

Rising rugby star: No pain, no gain!

Hoty Chan Ho-ting may look ordinary walking to a class with her classmates from the Institute of Textiles and Clothing, but she surely gets the attention of the audience when she runs with a ball in a rugby field. She joined a training course in summer 1997 and since then, Hoty and Rugby have been inseparable.

Despite the relatively short period of time Hoty has played rugby, she has made a great achievement of professional recognition, having won a scholarship of The Hong Kong Rugby Football Union (HKRFU) Charitable Trust Fund. The hard work has borne fruit.

Hoty was one of the first two female players to receive the scholarship. The honour is a significant mark of the progress made in women's rugby in the last few years.

"It is wonderful to know that female players are assuming an increasingly important role in this sport," Hoty said, "Besides getting the scholarship, I also had a chance to represent Hong Kong to play in



An excellent start of the year for Hoty Chan as she received a scholarship on 1 January.

Australia for the first time. Being the only Chinese player on the team, I felt particularly honoured."

The scholarship, according to Trustee Jamie Scott who is also HKRFU's Director of Development, is an "across the board trust fund for boys and girls who show a commitment to rugby and education. The criteria for qualifying for the scholarship is demonstrating a commitment to rugby, needing financial help in pursuing education and a willingness to put something back into the game."

The Trust Fund has awarded 17 scholarships to students since its inception in 1992. This year nine scholarships were presented at the New Year's Day Youth Rugby Tournament.



Spring in the air

Led by Associate Professor Dr Kivela, students of the Department of Hotel and Tourism Management did something special to welcome the first spring of the new millennium. Using the theme 'Spring', the second-year students in Hotel and Catering Management put their heart and soul into creating mouth-watering desserts composed of Häagen-Dazs ice-cream.

The project attracted many to participate, but it was not awards that participants were after. The selected dishes were put on the menu of several Häagen-Dazs café shops last month, giving more choices to the outlets' discerning customers. To the groups who prepared the recipes, the recognition represented satisfaction of great meaning.

"We invite PolyU to run this project together as it is a University which enjoys a high reputation of offering application-oriented programmes in hotel management and catering. We believe this is a great opportunity for students to learn how to link their learning to real-life business," comments Ms Jennifer Leung, Marketing Manager of Häagen-Dazs.

PolyU sees that it is important to cement collaborative partnership between the University and industry to give students the added-value. "I welcome whenever possible the opportunities for experiential synergy that 'theoretical learning' coupled with real-life application can provide to our students. And judging from students' feedback, they obviously enjoyed the learning experience too," added Dr Kivela.

What did the judges say?

"There are truly a lot of creative presentations and brilliant ideas, with a large variety of special ingredients used. And the most important thing is they match the Häagen-Dazs brand image — premium, elegant, sophisticated and quality."



Training an elite force for business

To meet with the increasing demand for first-class executives, PolyU offers an intensive part-time professional doctorate programme in business administration. Last December the first batch of DBA graduates received their hard-earned academic award at the University's Fifth Congregation.

With a usual intake of 20, the three-year programme is tailor-made for senior managers, with the qualification of MBA or MSc in Management, who seek to further their career and personal development through advanced study.

Participants of the programme will need to complete a number of advanced taught modules and to undertake an applied research project which requires an effort

of around 1,680 hours. The process of doing the thesis will help the participants to develop critical thinking skills and transfer them to other decision-making business context.

A unique benefit that the course creates is the ample opportunities for the participants, who are of high calibre, to learn from each other. It provides a stimulating environment for the exchange of ideas and promotes competitiveness. ❖



The first batch of DBA graduates reaped the rewards of their hard work.

Double happiness for the Aus



It was a most memorable day for Jackson Au Cheuk-sang and his daughter Yvonne Au Ho-ying, who celebrated their graduation from PolyU together at the 5th Congregation.

While Yvonne earned her Bachelor of Arts (Hons) degree in Language and Communication through full-time studies like many of her peers, the Diploma in Legal Executive Studies awarded to her father did not come easy.

"I went to primary school but only spent a few months in secondary school. It was not uncommon in my generation for young people like me to quit school because of financial reasons," Mr Au recalled.

After years working in the legal field, at first as a messenger, Mr Au enrolled in PolyU as a mature student with the hope of learning more and upgrading his qualifications. "I am proud to have become a legal executive," he said. ❖

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