

Prominent industrialist heads Council



Mr Lo (front row, middle) poses with university members at his first council meeting.

Mr Victor Lo Chung-wing, Chairman and Chief Executive of Gold Peak Industries (Holdings) Limited, took up the Chairmanship of the University Council on 1 January 2004.

Mr Lo is no stranger to PolyU. He is an Honorary Professor of the School of Design and was Chairman of the University's Design Advisory Committee prior to assuming his new role as Council Chairman. A strong supporter of local creative industries, Mr Lo is also Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Hong Kong Design Centre and a Council Member of the Hong Kong Trade Development Council. Despite his busy schedule, Mr Lo also led a group of local and overseas design experts as Chairman of PolyU's Design Task Force to review and map out the way forward for our School of Design.

A successful and prominent industrialist, Mr Lo is best known for his active involvement in the promotion of technology and innovation in Hong Kong. In 1989, he was honoured with the Hong Kong Young Industrialist Award. From 2001 to 2003, he served as Chairman of the Federation of Hong Kong Industries. Currently, he is Chairman of the Hong Kong Science and Technology Parks Corporation and a member of the Exchange Fund Advisory Committee.

In recognition of his distinguished services, Mr Lo was awarded the Gold Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong SAR Government in 2001 and was made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire in 1996. He is also a Justice of the Peace. ❖

A fond farewell to Sir Gordon

A heart-warming farewell dinner was held in January at the Student Halls of Residence to bid farewell to our former Council Chairman Dr Sir Gordon Wu Ying-sheung.

The dinner was joined by Council Chairman Mr Victor Lo Chung-wing, President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong, members of the University Council and staff and student representatives, who took the opportunity to express their gratitude to Sir Gordon for his leadership and counsel over the years. Sir Gordon has been Founding Chairman of the University Court from 1995 to 1997 and Chairman of the Council since 1997. ❖



President Prof. Poon, on behalf of the University, presents a tailor-made souvenir to Sir Gordon.



Former and current Council Chairmen at the dinner



Sir Gordon is popular among many PolyU students.



With performances and sharing of happy memories, the evening was filled with joy and laughter.

Clear role for PolyU

The University welcomes the new role statement of PolyU as set out in the document "Hong Kong Higher Education: To make a Difference, To Move with the Times" recently released by the University Grants Committee (UGC). The paper, which incorporates input from individual institutions, underpins the Government's policy to develop an interlocking yet differentiated higher education system.

It is mostly encouraging that the new role statement of PolyU is largely in line with our mission and original role statement. It re-affirms the direction in which the University has been steering its development and consolidates the platform from which PolyU can contribute to turning Hong Kong into the education hub of the region.

The role of PolyU is given in the following ten-point statement:

- (a) offers a range of professionally oriented programmes leading to the award of first degrees, and a small number of sub-degree programmes;
- (b) pursues the delivery of teaching at an internationally competitive level in all the taught programmes that it offers;
- (c) offers a number of taught postgraduate programmes and research postgraduate



programmes in selected subject areas particularly in professional and applied fields;

- (d) emphasizes application-oriented teaching, professional education and applied research;
- (e) aims at being internationally competitive in its areas of research strength;
- (f) emphasizes high value-added education, with a balanced approach leading to the development of all-round students with professional competence;
- (g) maintains strong links with business,

industry, professional sectors, employers as well as the community;

- (h) pursues actively deep collaboration in its areas of strength with other higher education institutions in Hong Kong or the region or more widely so as to enhance the Hong Kong higher education system;
- (i) encourages academic staff to be engaged in public service, consultancy and collaborative work with the private sector in areas where they have special expertise, as part of the institution's general collaboration with government, business and industry; and
- (j) manages in the most effective and efficient way the public and private resources bestowed upon the institution, employing collaboration whenever it is of value.

This refined role statement is part of the result of a recent review of the roles of the eight UGC-funded institutions in Hong Kong. Conducted by the UGC Working Group on Role Differentiation, headed by Vice-Chancellor of the University of Oxford and UGC member Sir Colin Lucas, the study was a follow-up action to help achieve some of the aims stated in the UGC's Higher Education Review of 2002. ♦

Delinked pay package in force

A new set of terms and conditions of services for new staff developed by PolyU Management has come into effect from 1 April, after green light was given by the University Council at its meeting on 23 March. The new remuneration package as outlined under the newly approved human resources management policies concerned will apply to new PolyU staff employed on or after 1 April, while the existing terms and conditions of employment for serving staff will remain unchanged until such time as to be determined by Council.

Prior to implementing the new model, the University Management has gathered and considered diverse views during formal and informal consultation with staff members on the proposed "New Model on Human Resource Management". In particular, two open forums were held.

Following the Government's resolution to delink university staff salaries from those of the civil service from 1 July 2003, all local tertiary institutions have the autonomy to decide on their own salary structure. Anticipating a reduction of public funding for universities, Management developed the new model with the hope that the level of compensation for staff will become more aligned with the open market and that more competitive package could be offered to attract high-calibre staff when necessary. ♦

Business faculty unveils multimedia centre

The Faculty of Business recently unveiled its new multimedia facility, the Kwong Sik Kwan and Hui May Kuen Multimedia Resource Centre.

A special ceremony was held in this connection to acknowledge the strong support of the late Mr Kwong Sik Kwan and his wife Mrs Kwong Hui May Kuen for PolyU and the Faculty of Business. Mr and Mrs Kwong have long been supporters for local education and community services.

Open for use at the start of this academic year, the Centre, with a maximum capacity of 133 seats, provides high-tech teaching and learning facilities for staff and students and a meeting place for academic exchange and research. Special features there include a Bloomberg terminal with access to instant financial news, advanced software that allows teachers to master their class via computing network, video conferencing system and other IT facilities. ❖



Donation support from alumnus and friends

Mr Lam Tai-fai, Managing Director of Peninsula Knitters and a recipient of the Outstanding PolyU Alumni Award 2001, demonstrated his support to his alma mater by generously donating \$10 million to the University earlier this year. Mr Lam is also a member of the University Court and was Chairman of the Human Rainbow Organizing Committee during PolyU's 65th anniversary celebrations in 2002.



A cheque presentation ceremony was held in mid-April in grateful recognition of Mr Ngan Pui-ying and Mrs Katherine Ngan Ng Yu-ying, Chairman and Executive Director of May Cheong Toy Products Factory Ltd respectively. They

contributed \$1 million toward the development of the University and its students. Mrs Ngan is currently a Member of the University Council. ❖



\$2.5m to support engineering research

The University earlier received a donation of \$2.5 million from the Hong Kong Electronic Industries Association in support of the development of the Faculty of Engineering and electronic engineering research.

The generous donation was made by six members of the Association. They are: Mr Measure Hung Kim-fung, Chairman and Managing Director of Mobicon Group Limited; Mr Bernard Auyang, Chief Executive Officer of Computime Limited; Mr Johnny Yeung Chi-hung, Chairman of Fujikon Industrial Holdings Limited; Dr Chan Kei-biu, Chairman and Managing Director of Surface Mount Technology (Holdings) Limited; Mr Stanley Yim Yuk-lun, Chairman of S.A.S. Dragon Holdings Limited; and Mr Eric Yu Man-york, Managing Director of Chequers Electronic (China) Limited. ❖



2nd PolyU Arts Festival attracts 30,000

With the theme “Culture & Creativity: Turning Fantasy into Reality”, the University staged its second Arts Festival from 16 February to 18 March, attracting more than 30,000 participants. The month-long Festival featured more than 20 cultural activities, ranging from exhibitions, design competitions, performances to seminars.

Kicking off the Festival was a campus-wide exhibition named “Please Take a Seat” which displayed chairs designed by professional designers like Mr Barrie Ho, Mr Freeman Lau, Mr Alan Yip, Mr Douglas Young and students of the School of Design. Other fascinating activities included a paper plane folding contest, cooking competition, lyrics composition competition and short films contest.

The grand finale came with the final judging of the Barbie costume design competition. Sponsored by Mattel on the 45th anniversary of Barbie, the competition drew more than 160 entries. Among them, 26 designs were selected for the final and showcased on the catwalk.

Organized by the Culture Promotion Committee and Faculty of Communication, the Festival was organized biennially to enrich students’ campus life and broaden their horizons in various art forms.



Titled “Salute to Creativity”, a closing ceremony was held on 18 March and attended by (front row, from left) Vice President Prof. Leung Tin-pui, Executive and Legislative Councillor Mrs Selina Chow, President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong and Head of Chinese Language Centre Dr Chan Shui-duen.



Council member Mr Henry Wu tries out one of the uniquely designed chairs at the “Please Take a Seat” exhibition.



First runner-up: “Dream Garden”, designed by Chiman Wong, a Year One student in Mechanical Engineering.



With her work “Fairy in Paradise”, Yan Fong, Year One student of the Institute of Textiles and Clothing, is the champion of the Barbie costume design competition.



Second runner-up: “Jasmine Girl”, designed by Alice Cheung, a Year One student of the Institute of Textiles and Clothing.

Inventor named Croucher's Senior Research Fellow

A leading scientist in the study of biometrics and an inventor of the world's first Palmprint Identification System, Prof. David Zhang, Associate Head and Professor of the Department of Computing, has recently been honoured with the Senior Research Fellowship Award by the Croucher Foundation.

With an aim of recognizing local academics who have excelled in scientific research work, the Croucher Foundation first started the coveted Senior Research Fellowships Scheme in 1997/98. This year, a total of eight top local scientists from four universities were on the roll of honour, and Prof. Zhang was one of them.

Internationally renowned for his research breakthrough in developing the world's first Palmprint Identification System — an invention which is much more reliable than fingerprint or iris reader, Prof. Zhang said he was inspired by the Chinese ancient art of palm reading.

Being the first researcher to apply the unique feature of a human palm into an identification system, Prof. Zhang believed



Prof. Zhang receives his award from Prof. Arthur Li, Secretary for Education and Manpower of the HKSAR Government. He was the second PolyU researcher after Prof. Edwin Cheng Tai-chiu to receive the prestigious Croucher award.

the innovation has rich application potentials. It can be used to meet high security requirements, such as building access control, airport check-in and ATM operations. The system could also be used as a security measure in Beijing's Olympic Village in 2008. So far, the system has been registered with five patents in Hong Kong, the Chinese mainland and the US.

A computer science graduate of Peking University, Prof. Zhang obtained his first PhD in computer science from the Harbin Institute of Technology in 1985. He then joined Tsinghua University as a Postdoctoral Fellow and spent four years in the Chinese Academy of Sciences' National Key Laboratory of Pattern Recognition. He later obtained his second PhD in electrical and computer engineering from the University of Waterloo in Canada. In 1998, he joined PolyU as an Associate Professor of the Department of Computing and was promoted to Professor in 1999 and appointed Associate Head in 2002.

Over the years, Prof. Zhang has received numerous awards at home and abroad. Among them are the Special Gold Award and Gold Medal at the 14th National Invention Exhibition of China, Silver Medal at the Seoul International Fair 2002, Hong Kong Industry Award in 2003, PolyU President's Award for Outstanding Performance/Achievement in 2001/2002, and two Research Achievement Awards by China's National Scientific Council in 1984 and 1986 respectively. ❖



During the fellowship period, about US\$100,000 funds will be awarded to the respective institution for recruiting an academic to relieve the fellow from teaching tasks and allow him to devote more time to research work.