated public servant, Evelio B. Javier, with a Reflection Workshop last February 9 and 10. The Reflection Workshop was organised specifically for student leaders and alumni. The Ateneo believes that there is a need to give Filipino youth tangible role models whose lives have been witness to the values the University upholds, eg, love of one's country. Evelio Javier, an unassuming man who quietly walked the halls of the Ateneo, embodied and lived out these very principles until his assassination on February 11, 1986.

Guest speakers during the workshop were Joy Soler de Castro, a close family friend of the Javiers; Councilor Dante M. Beriong of Antique, Evelio’s home province; and Gideon L. Javier, Evelio’s son. The invocation and welcome address was given by Fr. Bienvenido F. Nebres, S.J. and the synthesis and final prayer was given by Fr. Carmelo A. Caluag II, S.J.

Mercer University

Mercer University recently expanded its Office of Study Abroad by moving its operations to the Connell Student Center. A new study abroad assistant, Angela Widener, was hired to administrate the office. The new study abroad office will allow Mercer University to expand overseas opportunities for its students. One goal of the office is encourage more American students to study abroad at Hong Kong Baptist University. The Office of Study Abroad is committed to strengthening the academic ties between the two institutions by sending its students to Hong Kong to have a cross-cultural, academic, and professional experience. Likewise, HKBU students who have been on exchange to Mercer have only good things to say about their learning experience on its campus in Georgia.

Jilin University

In line with the State Council’s decision to reform China’s higher education system, Jilin University, Jilin University of Technology, Bethune University of Medical Sciences, Changchun University of Science and Technology, and Changchun Institute of Posts and Telecommunications were amalgamated on 12 June 2000. The new institution is headed by President Liu Zhongshu, President of Jilin University. Our best wishes to the new Jilin University!

Swinburne University of Technology

Prof Ken Young, School of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Swinburne University of Technology, and Director of Western Pacific Rim-China Virtual Research Centre, has recently announced that he will leave Swinburne in mid March this year. Prof Young, an avid researcher in East and Southeast Asia, joined Swinburne University of Technology in 1994, and has been very active in the development of LEWI ever since. One of the earliest scholars-in-residence, Prof Young visited HKBU for five months in 1996. In 1998, Prof Young and Prof Michael Gilding co-taught a subject on “Kinship and Capitalism: Cultural Strategies of Accumulation in the Asia-Pacific” for the international Summer Institute, and in 1999 Prof Young offered this subject again for the same programme. The Western Pacific Rim – China Virtual Research Centre was the brainchild of Prof Young. He will be sorely missed by all of those who have worked with him.
LEWI established a visitorship programme in 1996 to facilitate exchange among member institutions. The value of the visitorship includes an amount of up to HK$15,000 (about US$2,000) for travel expenses; hospitality at the discretion of the receiving institution; and other forms of subsidies by the sending institution. Up to six awards will be made each year, and 17 faculty members from 9 member universities have benefited from this programme since its inception. Recent recipients include the following distinguished scholars:

Prof David Teather, former Dean of Social Sciences of HKBU, was appointed as Special Assistant to the President and Vice-Chancellor of HKBU from 1 November 2000 to 30 June 2001. Prof Teather is assisting with a number of special projects, such as the development of the College of International Education (CIE) and a review of the programmes/activities for internationalisation currently undertaken by IIBD, LEWI, ISEO and other offices. Prof Teather is certainly no stranger to the LEWI and IIBD members. HKBU was fortunate to have invited him to spend five months in 2000 as scholar-in-residence to conduct an in-depth study of LEWI’s operation in the past five years. The review was presented at the first joint board meeting of IIBD and LEWI held last November.

Prof Teather is being accompanied by his wife Dr Elizabeth Teather, who is visiting HKBU under the scholar-in-residence programme. Dr Teather is collaborating with Dr Chow Chun Shing on a research programme investigating aspects of Hong Kong’s heritage from the point of view of cultural geography. She has also been preparing some of her own research for publication. In addition, she is undertaking the practicum element of a Graduate Certificate in TESOL through the kind offices of the Language Centre, with Dr Elizabeth Bankowski as her supervisor.

Prof. ZHANG Meifang (張美芳), Head of English Department, Zhongshan University, visited the Department of English Language and Literature and Centre for Translation, HKBU, on 1-7 December 2000. During the period of her visit, Prof. Zhang exchanged ideas with colleagues in the Department of Religion & Philosophy of HKBU to identify and catalogue periodicals, essays and festschriften that have appeared in Chinese during the 20th century. These citations may be included in the series being published under the title Bibliographies for Biblical Research.

Dr Watson MILLS, Professor of Christianity, Mercer University, visited HKBU from 27 February to 13 March 2001. The purpose of Prof MILLS’ visit was to collaborate with colleagues in the Department of Religion & Philosophy of HKBU to identify and catalogue periodicals, essays and festschriften that have appeared in Chinese during the 20th century. These citations may be included in the series being published under the title Bibliographies for Biblical Research.

Prof ZHU Feng (朱鋒), Director of International Security Program, School of International Studies, Peking University, visited the Department of Government and International Studies (GIS) of HKBU on 10-17 January 2001. On Jan 11-12, Prof Zhu attended an international conference on “China Threat Perceptions from Different Continents” organised by China Studies Programme and GIS, HKBU, with the support of the International Institute of Macau.

Dr. Anne COOPER-CHEN, Director of Institute for International Journalism, E W Scripps School of Journalism, Ohio University, visited the School of Communication, HKBU, from 2 January to 31 March 2001. Dr. Chen is an active researcher on media and international communication and conducts research into violence and gender roles in television programming in Hong Kong. On 23 February 2001, Dr Chen gave a talk on “Violence on TV: East-West” at the School of Communication.