

PGDP hits milestone in the mainland

The University has recently teamed up with 29 organizations in Beijing, Shanghai, Hangzhou and Nanjing as partner companies for its 'Preferred Graduate' Development Programme (PGDP). The newly joined members are expected to offer 1,443 placement opportunities to PolyU students in the next three years.

An official ceremony was held in January to announce the good news. Under the PGDP agreement, PolyU will provide partner companies each year with an agreed number of students in specific disciplines. Based on the requirements of the companies, PolyU will conduct a screening exercise among its full-time, non final-year undergraduate students to select suitable trainees for the partner companies.



Launched in 1997, PGDP aims to enhance students' market value by providing them hands-on working experience before graduation. With the support of over 700 partner companies and supporting organizations from the Chinese mainland, North and South America, Europe and Australia, more than 3,200 PolyU students have benefited from the Programme. Some students have become permanent staff of their host companies upon graduation.

PGDP participants come from a wide range of academic disciplines, from accountancy to civil engineering, design, textiles and clothing, hotel and tourism management, nursing and optometry. The Programme is successful in deepening students' understanding of the workplace of their professions as well as exposing them to various cultures and establishing their own networks.



Toy competition to challenge creativity

Co-organized by PolyU and the Toys Manufacturers' Association of Hong Kong, The Hong Kong Toy Design Competition 2003 was successfully held in February. This year, more than 1,800 entries were received from Hong Kong, Macau, Taiwan and the Chinese mainland.

With an aim to enhance the industry's position in the international market by encouraging more innovative designs, this annual competition invites entries for three categories, namely Student, Open and Enterprise. This has been the third year for the competition to be held.

A Panel of Judges, which comprises professionals from industry and academia, will identify entries with potential for development. Short-listed entries will then be offered subsidy for making the prototypes for the final selection to be held in July.



Applause for outstanding professional services

In recognition of the achievements of staff in serving the community through their professional services, the PolyU Technology and Consultancy Ltd (PTeC) presented more than 20 awards to faculty members at the annual Outstanding Professional Services and Innovation Awards Presentation Ceremony on 13 January.

This year saw the introduction of the new category “Successful Pearl Company with Highest Profit” to pay tribute to the University’s wholly-owned subsidiary under Pearl which made the highest profit in 2001/02.

PTeC is the strategic professional service arm of the University and an operating unit of PolyU’s self-financing Institute for Enterprise. Capitalizing on the expertise and advanced facilities available from PolyU’s 26 academic departments and three centres, PTeC offers a wide range of services. These include consultancy, contract research, product design and development and technology transfer.



Prof. Li Yok-sheung, Head of CSE, receives the “Highest Departmental Consultancy Revenue Award” from President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong.

Consultancy Award	Title of Award	Winners
Departmental Awards	<i>Highest Departmental Consultancy Revenue Award</i>	Department of Civil & Structural Engineering (CSE)
	<i>Maximum Staff Participation Award</i>	Chinese Language Centre
	<i>Highest Revenue Growth Award</i>	Department of Accountancy (ACCT)
Consultancy/Product Development Award	Title of Award	Winners
Individual Awards	<i>Most Active Consultant Award</i>	Prof. Chua Hong, CSE
	<i>Most Valued Project Award</i>	Prof. Amy Lau Hing-ling, ACCT, & Team: PRC Accounting, Auditing, Taxation and Capital Market and Corporate Governance Workshops
	<i>Highest Consultancy Growth Award</i>	Mr Edwin Chan Hoi-wan, Department of Building & Real Estate
	<i>New Consultant with Highest Revenue Award</i>	Mr Lee Tak-chi, School of Design

Product Development Award	Winners
<i>Most Active Department in Product Development Award</i>	School of Design (SD)
<i>Most Valued Product Development Project Award</i>	Mr Lee Tak-chi, SD: Product Design and Development of Promotional Items for n-hance Design Ltd
Licensing Award	Winner
<i>Highest Licensing Value Award</i>	Prof. Albert Chan, Department of Applied Biology & Chemical Technology (ABCT): Chiral Aminophosphines, Soluble Polyester-supported Chiral Phosphines, Chiral Pyridylphosphines
Self-financed Training Activities Award	Winner
<i>Most Active Training Award</i>	Dr Keith Chan Chun-chung, Department of Computing
Special Award	Awardee
<i>Successful Pearl Company with Highest Profit</i>	SMILE Technologies Limited

Patents Awards	
Title of Project	Applicants
Device for Manufacturing of Low-twist Rotor Spun Yarn	Prof. Philip Yeung, Vice President (Academic Development) & Victor Tang Trust Chair Professor of Textiles & Clothing Prof. Wang Shan-yuan, Institute of Textiles & Clothing (ITC) Mr Zhang An-qing (external collaborator) Mr Lo Ming-tak, ITC Mr Wang Zhong-xiao (external collaborator) Dr Yang Xiu-fang, ITC Mr Wan Qi (external collaborator) Mr Yang Li-hui; Mr Li Ning (external collaborator)
Ultrasonic Transducer	Prof. Helen Chan Wong Lai-wa, Department of Applied Physics (AP) Dr Or Siu-wing, AP Prof. Choy Chung-loong, AP
Fabrication of Piezoelectric Ceramics/Piezoelectric Polymer Composites with Reinforced Piezoelectric Properties	Prof. Helen Chan Wong Lai-wa, AP Dr Zhou Qi-fa, AP Prof. Choy Chung-loong, AP Dr Zhang Qing-qi, AP
Shape Memory Alloy Actuators for Toy Vehicles	Dr Zhou Li-min, Department of Mechanical Engineering (ME); Dr Shiu Boon-wai, ME; Mr Andrew Young Meng-cheung, Partnership Development Office
Treatment of Fabrics	Dr Xu Weilin, ITC Dr Li Yi, ITC Prof. Philip Yeung, ITC, Vice President (Academic Development) & Victor Tang Trust Chair Professor of Textiles & Clothing Dr Kwok Yi-lin, ITC
Building and Paving Bricks and Blocks	Prof. Poon Chi-sun, CSE Mr Kou Shi-cong, CSE Dr Lam Lik, CSE
Fibre Gratings	Prof. Tam Hwa-yaw, Department of Electrical Engineering (EE) Dr Man Wai-sing, EE
Composition for Storage Battery Cells and Method for Making Same	Prof. Leung Tin-pui, Vice President (Student & Staff Development) & Chair Professor of Mechanical Engineering Dr Wong Ho-ching, Industrial Centre (IC) Mr Miu Wah-sing, IC
3-D Body Scanner	Dr Winnie Yu, ITC Dr Roger Ng, ITC Mr Yan Man-chi, ITC Dr Gu Hong-bo, ITC
Safety Helmets with Cellular Textile Composite Structure as Energy Absorber	Prof. Tao Xiaoming, ITC Prof. Yu Tongxi (external collaborator) Dr Xue Pu (external collaborator)



Vice President Dr Lui Sun-wing presents the "Highest Licensing Value Award" to Prof. Albert Chan, Head of ABCT (left).



The "Most Valued Project Award" goes to the team led by Prof. Amy Lau, Chair Professor of Accounting (middle).

Joint efforts to fight against

SARS



In view of the recent outbreak of atypical pneumonia (also known as SARS) and the suspension of classes, over 500 PolyU members have volunteered their knowledge and skills to serve the community during this difficult period. The following highlights some of these services:

Children's Hotline (兒童熱線): 2334 2387

Since 4 April, a Children's hotline has commenced operation, from 9 am to 9 pm every day, targeting children aged between 4 to 12. Under the supervision of teaching staff, PolyU volunteers answer children's enquiries on homework, provide counselling service and basic health education through phone games, quizzes and jokes.

Community Ambassadors (社區大使計劃)

With the kind support of MTRC, about 100 PolyU volunteers acted as community ambassadors at MTR stations along the Tsuen Wan line from 4 to 6 April. Duties of the ambassadors included distribution of an educational leaflet, answering public enquiries as well as setting up display boards at the MTR stations.

General Hotline (關懷熱線): 2334 1560

A general hotline has been set up to answer public enquiries on atypical pneumonia. The hotline service includes provision of counselling service, basic health education, information on social service as well as referral services on childcare, domestic help, family counselling and other medical services.

Patient Service Counter (病人服務櫃台)

A Patient Service Counter has been set up since 1 April at the lobby of the Infectious Disease Block of Princess Margaret Hospital (PMH). Family of PMH patients can call the hotline at 29901587 and PolyU students will provide them with the latest information of the patients. During the launch period, about 180 enquires were received every day.

SARS Awareness & Health Promotion Campaign (葵青區流動健康資訊站)

The School of Nursing has put up a number of roving "SARS Awareness & Health Promotion" exhibitions in various public locations, including the Community Health Resource Centre at PMH, a primary school, public housing estates, community centres and shopping arcades in the neighbourhood of PMH. The campaign is launched as a means to perform public and health education.

"Virtual Classroom"

The University's subsidiary SMILE Technologies Limited takes advantages of its advanced IT network to provide an interactive platform for secondary school teachers to "conduct classes" during the suspension of classes. Teachers can make use of the service via the website www.smile-hk.net.

Webpage on "Infection Control"

The Department of Optometry and Radiography has initiated a dedicated webpage for the optometry profession on "Infection Control".



Events & conferences

Symposium on R&D of railway engineering

The University's Department of Electrical Engineering hosted Hong Kong's first "Symposium on Research and Development in Railway Engineering — Asia-Pacific" on campus from 31 March to 1 April 2003. Over 100 participants from the United Kingdom, Singapore, Macau and the Chinese mainland took part in this Symposium. The Symposium aimed to provide a platform for the exchange and dissemination of technical information among academics and practicing engineers in the field. ❖

Distinguished lecture on geography

The Faculty of Construction and Land Use organised a distinguished lecture on the topic of "Augmenting Geographic Reality" in mid-March. Internationally renowned scholar, Prof. Michael F. Goodchild, who is Professor of Geography at the University of California, Santa Barbara; Chair of the Executive Committee of the National Center for Geographic Information and Analysis; Associate Director of the Alexandria Digital Library Project; and key member of various national and international associations was invited to shed light on this topic. ❖

潘宗光教授主講 《十二因緣》佛學講座

校長潘宗光教授於三月中以《十二因緣》為題，於理大賽馬會綜藝館主持佛學講座。該項活動由理大文化推廣委員會及智度會弘法慈善基金合辦。潘教授近年接觸佛教，受其哲學所啟發，曾到台灣佛光山參加七日短期出家，又到台灣法鼓山及緬甸宣隆寺參加禪修集訓；於二零零零年六月遠赴河北省，皈依柏林禪寺住持淨慧法師。潘教授著作包括《心經與生活智慧》及《佛教與人生》。前者更由日本麗澤大學千島英一教授翻譯成日文。 ❖



Bravo! Benissimo

A special training on "Italian gastronomy" was held at the Millennium training kitchen in end-February. Jointly presented by the School of Hotel and Tourism Management (HTM) and Italian Culinary Institute for Foreigners, the programme invited experts from Italy to conduct a unique training which has blended theories into interactive talks and live demonstrations. HTM students were thrilled to take this opportunity to learn from the international masters and apply what they have learnt from books into practice. ❖