

New heads share their vision



“To ensure that we are providing the best international practice to users of the library.”

Awarm welcome to Mr Steve O'Connor, former CEO of the Australian-based CAVAL Collaborative Solutions, who joined PolyU in early April. As the new Librarian of Pao Yue-Kong Library, he is taking over

the leadership of a first-class library with a collection of over two million items. He is also Editor of the international journal *Library Management*.

In an era abound with digital information, Mr O'Connor thinks the Library should educate people that “Google information” is not all.

“The physical and the virtual libraries together are able to provide the whole range of information, a huge portion of which is available only in paper form,” said the new Librarian. “The Library will make both born-print and born-digital resources accessible through the Web, which, coupled with education courses, will facilitate users to locate and get the information they need more easily and quickly.”

Mr O'Connor plans to engage the University community as much as he can in a scenario planning exercise to be held this August. “I want people to be engaged and to tell me what they want the Library to look like. I want everybody in the University to say that this library is my library,”

“I have a lot of international experience, contacts and networks which I want to use to ensure that we are providing the best international practice to students and staff and other users of this library,” said Mr O'Connor. ❖

“Every member of the community can become a philanthropist of education.”

Having managed numerous charitable campaigns at the Community Chest over the past 14 years, Ms Susanna Mok has decided to take up new challenges in her career. She joined PolyU on 1 March as the new Director of Alumni Affairs and Development.



To Ms Mok, her new tasks of gathering support for a university and strengthening links with its alumni are both exciting. “The general public is well used to supporting social services in Hong Kong, but the idea of supporting education as a philanthropic cause is still remote to most people. We have to educate the public about the importance of donating to universities,” she said.

But she is full of confidence: “PolyU is an application-oriented university with prolific research output geared to the practical needs of the community. This makes a very good reason for people to support our University in particular. It is thus our challenge to communicate the message across.”

The 70th Anniversary of the University will provide a golden opportunity for graduates to reunite with each other. Ms Mok said: “There will be three major events this year to pull together our alumni.” On top of the “Flags of Harmony and Unity” event and Anniversary Gala Dinner, the first Alumni Convention will also be organized in Hangzhou in November. “This Convention will reunite alumni from Hong Kong, the Chinese mainland and overseas,” she said.

Ms Mok believes that all kinds of support and donations to PolyU are equally important, regardless of the scale or amount. ❖

Engineer elected Member of European Academy of Sciences

Dr Alan Lau Kin-tak, Associate Professor of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, has recently become the first Hong Kong scholar to be elected Full Member of European Academy of Sciences (EAS). His outstanding research performance has won him numerous awards over the years, including Young Scientist Award, Young Engineer of the Year Award and Award for Outstanding Research in Nanocomposites for Space Applications, USA. He was elected Corresponding Member of EAS with a citation “for profound contributions to materials science and fundamental developments in the field of composite materials” in 2002.

EAS is a non-profit, independent organization of distinguished scholars and engineers who are engaged in forefront research and the development of advanced technologies and who seek to promote science and technology and foster social and economic development. ❖



Tribute to outstanding students

From Left: Miss Zhang Yakun, Mr Ng Yiu-man, Miss Wong Ka-yu, Miss Zhu Liying, Miss Lo Pui-ying and Miss Yu Fei pictured with Prof. Poon.



The University honoured six students for their distinguished performance in both academic and non-academic activities at the presentation ceremony of the Outstanding Student Awards. They are:

Award Category	Faculty
Most Outstanding PolyU Student	
Miss Wong Ka-yu*	Business
* Also Outstanding Student of the Faculty of Business	
Outstanding Student of Faculty Awards	
Miss Zhang Yakun	Applied Science and Textiles
Mr Ng Yiu-man	Communication
Miss Zhu Liying	Construction and Land Use
Miss Yu Fei	Engineering
Miss Lo Pui-ying	Health & Social Sciences

The top award of “Most Outstanding PolyU Student” went to Miss Wong Ka-yu, a final-year student of BA (Hons) in Accountancy from the School of Accounting and Finance.

This annual Award is granted to full-time final-year students who achieved excellent performance during their studies. Based on five criteria of equal weighting: academic achievement, leadership, involvement in extra-curricular activities, community service experience and exposure, as well as personal qualities, each academic department can nominate one candidate to compete with other top students in the same faculty for the Faculty Awards. The awardees were each presented a certificate and a cash prize of \$5,000, and their names have been inscribed on a special plaque on campus. ❖

Obituary

Ir Sung Sing-zak: A leader of technical education

Ir Sung Sing-zak, formerly Principal of the Hong Kong Technical College in the 1960s, passed away in May in Hong Kong. He was 86.

Ir Sung was born on the Chinese mainland and graduated in Shanghai with an External Bachelor of Science (Hons) in Mechanical Engineering from the University of London. He first joined the Hong Kong Technical College, the forerunner of PolyU, as Assistant Master (Technical) in 1950. He headed the Mathematics and Science Department and Mechanical Engineering Department before taking up the office of Principal. Ir Sung assisted in the early stages of the planning for the College’s upgrading to Polytechnic status in 1972.

Ir Sung had served as Secretary and President of the Engineering Society of Hong Kong, the predecessor of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers. From 1970s to late 1990s, Ir Sung also undertook projects with the World Bank to assist under-developed countries in the reform of their technical education systems.

A far-sighted scholar contributing to the development of technical education in Hong Kong, Ir Sung will be sorely missed by the PolyU community and fellow educators around the world. ❖



Awards for budding entrepreneurs



Diamond Award winning students from the Department of Mechanical Engineering pictured with their advisor Dr Alan Lau Kin-tak (middle).

The University presented awards to nine winning teams of the PolyU-IDT Innovative Entrepreneur Contest 2006/07 at a ceremony held on 25 April on campus. Running for the sixth year, the competition, sponsored by IDT International Limited, provides a platform for full-time PolyU students to formulate their creative ideas in developing business ventures.

This year, 39 multi-disciplinary teams comprising a total of 110 students competed in three categories, namely, Health Care and Personal Devices, Telecommunications and Home Appliances, and Toys. Prizes were awarded basing on five judging criteria: innovation and creative concept, commercial viability and market potential, technology novelty and uniqueness, soundness of business/ development plan and presentation skills. ❖

Mainland graduates reunited in Beijing



Participants solving a puzzle of PolyU's 70th anniversary logo at the dinner.



Some 200 PolyU mainland graduates and students gathered at the dinner reception in Beijing in March to celebrate the University's 70th Anniversary. President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong and senior representatives of the University's four collaborating partners in Beijing and Tianjin, namely the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Nankai University, Peking University and Renmin University of China, joined this memorable occasion.

PolyU is currently offering in Beijing and Tianjin four programmes approved by the State Council's Academic Degrees Committee, including: Master of Social Work (China), in partnership with Peking University; Doctor of Management and Master of Professional Accounting, in partnership with Renmin University of China; and Master of Science in Software Technology, in partnership with the Chinese Academy of Sciences. ❖