



2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - PRESIDENT'S REPORT -

***THE HONG KONG UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
ALUMNI WINE ASSOCIATION LIMITED***

HKUST  AWA



DEAR MEMBERS,

I am pleased to present my report for session 2016-18 in our first Annual General Meeting of the Hong Kong University of Science & Technology Alumni Wine Association Limited (“HKUSTAWA”).

Few Words of Appreciation

The committee of 1st session of HKUSTAWA has done tremendously great job with enthusiasm. There is simply one thing that brought us together: our common interest in wines. Sharing, connecting with alumni / current students / HKUST, and building friendship over glasses of wines (and whiskies) have kept our spirit strong.

I would like to first acknowledge and thank fellow current committee members for their work and contribution of time:

- 🍷 Christopher LUI || Deputy President
- 🍷 Charles CHENG || Treasurer
- 🍷 Gary CHAN || Vice President (Membership)
 - David Ho || Assistant Vice President (Membership)
 - Jason Li || Assistant Vice President (Welfare)
- 🍷 Vincent SO || Vice President (Marketing)
 - Portia CHAN || Assistant Vice President (Marketing)
- 🍷 Yan YU || Vice President (Public Relations)
 - Valena HSU || Assistant Vice President (Public Relations)
- 🍷 Events Team
 - Ryan LAI || Assistant Vice President (Event)
 - Louis TSANG || Assistant Vice President (Event)

As a team of 12, we started preparatory work in early 2016. In June 2016, HKUSTAWA Limited was incorporated. We have held 10 committee meetings from the beginning and a number of team meetings to get things rolling. Collaborative work of our dedicated committee members leads to our achievements as of today.

I would also like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all members, partners, HKUST departments, and advisors – Alvin LAM, Houghton LEE, Kevin SO, for their support.

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

Life-time Full Members |
Associate Members |
Student Members |

PARTNERS: MEMBERS' BENEFITS

HONG KONG
Caskells Whisky Shop |
Cuvées |
Enoteca |
Ginger Bar |
Kerry Wines |
Lucaris (by Kung Kai
Hong & Co.) |
Rare & Fine Wines Ltd. |

TAIWAN
PJ.Wine Taiwan |

Achievements

MEMBERSHIP GROWTH

There were 30 full members and 10 associate members who joined HKUSTAWA from Oct 2016 to end of Nov 2017. 2 Honorary membership was conferred on 2 alumni.

EVENTS & ALUMNI ENGAGEMENT

After Inauguration Ceremony held in Oct 2016, our committee set the direction for 2017 as 'to bring HKUST alumni fellows into the World of Wines'. 2017 was a productive year: from January to August, a total of 8 events were organized by us, with "Wine 101" workshops in every two months and alternately casual get-together wine events. We collaborated with industry partners and other associations for some of the events, and invited guest speakers for a few. 300+ alumni were engaged in our events! Let's travel back in time to see what we have had (View photos: <https://goo.gl/K7J2dr>):



2017.09.26
Unlock the Mystery of WHISKY!



2017.08.31
Discover Wines at Business Occasions



2017.07.26
Exclusive Wine Tasting with BANFI Wine Ambassador



2017.06.03
Riesling Dinner with Princess Christina



2017.05.13
Wine tasting 101 Bubbles



2017.04.19
Wines of Ningxia "Rising Stars in the World of Great Wines"



2017.02.12
Alumni VS UG LBBC Challenge



2017.01.12
Wine Tasting 101



2016.10.14
HKUSTAWA Inauguration Ceremony

MEMBERS' BENEFITS & WINE INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIP

We connect alumni over glasses of wines, and we also bring our members closer to wines and different players in the wine circle. We have solicited discount offers from 8 merchants for spending on food & beverage, wine, whisky, wine & whisky accessories.

UNIVERSITY RELATIONS

HKUSTAWA is very fortunate to have the support from the University, especially Development and Alumni Office (DAO), HKUST Business School Alumni Team, and MBA Office (HKUST Business School). Their help in promoting our events, connecting us to alumni, and referrals to various parties played very important role in our growth.

In August 2017, a casual meeting with Prof. Tony Chan (President, HKUST) was held to discuss ways to connect alumni and bring current students the benefits from knowing more about wine culture.

In November 2017, HKUSTAWA supported DAO in "Class 1997 Celebrating 20th Anniversary" reunion event held on November 25, through pouring wines and sharing wine buying tips with guests.

HKUST WINE TEAM – HONG KONG CHAMPION (2017 & 2018) IN LBBC

'Left Bank Bordeaux Cup' is an annual international wine competition for university students. First participation of HKUST Wine Team dated back to 2013. I have been involved in coaching since 2014. Each year, we recruit current students for training, followed by internal selection to pick the team members. Immediate past team will be responsible for liaison and recruitment for the following year.

In late 2015, it was my great pleasure to gather few other alumni to form a coach team. From then on, I could spare more time on HKUSTAWA matters.

Teamwork almost always works. I was very pleased to see HKUST Wine Team 2017 win LBBC Hong Kong Round and it was my honor to go with the team to Bordeaux (France) for wine tour cum final competition in June 2017. Result: we won the 4th place, after teams from France and Switzerland.

PARTNERS: EVENTS

WINE INDUSTRY

Cuvées |
Lucaris (by Kung Kai Hong & Co.) |
Silver Heights |
Wines of Germany |
ASC Fine Wines (Hong Kong) |
California Wine Institute |
Decanter Asia Wine Awards |

SPEAKERS

Charles CHENG |
Houghton LEE |
Emma GAO |
Tersina SHIEH |
Christina SCHNEIDER |
Anson WAN |
Jennifer LUK |
Tony LEUNG |

CO-ORGANIZERS

HKUST MBA Alumni Association |
Society of Wine Educations (Hong Kong Chapter) |

This year, HKUST Wine Team 2018 once again became Hong Kong Champion. Charles Cheng, our Treasurer, will accompany the team to Bordeaux as coach. I would like to take this opportunity to wish Charles and the team best of luck, and thank other coaches for their tremendous support – Houghton Lee, Wilson Liu, and Benjamin Yeung.

PROMOTING WINE CULTURE & STUDENT ENGAGEMENT

Following the success of last two years' wine teams, we plan to reach out to more current students and nurture the next generation of wine enthusiasts. Our first step was revisiting membership scheme. We decided to have a 'Student Membership' tier: current students can join our Association and pay for membership fee only *once* all through their years of study (instead of annual payment of membership fee). Upon their graduation, we will rebate the amount for Life-time Full Membership fee.

Next, we will look for opportunities to host wine tasting workshops for current students, especially undergraduates over 18 years old. Key objective is to promote wine culture, responsible drinking and equip them with social skills for the future.

Moving Forward

RELAX, HAVE FUN, AND DRINK TOGETHER

After a year of exploration and review of past achievements, we aim to do more in the coming year. We will continue seeking partnerships to bring exciting offers for members; we plan to host quarterly event (tentatively, May, August and November 2018) to pull together more alumni and students for expanding our circle of wine friends; and we will keep working with the University to support our fellow students.

WELCOMING NEW COMMITTEE & SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability of our Association is another key task to work on for 2018. We are aware of some new move among current committee members in their career, and therefore we will soon need some 'new blood' in our committee. I know some alumni are interested in joining us, but they hesitated because of a question in mind: "Do I have to be very knowledgeable in wines to be a committee member?" – My answer is: "Not necessary, but better you are interested in knowing wines and people." Look forward to welcoming any of you interested in joining HKUSTAWA committee.



Jennifer Luk

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