

PolyU scholars win



Knighthood bestowed on PolyU professor

Prof. Lu Jian, Chair Professor and Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, has been conferred the “Knight of the National Order of Merit” (Chevalier de l’Ordre National du Merite) by the French Government in recognition of his illustrious research and academic accomplishments in the areas of materials science and engineering, mechanical engineering and mechanics.

Nominated by the President of the Republic of France, this award was formally bestowed on Prof. Lu at a special ceremony held in Shanghai on 5 November.

Educated in Beijing and France, Prof. Lu has contributed to the establishment of the University of Technology of Troyes (UTT) in France in 1994 and was Founding Head of UTT’s Mechanical Systems Engineering Department (1994–2004). Under his leadership, a research lab of the department became a laboratory of the French National Centre of Scientific Research (CNRS).

Prof. Lu was also honoured for having helped build the international repute of UTT and for his endeavours in fostering exchange and cooperation between France and China in the mechanical engineering field.

His research strengths lie in engineering mechanics with a combination of experimental mechanics and mechanical simulation. He holds four patents in the field of nano-materials and has produced 320 publications.

Prof. Lu receives the award from Prof. Paul Gaillard, Former President of UTT. (Photo taken by Ms Gao Jin-feng, Shanghai University)



Society hails efforts to advance fire protection

Prof. Chow Wan-ki, Chair Professor of Architectural Science and Fire Engineering of the Department of Building Services Engineering and Director of the Research Centre for Fire Engineering, has received the Harold E. Nelson Service Award 2006 presented by the Society of Fire Protection Engineers (SFPE) in the US. Prof. Chow is the first Chinese scholar honoured with this esteemed award since its launch in 1987.

This award was granted to Prof. Chow, Founding President of the Hong Kong Chapter of SFPE, in recognition of his “dedicated and inspired service to the ideals and goals of the Society” in advancing fire protection engineering, maintaining a high ethical standard among its members and fostering fire protection engineering education.

Over the years, Prof. Chow has published hundreds of refereed journal papers and conference papers in fire safety engineering. He has generously donated over HK\$2 million which he earned from more than 15 contract research projects to support PolyU’s research in fire safety engineering.



Prof. Chow (left) with the award trophy.

prestigious honours



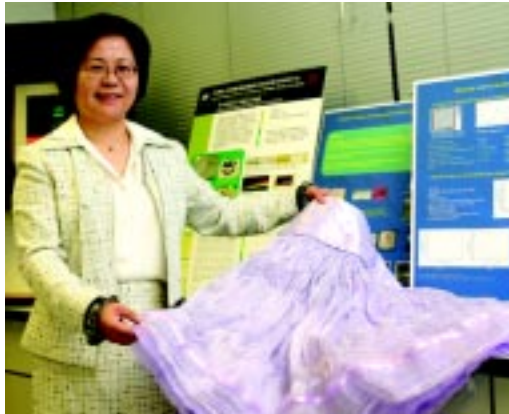
Prof. Tao introducing PolyU facilities to world-famous designer Mr Nino Cerruti during his campus visit early last year.

World President of Textile Institute

Prof. Tao Xiaoming, Head and Chair Professor of the Institute of Textiles and Clothing, has been elected World President of The Textile Institute (TI) by a unanimous vote from the TI Council. She is the first female and Asian academic elected to this position and will serve for a two-year term starting May 2007.

Prof. Tao is a fellow of TI International, which represents the interests of professionals working in textile, clothing, footwear and related industries. Founded in 1910 and based in the UK, TI has individual and corporate members in over 90 countries at present. Prof. Tao is also the Editor-in-Chief of *Textile Progress*, an internationally recognized journal published by TI International.

Prof. Tao obtained her PhD degree in Textile Physics from University of New South Wales, Australia. Her research interests are related to the development of new textile materials and technology, and her achievements have brought her numerous international scholarships and awards. In particular, she has won worldwide recognition with her innovative work in smart textiles and clothing, photonic fibres and display fabrics, new yarn manufacturing technologies and textile composites. Prof. Tao has published over 470 research papers and has been granted 12 patents.



Award for leading engineering educator

Ir Prof. Ko Jan-ming, Vice President (Research Development) and Chair Professor of Structural Engineering, has been honoured with the President's Award by The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE). He is the second awardee in the recent 12 years. For three decades, he has tirelessly devoted his efforts to engineering education at tertiary level and to the study of structural health monitoring.

Prof. Ko is the incumbent President of the Asian-Pacific Network of Centres for Earthquake Engineering Research. He has made significant contributions to HKIE through serving in many capacities, including chairmanship of the HKIE Accreditation Board, the Structural Division, the Structural Discipline Advisory Panel, and the Education and Examination Committee. He has also represented the HKIE in the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Southeast Asia and the Pacific on the Engineering Education and Training Committee.

In addition, Prof. Ko actively applies his expertise in serving the community. He is a governing council member of the Construction Industry Institute – Hong Kong, and a council member of the Hong Kong Institution of Science. He was also former President of the Hong Kong Society of Theoretical and Applied Mechanics and the Hong Kong Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology.

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Ir Prof. Ko (right) receives the award from HKIE President **Ir Dr Greg C.Y. Wong**.

Finance research ranked second in the Asia-Pacific region

The finance research output of PolyU's School of Accounting and Finance has been ranked second in the Asia-Pacific region, following only the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and surpassing the Chinese University of Hong Kong. This is the conclusion of a study published in the *Pacific-Basin Finance Journal*.

The authors of the study, from two American universities, ranked the finance research productivity in the Asia-Pacific region using a set of 21 finance journals during the period 1990–2004. The finance research output of a total of 170 universities was evaluated.

The results of the study, released in November 2005, showed that PolyU's research in finance was on a par with that undertaken at the top 10 North American universities such as Stanford and Cornell.

The study showed that PolyU has achieved impressive progress over the period, with its ranking rising from 47th between 1990–1994 to 7th between 1995–2000, and 2nd over the past five years.

The study also found that PolyU scholars **Dr Wilson H.S. Tong**, **Prof. Michael Firth** and **Dr Louis T.W. Cheng** were among the top 10, most prolific authors in the region.

In general, the study observed that Asia-Pacific universities' share of worldwide publications has continued to rise over the period, reflecting a major shift to increased emphasis on financial research. ❖

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Prof. Woo (left)

Optometry expert honoured in US

Prof. George Woo, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Health and Social Sciences and Chair Professor of Optometry, was selected as the 2006 recipient of the William Feinbloom Award organized by the American Academy of Optometry. He received the coveted award at the Academy's annual meeting in Denver in December.

The award recognizes Prof. Woo's distinguished contributions to clinical excellence as well as the advancement of visual and optometric service around the world. He is also noted for his pioneering efforts in promoting optometric patient care, education and research.

Prof. Woo has extensive experience in teaching, consultation and research work in Australia, Canada, the UK, US and Hong Kong. His research interests include low vision, myopia, contrast sensitivity function, refraction and contact lenses.

Kudos for textiles scientist

Prof. Hu Jinlian of the Institute of Textiles and Clothing has recently received the Textile Science and Technology Award (First-class Prize) of the Sang Ma Trust Fund. Prof. Hu is the first and only local scholar bestowed with this honour since its inception in 1992 to promote textiles research in China.

With her expertise in developing shape memory fabrics which can readily recover their original shapes, Prof. Hu founded PolyU's Shape Memory Textiles Centre in 2003. She and her team have registered a number of patents in the US and China.

More recently, Prof. Hu took a step further to produce a new kind of facial masks using her patented technology. This magical mask can "sense" the temperature of the human skin and release nutritious ingredients. Her team is also exploring the addition of chitosan, an ingredient extracted from seafood shells, to shape memory textiles for anti-bacterial purpose. ❖



10th anniversary of HK's first DBA

The Graduate School of Business (GSB) celebrated the 10th anniversary of its flagship Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) programme with more than 100 guests, alumni, faculty members and students on 15 December.

PolyU's DBA is one of the first three programmes in the world which has been awarded international accreditation by the UK-based Association of MBAs.

Dean of the Faculty of Business and GSB Director **Prof. Judy Tsui** said at the cocktail reception: "The PolyU DBA is a professional doctorate, a rigorous programme at the highest level of business education, designed to educate the CEOs and senior managers in the region

to become scholar-managers." Since its inception in 1996, the programme has sent forth a total of 145 graduates in eight batches.

The DBA has benefited from GSB's international ties. The IMD (International Institute for Management Development) in Lausanne, Switzerland, is now offering a credit-bearing elective for PolyU DBA participants, while professors from the Sauder School of Business of the University of British Columbia, Canada, are co-teaching two of GSB's DBA subjects.



Prof. Tsui (middle) and faculty members celebrate the success of the DBA.

GSB has also established a strong foothold on the Chinese mainland since 2001, partnering with mainland institutes in serving the executive development needs of enterprises on the mainland. ❖

Top award for excellence in teaching building services engineering

The Department of Building Services Engineering (BSE) has been honoured with the Happold Brilliant Award for Excellence in Teaching 2005/06 by the UK-based Chartered Institution of Building Services Engineers (CIBSE).

The celebrated BEng(Hons) in Building Services Engineering programme brought the Department the same honour when the award was launched in 1997. The annual award was set up in memory of the late Sir Edmund Happold, a respected educator of engineering.

Prof. John Gilleard, Head of BSE, said: "I am pleased to note that our department, being one of the largest academic units worldwide and a major institution in Hong Kong devoted to building services engineering, has been acclaimed for its teaching excellence and high quality of

applied research since its establishment in 1981. This latest international recognition has further reinforced our efforts."

BSE offers full-time and part-time programmes in building services engineering, from higher diploma, undergraduate, postgraduate diploma to

master's level. It also offers Master of Science/ Postgraduate Diploma in Facility Management and Master of Science/ Postgraduate Diploma in Fire and Safety Engineering.

The Department also contributes its expertise to the community through active participation in applied researches and major consultancy projects for the government and industry.

Established in 1976, CIBSE is dedicated to the development of better buildings through education and research for the benefit of all. It is an international body which represents and provides services to the building services profession, with a membership of 17,000. ❖



Prof. Gilleard (middle) and colleagues at BSE proudly show off the award and award certificate.