

Broadway at PolyU



In celebration of the Grand Opening of the Jockey Club Auditorium on campus, a fund-raising gala was staged on 25 and 26 February.

The show featured Broadway hits performed by eminent local and overseas artists, including conductor Yang Yang, the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra, Grania Renihan, Glyn Kerlake and Elisa Chan. The proceeds generated will be used for building the University's student hostels.

Officiating at the Grand Opening ceremony were Mr T. Brian Stevenson, Steward of The Hong Kong Jockey Club; Mr Patrick Fung Yuk-bun, Acting Chairman of the University Council; and University President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong.

The production was sponsored by Dr Anita Chan Lai-ling, an ardent supporter of Hong Kong's education and charitable drives; GlobalNet Telecommunications International Ltd.; Asia Pacific Catering Corporation Ltd.; The Bank of East Asia; PolyU Council member Mr Roy Chung Chi-ping; and Tsang Fook Piano Co.







HKTDC Executive Director Michael Sze welcomed guests at the opening ceremony.

One-stop-shop to higher learning opportunities

As more people are aware of the need to constantly upgrade their work skills and knowledge, the Education and Careers Expo 2000 was held in February to provide the latest information and options.

A major highlight of the four-day mega fair was the Hong Kong Higher Education Pavilion, featuring tertiary institutions including PolyU. Under the theme "Creating a competitive edge for our students and the community", the PolyU booth offered up-to-date information about its various academic programmes and opportunities for further education in preparation for a knowledge-based economy. Besides attractively designed printed materials, participants also obtained information they needed on CD-ROM.

To enhance the understanding of the participants about the unique features of individual programmes, representatives of different departments had conducted three seminars centering on meeting the challenges in the 21st century: Broader Education Opportunities offered by PolyU; PolyU's role in the High-tech Development and in the Field of Construction and Land Use; Tourism: a look ahead as well as Health Care Professions in the Cyber Century. ❖



(from left) Dr Lo Veng-cheong, Prof. Francis Yik and Dr Stanley Yeung conducted a seminar at the Expo.



(right) Antony Leung of the Education Commission toured the PolyU booth with Prof. Leung Tin-pui and Mrs Nancy Tong.



Collaborative research labs ranked high

Two laboratories under the aegis of PolyU have been highly commended by the national expert panel in the first assessment by the Chinese Academy of Sciences on its 12 laboratories and research centres jointly established with higher education institutions in the HKSAR.

The “Fire Safety and Technology Research Centre for Large Space”, established by PolyU and the University of Science and Technology of China, was ranked second while the “Union Laboratory of Asymmetric Synthesis”, established by PolyU, Chengdu Institute of Organic Chemistry and Taiwan’s National Chung Hsing University, came fourth on the list.

Delighted with the encouraging result, Prof. Edwin Cheng Tai-chiu, PolyU’s Vice-President (Research and Postgraduate Studies) said, “The result does not only acknowledge the fruits of collaboration between PolyU and research institutions on the mainland, but also reinforces our determination to pursue academic excellence in a professional context.”

The Fire Safety and Technology Research Centre for Large Space is located in Hefei, Anhui province. Heading the research



An experiment of natural smoke filling process.
自然灌煙實驗

team are Prof. Chow Wan-ki, Chair Professor of PolyU’s Department of Building Services Engineering; and Prof. Fan Weicheng, Vice-President of the University of Science and Technology of China.

The Centre creates a simulated environment for researchers to study important topics on fire science, including natural smoke filling, natural ventilation, mechanical smoke extraction system, atrium sprinkler and fire detection system.

The Union Laboratory of Asymmetric Synthesis is situated in Chengdu, Sichuan province. Heading the research team are Prof. Albert Chan Sun-chi, Chair Professor and Head of PolyU’s Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology; Prof. Jiang Yaozhong, former director of Chengdu Institute of Organic Chemistry; and Prof. Yang Tengkuai, Dean of the Faculty of

Sciences, National Chung Hsing University in Taiwan.

Asymmetric synthesis is a chemical process that can facilitate the production of pure chiral compound – an important constituent of modern medicine – in the pharmaceutical industry. The research team has already discovered three new catalysts for the process and successfully registered for patents in the US. ❖

理大聯合實驗室大獲好評

最近，中國科學院首次對轄下各單位與香港各大學建立聯合實驗室作出評估，由香港理工大學參與成立的兩所聯合實驗室皆名列前茅，獲中科院專家高度評價。

在中科院專家對十二所聯合實驗室的評估結果中，理大與中國科技大學合建的「火災安全與技術聯合研究中心」名列第二位；而該校與中科院成都有機化學研究所及台灣中興大學共同成立的「不對稱合成聯合開放實驗室」則名列第四位。

理大副校長（科研及深造課程）鄭大昭教授對評估結果表示欣慰：「是次評估不但再一次肯定了本校與內地科研機構的合作方向，同時亦對我們堅持應用科研發展方向發揮很大的鼓舞作用。」

理大與中國科技大學合建的「火災安全與技術聯合研究中心」設於安徽省合肥市，主要研究人員為理大屋宇設備工程學系周允基

講座教授與中國科技大學副校長范維澄教授。

研究中心的主要實驗大樓為研究人員提供模擬火災實驗環境，探討範圍包括烟氣自然填灌、自然通風、機械排煙系統、大空間水噴淋，及火災探測系統。中心歷時兩載建成，現已列中國科學院院級實驗室。

「不對稱合成聯合開放實驗室」設於四川省成都市，主要負責人為理大應用生物及化學科技學系主任陳新滋講座教授、成都有機化學研究所前所長蔣耀忠教授、及台灣中興大學理學院院長楊登貴教授。

不對稱合成技術能夠廣泛應用於製藥業、改善生產手性化合物的技術。由陳教授率領的專家隊伍已發現三種可以改良生產手性化合物的催化劑，目前已獲得美國專利權。 ❖