

President gives lectures as Distinguished Fulbright Scholar

Sponsored by the US Consulate General and HKSAR Government, President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong gave a series of lectures to leading universities in the United States as a Distinguished Fulbright Scholar 2002-03 in September.

Speaking on the theme "Opportunities in Higher Education in Hong Kong," Prof. Poon delivered talks to staff and students of New York University, Rutgers University, Cornell University, Purdue University and the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign. This was the second part of his tour as a Distinguished Fulbright Scholar. Earlier this February, Prof. Poon also spoke at the University of Southern California, University of California in Los Angeles, University of California in Berkeley and California Institute of Technology to provide an update on developments of Hong Kong, in particular about challenges and opportunities faced by the higher education sector. ❖



Purdue University's President Martin Jischke (left) welcomes Prof. Poon. Purdue University has long been a close partner of PolyU.



Vice President honoured with BBS

Prof. T. P. Leung, Vice President (Student Development), has recently been awarded Bronze Bauhinia Star by the HKSAR Government in recognition of his valuable contribution to the quality assurance work of the University Grants Committee. ❖

Jackie Chan meets our students



At the invitation of the School of Hotel and Tourism Management, international movie star and Hong Kong Tourism Ambassador Dr Jackie Chan visited the University and shared his experience of promoting Hong Kong with PolyU students. Since 1995, Jackie has been appointed as Hong Kong's official Tourism Ambassador. Over the years, he has taken part in various large-scale activities to promote the image of Hong Kong.

The event also marked the beginning of the School's Distinguished Lecture Series which is scheduled to invite hospitality gurus to speak to PolyU students to broaden their horizon and to enhance their knowledge about the industry. ❖

High praises on teaching and learning

In the latest round of the Teaching and Learning Quality Process Review conducted by the University Grants Committee, PolyU was highly praised for its untiring efforts in assuring the quality of teaching and learning.

According to the Report, PolyU “has made significant progress” in recent years as far as taught programmes are concerned. The Institution was praised “for its general emphasis on Education Quality Work” that is present on campus; and its staff members are “generally enthusiastic and are moving toward a culture of learning, via initiatives and innovations associated with student-centred pedagogies”.

Commenting on the results of this exercise, Vice President Prof. Leung Tin-pui said, “We are most delighted that our efforts have gained recognition from the Panel as well as the community at large. As acknowledged by the Panel, teaching and learning is taken seriously in PolyU and substantial resources have been committed by the University in teaching and learning.”

The Report also said PolyU has “a wide range of structural elements put in place for assuring and improving quality of teaching and learning on campus”. These include the annual Business Plan and Quality Report procedures, the Departmental Assessment and Departmental Academic Advisor systems.

In the realm of postgraduate education, the Report commented that “a sound system is in place for the administration of research postgraduate education”. Priority has also been given by the University to supervise programmes



Prof. Leung (left) and Dr K.P. Kwan, Acting Head of the Educational Development Centre, present UGC's latest report on PolyU's teaching and learning quality.

for the research postgraduate students.

This time, the scope of the exercise was further extended to encompass three PolyU-affiliated continuing education entities, namely the School of Professional Education and Executive Development (SPEED), the Hong Kong Community College (HKCC), and the Integrated Graduate Development Scheme (IGDS) – a dual-award programme offered by PolyU and the University of Warwick.

Overall, the Panel said the entities concerned have paid attention to the support of teachers, elements of assessment procedures and effectiveness of programme teams. It also commended HKCC for the support given to Associate Degree students and IGDS for its overall programme design, innovative delivery system and a comprehensive quality assurance system. ❖

Nanotech fabrics: fusion of beauty and functions



With innovative fabric design and an outstanding research paper, researchers from PolyU's Institute of Textiles and Clothing made names in the First China International Home Textile Design Competition.

By depositing metal or silver nano particles onto fibre surfaces, PolyU's textile experts have successfully developed a new type of fabric which is water and oil repellent, as well as anti-bacterial. This unique fabric has won a Silver Award for Product Design and an Outstanding Award for Product Design in the competition. ❖

Mr Jiang Shouqiang, a PhD student of the Institute of Textiles and Clothing, plays a key role in developing the high performance nanotech fabrics.

Global leader in tourism education

In honour of its leadership in enhancing tourism education in Asia as well as innovativeness in student admission, curriculum design and industry partnership programmes, the School of Hotel and Tourism Management has recently been awarded the prestigious “2003 ISTTE Institutional Award” by the International Society of Travel and Tourism Educators.

This coveted honour is presented once every two years and PolyU is the first institution outside North America to have received such honour.

Around the same time, in an academic report produced by the World Travel and Tourism Council, the School has been commended as “a large, wealthy and very strong School of Hotel and Tourism Management, which is becoming a major education centre for tourism in the region and generates some particularly good research”.

Prof. Kaye Chon, Head of the School, welcomed the latest honours and said they further underpinned Hong Kong’s position as a regional tourism hub. “Seeing the importance of tourism as a pillar industry for the local economy, PolyU is committed to providing first class hospitality education for Hong Kong, the mainland and the Asia Pacific region,” Prof. Chon added.

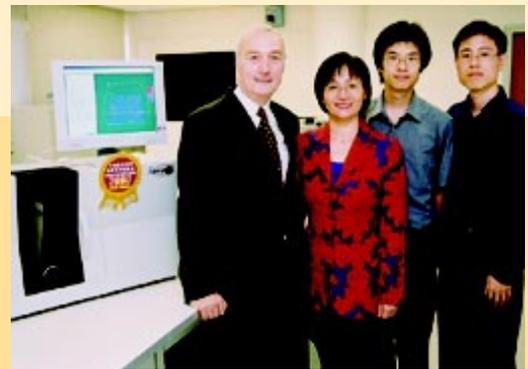
Renowned for its hospitality education, PolyU every year attracts an overwhelming number of applications for its hotel and tourism management programmes. For the academic year 2003/04, more than 3,000 JUPAS applicants selected these programmes as one of their top three choices – hitting a record high application-to-intake ratio. Other industry partnership programmes have also been introduced to help students put their learning to practice. ❖

Researchers take National Inventions Exhibition by storm

Amid fierce competition from 36 provinces and cities, PolyU researchers scored top honours in the 14th National Inventions Exhibition of China. A major biennial event organized by the State Intellectual Property Office, Ministry of Science and Technology and China Association of Invention, the Exhibition attracted over 1,000 entries.

With the invention of a Palmprint Identification System and the world’s first Artificial Intelligence-enabled fabric evaluation machine named “FabricEye”, PolyU took two Gold Medals in the Exhibition. Another joint research on Novel Chemical Resolution Method, conducted by researchers of the Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology, also received a Silver Medal in the same Exhibition. ❖

(From left) Prof. Edward Newton, Dr Hu Jinlian and researchers from the Institute of Textiles and Clothing pose next to the award winning machine – “FabricEye”.



Developed by Prof. David Zhang Dapeng (middle), Associate Head of the Department of Computing, and other team members, the Palmprint Identification System scooped a Gold Medal in the Exhibition.

Outstanding staff honoured



The President also presents Certificates of Appreciation to the working team whom together has made the record-breaking Human Rainbow a success.

In the “President’s Awards for Excellent Performance/ Achievement 2002/03”, the University paid tribute to staff members who have made outstanding performance and contributions to the University and the community.

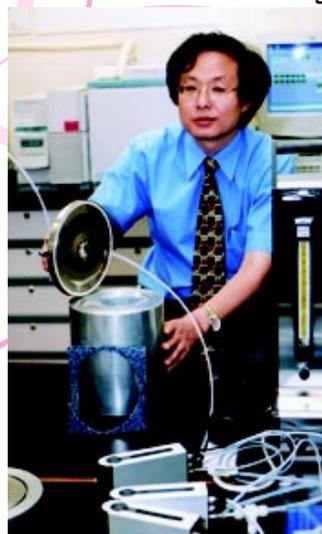
This year, the award scheme has been restructured to a two-tier system to give recognition to a wider representation of staff members. Altogether 15 individuals and seven teams were presented the “President’s Awards for Excellent Performance/ Achievement”, “Faculty Awards for Outstanding Performance/ Achievement” and “Outstanding Performance/ Achievement Awards for Non-academic Staff”. All nominations were first submitted to the selection panels of the Faculty Awards and Awards for Non-academic Staff. The best among the awardees were then recommended for the President’s Awards.

During the ceremony, Certificates of Appreciation were presented to staff members who helped the community fight against SARS last year as well as those who were involved in the work of the record-breaking “Human Rainbow”. In celebration of the 65th Anniversary in 2002, the University successfully gathered 11,273 staff, students and alumni to form the world’s largest Human Rainbow and broke the Guinness World Records.

A special Award of Recognition was also presented to the late Dr Lee Sai-wing, a former Assistant Professor of the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences, who passed away in October 2002. The Award was given in recognition of his remarkable service as a teacher.



Ms Julia Chen, winner of the President’s Award in Teaching



Dr Niu Jianlei, winner of the President’s Award in Research and Scholarly Activities



Mr Steve Frakland, winner of the President’s Award in Teaching



Prof. Thomas Wong, winner of the President’s Award in Services



Ir K.K. Lo, winner of the President’s Award in Overall Contribution

Awardees of the President’s Awards for Excellent Performance/ Achievement

Teaching	Ms Julia Chen, Lecturer, English Language Centre; Mr Steve Frankland, Associate Head and Associate Professor, Department of Industrial and Systems Engineering
Research and Scholarly Activities	Dr Niu Jianlei, Associate Professor, Department of Building Services Engineering
Services	Prof. Thomas K.S. Wong, Chair Professor and Head, School of Nursing
Overall Contribution	Ir K.K. Lo, Scientific Officer I, Department of Mechanical Engineering

Continuing education alliance strengthened

The Consortium of Continuing Education Institutions (CCEI) – initiated by PolyU's School of Professional Education and Executive Development (SPEED) – held a signing ceremony earlier to renew its collaborative agreement with the existing members and welcome four new members of the alliance.

During the ceremony, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed by representatives of the ten consortium members to agree on a five-year co-operation. This year, four institutions joined as new members including Hong Kong Community College, Hong Kong Housing Authority, Hong Kong Management Association and Po Leung Kuk Chao Lee Wai Hing College of Professional and Continuing Education.

Under the agreement, member institutions agree to promote lifelong learning through the Credit Accumulation Mechanism (CAM) of SPEED. CAM provides a channel through which certain subjects offered by other member institutions will be properly assessed and



benchmarked for the purpose of credit transfer towards different levels of CAM awards.

CCEI was founded in June 2000, following an agreement signed among SPEED, Caritas Adult and Higher Education Service, Hong Kong College of Technology and Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions, to form an alliance to promote lifelong education. Hong Kong Productivity Council and Macau Polytechnic Institute joined CCEI in late 2001. ❖

New cohort of graduates from PolyU-Warwick joint programme

The unique Integrated Engineering Business Management Programme (IEBMP), jointly offered by PolyU and the University of Warwick in the UK, hosted its Eleventh Congregation in October with Deputy President Mr Alexander Tzang and Prof. Sir S.K. Bhattacharyya, Director of Warwick Manufacturing Group, as the officiating guests.

IEBMP is a postgraduate programme comprising three tiers: the Engineering Doctorate Programme (EngD), Integrated Graduate Development Scheme (IGDS) and Integrated Manager Development Scheme (IMDS). This year, a total of 111 IEBMP students successfully completed the programme. Among them, there were one Engineering Doctorate graduate, 85 graduates for IGDS and 25 graduates for IMDS.

On the same occasion, IEBMP conferred honorary awards to local leaders in recognition of their outstanding performance and contribution to trade and industries. They were Dr Lui Sun-wing, PolyU Vice President (Partnership Development), for the award of Honorary Fellowship; Ir Cammy Chan, Consultant of South China Machinery Limited; Dr Ng Tat-lun, Managing Director, Operations and Global Lighting Products of Energizer Company Inc.; Dr Pau Kwok-ping, Managing Director of Eco-Tek Holdings Limited and Dr Henry Tseng Chee, Chairman of Kingtronics Holdings (HK) Limited, for the award of Industrial Fellowship. ❖



Universities share concern on budget cuts



Heads of the eight UGC-funded universities have expressed grave concern on the Government's plan to impose severe budget cuts on higher education. In a joint statement issued by the university heads on 27 November, it stated that members of the universities are "willing to shoulder their share of financial problems faced by the Government". However, the Government was urged to uphold its "commitment to providing the people of Hong Kong with higher education of the highest standard."

Invited to speak in a RTHK radio programme "Letter to Hong Kong", PolyU President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong also shared his views on this issue. He pointed out that severe cuts had already been placed by the Government over the past few years.

"From 1998 to 2004, there was an accumulative cut of 10 per cent in our public funding. In academic year 2004/05, local universities have to face an additional 10 per cent cut. For PolyU, we will have to face another 10 per cent cut as a result of the withdrawal of government funding to some of our Higher Diploma programmes. In this regard, the amount of funding cut accumulated is indeed worrying.

"I have to reiterate the fact that development of education requires long-term planning and investment. Over the years, the Government, general public and the education community have worked together and laid a solid foundation for tertiary education. If the Government continues to impose further cuts on higher education, the consequences could be devastating," said Prof. Poon in the programme.

Sharing the same concern, students of PolyU as well as students of some other tertiary institutions staged a series of gatherings and forums to discuss the issue within the higher education community. In one of the public forums held on PolyU campus on 18 November, Legislative Councillors and academics were invited to speak on this controversy and drew hundreds of students to join the event.



5th anniversary for Hangzhou outpost

The University has recently held celebration for the 5th anniversary of its "PolyU-Zhejiang University International Centre for Executive Development" in Hangzhou. It is the first PolyU teaching outpost set up on the mainland. Since its establishment in 1998, the Centre has sent forth 400 graduates.

Well-attended by some 300 scholars, alumni and students, the anniversary dinner was hosted by Prof. Poon Chung-kwong, President of PolyU; Prof. Pan Yunhe, President of Zhejiang University; and Prof. Zhang Junsheng, Chancellor of Zhejiang University, in late September.



Currently PolyU offers the largest number of accredited programmes on the mainland among all universities in Hong Kong and overseas. With approval of the State Council's Academic Degree Committee, the University operates a total of 12 programmes in collaboration with leading universities on the mainland including Peking University, Zhejiang University, Chongqing University and Nankai University.

Apart from Hangzhou, the University has also set up outposts in Shenzhen, Zhuhai and Xi'an in answer to the mounting needs for professional training on the mainland. So far, the outposts have trained more than 1,850 students through various levels of academic programmes and short courses.

Inter-university effort to foster technology advancement

The PolyU-led International Strategic Technology Alliance (ISTA) held its eighth Annual General Meeting in Wuhan last November, gathering representatives from the mainland and overseas to exchange opinion in the promotion of trade-institutional co-operation in technology advancement. The meeting also officially approved and welcomed the joining of Cardiff University of the UK as a new alliance member.

With support from major universities on the Chinese mainland, the UK and the US, ISTA was first set up in 1995 to promote applied research initiatives and to commercialize potential research products on an international scale. The joint effort provides a win-win situation for both academia and the community at large.

