

PolyU pays tribute to donors



The President speaking at the reception.

The University recently held a special reception on campus to express its profound gratitude to a number of donors of scholarships and bursaries for their generous help to students.

This year, 449 PolyU students have been awarded scholarships and travelling scholarships, and 498 students granted bursaries, education loans, and emergency grants/loans. The total value of donation received amounts to more than \$10 million. In addition, the donors have also sponsored and subsidized a wide variety of student activities in which more than 7,000 students have participated.

“The longstanding support by the donors is indeed a great encouragement to the University,” said the President, Prof. Poon Chung-kwong. “Their benefaction also proves that they share our vision and commitment to high-quality education and shows their genuine concern about the well-being of our students.”

He mentioned that the University was striving to raise funds to alleviate the shortfall of government funding for the student hostels presently under construction. The hostels will house 3,000 students, offering them the full benefits of communal university life. ❖



Four students convey their gratitude through music.

International scholarship for fire safety studies



Gigi Lui

Cheers to PhD student Gigi Lui of the Department of Building Services Engineering, who has recently been selected for the award of the David B. Gratz Scholarship by the National Fire Protection Association, US.

This international scholarship is offered to graduate students enrolled in a Fire Science or Fire Engineering programme outside of the US. The awardees should have scholastic achievement, leadership qualities, concern for others, and contribution to international or national fire safety activities.

Gigi, currently researching on the “Safety aspects of karaoke establishments”, said that the scholarship gave significant meaning to her study of providing safer environment for people. The recent disastrous fire accidents in the territory have made her more committed to helping protect people against fire.

Upon receiving the award, Gigi is very grateful to Prof. Chow Wan-ki, her supervisor, for his valuable guidance. Last year K.C. Cheung, another research student of the Department, won the same scholarship. ❖

Aetna supports orientation programme for mainland students

The second batch of 27 outstanding mainland students joining PolyU have just arrived. And thanks to the sponsorship by Aetna International, Inc., these newcomers were offered an intensive orientation programme to help them adapt to local university life.

At the cheque presentation ceremony held on campus on 21 June, Mr Patrick Poon, Asia Head, Aetna Global Financial Services, presented Aetna's \$1 million donation in support of the initiative to the University President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong. Aetna is extending its generous sponsorship to PolyU for the second year.

According to Prof. Poon, by participating in the series of orientation and social events of the programme, the mainland students would be better able to communicate with and understand PolyU as well as the Hong Kong community.



Mr Patrick Poon (left) presenting the donation to the President.

The three-month programme comprises intensive language training on English and Cantonese, workshops on study skills, computer training courses, sports programme and other social functions.

The mainland students admission scheme is organised in support of the University Grants Committee's decision in 1998 to recruit outstanding mainland students to pursue undergraduate programmes in

local tertiary institutions. A total of 27 students from PolyU's two partner universities, Shanghai's Tongji University and Nanjing's Southeast University, have been recruited this year, while 24 students were recruited in 1999/2000.

These mainland students achieved excellent results in the mainland's higher education admission test and their scores were in the top 10 per cent of the test results. To qualify for entry to the University, they must acquire an acceptable score in a specified English examination. The students must also have completed one-year training in one of PolyU's partner universities before coming to Hong Kong.

With financial support from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, these students have been awarded scholarships that cover tuition, accommodation and living expenses for the entire period of their studies at PolyU.



Language training for the new mainland students.



The 27 mainland students and representatives from PolyU and Aetna.