

Placements broaden outlook of students

PolyU recently celebrated the fifth anniversary of its 'Preferred Graduate' Development Programme (PGDP) with students and employers at a ceremony held on campus.

The Programme creates a win-win situation for both students and Partner Companies by arranging on-the-job training opportunities for students in summer. The invaluable work experience gained during the placements equips students with a competitive edge in the workplace upon their graduation.

Despite the global economic downturn, this year saw encouraging responses from the private and public sectors to the Programme, with more than 178 new companies recruited as Partner Companies or supporting organisations. The number of participating companies increased more than fivefold from 126 in 1997 to 702. Out of the 756 student participants this year, about 400 took up local placements and 95 went abroad for placements in 16 countries. Another 241 students had the chance of receiving training on the mainland while six were placed in Taiwan.

Addressing the ceremony, President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong said, "We vow to continue striving for excellence in teaching and learning as well as development of all-round education for youngsters." He expressed gratitude to the participating organisations for the key role they had played in the exercise and for their faith in the Programme.

First launched in 1997, the Programme is one concrete step PolyU has taken to develop students' potential. The long-term benefits that the Programme brings include the deepening of students' understanding of the workplace related to their chosen fields of study. Many also gained firsthand experience of the culture of the mainland or foreign countries, and built lasting friendship and contact networks.

During the ceremony, the student trainees each received a Certificate of Achievement, jointly issued by the Partner Company and the University, for satisfactory completion of their placements.



Feedback: From employers

“The PGDP effectively facilitates us in recruiting quality student staff to assist in our project work. It is exemplary in bringing education into the real world of work.”

— Mr S.K. Yau,
Organiser for Administrative Affairs,
Caritas Adult & Higher Education Service

“The students performed well during their placement... This Programme is of vital importance both to our country and the students themselves.”

— Mr Zewu Kong,
International Cooperation Department,
Zhejiang Publishing United Group



Interns of the Administrative Service Summer Student Employment Scheme.

From students

“I found myself more mature after the internship. By coping with my homesickness and tackling problems during the stay, I have developed stronger EQ.”

— Mr Tang Chi-hong,
Year Two physics students;
placement at Imperial College of Science,
Technology and Medicine, London

“Under the [Administrative Service Summer Student Employment] Scheme, I had exposure to duties similar to those of an Administrative Officer... I come to realise the importance of having responsible and accountable government officers.”

— Miss Wong Lai-kuen,
Year Two textiles student;
placement at Constitutional Affairs Bureau,
HKSAR Government

“This is an excellent chance for me to explore a different medical system apart from what I have seen in Hong Kong.”

— Miss Yu Chit,
Year One nursing student;
placement at Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital, Zhejiang



Sir Run Run Shaw Hospital in Hangzhou offers placements for 11 PolyU students.

Immersing in Chinese culture

To learn more about their mother country, 236 full-time students took part in the University's summer programme this year, taking short courses in Peking University and Tsinghua University. A Putonghua course was offered by Tsinghua while general education subjects related to Chinese culture and literature were taught at Peking University.



Applause for student projects

PolyU students have scored several prizes in the Seventh Challenge Cup Competition held at Xian Jiaotong University.

Postgraduate student Mr Tsang Wa-sze and fresh graduate Mr Yu Wai-ming of the Department of Applied Physics won a Second Prize for their research project "Upconversion Luminescences of TM^{3+} Doped PWT and PWG Glasses and their Raman Spectroscopic" (supervised by Dr Tsui Wan-lam). The project of Mr Zhang Yu and Miss Wong Nga-yan, postgraduate students from the same department, "Bending-mode Multi-layer Piezoelectric Transformer" (supervised by Prof. Helen Chan) was awarded a Third Prize. Another Third Prize went to Mr Ho Chun-pong, a fresh graduate of the Department of Electronic and Information Engineering, for his project "Intelligent Multimedia Home System" (supervised by Dr Frank Leung).

The Challenge Cup is a biennial nation-wide event to advance technological knowledge and innovation among tertiary students. It was jointly organised by China Association for Science and Technology, China Students' Association and the Communist Youth League with the support of the Ministry of Education of China. ❖



Members of the PolyU delegation in Xian (from left): Mr Tsang Wa-sze, Prof. Y.S. Lee, Miss Wong Nga-yan and Mr Ho Chun-pong.

Overseas study scholarship from Hongkong Bank Foundation



Vinci (middle, front row) and Kai-fai (first from left, back row) posing with Mr David Eldon, Chairman of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd, and other students at a reception hosted by the Foundation.

Thanks to the generous donation of more than \$780,000 from the Hongkong Bank Foundation, four students are now pursuing their studies overseas for one year to broaden their horizons. They are:

- Miss Vinci Li (Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies), now in the University of Durham, UK
- Mr Tsang Kai-fai (Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering), now in the University of Warwick, UK
- Miss Chan Mei-lin (Jockey Club Rehabilitation Engineering Centre), now in Columbia University, US
- Miss Chan Ting-li (Department of Rehabilitation Sciences), now in the University of South Australia, Australia.

Since the 1997/98 academic year, 12 PolyU degree students have benefited from the scholarships donated by the Foundation, which totals nearly \$2.1 million. ❖

Dinner talks for students

To enrich students' learning experience, the Students Affairs Office recently invited two eminent business leaders to deliver Dinner Talks on campus. Mr Stanley Wong, Chief Executive, China, Standard Chartered Bank, gave a talk on the impact of WTO on the banking sector, while Mr Philip Leung, Partner of eCommerce Ltd., shared his views on the importance of being entrepreneurial. ❖

Creating their dream toys

Two design students Miss Dorothy Lam Yuen-yan and Mr Wong Siu-long have won the Gold Award and Merit Award respectively in the student category of The Hong Kong Toy Design Competition 2001. Another entry from a design team of PolyU's RAPRODS (Rapid Product Development Syndicate) won the Silver Award in the open category.

Jointly organized by PolyU and the Toys Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, the contest came to its finale on 13 December, with more than 600 guests attending its award presentation ceremony. An exhibition of the winners' works was held subsequently on campus. This year saw fierce competition among more than 200 entries to the contest.



Dorothy and her award-winning "Brush Hour", which remind kids to brush their teeth.



"Learning Chinese Character Game" by RAPRODS design team



"DIY Zipper Dolls" by Wong Siu-long

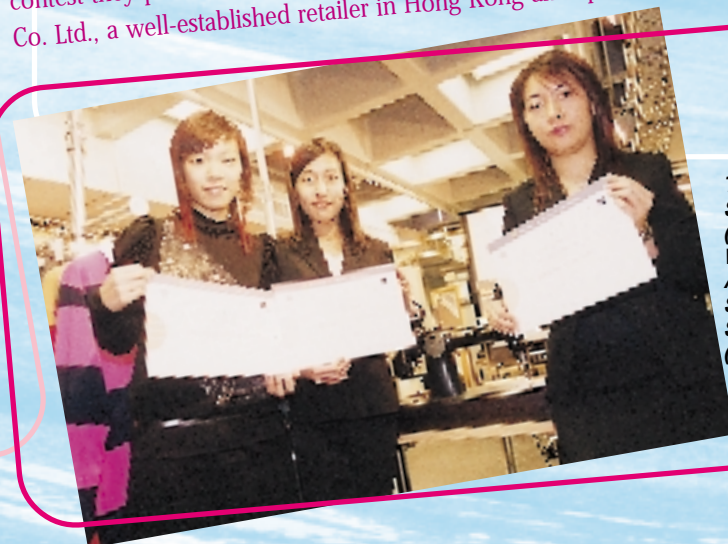
Fashion talent shines through

Two Tsinghua University graduates studying for their master's degree at PolyU's Institute of Textiles and Clothing (ITC) have made it to the final round of a fashion design contest held by the Confederation of Indian Apparel Exporters. Among them Miss Amanda Wang Yue won the championship.

In addition, three undergraduate students from ITC outsmarted nearly 100 competitors and won the Sincere Scholarship for Innovation in Retailing in November. During the contest they presented their business proposals on running a department store to Sincere Co. Ltd., a well-established retailer in Hong Kong and sponsor of the event.



Amanda and a model wearing an outfit of her "Fusion" series (right). On her left is finalist Rosaline Wu Bo showing her work "Modern Self-indulgent Woman".



The Sincere Scholarship goes to (from left) Agnes Pun Wai-man (Gold Award), Irene Kwok Sze-wai (Silver) and Sheryl Cheng Yuen-fai (Bronze).