

PolyU earns \$20m bonus for fulfilling designated role



In recognition of the University's performance in fulfilling its role, the University Grants Committee (UGC) will allocate a bonus grant of \$20 million to PolyU in 2005/06 – about 1.2 per cent of our 2005/06 recurrent grant.

Of all the eight UGC-funded institutions, only HKU, PolyU and CUHK are recommended for one-off additional funding allocation in the UGC's latest Performance and Role-related Funding Scheme (PRFS). Among them, HKU received \$50 million grant while CUHK and PolyU each received \$20 million.

The additional funding won by PolyU is the second largest in terms of the percentage it makes of our 2005/06 recurrent grant. Commenting on this, President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong said: "This, I feel, is a much welcome recognition of PolyU as the best university with the role to conduct application-oriented education and research in Hong Kong."

PRFS was introduced in 2004 subsequent to UGC's announcement of role statements for the eight publicly-funded institutions and was deemed a quality assurance instrument. ❖

JUPAS statistics show keen competition

PolyU programmes are popular choices among JUPAS applicants. This is again well reflected by the JUPAS application statistics released in December. The BA in Social Work was the most competitive among all PolyU programmes, recording an admission ratio of 1 to 40. In terms of total application number, PolyU's accountancy programme had the second highest number of applications among all programmes offered by local institutions to JUPAS applicants. ❖

Programme	Band A choices* (A)	Quota (B)	Ratio (A:B)
Social Work	1,559	39	40
Social Policy and Administration	963	25	39
Hotel Management	1,435	50	29
International Shipping and Transport Logistics	851	30	28
Management	1,380	55	25
Marketing	1,833	74	25

* Programme chosen as one of the top three choices by the applicant.



Researchers strike gold in international exhibitions

On research and innovation fronts, the University celebrated a year of pride and fruits as coveted awards were presented to our researchers during 2004. In two international exhibitions recently held in Shanghai and Brussels, PolyU researchers received high acclams for their remarkable research projects.

In the **Fifth China International Invention Expo** held in Shanghai, PolyU researchers scooped two gold and two bronze medals.

One of the gold medals went to researchers of the Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology who have made



ABCT Lecturer Dr Thomas Leung says the enhanced beta-lactamase will fluoresce when it detects antibiotic in food or environment.

use of an enzyme called beta-lactamase to detect antibiotics, such as penicillin and cephalosporin, in food and environment. By attaching an environment-sensitive fluorescent molecule to beta-lactamase, the enzyme will fluoresce when it binds a beta-lactam antibiotic. The smart technology has immense potentials and can be used by the health authorities, food producers as well as drug manufacturers for food monitoring and drug screening.

The other gold medal was presented to researchers of the Jockey Club Rehabilitation Engineering Centre (REC) who have developed a rehabilitation device known as Electronic Ankle Foot Orthosis and HandEASE System. The device can effectively deal with drop-foot and hand spasticity which are two most common problems faced by the stroke patients.

Two other PolyU projects were awarded bronze medals in the Expo namely "Environmentally-friendly Multifunctional Surface Treatment for Textiles" and "Innovative Opto-Electronics Railway Monitoring System".



Dr Raymond Tong, Assistant Professor of REC shows off his brainchild – Electronic Ankle Foot Orthosis and HandEASE System.

More awards were won by our researchers in the **53rd Eureka Exhibition**, also known as the International Exhibition of Inventions, New Techniques and Products, in Brussels.

Altogether, the University snatched six awards, including one gold, one special prize, two silver and two bronze awards. An invention, named Instant Vision Assessment Device, developed by Chair Professor of Optometry Prof. George Woo and his research team, captured wide recognition and was honoured with a Gold Award and the Prize of Minister Fientje Moerman.

This spectacle-like device enables people with refractive error to be assessed within one minute. Simply asked the wearer to look at some object six metres away, the examiner can obtain the wearer's eyesight abnormality reading by turning the knob on the device. This low cost device is best suited for developing countries where people could barely afford the sophisticated and expensive equipment. It is so simple to use that it does not even require well-trained personnel to operate.



Prof. George Woo poses with his invention and trophies from Brussels

Other winning projects included the development of "Shape Memory Fabrics", "Mobile Medical Picture Archive and Communication System", "School Bags with anti-bacterial and back-protecting functions", and "Tissue Ultrasound Palpation System".

It was the second time that PolyU has participated in this international event. In 2001, the Mars Rock Corer jointly developed by PolyU researchers and dentist Dr Ng Tsz-chuen also won a gold medal. The device was subsequently deployed by the European Space Agency in its 2003 Mars Express Mission.

Joy at Tenth Congregation



The University celebrated success for some 8,700 postgraduates, undergraduates and sub-degree students in the Tenth Congregation held at the Hong Kong Coliseum on 24 November.

Presided over for the first time by Mr Victor Lo Chung-wing, Chairman of the University Council, this year's Congregation awarded 81 Doctor of Philosophy, 19 Doctor of Business Administration and the first award in Doctor of Accountancy. The University also sent forth its first batch of graduates on 12 programmes covering the areas of international real estate, quality management, enterprise engineering and e-business, global supply chain management, and Internet and multimedia technologies.



Speaking at the Congregation, President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong said the Institution has made great strides on different fronts. From March 2003 to June 2004, PolyU raised more than HK\$200 million which were later doubled to HK\$400 million with the Government's matching grants. The University's excellent results in fund-raising reflected its strong support received from the community.

University enrolled about 150 mainland secondary school-leavers and more than 400 exchange students from the mainland and overseas countries.

The University has also made progress in the recruitment of mainland and exchange students. In 2004/05, the



Honorary doctorates conferred

Two distinguished leaders, Prof. Pan Yunhe and Mr Lam Tai-fai, were conferred the Honorary Degrees of Doctor of Engineering and Doctor of Business Administration respectively at the Congregation.

Prof. Pan Yunhe, President of Zhejiang University since 1995 and a member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering since 1997, has been at the forefront of education reform in the Chinese mainland, overseeing the merger of four sister institutions in 1998 into the present Zhejiang University. His enthusiastic support was indispensable in realizing the fruitful partnership between Zhejiang University and PolyU since 1998.

President Pan is well-known as a pioneer in the innovative application of Artificial Intelligence in Computer Aided Design technologies. Prof. Pan has over 70 publications to his credit and is recipient of various national awards for scientific advancement.



Honorary doctorates Prof. Pan Yunhe (third from left) and Mr Lam tai-fai (fifth from left) receive warm congratulations from members of the University Council.

PolyU alumnus **Mr Lam Tai-fai** is Managing Director of Peninsula Group and a member of the PolyU Court. An awardee in the Young Industrialist Awards of Hong Kong 2000, Mr Lam has promoted Hong Kong's fashion and clothing industries by rendering public services in various capacities.

Outside work, Mr Lam shows great care for the community and the country, especially on education. Last year, he founded the Lam Tai Tai College which

weaves fashion design, sports and information technology into the conventional curriculum. He has also established the Lam Tai Fai Charitable Foundation to grant scholarships to mainland academics pursuing PolyU's MA programme in Fashion and Textile Design. He was honoured with University Fellowship from PolyU in 2000 and named recipient of the Outstanding PolyU Alumni Award 2001.

Largest cohort of mainland graduates

The congregation also saw the conferment of academic awards to over 700 Chinese mainland graduates who successfully completed 11 PolyU programmes offered in the mainland. Among them, about 600 were awarded higher degrees and 100 were recipients of degree or sub-degree awards.

More than 500 of the mainland graduates made a special trip to Hong Kong to join the ceremony. Many took part in the homecoming carnival especially held for them on campus.

