I am honoured to be taking up the position of Interim Director for the next two years. I believe that this is going to be a very exciting time for CAES. In the last five years, we have been very busy implementing 31 new courses for the four-year curriculum. Now that this period of transition is behind us, there is an opportunity to look for new and innovative ways to expand our language support to students into further areas of the curriculum.

Many of these plans are outlined below, such as the four innovative projects funded through the UGC Funding Scheme for Teaching and Learning Related Proposals. These projects will see us develop a student-led writing centre, embed digital literacy support into courses, expand the reach of our English Teaching Assistants and establish a professional development network amongst Hong Kong Language Centres. We are also going to be supporting students taking an experiential learning course called Nurturing Global Leaders.

Academic literacy courses and independent language learning support will always be the cornerstone of our mission within the Centre. However we are also going to be exploring ways to offer new elective courses to students to support the development of their professional and social English. Overall, our aim over the next few years will be developing more ways to meet the diverse language needs of our students at the University of Hong Kong.
Teaching and Learning

We are very pleased to announce that CAES has secured over 12 million Hong Kong dollars for four innovative projects through the UGC Funding Scheme for Teaching and Learning Related Proposals in the 2016-19 Triennium.

**Project Co-Leader: Patrick Desloge**

**Developing and Promoting Digital Literacies for Effective English Communication:**
**The Multimodal Online Digital Literacy Lab (MODLL) ($3,861,633)**

The MODLL Project is a 3-year collaborative initiative generating materials to help students effectively produce digital media in an academic context. The project is being conducted with the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) and will support the development of both online resources and a Digital Literacy Lab being operated in cooperation with the HKU Learning Environment Services.

**Project Leader: Ashley Hazell**

**English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) and the CAES Self-Access Initiative:**
**Enhancing the Support of English-in-the-Disciplines for HKU Students ($1,086,388)**

This project aims to expand facilities and support for HKU students with the recruitment of a further two English Teaching Assistants to the three current assistants who can promote and support specific research-based self-access activities in the CAES Advisory Zone.

**Project Leader: Dr. Cynthia Lee**

**A Student-Tutor Writing Consultation Programme and Inter-Institutional Writing Consultation Support System ($3,467,930)**

The programme is staffed by a group of selected and trained student tutors, shadowed by project staff. Online and offline writing resources to support tutors, tutees, and faculty teachers will be provided.

**Project Leader: Dr. Lillian Wong**

**Hong Kong Continuing Professional Development Hub (HKCPD Hub) ($3,914,487)**

This is a collaborative project among five English Language Centres in Hong Kong universities to develop a continuing professional development hub to strengthen English teaching efforts and improve student learning outcomes. It provides a framework for English teachers in Hong Kong higher education to engage in communities of practice and professional learning, to collaborate and share expertise.
CAES Elective: Nurturing Global Leaders

The Hong Kong Jockey Club - HKU Nurturing Global Leaders Programme is a 12-credit summer course that gives students at HKU an opportunity to mentor local Hong Kong youth while teaching English to marginalized youth in Thailand, Myanmar and China. This experiential learning initiative is sponsored by a grant from the Hong Kong Jockey Club and supported by CAES teachers (led by Patrick Desloge) who train and work closely with students as they immerse themselves in local cultures and develop interactive English language lessons for students for 8 weeks.

Research and Publications

CAES has continued to make a significant contribution to the academic community by producing substantial research output. Colleagues continue to make numerous presentations at local and international conferences and to write articles for a range of well-known, peer-reviewed journals such as Applied Linguistics, ELT Journal, ESP, Journal of English for Academic Purposes, Journal of Second Language Writing and System.

Knowledge Exchange Initiatives

**Project Coordinator: Dr. Cynthia Lee**

**Automated Content Feedback and English Essay Writing**

The project aims to promote the use of computer technology for English essay writing through the Essay Critiquing System (ECS) to the community, especially secondary 3 to 6 students, and to inform the English language profession, such as the English teachers in Hong Kong, of the latest research and pedagogy on computer-assisted second language writing. Writing workshops will be conducted in local schools.

**Project Coordinator: Dr. Peter Crosthwaite**

**Big Language Data for Beginners: HKU CorpusMate**

This project aims to develop a bilingual online and mobile corpus query training package for English language users in HK titled ‘CorpusMate’, including a small private online course (SPOC) containing simple, step-by-step worked examples detailing the use of language corpora for data-driven learning, with accompanying jargon-free, feedback-driven software suitable for absolute beginners to big language data.
Online Project for the Improvement of University Speaking (OPTIMUS) (http://optimus.hku.hk)

With the support of a large inter-institutional grant from the UGC, OPTIMUS has been successfully completed and launched in early July. Aiming at enhancing tertiary students’ university speaking skills, OPTIMUS is a joint venture between CAES and the English language centres of CityU and PolyU. The resource is directly accessible by learners but is also available to teachers and can be linked to taught courses and institutional self-access centres. The heart of the resource is a corpus of authentic video exemplars of best practice in speaking skills. These include exemplars from expert speakers (e.g. teachers or guest speakers) and best quality peer-speakers (e.g. prize-winning student public speeches). The corpus is uniquely situated within the Hong Kong context to ensure relevance and to demonstrate the achievability of quality presentations with varying degrees of linguistic capital. The exemplars are accompanied by materials to assist in language learning including: a transcript of the exemplar; a set of expert annotations to identify key features of the presentational language and techniques; links to more generalised issues relating to language and speaking techniques; and a facility for student feedback on the resource.

Key Events

Faces of English 2

Following our hugely successful international conference at HKU in 2015, CAES organised and hosted “Faces of English 2: Teaching and Researching Academic and Professional English” from 1–3 June, 2017. The conference brought together 550 academics, researchers, teachers and research students from 35 countries around the world.

10 renowned scholars in EAP and ESP, including Vijay Bhatia, Janet Holmes, Ken Hyland, Anna Mauranen and John Swales, were invited as keynote and featured speakers. The conference hosted 379 presenters and 275 presentations, which were organised into 7 themes. Along with the stimulating and intellectually rewarding academic programme, various aspects of Hong Kong’s many cultural ‘faces’ were weaved into the conference programme. Invited speakers and many participants complimented that it was an “extremely professional, well-organised and wonderfully invigorating” conference that participants “enjoyed to the full”. Details and photos of the conference can be viewed at http://caes.hku.hk/facesofenglish2

The HKU English Public Speaking Competition 2017

Jointly organized by CAES and the HKU Campus Toastmasters Club, the HKU English Public Speaking Competition 2017 was a big success. The speeches given by the contestants were highly inspirational and their overall performance was impressive. The final was judged by distinguished members of both the university and the community.
Staff News

Congratulations to New Promotees

• Ken Ho, Lecturer
• Carly Ng, Lecturer
• Kevin Pat, Lecturer

Farewell to Departing Colleagues & ETAs

• Professor Ken Hyland
• Blair Dunton
• Vivian Kwan
• Sascha Athey (ETA)
• Sherri Cheng
• Dr. David Gardner
• Grace Lai
• Mitasha Kirpalani (ETA)
• Dr. Peter Crosthwaite
• Dr. Jon Hui
• Dr. Kevin Yung

A Warm Welcome to New Colleagues and ETAs

• Mable Choi
• Dr. Alice Yau
• Gagandeep Singh (ETA)
• Jennifer Mak
• Conor Kelly (ETA)
• Sharon Tsui (ETA)
• Michael Wiggs
• Lorena Rojas Caceres (ETA)
• Janet Zhang (ETA)

A Warm Welcome to New PhD Students

• Vivian Kwan
• Peter Wingrove

PhD Successes: Congratulations to Our Recent PhD Graduates

• Dr. Ivy Chan (supervised by Dr. Ken Lau)
• Dr. Aaron Doyle (supervised by Dr. Cynthia Lee)
• Dr. Kevin Jiang (supervised by Professor Ken Hyland)
• Dr. Ellie Law (supervised by Dr. David Gardner)
• Dr. Miranda Legg (supervised by Dr. John Knox, Macquarie University)
• Dr. Laura Luo (supervised by Professor Ken Hyland)
• Dr. Jonathan Ngai (supervised by Professor Ken Hyland)
• Dr. Parco Wong (supervised by Professor Christopher Hutton, School of English, HKU)

Long Service Award

• Cecilia Chan 25 years’ service
• Louisa Chan 15 years’ service
• Dr. Miranda Legg 15 years’ service
• Benny Wong 15 years’ service
An Interview with Professor Ken Hyland, the Former CAES Director Sharing his Knowledge and Experiences

By: Dr. Ken Lau, Cezar Cazan and Rebecca Taylor

“I think there is a lot of collegiality in the Centre,” Ken Hyland says as he looks back at the past eight years. “They always look for ways to learn and do the work in a better way. You don’t get that anywhere.”

Ken points to several moments in his tenure as the Director of CAES that highlighted cohesion, dedication and collaboration within the Centre. He talks fondly about the time right before the new curriculum started in 2012; it was a time when he saw everyone in the Centre working together for a common goal. “Everyone was aware of what they had to do. We were working together in core teams, developing materials. We were collaborating. It was a very positive time.”

He also remembers the international Faces of English conferences in 2015 and 2017 as times when people worked as a team. “They saw it as a way of making the Centre more visible and improving its reputation, giving it a more international presence. I think people really did work together to make them successful. Those are good memories. Those were the times I felt the Centre worked best.”

Ken admits that running a centre of this size wasn’t always easy, but through a dedicated and unified focus on development, the Centre was successful under his leadership. “Not everyone bought into everything I wanted to do, and that’s a challenge,” he says. “You can’t keep everybody happy all the time, but I think there is enough support for the direction I was trying to lead in to make it a success.” Ken hopes that those priorities will have a lasting effect on the Centre, especially through a continued focus on maintaining professional development, supporting teachers and encouraging research. “Learn from your colleagues,” he recommends to new teachers. “Learn from reading as much as you can. Write papers, give conference presentations. At the last conference, several groups had junior people working with more experienced people. That’s very positive because they get excited about research. There is no reason why people shouldn’t be excited about research, especially when it’s relevant to their work.”

As for the future, Ken isn’t ready to step down from being one of the most renowned figures in EAP just yet. He has accepted a 20% professorship at the University of East Anglia, where he will be supervising PhD students and continuing his research. But the call of retirement also beckons him: “I still want to research, publish and travel. But I also want to see the Northern Lights, go hiking, garden, and maybe learn to play the guitar. Do some different things I haven’t had the chance to do.”

When asked what he will miss the most, Ken looks to the people he’s met and worked with at CAES. “That diversity of people, experience, background and opinion is something worth nurturing and supporting. I will miss that a lot.”
A Fond Farewell to Two Colleagues

Dr. David Gardner

By: Dr. Ken Lau

“Bringing substantial teaching experiences from Europe and Saudi Arabia, David joined our Centre in January 1991 and has been one of our longest-serving members. Over the last 26+ years, David has made immense contributions to various aspects of the Centre’s teaching, research and management. Among other things, he has secured the greatest amount of TDGs (nearly $1.7 million) within CAES, notably initiating the English Teaching Assistants scheme. David is internationally recognized for his research on self-access and has published widely in the field. As the editor of the Asian Journal of Applied Linguistics (AJAL), he is instrumental in bringing AJAL into the international limelight, drawing much recognition in the region and beyond. He has contributed to PhD supervision and has so far taken two students to successful completion. David was our Associate Director from 2010-2016, helping the Director to implement various policies and manage the Centre’s operation. He was the advisor to the in-house Publicity and Outreach Committee, offering constructive suggestions for the organization and running of publicity events to promote a positive image of the Centre. While David officially retired from full-time employment at HKU at the end of June 2017, we are grateful that he continues to contribute to our Centre in the capacity of Honorary Associate Professor.”

Dr. Jon Hui

By: Ken Ho

“Before joining the Centre in 2010, Jon Hui had over 20 years of professional experience in the telecommunication industry as an engineer and a manager. As programme coordinator at the Centre, Jon led in the development and launch of six “English in the Discipline (ED)” courses, a tremendous collaborative effort with various engineering departments. More than a leader, Jon is a passionate and hands-on teacher who would discuss students’ circuit design, and a close friend whose familiar laughter we already miss at the Centre corridor. We wish Jon a happy time when he furthers his interest in sociolinguistics, and enjoys his pastime in the picturesque New Zealand.”

Centre for Applied English Studies
The University of Hong Kong

Room 6.60, 6/F,
Run Run Shaw Tower
The University of Hong Kong
Pokfulam, Hong Kong

Tel : (852)3917-2004
Fax : (852)2547-3409
Email : caes@hku.hk
Website: http://caes.hku.hk

Editorial Team: Ken Lau, David Gardner, Cezar Cazan, Lisa Cheung, Rebecca Taylor, Parco Wong and Kevin Yung

© 2017 Centre for Applied English Studies, The University of Hong Kong