

Outstanding alumni



The award presentation for the "Outstanding PolyU Alumni Award" was successfully held at Hotel Inter-Continental Hong Kong in late March, drawing over 500 guests and PolyU members to share the joy of the awardees. This year, five distinguished alumni were chosen for this coveted award, which was presented by the Guest of Honour Dr Henry Tang Ying-yen, Hong Kong's Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology.



Prof. John Lee, 1957 graduate of Diploma in Mechanical Engineering, Hong Kong Technical College:

"My first technical education at the Hong Kong Technical College has given me practical training which has helped me understand and communicate with different kinds of people. This is crucial to the subsequent development of my career."

Forty-five years since his graduation from the Hong Kong Technical College, it is the latest honour for being an outstanding PolyU alumnus that has brought the return of Prof. John Lee.

Currently a Professor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering at McGill University and an internationally renowned scholar in the areas of detonation and explosion, nuclear engineering and environmental sciences, he is also Honorary Professor of the Institute of Mechanics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and



Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada.

A literature lover in his teens, Prof. Lee said he was advised by his family to study something practical which led to his involvement in mechanical engineering. The three-year practical and hands-on training in the Technical College sowed seeds in the young mind of Prof. Lee who learnt to see things from a practical and sensible perspective.

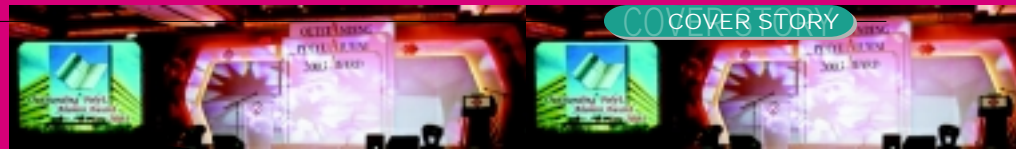
Showing his care for people, environment and advancement of the society, Prof. Lee has taught and served as consultant on the Chinese mainland, Canada, Japan, Norway and the US for a wide range of industry and government agencies. His voluminous research achievements and contributions to the society have won him accolades including the Numa Manson Gold Medal presented



by the Institute for the Dynamics of Explosions and Reactive Systems in 1991 and the Dinozy Smolenski Medal of the Polish Academy of Sciences.

Despite his talents in both research and teaching, Prof. Lee said teaching was his favourite job. "Doing research is more an individual thing while teaching allows me to pose an influence on others. For me, seeing my students making achievements in their careers brings me the highest satisfaction," said Prof. Lee.

in the spotlight



Launched in 1996, the biennial "Outstanding PolyU Alumni Award" was jointly organized by PolyU and the Federation of PolyU Alumni Associations, with an aim of giving public recognition to outstanding graduates of the University and its forerunners, the Hong Kong Polytechnic, Hong Kong Technical College and Government Trade School.



Dr Rebecca Lee Lok-sze, 1964 graduate of Certificate in Commercial Design, Hong Kong Technical College:

"I have always wanted to be an artist and to travel around the world. But soon I realized that it was too difficult to make a living and I decided to return to school. This is how I started my relationship with the Technical College."

Devoting more than half of her lifetime to photography, design, writing and filming, art appears to be in the blood of Dr Rebecca Lee Lok-sze.

An early graduate in Commercial Design in 1964, Dr Lee said she turned to commercial design in order to make a living. Having founded her own design company at a time when Hong Kong was rich in commercial opportunity, Dr Lee displayed her talent for working creatively on magazine and public relations projects with major clients such as the Hong Kong Jockey Club and Cathay Pacific Airways.

Her turn of life only came when she set foot on the Antarctica as a member of the Chinese research team's news group in 1985 which confirmed her in her new found vocation. She then decided to devote her life to furthering research into the extreme worlds at the poles and on Mount Everest. She reached the North Pole in 1986 and in 1992 she accompanied a Chinese

scientific expedition to Mount Everest.

A thinker as well as an intrepid explorer, Dr Lee has propounded original and poetic theories about human responsibility for the welfare of a planet threatened by global warming. Dr Lee has published numerous books and articles on her expeditions as well as photographic essays and television documentaries to preach her beliefs to the public as well as the youngsters.

Being an Adviser (Science) for the Leisure and Cultural Services Department of the HKSAR Government, Dr Lee also serves as an Adviser for the Polar Research Committee



of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Vice President of the Hong Kong Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology. In 2000, she was awarded the degree of Doctor of Humanities *honoris causa* by Lingnan University.

Most recently, Dr Lee has devoted the bulk of her time to actively campaigning for the China Polar Museum Foundation, which she herself established. The Foundation's museum in Dalian is scheduled to open in 2004.

"To live is to learn. Only through continuous research and learning can we advance further and strive for a better world," Dr Lee remarked.





Mr Humphrey Leung Kwong-wai, graduate of Higher Diploma in Electronic Engineering in 1978 and Associateship in Electronic Engineering in 1981, Hong Kong Polytechnic:

“The Hong Kong Polytechnic is one of the few institutions that provides quality programme in electronic engineering. At that time, whoever that could be admitted into the Polytechnic ought to be capable and show high potential.”

Despite his graduation from the Hong Kong Polytechnic for more than 20 years, Mr Humphrey Leung Kwong-wai said he has never left his alma mater.

“I am always in touch with my teachers in the Polytechnic. They are Prof. Y. S. Lee and Prof. Joshua Wong who were my

teachers at school, mentors of my career and now proposers for the Outstanding PolyU Alumni Award,” said Mr Leung.

A well-known figure in the electronics industry, Mr Leung devoted himself to the task of transferring knowledge in the field of semiconductor integrated circuit (IC) from



Mr Liu Sing-cheong, graduate of Higher Diploma in Surveying (General Practice) in 1977 and Advanced Higher Diploma in General Practice Surveying in 1979, Hong Kong Polytechnic:

“Compared to the other two universities, the Polytechnic was not a preferred institution during my days. We were seen as the underdogs. It was this underdog feeling that has taught me how to fight against the odds and led me to the achievements that I have made today.”

It is the courage of being different that has brought Mr Liu Sing-cheong to the Hong Kong Polytechnic. “After graduation from the secondary school, everyone scrambled for seats in the two universities. I asked why I had to be like others and I decided to apply for the Polytechnic.”

From a novice in surveying to a leader in the real estate industry, Mr Liu thanked his alma mater for the professional training that he had received in the Department of Building and Real Estate. Since graduation, Mr Liu has been serving in the property industry for nearly three decades. Mr Liu was also the first batch of young surveyors to be involved in the property development in the Pearl River Delta.

Having worked for such prominent players as Swire Properties Ltd, Hong Kong Bank, Hsin Chong Holdings Ltd and Knight,

Frank, Kan & Baillieu, Mr Liu is now Managing Director and Chairman of Guangzhou Pearl-River Hang Cheong (PRHC) Real Estate Consultants and Chairman of Guangzhou Top Home Technology Co. Ltd.

PRHC has distinguished itself as the only company outside the Chinese mainland to have been accorded the prestigious status of “Class A” property consultancy/agency



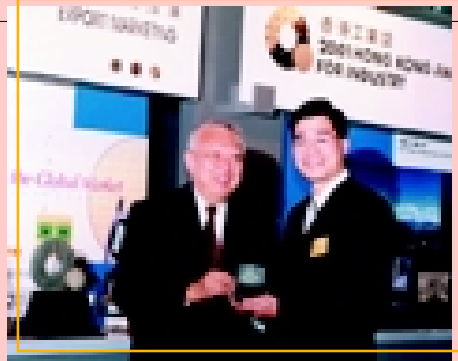
in each of the years since such classification began in 1996.

Mr Liu has also been extremely enthusiastic in supporting educational activities on the Chinese mainland and PolyU’s Department of Building and Real Estate, giving generously of his time as an active and stimulating co-investigator in several research projects.

“From an underdog to a fully-fledged university, I am proud to see what PolyU has achieved today and I am most proud to be one of its graduates,” said Mr Liu.

Silicon Valley to Hong Kong after his studies in the then Hong Kong Polytechnic.

In 1984, he joined Motorola Semiconductors' Asia Pacific Division in Hong Kong where he helped make Motorola's IC design centre the largest of its type in the territory. In 1999, he founded his own company, Solomon Systech Ltd, which develops and manufactures its own brand display IC products for mobile communications, PDA and advanced emerging displays. Starting with just 33 local staff, the company, of which he is both President and Managing Director, now employs 120 staff worldwide and has notched up total sales revenue to date of HK\$1.17 billion.



Mr Leung's clear vision and flair for devising inventive processes have brought him and his company widespread acclaim. The most recent of these are the 2002 Hong Kong Electronic Industries Association Gold Award and Grand Award for Outstanding Innovation and Technology Products, the 2001 Hong Kong Award for Industry: Export Marketing, the 2001 Hong Kong Science

and Technology Parks Corporation Technological Achievement Award, the 2001 Trade and Industry Department Quality Award, etc. Two years ago, Mr Leung was a recipient of the Young Industrialists Awards of Hong Kong.

In view of the gloomy economic prospect, Mr Leung shared his philosophy of success with youths nowadays, "Being a graduate in electronic engineering, I have learnt the virtue of persistence. Despite the fast-changing landscape in the global market, Hong Kong has its winning edge in its electronic products, research and development. It is a matter of time, will power and personal skills that we need to invest to ensure our long-term success."



Mr Samuel Wong King-on, 1977 graduate of Higher Diploma in Accountancy, Hong Kong Polytechnic:

"It is my honour to be the first Chinese to be elected President of the ACCA Worldwide and I hope this honour will bring credit for my alma mater."

Tracing the successful story of Mr Samuel Wong King-on, one has to start from his training in the Hong Kong Polytechnic some 20 years ago.

Mr Wong said the demanding accountancy programme offered by the then Hong Kong Polytechnic was one of the bests in Hong Kong. "At that time, I knew nothing about accountancy," said Mr Wong from his reminiscences. "It was the training in the Polytechnic that has given me such a solid foundation."

After his studies at the Polytechnic, Mr Wong received his MBA from the University of Bradford, where he was also awarded the Binder Hamlyn prize for the best student in financial management in 1978.

The greater part of his experience has been with Ernst & Young Certified Public Accountants, where he is currently Partner

— Assurance and Advisory Business Services. His involvement with the Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA) began in 1993. In 2001, Mr Wong was elected Vice-president of ACCA Worldwide — the first Chinese person ever elected as an officer of this international body since its establishment in 1904. In 2002, he was elected deputy president, a role which will lead in 2003 to his assuming the presidency of this worldwide professional body with its



nearly 300,000 members and students in 160 countries.

"Apart from work, I always feel that it is my obligation to pay back what I have gained to my alma mater and the industry," said Mr Wong. This explains why he is so enthusiastic and supportive toward PolyU. Currently, Mr Wong is an Adjunct Professor and an honorary mentor for students of the Department of Accountancy. The Department has named him an Outstanding Accountancy Alumni in recognition of his tremendous contributions to the University. ❖