

# UM first school year in Hengqin kicks off Monday, rector comments on Bill Chou's case

Free jazz concert tomorrow

**T**HE University of Macau (UM) will start its 2014/2015 school year next Monday. About 4,000 students will live in the Residential College (RC) in the new campus. There will be more than 9,000 students in the new school year, including 1,700 freshmen.

UM's rector Wei Zhao said the new campus in Hengqin is well prepared, and the University will keep in touch with the Transport Bureau over traffic issues for students. There are currently three bus routes in operation that service UM's new campus.

Zhao suggested that some students feel that the general education courses are unrelated to their majors. He stressed that the general education courses are a new initiative. The school hopes to encourage students to focus not only on their vocational courses but also on gaining knowledge in fields outside their major. "We need to persuade students that those who wish to attain elite status in their chosen profession need to master knowledge outside of their major." But Zhao said the school would do a review regarding students' opinions.

As for the slow process of moving out of the old campus in Taipa, Zhao said the move would not be fully completed until November, since large laboratory facilities have yet to be transferred to Hen-



UM's rector Wei Zhao

gqin. The rector believes it is up to the government to decide on the future use of the Taipa Campus, and agrees with the authorities' decision to use it for higher education purposes.

The MSAR has announced that the university's current campus will be reserved for higher educational purposes. In addition, a one-year temporary measure of lending and renting the old campus' dormitories to three local universities will commence in the new school year.

When asked about UM's former deputy professor Bill Chou, who was sacked from his post, Zhao reiterated that the school not renewing Chou's contract had nothing to do with the professor's political activities or speeches in the community.

"In the entire process under the disciplinary action we have taken against him, it was nothing to do with his political view, his political activity, etc, he had in the com-

munity. It's perfectly ok he has his own view; it's perfectly ok he has his own activity in the community. He can do anything he wants to, but when in the classroom, when you are on campus, when you are dealing with students - we have to be careful. He had to follow the guidelines," the rector said.

Zhao added that it was a suspected violation of professional conduct by the professor that led to an investigation and his dismissal,

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WEI ZHAO

and that the school did not publish the report in order to protect the rights of each party. According to the rector, Chou's political speeches are not mentioned in the report.

Zhao stated that there is a risk that teachers might get involved in disciplinary procedures if they are not familiar with the current regulations, and Chou is not alone in his plight. "For example, if a teacher requires students to participate in a demonstration, and then provides bonus marks to those who take part while awarding nothing to those that didn't... That teacher has violated the school's professional conduct regulations. (...) He/she is not politically neutral." He declared that the standard for teachers' professional conduct should be higher than for people in other occupations, as students are supposed to study in a fair learning environment.

Zhao's speech occurred during an exclusive interview with journalists yesterday.

Last Sunday, professor Bill Chou said that the University of Macau did not renew his contract due to a politically motivated move. UM's statement contradicted the accusation: "By linking the University's disciplinary action to a violation of academic and speech freedom, Prof Chou has undermined the reputation of the University." **GY**

The 2014 Hong Kong & Macao Jazz Exchange Concert will be held at 5 p.m. tomorrow at the Rui Cunha Foundation Gallery. Jointly organized by the Macau Jazz Promotion Association (MJPA) and Sound & Good from Hong Kong, this second act of the Hong Kong-Macau exchange aims to raise local music standards while providing a performance platform for local musicians. Musicians from both cities will perform together. Moon Wong, Hong Kong's new generation guitarist, is to perform with Mini Jazz students of MJPA. A wind sextet with guitar will deliver some classic jazz standards. **The Rui Cunha Foundation** is sponsoring the concert and admission is free.

Wynn Macau doubles budget cap for design services



Wynn Macau announced this week that it has doubled its budget cap for design services related to its new development, Wynn Palace, as well as for upgrades at Wynn Macau. Filing its plans with the Hong Kong stock exchange, the operator revealed an updated design budget of HKD156 million. The budget had been set at HKD78.8 million before, but was later deemed insufficient. The company, headed by casino mogul Steve Wynn, stated that the budget increase is mainly related to design services for the Wynn Palace, the operator's project in the Cotai Strip. The size and scope of Wynn Palace had not been fully determined when the budget was first set in 2011.

Trade deficit grows to MOP81.3 billion

In 2013 the MSAR recorded a surplus of MOP165.9 billion, according to the Monetary Authority of Macao's (AMCM) preliminary balance of payments (BOP) statistics. According to the statistics, in 2013 merchandise imports increased by 14.5% while exports rose by 10.9%, causing the merchandise trade deficit to grow from MOP70.7 billion in 2012 to MOP81.3 billion in 2013.

ART

## Curators from Portuguese museums share experiences in Macau

**A** group of curators from Portuguese contemporary art museums will be sharing their experiences and collection expertise in Macau, as another edition of the InFLUXUS project has been launched.

Organized by Macau-based non-profit cultural organization "Babel," the project aims at providing an annual international exchange of ideas on art and culture between Beijing, Macau, Hong Kong, Lisbon and Porto.

This year's edition kicked off on Wednesday and, according to a press release, the arrival of curators from Portuguese art museums is one of the project's highlights.

Coming from Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's Modern Art Center, the Berardo Collection Museum, and the Serralves Museum of Contemporary Art, curators will share their experiences and information about their collections this weekend at the Handover Gifts Museum of Macau.

Working with the theme "Memory and Ar-

chive," curators will be discussing the thought process and methodology behind their own collections. Ruth Rosengarten, who will be representing Lisbon's Berardo Collection Museum, brings works by Marcel Duchamp, Boltanski, Vivan Sundaram and Daniel Blaufuks to the discussions.

Patrícia Rosas, curator of the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation's Modern Art Center, will be presenting ideas on a selection of Portuguese artists, namely Rui Calçada Bastos, Noé Sendas, Ana Hatherly, Fernando José Pereira and Rui Valério.

Babel Artistic Director Margarida Saraiva will deliver a presentation on contemporary art from China and Macau. Curators' presentations and discussions will be followed by video and film screenings.

This year's edition will also feature more artistic residencies, as local artists Jeong Man Pan and Peng Yun will be traveling to Portugal to participate in equivalent programs. Babel said in a press release that it hopes to

further explore this part of the program, to include more artists from mainland China as well as Portuguese-speaking countries.

While in Portugal, participants will visit each of the contemporary art museums that have partnered with Babel. They will also travel to Porto to attend film production and editing workshops at the Portuguese Catholic University's School of Arts.

In Macau, students will develop their creative skills at the University of Saint Joseph's Faculty of Creative Industries, where a scriptwriting workshop will be organized to help students create narratives connecting the cities involved in the exchange program.

Works developed by students and artists will be screened in Beijing, Macau, Lisbon, and Porto between October and November.

InFLUXUS program engages students, teachers, curators and film directors in the intercultural exchange and creative learning processes. **CP**