# K(H())

Enhance public's understanding of and interest in UT • Re-ignite the passion of old members • Recruit new members • Provide opportunities to UT alumni to network in Hong Kong • Serve UT • Have Fun!

#### A Triannual Newsletter

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## Letter from the President

Dear members,

Our Exco members meet once every two months in our Exco Meetings. It always feels time flies quickly for all of us in the Exco because when we meet six times it's another year. It feels the same to me with this newsletter. This is the third and last issue of the first volume, and what it means is that it is almost another year for me in the office of Hong Kong Texas Exes. In three months' time we will have our election again.

It has been twelve years since Benjamin Chang and I founded HKTX. Over the years, HKTX has become the second biggest Texas alumni network outside the United States and the biggest one run by local people. We are also one of the most active alumni organizations in Hong Kong. In the last Annual General Meeting, I mentioned in my acceptance speech that we needed new members in our Exco who had the enthusiasm to serve our school and serve our members to join or takeover the committee. While our members appreciate the work of the current Exco, we in the Exco have been failing to reach out to alumni of certain age groups despite many trials. Also, the core of the Exco has been very stable for more than half a decade, so we (as in HKTX) need new people with great new ideas to join the management team to take the organization to the next level.

With that, I urge those alumni who are interested in serving our school and meeting new people to come forward, to either join my cabinet for the coming election, or form their own cabinet to stand for election if they see fit. Either way, it would be great if such people start to contact me or any other Exco members, and we can discuss how we can make HKTX an even better alumni organization.

Since this is the last issue of the calendar year, I wish y'all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! And of course, hook'em, and may the 'Horns be with y'all!

Victor K. Nip







The hiking event is back after two years. It happened on October 28, and this time the route is from Siu Sai Wan to Shek O. The journey started at the McDonald's in Island Resort where our ten participants gathered and mingled. The first part of the trail was all uphill. After about 30 minutes of moderate hike, we reached a kiosk that is a hot spot for trekkers to take rest. Although it was late October, the temperature was still stubbornly standing above 25 degrees Celsius. Complimentary boiled water prepared by volunteers in the kiosk became a sought after commodity. After a short rest, we moved on to go up for about 500 steps of stairs and arrived at a viewing pavilion. From there a stunning view from eastern Kowloon to Chai Wan to Shek O came into view. On the north side, we oversaw ships and yachts going in and out of the Victoria Harbour via Lei Yue Mun. On the south end was the charismatic Shek O peninsula and a beautiful golf course.

The trail then went from uphill to downhill while the scenery changed from city to country. About twenty minutes of descend, the edge of the south end of Big Wave Bay emerged. Moving closer to our destination, we began to hear the noise of the weekend crowd from the beach. Big Wave Bay, as its name implies, is popular for surfing because of its strong waves and ease of access. Herds of surfers scattered all over the bay. On the beach, still sunbathers and running kids and dogs constituted an interesting picture

of calm and motion. We spent some time on the beach to share that atmosphere until someone reminded us that it was "chow time". We had a Thai lunch at a simple restaurant nearby.



Our gang resting in the free refreshment kiosk

The hiking was officially over but some of the participants decided to walk over to Shek O. After twenty minutes of walk on a road without sidewalk, we turned into a road that passed through the Shek O Country Club and led us to a little known tranquil part of Shek O. Then we went on to visit the popular Shek O beach and streets before leaving.

We hope every participant had a pleasant hike and will join our next hiking event.

To view the pictures of the event, go to <a href="https://http

# Red River Rivalry Live Watching Party

On October 13 we had our first football watching party of the season. It was for the game between our beloved team and Oklahoma, which is believed to suck at any given time by most of the fans from our school. Alumni from Oklahoma co-organized the event with us. The party started at 11:30pm. About 20 fans of both teams were there. It turned out to be a heartbreaking game for us. But still, some diehard fans stayed till the end of the match.



Our President presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Rolland Lau for his support of the Texas Football Live Watching Parties of the previous year



The Casual Dinner participants gathered at the entrance of the restaurant for a group photo

## **Casual Dinner**

Our casual dinner took place at Hong Kong University Alumni Association in Central on October 20. We had 10 adults and 1 baby participated. The venue was famous for its traditional Cantonese dishes such as stuffed duck with eight treasures, pork lung with Chinese almond soup, shrimp toast, lotus leaf steamed rice, whole chicken cooked in salt, smoked whole fish, and last but not least, desserts homemade walnut paste and black sesame paste. All of us were delighted for the quality of the food and we shared lots of laughters. After the dinner a number of the particpants went on to have drinks at the Fringe Club. We had a joyful night gathering together.

Here are some of the dishes we had:





## **Thanksgiving Dinner**

Our Thanksgiving dinner took place at the Muse Cafe at Tsim Sha Tsui on November 24. We had about a dozen of attendees including some new faces and our co-founder Benjamin Chang who moved back to Hong Kong recently. The venue was a buffet restaurant. While the food was not best in its class, the environment was excellent and we had a good time. After the dinner, many of the participants went on to have drinks at the Sheraton Sky. The event finally ended at 1 am.





Apple, cinnamon, vanilla and egg, "these are a few of my favorite things"! Adding them to your bread and bake, it becomes everyone's favorite bread pudding!

Just the kind of dish that makes a Christmas gathering a little warmer and a little sweeter, this version of bread pudding is actually quite easy to make. It takes only about 30 minutes of prep-time in most kitchens to finish the job, even with your kids running, and your turkey baking.

Since this recipe is meant to feed a whole dinner party (12 people), do cut down the amount as you see fit, even though this never happens in my kitchen.

I use a 9"x13" pan to hold this pudding. Heavy ceramic pan is always a better choice for this type of dishes as it keeps the pudding nice and warm just right before it is gone!

Preheat the oven to 175 °C, (that is roughly 350 °F) if your turkey or other dishes are not already being baked in it.

Find at least a dozen slices of day-old sandwich bread, and break them into pieces of random sizes. Peel, core, and slice 4 to 5 green apples. Set them aside.

In a mixing bowl, beat 8 eggs until smooth, and set aside. Then melt butter and sugar in a medium pot in low heat, also until smooth. Gradually stir in a liter (roughly 4 cups) of milk into the butter mixture until the two emulsify. Make sure the milk mixture is cooled down (lukewarm), and gradually combine it with the beaten eggs. Do keep stirring slowly as you combine the two to prevent eggs from clogging. Lastly, stir in cinnamon and vanilla.

Now, with all the ingredients prepared, it is time to literally "build" the pudding. This is the part where everyone can do in his own way. Some people lay their bread flat, some people lay their bread in stacks and slightly angled. Some people just don't really care and arrange the bread pieces randomly. In my case, I build my bread pudding layer by layer; this guarantees an even absorption of the egg mixture in each piece of bread. In between each layer, the pudding is sprinkled with raisins and sliced apples.

Always make sure that there is extra egg mixture, bread pieces, raisins, and sliced apples as you get to the top layer. These extra ingredients are

crucial, and can be used to fill the gaps between bread pieces, smooth out the pudding's edges, and to do some garnishing work as a final touch.

Lastly, bake the pudding in the preheated oven for about 50 minutes. You will know that it's done when the top springs back as you tap it.

Just right before your serve the bread pudding, mix together 1 cup of milk, 1 cup of heavy whipping cream, and half a cup of white sugar in a medium pot. Bring to boil, and then remove from heat. Lastly, stir in 1 stalk of vanilla beans (break opened and scraped) into the cream mixture. Every year, this is the moment when I pour this vanilla sauce on top of my bread pudding that makes my Christmas complete.

I hope you enjoy this recipe of mine. Bon Appétit! And Merry Christmas!



Winson Chan graduated from UT in 2004 with a degree in Psychology. He joined the Exco in 2008 and is now our Internal Vice President.

## DPRK Reliance on Iran for Oil Renders It 'Caged Bird'; PRC Must Be 'Mindful'

-- Article by Albert Kwong, originally published on 2/21/2007 by Economic Times in Chinese

Albert (MBA/MS 1977) has been very supportive in our club's activities. He is a frequent speaker to the public on energy conservation, renewable energy, and Peak Oil. He has published many energy related articles and commentaries in the news media. He would like to share this article with us. While the article is a few years old, it still relevant in the present day.

"At present, Iran is North Korea's primary source of oil. If the Iran issue is settled, North Korea will become a caged bird...

North Korea is under the control of the United States due to a lack of oil and gas resources. Now, our nation is dependent on Africa for oil supplies and on Russia for gas. Drawing lessons from history, should we not be mindful?" After the Six Nations talks on the North Korean nuclear crisis, a breakthrough was finally made. North Korea agreed to close down its nuclear reactors at Yongbyon (north of its capital) within 60 days, and it will eventually seal off all operations at its nuclear facilities, while the United States committed to offering North Korea economic aid by supplying it with provisions of up to 1 million tons of heavy fuel oil to meet its energy needs, releasing its large deposit of cash frozen in a Macau bank, and taking its name off the list of terrorist countries and terror sponsoring countries.

The reason why the United States reached a compromise with North Korea is that it is concerned about the recent tendency of the Iran nuclear problem toward deterioration, and it wishes to reduce the risk in the Far East so that it can focus on dealing with the crises in Iran and Iraq. As for North Korea, it is willing to give in to the United States, and it has agreed to be supervised and inspected simply because it is suffering from a severely inadequate supply of oil domestically and could run out of oil at any time.

## Give In to the United States and Agree To Be Supervised and Inspected

North Korea is lacking all resources of cruel oil and natural gas. In other words, it has zero fuel reserves. However, it has a population of 23 million, and its vehicles are consuming at least 25,000 barrels of oil per day. Now, North Korea imports 29,000 barrels of cruel oil on a daily basis, mainly via oil pipelines from China and Russia or via sea from Iran.

However, since 2002, the United States has discontinued offering heavy fuel oil assistance to North Korea owing to its development of guided missiles, whereas North Korea has also tried to look for oil sources itself. As early as in 1965, North Korea collaborated with China in conducting geological prospecting. In 1967, 1980, and 1987, it also collaborated with Russia, Norway, and the United Kingdom, respectively, in searching and drilling for oil and gas but found nothing. In 1993, it carried out earthquake detection and, later, geological explorations with the help of Swedish and Australian companies, respectively, which turned out to be 'wild goose chases'; nothing was accomplished in the end. Recently, North Korea signed a contract with a company in the United Kingdom and tried to seek cooperative partners in Hong Kong. However, with North Korea's recent missile launching tests, most people in the line are reserved and have hung back. All North Korea's recoverable oil reserves are located under the sea, though there have been small discoveries in the past. However, no good news has been heard so far.

North Korea is searching for oil everywhere. In recent months, North Korea paid a visit to Venezuela, a left-wing regime in South America, with the hope of gaining a share of the oil reserves. North Korea was once a brotherly nation, with support from China. However, the range of North Korean guided missiles now spans across Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, and it has turned its force against us. In fact, this has only been advantageous to the bystander, the United States, which took no pity on the current situation. Nevertheless, it will be a different issue for Iran, the second-largest oil producing country in the world, with an oil reserve of 126 billion barrels; it is the only Middle Eastern oil producing country that has not been submissive to the United States. The United States is determined to win its biggest stake in the Middle East. Iran is now North Korea's major petroleum source. If it is gotten rid of, North Korea will become a caged bird. In fact, the US Navy is now keeping a very close watch, by day and night, over the sea route for transporting oil from Iran to North Korea, which will soon become its stake.

## Mainland China Relies on Africa for Oil Supplies and on Russia for Gas

For a long period of time, North Korea was dependent on Russia for its oil supply. To establish an image of advances in science and technology, it has advocated agricultural

mechanization and has not encouraged traditional farming methods. However, when the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1989, it ceased supplying petroleum to North Korea. As a result, 80 percent of the agricultural machinery on the farmlands of North Korea could not be mobilized, and petroleum-based chemical fertilizers and agricultural chemicals were also lacking. This immediately caused devastating crop failures, which then led to widespread and serious famine in 1990, killing numerous people in North Korea and making food supplies there extremely tight even now. In a frantic last-minute effort, North Korea urgently signed an agreement with Iran in 1989 for the supply of 40,000 barrels of oil to ensure that the basic operations of its domestic communications could be maintained, and it turned to China for assistance. However, since 1991, one after another, China and Russia have requested cash payments for all transaction and have allowed no debt. All this placed North Korea in a difficult position, and it had no alternative but to lean upon its fellow comrade, Iran, for supplies of oil to sustain itself in these difficult days. As such, the whole country entered a 'dark age.' Up to the present moment, Iran is at odds with the United States due to the nuclear weapons problem. As the oil supply from Iran grows increasingly vulnerable, the lives of the North Koreans are becoming more and more difficult.

In 1994, based on humanitarian reasons, US President Bill Clinton approved a supply of 3,500,000 barrels of heavy fuel oil to North Korea for power generation and agricultural purposes. However, this only fulfilled eight percent of North Korea's fuel oil needs. In fact, the heavy fuel oil supplied by the United States was just water gas which cannot be used directly in vehicles but merely in the furnaces of power plants. This time, the United States' promise to furnish 1 million tons of heavy fuel oil to North Korea to meet its urgent needs is indeed a timely help.

Russia and the United Kingdom's BP are jointly exploring the vast Kovykta gas fields in Siberia, where the natural gas reserve is up to 3 trillion cubic feet (3TCF). China strongly desires to construct pipelines that connect China for the transportation of natural gas, the volume of which is estimated to be 1 billion cubic feet per year (200 TCF). South Korea is also planning to build pipelines from China across the sea instead of passing through North territory.

Seemingly, to obtain natural gas, the only solution for North Korea is to construct undersea gas pipelines from the Sakhalin Island of Russia to its capital, Pyongyang. Nevertheless, on the opposite side of Sakhalin is the Sea of Okhotsk, where US nuclear-powered submarines have long been present. In the 1985, there were

repeated incidents of interception of undersea communication cables, which Moscow discovered after many years. Therefore, it is unlikely that North Korea would build gas pipelines in such waters. While South Korea has 90 days of strategic oil reserves, North Korea hardly has any. Thus, the US Army presumes that once war breaks out, North Korea will run out of fuel oil in less than seven days.

North Korea is constrained by the United States owing to shortages of oil and gas resources. Now, our nation is dependent on Africa for oil supplies and on Russia for gas. Regarding history as a mirror, should we not be mindful?



Professor Kwong earned his BS degree in Computer Science at the University of South Carolina in 1974 with Phi Beta Kappa honors, MBA in Engineering

Management and MS in Petroleum Engineering at the University of Texas at Austin in 1977. He is now the Vice Chairman and Chief Operating Officer of PetroAsian Energy Holdings Limited (HKSE # 850). He is a frequent speaker to the public on energy conservation, renewable energy and Peak Oil.

## The Future of Jyutping 粤拼 (Cantonese Romanization) in a Triglossic Hong Kong

Suen Caesar LUN ctslun@citvu.edu.hk

Jyutping is gaining momentum and it is something equivalent to Hanyu Pinyin for Putonghua. There have been several contending Cantonese Romanization schemes (Wade-Giles, Yale, Wong Shek Ling's, etc.) but none has been in wide use to represent Cantonese in daily applications. (In scientific cross-linguistic comparisons, of course, IPA (International Phonetic Alphabet) should be adopted, but that is not the issue here.) Some have been used for transcribing names but the adoption is usually unsystematic and ad-hoc. Many are just restricted to the transcription of Chinese (including local Cantonese characters) in dictionaries and are not well known to the general public which seldom cares to look up Chinese characters in dictionaries.

In 1993, the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong (LSHK) proposed Jyutping as an alternative Cantonese Romanization scheme. Since then LSHK has struggled with much difficulty to get to the educational sector, the Hong Kong

government (both the British-Hong Kong Government and the HKSAR Government) and the private sector. About 20 years have passed and some results have been witnessed. However, to the advocates, there are still not enough breakthroughs in Jyutping's exposure to the general public. Ordinary citizens usually have a vague idea of representing Cantonese using 'English letters'. It is evident that the codification of Cantonese making use of Jyutping is both needed for the mother-tongue education promoted by the HKSAR government for it should facilitate the learning of Putonghua and English through a conscious contrast and comparison with Cantonese. Though some progress has been seen, it is far from enough.

Hong Kong is a triglossic society where in theory Modern Standard Chinese (MSC) and English are the H varieties. Cantonese is kind of L variety though it is still used to represent the spoken form of MSC in the majority of local schools and even in college. However, Cantonese is not taken seriously as a contender of Putonghua because Hong Kong is now part of China. There is no intention to make Cantonese a local standard and there is no such demand. Considering that Jyutping is not on the high priority list of the government and not an extremely profitable endeavor for the private sector, the use of Jyutping will be limited as a transcription system, and not a writing system.

You can visit the official website of the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong at

http://www.lshk.org/node/31 to learn more about Jyutping. Jyutping is implemented in a Chinese input method for traditional Chinese characters and you can install it in Microsoft Windows under the language of Chinese (Traditional, Taiwan) (how ridiculous!). HKTX will arrange a tutorial for you to learn about Jyutping and you will learn why the scheme does not prevail in Hong Kong despite the need of such a scheme. What's wrong with our education system and our government?



Caesar Lun graduated from UT with a BA degree in 1981 and an MA degree in 1985 in linguistics, and received his PhD degree from HKU in 2005. He is teaching in

City University of Hong Kong and is an executive committee member of the Linguistic Society of Hong Kong.

## **Mentorship Program**

In the middle of last year, we started our mentorship program for new UT graduates who repatriate to Hong Kong or come to Hong Kong to work. This is a continuous program so we would like to introduce it to our readers to raise

their interests in serving as mentors and also to ensure our newly-grads who are here know about the existence of such program.

Last year, we have mentee-applicants who's interests were different from what our mentors who have signed up could offer. Still, we managed to match our them up with suitable mentors when we invited some alumni who were kind enough to help out. With that said, our members' support is key for the success of the program.

The objectives of the program are as follows:

- To help our fresh graduates explore different career opportunities, build their careers, and build connections with other members and people in their interested field
- To build relationships among Texas Exes in Hong Kong
- To build the membership of HKTX

The mentor-mentee relationship is supposed to officially last 12 calendar months.

#### Eligibility

While we have the flexibility in the eligibility of the mentors and mentees, below is the guideline:

#### Mentor

- Has minimum 4 years of working experience with minimum 1 year of experience gained in Hong Kong
- Is a member of HKTX
- Normally resides in Hong Kong
- Is willing to meet each mentee at least once a quarter for 4 consecutive quarters

#### Mentee

- Graduated from UT for less than 2 years
- Is a member of HKTX
- · Normally resides in Hong Kong
- Wants to build his/her career in Hong Kong
- Is willing to meet mentor at least once a quarter for 4 consecutive quarters

#### **Recommended Topics**

- Resume writing
- Exploring career paths
- Interview techniques and mock interview
- Meeting other people in the interested industry

If you are otherwise eligible but are not a member yet, you may join us now.

To apply to become a mentor or a mentee, please visit

<u>http://www.hktx.org/Mentorship.htm</u> and fill in the application form.

## **Those Were the Days**

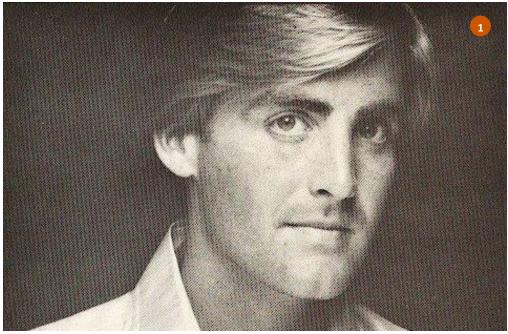
HKTX has been in existence for more than twelve years. There have been a lot of good memories. So in this issue, the Exco "submitted" some old pictures "for old time's sake". By the way, have you looked at the bottom of your drawers yet? Send us your photos for the next issue!







- What does this good looking model has anything to do with us? Because he is our alumnus here! Gene Barron (Government 1977) took a year off doing modeling while he was at UT. His father told him, "You need to go back to Law School. Son, I know a lot of fat, old, rich lawyers but I do not know ANY fat, old, rich fashion models." Not long later, he went back to Austin to finish school.
- 2. There was a time when winning a major football bowl game was not too difficult for us. On January 2, 2005 at 5:30 am (HKT), at least 35 alumni and students gathered in Wanchai to watch Texas beating Michigan in the Rose Bowl game. The game was decided by a field goal scored in the last 2 seconds by Texas that brought the Rose Bowl trophy to



- Austin for the first time. It was a game where some Golden Bears (Berkeley) still accuse the Longhorns for stealing their Rose Bowl spot because it is traditionally a game played between a team from Big Ten and a team from Pac-12.
- 3. On January 5, 2006 (a work day), more than 150 people (many taking annual leave or sick leave) supporting Texas and Southern California gathered at the American Club to watch the Rose Bowl game which was designated as the National Championship Game for the 2005 season. In the end, Texas, won the Rose Bowl, two years in a row as a team not from either Big Ten or Pac-12.
- This is the picture of the famous "Hi, How Are You" mural on West 21<sup>st</sup> Street. The frog on the mural is "Jeremiah the Innocent"
- which was featured in musician/artist Daniel Johnston's 1983 cassette album "Hi, How Are You: The Unfinished Album". The mural was painted in 1993 by Johnston himself, commissioned by the record store Sound Exchange which was there at that time. In 2004, Baja Fresh took over the building and the manager decided to remove the wall, but the people living in the neighborhood successfully convinced the manager to keep it. Now the building is occupied by Thai Spice.
- 5. "Why do the people look so young?" you may ask. "Because it was taken 11 years ago," we will answer. On November 18, 2001, we have our first event that we took pictures of. Yes, it was our very first Thanksgiving Dinner, held at the home of Patton and Katherine Jones. Can you recognize the faces?



## **Election**

According to our constitution, the term of the current Exco will end on the day of the Annual General Meeting which will happen around March 2, the Texas Independence Day.

Section 4 (Management) and Sections 5.5 (Election) are relevant sections about the election. The constitution is written in the style of a legal document and sometimes we need a lawyer to interpret. So what do these sections say in every day language?

The Exco is elected as a group -- cabinet. The President candidate decides before the election what position each member in his group will assume if the group gets elected. Each group should consist of a President candidate, a Vice-President candidate, a Treasurer candidate, and up to 5 extra candidates. If there are more than one groups standing for election, the members will select which group to be the new Exco. The members do not select individual members from the groups.

All candidates must have either annual membership fees or lifetime membership fees in effect at the time of the election. They may pay right before the election. They also have to have joined HKTX for one year at the time of election or on March 2 of the year, whichever later.

When the group becomes the Exco, the Exco members must remain as Ordinary Members with membership fees in effect during the whole term. The President may add additional members to the Exco. The members can be from any category (paid or unpaid Ordinary Members and Friends) but Friends and Ordinary Members with no membership fees in effect may not vote in Exco meetings.

While Ordinary Members must have joined HKTX for one year before they can be elected, Ordinary Members who have joined HKTX for six months may vote. If you wonder why the constitution poses restrictions on right to be elected and right to vote to new members, it is because our membership fee is voluntary and the Constitution has to ensure those who want to stand for election for the wrong reasons will not be elected.

If there is still anything that is not clear enough, please write to us at hongkong@alumni.utexas.net.

In any case, those who are interested to serve the school and our members and to meet people along the way should start thinking about forming their own cabinets or to join the current management team to stand for election in March. As you have read from the Letter from the President, HKTX needs new people in the Exco.

#### Note:

- The current annual membership fee is HK\$100 and lifetime membership costs HK\$750.
- The constitution can be found in the following URL: <a href="http://www.hktx.org/Documents/HKTXConst">http://www.hktx.org/Documents/HKTXConst</a> itution20120303.pdf

## **HKTX Merchandise**

We have been auctioning off Longhorn merchandise for years to raise funds for our club. Our auctions create a win-win-win situation where our members get the Longhorn merchandise that they love, UT gets the normal profits on the sale, and HKTX earns the rest of the profits to subsidize other activities. Now, we have merchandise with our very own HKTX logo Ted (Texas Exes Dragon)!



Coffee mug: HK\$100

Write to us at <a href="mailto:hongkong@alumni.utexas.net">hongkong@alumni.utexas.net</a> if you are interested in our merchandise. The profit on the sale of our merchandise will help us in the running of the club.

## **Final Words**

This is the last issue of the first volume of our newsletter. It is also the thickest one, if you print it out. We hope that you enjoyed reading this newsletter. If you have any comments about this newsletter, please do not hesitate to write to us at hongkong@alumni.utexas.net.

We also would like to urge you to contribute articles or photos for the next issue. It can be any news that you want to share with our fellow alumni. If you want to tell them about your

## **Upcoming Activities**

- December 30: Bowl Game Watching Party
- January 12: Seminar on Jyutping
- March: Annual General Meeting

business in the form of an advertisement, we can work that out, too. The next issue will be published in April. Until then, may the 'Horns be with y'all!

## Contact Hong Kong Texas Exes



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## **About this Newsletter**

#### **Editorial Board**

- Winson Chan
- Celine Lok
- Victor K. Nip
- Carl Sung

To visit the links in this newsletter, you may click the link <a href="https://https:/

