

## Annual Letter

As 2021 is just around the corner, may we wish you all a most blessed Christmas and New Year. The past year, globally, and in Hong Kong, has been unique for all the challenges we have faced. Although COVID-19 has turned all universities into virtual universities, we are especially proud of the way our School faculty has maintained an excellent quality of education and engagement with our students.

Great works are sometimes born of an age of chaos and crises. Under the gloomy pandemic, our faculty and students have drawn on their expertise and talents to launch timely projects, including three journalism seminars and five community projects, as part of the university-wide "Beat the virus, BU & I", a campaign which aims to bring the community closer during this difficult time.

With the hard work and dedication of our staff and faculty, we have even made this year a more memorable one by making four new records of our own. Global University Film Awards (GUFA) has placed our School on the world map with 2,503 entries from 104 regions worldwide, making it the most global university event in this part of the world. Moreover, six academics have won funding from the Research Grants Council this year, accounting for more than half of the RGC grants awarded to the sector in this round, showcasing the School's broad-based strengths in film, communication studies, and journalism. The HKBU FactCheck Service, the first systematic fact-check service operated by an independent academic institution in Hong Kong, was launched in December this year. Our biggest gift this year was the donation of \$50,000,000, the largest single donation our School has received thus far, from one of our own, Dr Raymond R Wong, our former head of the then Department of Communication.

While we are excited about the forthcoming series of initiatives next year, including the inaugural edition of *Global Storytelling: Journal of Digital Moving Image* and *Asia-Pacific Journalism Review*, the launch of Narrating New Normal Graduate Student Symposium and the first double degree programmes with the University of Queensland in Australia and the University of Missouri in the United States respectively, our hearts are always with the recent graduates who will need to find their way in the midst of a devastating pandemic and a terrible recession. BUhub is designed to connect HKBU stakeholders on an easy-to-use platform with its initial aim of matching jobs for our fresh graduates. Furthermore, the School's Master's Experience 2020 allows our fresh graduates to sit in on up to five taught master's courses, so that they can be more equipped for their further studies and the job market.

With the unwavering support from our alumni and friends, we hope that we will get through this together. Years from now, when we look back on 2020, all the difficulties we have encountered will have only transformed us into a stronger community.

*Huang Yu*

Professor HUANG Yu  
Dean

*Kara Chan*

Professor Kara CHAN  
Associate Dean  
(Teaching and Learning)

*Cherian George*

Professor Cherian GEORGE  
Associate Dean  
(Research and Development)

*Steve Guo*

Professor Steve GUO  
Associate Dean  
(Postgraduate Studies)

## New Facilities

### Acting for Global Screen programme launched in 2020



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2



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1. MUSE 104, the first immersive cinema room among Hong Kong institutions.  
2. & 3. The new look of CVA 1st floor features the development of film industry worldwide.

### Double degree programmes launched in 2020



In recognition of Dr Raymond R Wong's contribution to Hong Kong's journalism industry and education, he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Social Sciences, *honoris causa*, by HKBU.



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## GUFA Global University Film Awards 2020

**2,503** entries  
**104** regions

- GUFA opening ceremony
- Renowned film directors Mr Johnnie To and Ms Sylvia Chang presented the Best Director award.



### Bumper crop: Six academics have won grants from Research Grants Council

accounting for more than half of the RGC grants awarded to the sector in this round, also a record high for our School.



### New Research Website

to showcase the School's research capacity and strengths, targeting prospective research collaborators, postgraduate students, and other stakeholders.



### Coming Soon: BU FactCheck App for crowd-sourced factcheck

HKBU FactCheck Service is the first one operated by a Hong Kong institution

## Faculty Achievements

- Associate Dean Professor Kara Chan was nominated for the 2020 University Grants Committee Teaching Award.
- Stoma*, a film by Academy of Film (AF) Lecturer Mr Kit Hung, was shortlisted for the Firebird Award in the Young Cinema Competition (Chinese Language) category of the 44th Hong Kong International Film Festival.
- Dr Timothy Fung, Associate Professor of the Department of Communication Studies, won the 2020 Article of the Year award in the Communicating Science, Health, Environment, and Risk Division at the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (AEJMC) Virtual Conference.
- Dr Celine Song, Associate Professor of the Department of Journalism,

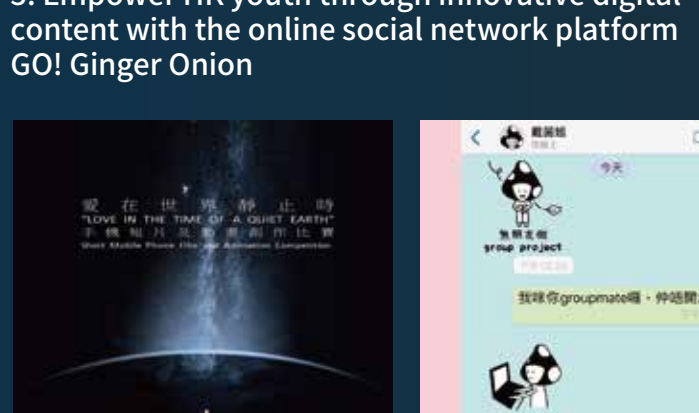
scooped the Top Faculty Paper award in the Mass Communication Division with a co-authored paper at the 70th Annual International Communication Association (ICA) Conference.

5. Mr Yung Liang, Senior Lecturer of AF, was named Artist of the Year (Film) at the 14th Hong Kong Arts Development Awards.

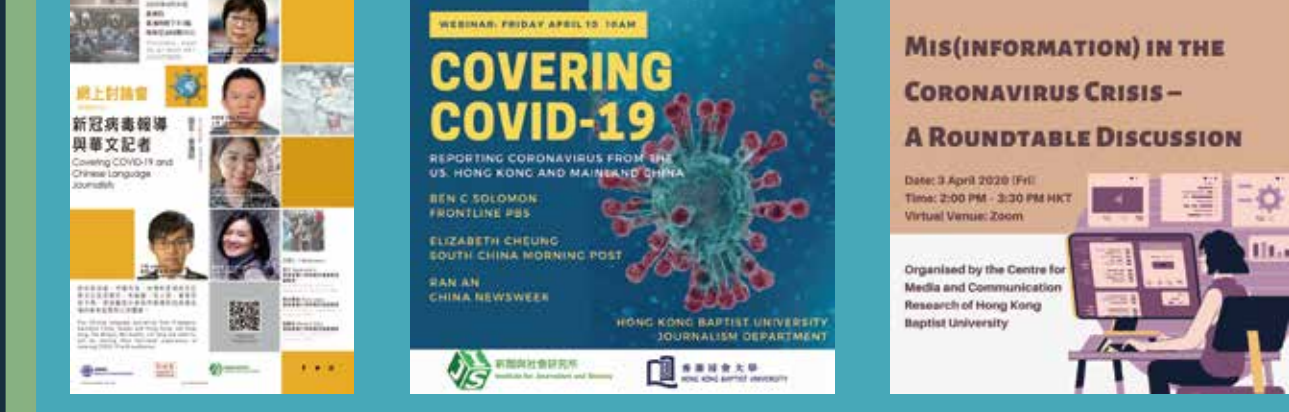


## COVID-19 Community Outreach Projects

- Short films competition - "Calling" on youthful creativity.
- Cheery WhatsApp stickers brighten stay-home students' texts
- Virtual Hackathon: Bringing together global wisdom to beat coronavirus
- New WhatsApp stickers for UNICEF promote hygiene messages
- Empower HK youth through innovative digital content with the online social network platform GO! Ginger Onion



## COVID-19 Online Seminars



- Webinar: How Chinese Language Journalists dig and tell COVID-19 stories
- Webinar: Breaking news, how journalists report on the global pandemic
- Forum: Ways to combat coronavirus misinformation

## Students & Alumni Achievements



- AF alumna Miss Norris Wong won the Best New Director award at the 39th Hong Kong Film Awards with her debut *My Prince Edward*.
- PhD students Fan Yining and Vincent Wong received the Top Student Papers - First Place award in the Newspaper & Online News Division at the AEJMC Virtual Conference.
- MPhil student Volun Chen garnered the Top Student Paper award in the Organisational Communication Division at the 70th Annual ICA Conference.
- AF alumna Miss Yip Yuk-ying, was named the winner of the Higher Education Institution Group at the 6th First Future Film Initiative for her film proposal *The Wonder*.
- Miss Sophie Yang was the other alumna who also won the competition. Her co-authored film proposal was *Gamer Girls*.
- Mak Kwan-wai, a fresh graduate of the Department of Journalism, scooped the Gold Award at the 20th Consumer Rights Reporting Awards in the Campus Category. The other fresh graduate Wan Hoi-ching (middle) received the Silver Award. Both stories were published in the student publication *San Po Yan*.
- AF alumna Kargo Chen garnered eight international and local film festivals. They include the Best International Short Film at the San Diego International Film Festival in the US; the Best Student Director at the Sapporo International Short Film Festival & Market in Japan; and the HKBU Academy of Film's Choice at the GUFA 2020.
- Ms Oliver Chan, an alumna of AF, received Award for Young Artist (Film) at the 14th Hong Kong Arts Development Awards.
- Journalism students (Data and Media Communication Concentration) Kwok Hiu-ching, Randy Lin and Wong Ting-yan scooped the Human Rights Press Award in the Student Writing (English) category at the 24th Human Rights Press Awards for their data journalism story.
- Dr Mui Kwong-chiu, an alumnus of the then Department of Communication, was named Artist of the Year (Music) at the 14th Hong Kong Arts Development Awards.
- AF alumna Wong Wing-fung received the Best Director at the Asian Short Film Competition under the Shanghai Queer Film Festival with his work *I Love You, Sorry, Thank You, Please Forgive Me*.

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