Welcome to the New CAES Newsletter

To avoid redundancy between the Annual Report and the Annual Newsletter, the Publicity and Outreach Committee will now publish a forward-looking newsletter twice a year at the beginning of each semester. The purpose of this change is to focus the Newsletter on upcoming events and activities within the Centre to help staff keep abreast of what’s happening and how to be involved.

Each term, we’ll highlight a specific area of the Centre in a section we call the Centre Spotlight. This term, look for the spotlight on the Dentistry Core Team on Page 3, where Dentistry Program Coordinator Dr. Lisa CHEUNG explains new initiatives and projects in Dentistry.

On the back page of every issue will be the calendar from the Social Welfare Committee, as well as some tips on maintaining your health and wellbeing. Check out this semester’s suggestions on yoga at your desk.

To include any upcoming events in the next newsletter (Semester 1, 2019-2020), which will be distributed in early September of 2019, please email POC at: caespublicity@hku.hk.

Looking Forward to Semester 2

Throughout the Centre, there are lots of things to get involved in this semester. Second semester is the time when each Core Team will start to plan how courses can be improved, and so discussions and planning for the summer development period will start to take place. This yearly curriculum renewal is an essential part of our work and something that all staff can get involved in.

A lot of staff are also involved in Centre development projects this semester. Some of these projects focus on developing new teaching materials for our courses and developing our Communication Support Services (CSS), both through one-to-one support and workshops. Other projects are using our expertise to create new support mechanisms, in and out of HKU, such as the CPDHUB project and the Communication Intensive Courses (CiC) project.

Staff also have an exciting opportunity for a different type of teaching experience by joining the Nurturing Global Leaders (NGL) Programme over the summer.

Our teaching, work in Core Teams and development projects provide us with rich professional development opportunities. Have a great semester.

-Dr. Miranda LEGG
Interim Director
This semester, the ETAs are offering streamlined English language services under a centralized structure called the Communication Support Services (CSS), which has four streams: the Writing Centre (WC), Speaking Studio (SS) with test prep services, Digital Literacy Lab (DLL), and General Language Advising (GLA).

We hope this will be clear for students who seek help on our CSS website to have a structure to identify their need and navigate themselves to the right service in Zone R and the Main Library.

Our previous Advisory Zone workshops and discussions will still be provided, and based on their features they will fall under one of the four streams. Our one-on-one ETA consultations are now under the Writing Centre and Speaking Studio, where students can upload their work before their appointment.

It is important to note that due to university regulations, we only provide services to UGC-funded students. Please email us with any questions.

The Speaking Studio (SS) and Test Prep

The Speaking Studio offers a new approach to one-to-one consultation services built upon the Writing Centre model, and continues to provide test prep, workshops, and speaking practice to students.

This semester, we are keen to further our collaboration with faculty partners and develop resources and services with the launch of the One Button Studio. Talk to Heidy WONG or Juan CASTILLO if you want to join the team!

Digital Literacy Lab (DLL)

The DLL welcomes Akiko CHIBA MEREU and Lowanna PHILLIPS to the team this term; they will be joining Patrick DESLOGE and Rebecca TAYLOR.

The team will be working alongside the Speaking Studio (SS) team to build upon last semester by hiring several peer tutors and developing new workshops, one-on-one support for students, and further initiatives with faculty partners in the Common Core.

Please contact Pat for more information and if you know any teachers or students who are in need of support.

The Writing Centre (WC)

The Writing Centre continued to grow in Fall 2018-19, with an 80% increase from the previous semester in the number of one-to-one consultations delivered by its trained undergraduate and postgraduate tutors. We also moved into a new, highly visible consultation space on the ground floor of the Main Library in January 2019.

This semester, CAES English Teaching Assistants (ETAs) will begin tutoring alongside and supporting the peer tutor team, and we expect to see further growth in bookings. Contact Sam COLE with questions about the WC.

General Language Advising (GLA)

Building upon the strengths and success of language advising service offered by the Advisory Zone, GLA aims to bring language advising to a new level with an emphasis on long-term language learning support.

Taking a transformative approach to advising focusing on helping students develop specific learning goals and strategies, the language advising TDG team (Aditi JHAI VERI and Albert WONG) will work to support the ongoing development of GLA by collaborating with a team of experienced advisers (Lowana PHILLIPS, Gagan SINGH Colin TAIT and Melanie ZEE) in working to fine-tune the pre-existing model of advising based on the findings of the project. If you’re interested in this area of work and would like to join the team in the future, please contact Albert WONG.
The PD group is continuing its efforts to conceptualize professional development as learning in Teacher Learning Communities (TLCs).

The main focus is on creating a culture of participation across CAES where staff can learn from one another through membership of teaching teams, core teams, project teams, mentorship and ad hoc partnership with colleagues.

Bringing about a culture of participation means creating opportunities to bring teachers together to share, reflect and learn together and from one another in all our work, not just in lunchtime PD sessions.

Participation is not only limited to TLCs. In order to further develop communities, colleagues are encouraged to apply for CAES funding to attend local conferences, CPD funding for overseas conferences, and the CAES professional development fund to bring in outside expertise or go on a duty trip abroad.

Please contact Phil SMYTH with any questions about PD initiatives at the Centre.

New Professional Development Opportunities

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Centre Spotlight: Dentistry Core Team

Our six-credit English-in-discipline (ED) course for fifth-year Dentistry students is a result of ongoing interdisciplinary collaboration through the Faculty’s participation in the Plenary Session and co-assessment of oral presentations, and contribution of authentic student assignment samples for material development.

The Core Team has identified Flexible Learning as an area of pedagogic focus and has successfully rolled it out in the course through theme-based lectures, flipped classes, individual consultations, dentistry corpus, and the web.

The Team has also worked closely with the Teaching-Enriched Learning Initiative (TELI) to launch a Course Introduction Video – a first-of-its-kind promotional film featuring the Dean of Dentistry and the Faculty Coordinator for the Community Health Project (to which this course serves as an adjunct module) as well as the Dentistry ED teaching team.

This semester, we also welcome Joanna LEE to our teaching team.

Come and talk to Lisa CHEUNG (Programme Coordinator) and Albert WONG (Deputy Programme Coordinator) to find out more about our Dentistry programme!
Social Welfare Corner

We hope you enjoyed the activities and events last semester. Here’s what we have lined up in Semester Two. Mark your calendars!

First up is the Chinese New Year Red Pocket Guessing Game, which runs from 30 Jan (Wed)-12 Feb (Tue). Winners will be announced on 13 Feb (Wed). Watch your inbox for more details.

On 29 Mar (Fri), we’ll be holding an after-work Happy Hour gathering at a yet-to-be-chosen venue in Kennedy Town.

Our mental wellness event is Mindfulness through Colouring, scheduled during lunch on 24 Apr (Wed).

Finally, we’ll close the semester with a Farewell Lunch on 17 May (Fri). More information closer to the date.

Health & Wellbeing

JFK Blog created this infographic showing several yoga poses you can do at your desk. Click the image for the full set of poses to help you channel your inner yogi.

The Centre for Applied English Studies’ primary mission is to improve the academic literacy skills of undergraduate students at The University of Hong Kong.

Additionally, we cater to the needs of the wider HKU community and contribute to the field of Applied Linguistics.