

New management structure in force

To achieve a simpler and more streamlined structure, the University senior management has recently been restructured. The new structure, which took effect from June 3, was the result of a review of responsibilities of the Vice-Presidents and their designations to better reflect their portfolios.

For the Vice-Presidents, some retain their original titles while others had their titles changed.

- Prof. Joshua Wong — Vice-President and Dean, Faculty of Communication
- Mr. Alexander Tzang — Vice-President (Institutional Advancement)
- Prof. Edwin John Hearn — Vice-President (Planning)
- Prof. Leung Tin-pui — Vice-President (Quality Assurance)
- Prof. Edwin Cheng — Vice-President (Research and Postgraduate Studies)

In addition, Deans of the PolyU's six faculties have been appointed or re-appointed for a term of two years:

- Prof. Yeung Kwok-wing — re-appointed as Dean, Faculty of Applied Science and Textiles, from July 1



Making up the top management: (from left) Prof. Leung Tin-pui, Prof. Joshua Wong, the President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong, Prof. John Hearn, Mr. Alexander Tzang and Prof. Edwin Cheng.

- Prof. Peter Walters — appointed as Dean, Faculty of Business and Information Systems, from July 1
- Prof. Joshua Wong — appointed as Dean, Faculty of Communication, from June 3 (in addition to his appointment as Vice-President)
- Prof. Michael Anson — re-appointed as Dean, Faculty of Construction and Land Use, from July 1
- Prof. M.S. Demokan — re-appointed as Dean, Faculty of Engineering, from July 1
- Prof. George Woo — re-appointed as

Dean, Faculty of Health and Social Studies, from July 1

Under the new structure, all Faculty Deans report directly to the President. And with effect from June 3, the newly established Chinese Language Centre, English Language Centre and General Education Centre are grouped under the Faculty of Communication. The three centres are led respectively by: Dr. Lee Hok-ming (Acting Head), Ms. Pamela Smith (Head) and Dr. Stephen Lau-Shek-lam (Acting Head). ❖

International award for annual report

The University recently won a bronze award for its Annual Report 1996/97 in the Cover Photo/Design category of the 12th ARC Awards Competition. All winning reports of the 1998 ARC Awards contest were displayed at a gala awards presentation ceremony on July 28 in New York City.

The ARC Awards is the world's largest competition for annual reports, organized by Mercomm, Inc. Considered by many as the "Academy Awards of Annual Reports", it is an international, annual event which recognized and honours organizations which have achieved excellence in their annual reports.

Mr. David Poon, PolyU's Head, Communications and Public Affairs, said this was the first time the PolyU joined this Competition. "Apart from the printing, our report has always been produced entirely in-house, and this is one tradition we are very proud of." The cover photos of the Report, taken by Mr. Joseph Fung, Associate Professor of the PolyU's School of Design, capture panorama views of the PolyU campus in the form of impressionist paintings.



At the ARC Awards gala ceremony in New York: Mr. Joseph Fung takes pride in the Annual Report. ❖



Small group discussions on critical issues.



The workshop participants.

Management Workshop fosters commitment to the future

It was a rejuvenating exercise for the 100-plus senior staff members from various departments who attended the Management Workshop, held from September 3-5 in Shekou in the Mainland.

With the theme of "Committing to the future", a number of key issues facing the Institution and tertiary education were critically discussed and reviewed during this annual event organized for the fifth time by the Office of Communications and Public Affairs.

During the workshop, participants learnt of the progress and improvement in the management of the University, including the streamlining of administrative procedures and application of the latest information technology. The workshop also reviewed the University's overall performance during the Teaching and Learning Quality Process Review of the University Grants Committee (UGC), and prepared participants for the forthcoming UGC Management Review Exercise to be conducted in early 1999.

In the light of the current trends in tertiary education in Hong Kong, participants also exchanged their views on the University's marketing strategy and recruitment of high calibre students. The workshop also addressed issues involved in creating a congenial environment for staff and students, including the cultivation of staff morale, health and safety, and fostering a culture of achievement and commitment. The senior staff also shared their experience on good practices of teaching, research and departmental management.



From heated debate to happy ending?



Time for fun.

PolyU and University of Warwick honour graduates

The unique industry-led Integrated Engineering Business Management Programme (IEBMP), offered jointly by the PolyU and UK's University of Warwick, sent forth a total of 126 graduates on September 27. The Programme comprises three tiers: the Engineering Doctorate programme, Integrated Graduate Development Scheme (IGDS) and Integrated Manager Development Scheme (IMDS), this year with four, 103 and 19 graduates respectively.



Happy new academic year!

The PolyU embarked on a new and challenging academic year on September 14.

This year has witnessed the introduction of general education subjects in the University's curriculum: all incoming, full-time PolyU students of first-degree programmes funded by the University Grants Committee (UGC) are required to study two compulsory subjects of general education, while new students enrolled in UGC-funded sub-degree programmes must take one subject.

The total enrolment stood at 20,567 by headcount as of September 8, and the University is offering 107 UGC-funded and 21 self-financed programmes leading to various levels of award.

Two part-time programmes launched for the first time were the Master's degree/Postgraduate Diploma in Professional Accounting and the Master's degree/Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management. Besides, a new Bachelor's degree programme in Design was launched to replace the five Bachelor's degree programmes in Fashion Design, Graphic Design, Industrial Design, Interior Design and Photographic Design. The part-time mode of the Bachelor's degree programme in Manufacturing Engineering is also newly offered this year.

Furthermore, the two Post-experience Certificate programmes, one in Industrial Safety and the other in Advanced Safety, have been separated from the Post-experience Scheme in Engineering to form a new scheme — the Post-experience Scheme in Occupational Safety and Health. The previous Higher Certificate programme in Pre-primary Care and Education has been upgraded to Higher Diploma programme in Pre-primary Education.



A total of 43 new staff members joined the Induction Programme organized by the Personnel Office on September 2 to gain an overview of the PolyU's latest developments.

Commencement of the new programme MSc/PgD in Project Management on September 7.



At the opening ceremony of Students' Union's Orientation Week.



The University's Bachelor's degree programmes in Radiography, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, and Languages with Business are offered as Honours degree programmes starting this year.

Meanwhile, the PolyU has, since the last academic year, gradually revamped its full-time programmes with the inclusion of compulsory subjects in English, Putonghua and written Chinese. Besides, the Chinese Language Centre and the English Language Centre were recently established to co-ordinate the compulsory Chinese and English courses for the full-time undergraduate and sub-degree students. On the other hand, a credit-based system for all the University's academic programmes at different levels has also been implemented.

Another new initiative introduced for all new full-time students this year is the PolyU Smart Card, a multi-functional card that integrates the utilities of a bank card and a PolyU student/staff card. This new service will be gradually extended to all staff and students. (See story on PolyU Smart Card on page 19.)



English Language Centre celebrates opening

To mark the official opening of the English Language Centre, a ribbon cutting ceremony was held on campus on July 2, officiated at by Prof. Joshua Wong, Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Communication.

The Centre will teach primarily the “mandatory” English programme to first-

and second-year students of all full-time degree and sub-degree programmes funded by the University Grants Committee. It also provides other service English teaching formerly offered by the Department of English.

With a strong team of some 70 full-time academic staff, the Centre is equipped with

sophisticated language enhancement facilities in its English Language Study Centre and Centre for Independent Language Learning, which were previously grouped under the Department of English.

Head of the Centre Ms. Pamela Smith said, “We aim to provide a supportive language learning environment that enables students to realize their academic potential and to achieve professional excellence.

“Through small-group work in our Study Centre we will ensure weaker students are not disadvantaged, and all students will be encouraged to make use of our Centre for Independent Language Learning and multimedia facilities to take responsibility for their own learning.”

In line with the Institution’s efforts to boost students’ communication and language skills, all full-time students were required to take mandatory English subjects since the University’s 1997/98 student intake.



“Cheers!” Ms. Pamela Smith (centre) and colleagues drink to the success of the English Language Centre.

First courses leading to Business English Certificate

The PolyU’s Centre for Professional and Business English (CPBE) is now running the first ever courses in Hong Kong that will prepare students for the Business English Certificate (BEC) offered by University of Cambridge Local Examinations Syndicate. Classes are currently studying at all the three levels provided for by the exam, which is due to be held in late October and early November.

Dr. Bruce Johns, Head of CPBE, reported that nearly all the participants were in fact returning to study at their alma mater, as the programme was offered exclusively through *Network*, the newsletter of The Federation of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Alumni Associations. “We are now ready to extend the opportunity to all those wishing to upgrade their English skills,” said Dr. Johns.

CPBE is expecting an enthusiastic response, based partly on the success of BEC in the rest of China, where it has been widely adopted as a benchmark for language ability in the workplace and in tertiary institutions. One of the attractions of the Certificate, Dr. Johns said, was the chance to create a single qualification in Business English for Hong Kong and the Mainland — an important step forward in the move towards a more open labour market.

Another important feature of the exam is its focus on *proficiency*, involving all the four skills of writing, reading, speaking and listening, situated within a business context.

The next round of 60-hour courses will begin at the PolyU in January. Alternatively, the training can also be arranged at other times and be delivered on an in-house basis for groups of staff in the same workplace.

PolyU Smart Card offers convenience to students and staff

In September 9, the PolyU was joined by The Bank of East Asia and Visa International in celebrating the launch of the PolyU Smart Card in a special ceremony held on campus.

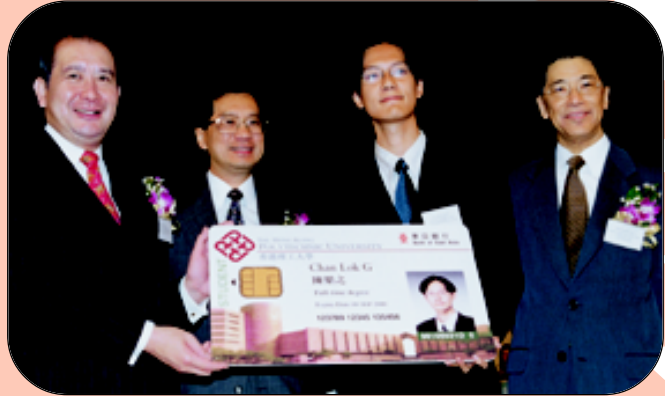
Starting this academic year, the PolyU's new intake of some 4,200 full-time students will be able to enjoy the convenient services provided by the new card.

Offered exclusively to the students and staff of the University, the PolyU Smart Card delivers the most comprehensive range of banking functions in a single card available today within the Asia Pacific region.

PolyU President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong said, "From now on, our freshmen can use the Smart Card not only for identification purpose, but also for small amount of money transactions on campus and other off-campus locations. This new service, which will be gradually extended to all staff and students, will surely bring immense convenience to the PolyU community."

"This exciting new service brings the advantages of the latest technology to our customers," said Dr. David K. P. Li, Chairman and Chief Executive of The Bank of East Asia, Limited. "We are very happy to be building our partnerships with Visa International and with The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

In essence, the PolyU Smart Card is a 5-in-1 multi-functional card that integrates the utilities of a bank card and a PolyU student/staff card. The card contains a contact chip, a contact-less chip, and a magnetic stripe; in conjunction, they enable the card to deliver some of the most advanced electronic banking services, including Visa Cash, Visa Interlink, EPS, as well as Visa Plus ATM network and JETCO ATM access. Featuring the photograph, faculty/department, and staff/student number of the cardholder, the PolyU



Launching the PolyU Smart Card: (from left) Dr. David Li, Prof. Poon Chung-kwong, Student's Union President Chan Lok G and Mr. Raymond Chan.

Smart Card also performs the functions of in-campus identification and access control.

"People in Hong Kong are extremely receptive to using smart cards," said Mr. Raymond Chan, Executive Vice President and General Manager of Visa International, Greater China Region. "The launch of the PolyU Smart Card today reaffirms our step forward in the right direction."

Cardholders can activate the various electronic banking services by visiting The Bank of East Asia Houston Branch any time during regular bank opening hours.

The PolyU Smart Card offers a comprehensive range of electronic banking functions. The Visa Cash function is widely accepted at merchants in Hong Kong and abroad and on campus at the finance office, student affairs office, health service, book store and canteens.

The PolyU Smart Card can also be used to perform ATM and debit card transactions. Students and staff may access various in-campus facilities, such as the library and sports facilities, using the card as a form of in-campus identification. ❖

PolyU-Tsinghua training programme



This summer, the PolyU's Department of Building and Real Estate and Tsinghua University's Project Management Research and Training Centre jointly organized the Advanced Project Management Training Programme for some 50 mainland senior financial officials from various provinces, who oversee large-scale projects financed by the World Bank and other external sources. On August 31, following three weeks' training at Tsinghua in Beijing, the trainees started another two weeks' study at the PolyU. Picture shows Prof. Wang Qizheng of Tsinghua University speaking to programme participants on August 31. ❖