

# President receives Long Service Award



*After receiving the award from Dr Lam in the presence of Mr Lo and Council Deputy Chairman Mr Roy Chung (left), Prof. Poon happily waves his hand in response to the applause from staff members.*

At its annual Long Service Award Presentation Ceremony held recently on campus, the University paid tribute to a total of 302 staff members in appreciation of their loyal service to the Institution over the years. Among the award recipients was the University President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong who has served the University for 15 years. Highlight of the ceremony, officiated at by Council Chairman Mr Victor Lo, was the presentation of the Long Service Award to Prof. Poon by Dr Alice Lam, Chairman of University Grants Committee (UGC).

Addressing the ceremony, Mr Lo commended Prof. Poon for his dedicated service and visionary leadership demonstrated throughout his past 15 years of presidency. Joining the Institution as Director of the then Hong Kong Polytechnic in 1991, Prof. Poon has steered the Institution through a period of significant developments, including its transformation from polytechnic to university. It was recognized in UGC's 1999 Management Review that, 'the President has clearly been instrumental in guiding through the transition period.'

With Prof. Poon's commitment in leading the University to fulfil its role in the provision of application-oriented education and research, PolyU was publicly commended by UGC as a top performer in its Performance and Role-related activities and was

given an additional bonus grant of \$20 million in 2004.

"This is no doubt a distinct endorsement of our achievements in the application-oriented context. I am pleased to see that the strategic direction we have set for the development of PolyU is proved right," Prof. Poon said.

"I am very grateful to the wise counsel and strong support from the University Council over the years. With their wealth of management experience and capable leadership, our University has been able to make significant progresses and achievements."

In recent years, Prof. Poon has taken up the challenge of securing additional resources for the continued development of the University in the face of the Government's funding cuts. Through his untiring efforts and support from university members, PolyU gathered contributions from more than 4,500 individuals and organizations during the period from March 2003 to June 2004, raising over \$215 million eligible for the Government's matching

grants, bringing the total funds raised to more than \$400 million.

Looking ahead, Prof. Poon believes that, "With colleagues' shared commitment, our University will be able to develop into the best application-oriented university not only in Hong Kong, but also the whole region." ❖



# Congratulations!



## Dual honours for Council Chairman

The University's Council Chairman **Mr Victor Lo** has been named "Industrialist of the Year 2005" by the Federation of Hong Kong Industries in recognition of his distinguished accomplishment and contributions to the industry and community. He has also been appointed Non-Official Member of the SAR Government's Executive Council with effect from November 1.

## National accolades for scientists

**Prof. Albert Chan Sun-Chi**, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science and Textiles, has been honoured with the 2005 State Natural Science Award (Second-class) in recognition of his outstanding contributions in scientific and technological progress activities. The coveted award, organized by the State Council of the People's Republic of China, is the country's most prestigious honour in the field of natural sciences.

His research, entitled "Novel Chiral Ligands: Design, Preparation and Their Applications in Asymmetric Catalytic Reactions", is an interdisciplinary research area between organic and inorganic chemistry. Through the studies of the mechanism of asymmetric hydrogenation, Prof Chan's team identified that one of the key



factors for achieving good enantioselectivities in asymmetric catalysis was to introduce conformational rigidity in the ligand design.

Prof. Chan's research interests lies in asymmetric syntheses, development of pharmaceutical and nutritional products based on Chinese medicines and their industrial applications. In his illustrious academic career, he has received numerous honours, including appointment as Member of the Chinese Academy of Science since 2001.

**Prof. John Shi Wen-zhong** of the Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics (LSGI) has been bestowed with the National Science and Technology Progress Award in Surveying and Mapping (First-class Prize) in recognition of his remarkable achievements in advancing the studies of GIS and remote sensing.

As top honour to recognize research advancement in this field, the award was jointly presented by the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping and the Chinese Society of Geodesy Photogrammetry and Cartography.

Prof. Shi is the only Hong Kong scientist bestowed with a first-class prize. This is also the first time such a first-class award is given to a scholar from Hong Kong (as the primary contributor) and a university from Hong Kong as the primary contributing organization



**Prof. John Shi (LSGI) (right) poses with department head Prof. Chen Yong-qi.**

## PolyU members appointed to Commission on Strategic Development

The HKSAR Government recently appointed 153 non-official members from different fields to the Commission on Strategic Development. They will help the Government to explore major issues relating to the long-term development of Hong Kong. Among them, the following PolyU members have been appointed to the four committees of the Commission:

### Executive Committee:

Mr Chan Wing-kee, GBS, JP (*Council Member*)

### Committee on Governance and Political Development:

Mr Yu Kwok-chun, SBS, JP (*Council Member*)

### Committee on Social Development and Quality of Life:

Prof. Poon Chung-kwong, GBS, JP (*President*)

Mr Tik Chi-yuen, JP (*Alumnus*)

### Committee on Economic Development and Economic Co-operation with the Mainland:

Mr Roy Chung Chi-ping, JP (*Deputy Chairman of Council*)

Mr Freeman Lau Siu-hong (*Alumnus*)

Mrs Katherine Ngan Ng Yu-ying (*Council Member*)

Prof. Angelina Yuen Tsang Woon-ki, JP (*Head of Department of Applied Social Sciences*)

# Top honours for research breakthroughs

The University has recently won a total of ten awards, including one special gold medal, two gold medals, three silvers and four bronzes for its applied research breakthroughs in Brussels Eureka Exhibition — also known as the 54th World Exhibition of Innovation, Research and New Technology, and in China's 15th National Exhibition of Inventions. Details of the winning entries are listed as follows:



*PolyU Vice President Dr Lui Sun-wing (back row, centre) congratulates the researchers and encourages them to keep up their good work.*

## 54th World Exhibition of Innovation, Research and New Technology

### Health-related inventions win applause

Driven by their urge to provide better health care services to the needy, PolyU researchers have devised a number of innovations which help people prevent diseases or lessen their pain in the process of medical treatment.



**Gold Medal: Nano-technology anti-bacterial facemasks** by Prof. Li Yi, Mr Hu Jun-yan, Ms Song Qing-wen, *Institute of Textiles and Clothing*

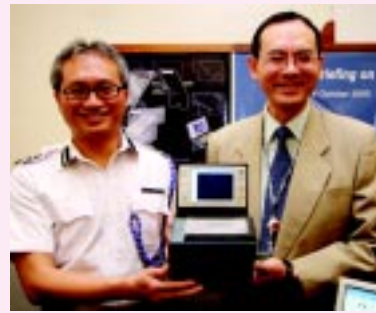
Using nano-materials, researchers have developed a new type of facemasks to provide better protection for frontline healthcare workers and the public. Facemasks treated with special nano-anti-microbial materials are waterproof in all layers to stop the absorption and penetration of bacteria and viruses. This patented technology has been licensed to a Hong Kong-based medical products manufacturer Winner Medical & Textile (HK) for producing high-quality facemasks on a massive scale.



**Silver Medal: Wearable vital sign sensor** by Dr Zheng Yongping, Prof. Arthur Mak, Mr Wang Congzhi, Dr Zhou Yongjin, *Department of Health Technology and Informatics*

The sensor, which looks like a Bluetooth earphone, can continuously monitor key health indicators such as heart rate and skin temperatures. It is ideal for monitoring the health conditions of the elderly or any other vulnerable subjects. Connected to a support system, it will automatically activate outgoing links to relevant parties such as medical practitioners and immediate family members if any abnormality of vital sign is detected.

## 15th National Exhibition of Inventions



**Mr Raymond Wong, Assistant Director (Information Systems) of the Immigration Department (left) and Mr Louis Chu, Associate Director of Industrial Centre, introducing the device.**

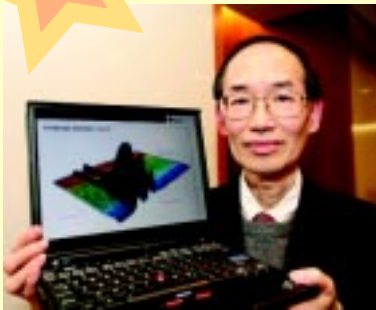
**Gold Medal: Forged document detector** by Mr Kwong Kwok-kuen, Dr Chan Tai-wai, *Industrial Centre, in collaboration with Immigration Department*

It can help law-enforcers differentiate genuine travel documents from faked ones instantaneously. The Immigration Department has deployed it in on-site testing and is now phasing in the use of this new detector at various control points. The device can be customized for inspection of banknotes, alterations of signature or art piece forgery.

**Silver Medal: Advanced composite materials for integrated circuit and microelectronics wire-bonders** by Prof. Helen Chan, Prof. C.L. Choy, Dr Or Siu-wing, *Department of Applied Physics*

Using advanced ceramic/polymer composites, researchers have greatly enhanced the performance of ultrasonic transducers for wire-bonding machines. Specifically, it can decrease the width of the bonds and stabilizes the machine operation. The use of such materials can increase bonding performance by 30 per cent and thereby contributing to more efficient packaging of integrated circuits.

**Bronze Medal: A novel method MSCC for creating universal chromatographic fingerprint** by Prof. Chau Foo-tim, Prof. Liang Yizeng, Dr Li Boyan, Mr Zeng Zhongda, *Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology*



MSCC is a novel chemometric method which can give the universal fingerprint of a mixture semi-automatically by using the same type of chromatographic instrument running under the same condition. The test can be readily applied for the analysis of foods, indicators of environmental protection as well as development of drugs in the pharmaceutical industry.

**Bronze Medal: Non-invasive blood glucose meter** by Prof. Thomas Wong, Prof. Joanne Chung, Dr Fan Ka-lun, Mr Simon Lam, *Faculty of Health and Social Sciences*



Unlike the traditional method of collecting blood samples through syringes, the new method, with the use of near-infrared technology, is non-invasive and will not cause any pain or discomfort to the subjects. It is ideal for diabetic patients who need to check their blood glucose level frequently. Its use can be further extended to the monitoring of other blood substrates such as cholesterol and lactic acid.

**Bronze Medal & Special Gold Medal by the Poland Inventors Association: Online basic competency assessment system** by Prof. Stephen Mak, *Department of Building and Real Estate*

Developed and implemented for the Government by the Hong Kong Examinations and Assessment Authority, the Basic Competency Assessments is one of the world's largest on-line educational assessment systems. It provides schools with an additional assessment tool to monitor students' needs and learning progress. Its features include a web-based central assessment item bank with over 5,000 items, on-line assessments, computer marking and instant reports on students' performance.

## 15th National Exhibition of Inventions

**Silver Medal: Smart vibration damping system for intelligent vibration control of civil and mechanical structures** by Dr Or Siu-wing, *Department of Applied Physics*, Dr Ni Yiqing, Dr Duan Yuanfeng, *Department of Civil and Structural Engineering*



This novel system consists of smart vibration sensori-dampers interfaced with intelligent control electronics. It can substantially improve the safety of structures by reducing vibrations, vibration-induced structural failures as well as structural-born noises. It was employed in the vibration isolation of semiconductor manufacturing equipment in Hong Kong and is being deployed in the vibration damping of the cable-stayed Dongting Bridge in China.

**Bronze Medal: Comshell roof** by Prof. Teng Jin-guang, *Faculty of Construction and Land Use*

The Comshell roof is a new, economic structural system made of sheet steel and concrete for enclosing large spaces. It retains all the benefits of thin concrete shell roofs, but eliminates the need for temporary formwork in construction and hence minimizes the cost. This new technology has been granted with a patent in China.

## myCar makes debut appearance in HK

PolyU showcased a myriad of its applied research projects and innovations of different technology areas at the SAR Government's Innovation Expo 05 held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre.

A model of mini, light weight four-wheel vehicle myCar, which was jointly developed by PolyU's associate Innovech Company Limited and leading Europe-based design house Giugiaro, was put on public display for the very first time in the Expo. Other exhibits from the University include a "sweating" manikin, second-generation environmentally friendly bricks and newly-developed multimedia digital games.



**Highlight of the Innovation Expo - Unveiling of the mini-car model by: (from right) President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong; then Acting Financial Secretary Mr John Tsang; Commissioner for Innovation and Technology Mr Anthony Wong; PolyU Council Chairman Mr Victor Lo, and Vice President Dr Lui Sun-wing.**

# Outstanding staff honoured



The award presentation ceremony for the "President's Awards for Excellent Performance/Achievement 2004/05" was held earlier on campus to pay tribute to staff members with outstanding performance. The awards were presented by President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong, Deputy President Mr Alexander Tzang and the Faculty Deans.

During the ceremony, a total of 66 staff was honoured, including those who received the individual and team awards grouped under four categories: Teaching, Research and Scholarly Activities, Services and Overall Contribution. Introduced in 1996, the award scheme has become an important channel for the University to show appreciation to staff and motivate them to excel in their work performance.

## Individual Awards

- **Dr Robert P. Wright**, Assistant Professor of the Department of Management and Marketing, actively promotes innovative teaching and was awarded the *President's Award in Teaching*.
- A dedicated and experienced teacher in social work, **Prof. Yip Kam-shing**, Professor of the Department of Applied Social Science, was awarded the *President's Award in Teaching*.
- **Prof. Zhilin Li**, Professor of the Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics, was awarded the *President's Award in Research and Scholarly Activities* for his remarkable research achievement in digital mapping.
- **Mrs Sally Yu Poon Wai-ping**, Manager of the Management and Executive Development Centre, won the *President's Award in Overall Contribution* for her efforts in co-ordinating different departments to provide training and consultancy services to the private and public sectors.
- **Ms Mandy Hui**, Development Officer of the PolyU Outpost Centre, won the *President's Award in Overall Contribution* for her efforts in helping the University to further develop on the mainland.



## Team Awards

- **Dr Thomas Y.C. Leung**, Associate Professor and **Dr Thomas Lo Wai-hung**, Assistant Professor, Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology, won the *President's Award in Research and Scholarly Activities* for their novel treatment for liver cancer.
- **Ms Cora Sit**, Acting Head, **Ms Ada Leung**, Senior Development Manager, and **Miss Ng Yuk-fung**, Development Manager, Alumni Affairs and Development Office, won the *President's Award in Overall Contribution* for their efforts in alumni development and fund-raising for the University.



## Strong industry support for student and faculty development

**R**ecently, backed by strong support from business and industry, the University has set up a Student Competitiveness Development Committee (SCDC). Comprising 16 to 25 members, the SCDC will be chaired by Dr Michael Yip, Chairman of Ocean Grand Holdings, with Mr Glory Wan, Executive Director and General Manager of Texment Fashions, as the Vice Chairman.

With members' combined expertise, the Committee will suggest ways and means on how to further enhance student competitiveness in line with the University's Strategic Plan. It will also endeavor to build up partnerships with business and industry to further promote student development activities and sharpen their competitive edge. At the ceremony, Dr Yip and Mr Wan respectively made a donation of \$5 million and \$3 million as a gesture of support to this worthy cause. Mr Wilson Tang, Executive Director of BioEm Innovation Group and member of SCDC, also made a donation of \$1 million.

Furthermore, the University recently named a computer centre after Chun Wo Holdings in recognition of its generous donation of \$1 million in support of the development of the Faculty of Construction and Land Use.

The newly-named Chun Wo Computer Centre, already in operation, provides students with access to advanced computing facilities, serving to enhance the quality of learning and teaching of the University.



*Dr Yip (front row, second from left), Mr Tang, Mr Wan (back row, third and fifth from left) and other SCDC members picture at the inauguration ceremony.*



*(From right) Mr Pang Kam-chun, Chairman of Chun Wo Holdings, Mr Clement Kwok, Managing Director of Chun Wo Holdings, and Mrs Christina Pang present the donation cheque to Prof. Leung Tin-pui and Prof. Ko Jan-ming, PolyU Vice Presidents.*

## Influential papers in operational research cited in top journal



**Prof. Kovalyov**



**Prof. Cheng**

**T**wo articles by experts from the Department of Logistics have recently been selected in a special collection of "30 influential articles" published in the *European Journal of Operational Research (EJOR)*, the largest operational research journal in the world. PolyU is the only institution in Hong Kong with staff on the list.

The scholars concerned are: Prof. Edwin T.C. Cheng, Chair Professor of Management, who co-authored the paper "Survey of Scheduling Research Involving Due Date Determination Decisions"; and his long-time research collaborator Prof. Mikhail Kovalyov, now senior research fellow, who co-authored the paper "Scheduling with Batching: A Review". In addition, another author on the list, Prof. Pierre Hansen, was previously a Chair Professor appointed under the Distinguished Scholar Scheme in the former Department of Management. He co-authored the paper "Variable Neighbourhood Search: Principles and Applications".

## MBA programmes win international acclaim

All the Master of Business Administration programmes offered by the University's Graduate School of Business (GSB) have recently been successfully accredited by the UK-based Association of MBAs (AMBA). GSB is the first business school in Hong Kong and the mainland which has been granted AMBA accreditation status.

According to Prof. Judy Tsui, Dean of Faculty of Business and Director of GSB, the AMBA accreditation is an important milestone as it is a recognition of the international standing of the School's MBA programmes including its China MBA and EMBA programmes. The accreditation further helps distinguish PolyU MBAs from similar programmes offered in the competitive market for business education in the world. ❖

## Partnering for Beijing Olympics

The University has been officially designated by the China Sports Bureau's Gymnastic Management Centre as a Sports Health and Rehabilitation Centre and a collaborative research partner for the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Led by Prof. Thomas Wong, Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences, PolyU's team of multi-disciplinary experts will look after the physical well-being of Chinese athletes during the event. The team comprises members from the School of Nursing and Department of Health Technology and Informatics. ❖



Deputy President Mr Alexander Tzang (middle row, third from left) and Prof. Wong (middle row, third from right), picture with the Olympic/World champions at the agreement signing ceremony recently held in Beijing.



## Joint Research Institute set up to promote mathematics

To further promote research collaboration and technical exchange on engineering and management mathematics, the University and the Academy of Mathematics and System Sciences (AMSS) of the Chinese Academy of Sciences have jointly established the Joint Research Institute (JRI).

Jointly headed by Prof. Yuan Yaxiang, Vice President of AMSS and Prof. Qi Liqun, Professor of PolyU's Department of Applied Mathematics, the Institute will initiate joint research projects and lecture series. ❖



(From left) Prof. Albert Chan Sun-chi, Dean of Faculty of Applied Science and Textiles; Prof. Yuan; Prof. Poon Chung-kwong, PolyU President; Prof. C.T. Kelley, Vice President of Society of Industrial and Applied Mathematics; Prof. Ko Jan-ming, PolyU Vice President; and Prof. Qi.