

## Leading geo-informatics experts win international recognition

Two experts at PolyU's Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics have been highly recognized by the International Society for Photogrammetry and Remote Sensing (ISPRS).

ISPRS, founded in Vienna in 1910, is an international, non-profit, non-governmental organization comprising 176 professional societies and national organizations from more than 120 countries. It is devoted to the development of international cooperation for the advancement of knowledge, research, development and education in photogrammetry, remote sensing and spatial information sciences for the well being of mankind and sustainability of the environment.

**Prof. Li Zhilin** has been bestowed with the Gino Cassinis Award by ISPRS at its 21st Congress held in Beijing. Being the first person in East Asia to receive such an eminent award, he was commended for "his significant contribution to the development of algorithmic foundation of multi-scale representation of spatial data".

The Gino Cassinis Award is sponsored by the Italian Society for Surveying and Photogrammetry and is presented to a scholar who has significantly enhanced the mathematical and statistical foundations of the photogrammetry, remote sensing or spatial information sciences in the four years preceding the ISPRS Congress.

Earlier in 2004, Prof. Li was awarded with the Schwedefsky Medal by ISPRS for his original research and publication in multi-dimensional modelling and related areas. Winning another award this year has made him one of the three persons who have rarely been honoured twice in ISPRS' 98-year history.

Last year, Prof. Li has authored and published a book titled *Algorithmic Foundation of Multi-scale Spatial Representation*, which lays down an excellent mathematical/algorithmic foundation for multi-scale representation and digital map generalization.

**Prof. John Shi Wenzhong** has been elected President of Technical Commission II of ISPRS for a four-year term from 2008 to 2012. This is the first time that a scientist from Hong Kong serves as a Technical Commission President since the Society's inception.

ISPRS carries out its scientific and technical work through eight Technical Commissions, each hosted by a member organization for a four-year term between Congresses. Prof. Shi, representing Hong Kong, was entrusted with leading the Technical Commission II, which addresses the



fundamental issues of spatial data handling and geographic information science. Prof. Shi will take up the responsibilities of organizing international working groups, arranging a major Commission symposium and selecting academic papers to be presented at the Congress.

An internationally acclaimed expert in Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Prof. Shi has developed a series of new mathematical models and improved solutions for modelling uncertainties in spatial data and spatial analyses. The breakthrough is considered setting the stage for the current research on uncertainty modelling in GIS. ❖



## Associate Vice President elected head of international social work body

**Prof. Angelina Yuen Tsang Woon-ki**, PolyU Associate Vice President and Head of Department of Applied Social Sciences, has recently been elected President of the International Association of Schools of Social Work (IASSW) for a term of four years.

As the first Asian scholar to take the helm of this international body, Prof. Yuen said, "The election is a strong recognition of Hong Kong's professional social work in the international social welfare sector."

In announcing this important appointment, IASSW described Prof. Yuen as "having global concern" and "fervently advocated for partnership projects to facilitate developing



countries to launch social work education programmes".

Founded in 1928, IASSW is the worldwide association of schools of social work, with member schools in over 80

countries. It promotes the development of social work education, encourages international exchange and promotes social development through policy and advocacy activities.

Prof. Yuen has been practising and teaching social work in Hong Kong, Singapore and the Chinese mainland since 1970s, and she is also a key player in social work education in the international arena. In recognition of her meritorious public and community service, particularly her contribution to the development of social work education, the

SAR Government awarded to her a Bronze Bauhinia Star earlier this year. ❖

## PolyU scholar honoured as highly cited researcher in management science

PolyU is the fourth most productive institution in Asia in publishing research papers in the field of Operations Research and Management Science (OR/MS), and bested other local universities, according to a recent study published in the *Asia-Pacific Journal of Operational Research*. As stated in this official journal of the Association of Asian-Pacific Operational Research Societies published by World Scientific, the study examined 89,293 papers published in 60 OR/MS academic journals in the world from 1968 to 2006. It found that Asian countries or regions had contributed 16.6 per cent of the papers, including the 2.2 per cent by Hong

Kong. PolyU alone had published 483 papers in the discipline.

In addition, **Prof. Edwin Cheng Tai-chiu**, Chair Professor of Management in the Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies, was found to be the most productive Asian OR/MS researcher who has published 133 journal papers within the period under study. In the area of OR/MS, he has attracted 1,477 citations of his papers and scored 19 in the overall h-index, an internationally accepted measure to quantify the research performance of scientists. ❖



## Distinguished academics take up Chair Professorships

The University has recently appointed four new Chair Professors, boosting its academic strength and research capacity. Through a rigorous global search, the scholars are recruited to further strengthen the University's expertise in various disciplines, including design, biomedical science, Chinese linguistics and English language studies. A warm welcome to the following academics:



**Prof. Huang Chu-ren**, *Chair Professor of Applied Chinese Language Studies, Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies*

After graduating from the National Taiwan University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English Language and Literature, Prof. Huang obtained a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Linguistics from Cornell University in the US. A research fellow of the Institute

of Linguistics at Academia Sinica in Taiwan, Prof. Huang has previously taken up adjunct professorial and visiting scholar positions also in France, Italy, the US, the Chinese mainland and Hong Kong.

His research focuses on Chinese computational linguistics and Chinese corpus linguistics, winning him 31 research grants. He has made notable contributions to the development of Chinese Computational Linguistics and Applied Linguistics which includes pioneering the application of "Generalized Phrase Structure Grammar" to the study of Mandarin Chinese and Southern-Min and the application of "Lexical Functional Grammar" theory in the study of Mandarin Chinese.



**Prof. Christian M.I.M. Matthiessen**, *Chair Professor of English Language Studies and Head, Department of English*

Prof. Matthiessen graduated from the University of Lund in Sweden with a Bachelor degree in English and Linguistics. He then obtained the Master of Arts degree and the Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of California, Los Angeles

(UCLA). He took up lectureship in Sydney University in Australia before becoming an Associate Professor and then Chair Professor in Macquarie University in 1994 and 2002 respectively.

He has engaged in extensive research projects on grammar of English, semantics of English and the development of a large computational grammar of English. He has also carried out research in "multilingual studies". Prof. Matthiessen is considered one of the leaders in systemic functional linguistics, and has co-authored two books with Prof. M.A.K. Halliday, the founder of this theory of language.



**Prof. Charles Martin Smith**, *Chair Professor of Industrial Design, School of Design*

Prof. Smith graduated from the Cleveland Institute of Art in Ohio in the US with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Industrial Design in 1972. He embarked on his academic career as an Instructor in the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Extension in 1981. He joined Art Centre

College of Design, which has been consistently ranked as the leading school in the US by *DesignIntelligence* and *Wall Street Journal*, in 1983. He later advanced to Chair of the Product Design Department of the same institution since 1991. Apart from helping to lead and steer the strategic direction of the College, Prof. Smith is also an independent design consultant who has overseen several major automotive design projects for eminent automotive companies.



**Prof. Benjamin Yung Yat-ming**, *Chair Professor of Biomedical Science and Associate Head, Department of Health Technology and Informatics*

Prof. Yung obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree in Chemistry and Master of Arts degree in Organic Chemistry respectively from Southern Illinois University and Rice University. He then obtained his Doctor of

Philosophy degree in Pharmacology from Baylor College of Medicine in the US. From 1986 to 1989, he became a Postdoctoral Fellow under Prof. Arthur Kornberg, Nobel Laureate of Physiology and Medicine (1959) at the Stanford University School of Medicine.

Prof. Yung later joined the Department of Pharmacology in the College of Medicine of Chang Gung University in Taiwan. In 1993, he was granted the Ministry of Education Outstanding Teacher Award. He was Dean of the Office of Research and Development at Chang Gung University from 2001 to 2006. He has published about 60 heavily cited papers on nucleolar protein nucleophosmin/B23 (NPM) and its biological role in cancer.

