

New helmsmen outline their vision

Two enthusiastic scholars with a wealth of knowledge and experience have joined the PolyU during this summer. They are: Prof. Gerald Fryxell, who took up chair professorship and headship at the Department of Management; and Prof. Kevin Cullinane, who assumed duty as Head of the Department of Maritime Studies.

Commenting on the future development of the Department of Management, Prof. Fryxell stressed that the Department had to be more focused in building its distinctive competencies. "Advancements in information technology along with more traditional communication channels should be used to forge a closer partnership with our students and employers in order to align our curriculum more closely to their needs," he added.



Prof. Fryxell

Prof. Fryxell was a Fulbright Scholar at the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute in Arusha, Tanzania in 1989/90 and at the Academy of Economic Studies in Bucharest, Romania in 1993/94. He was an Associate Professor at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville before joining the PolyU.

Prof. Fryxell completed his higher education in the US where he obtained his MBA and PhD in Business Policy. His current research interests include Environmental Management Standard, Top Management Team Trust, Technology and Health Care ("Managed Care"), and International Joint Ventures.

At the Department of Maritime Studies, Prof. Cullinane is very optimistic about the future development of the discipline in Hong Kong.

"As the world's largest container port and one of its leading centres of maritime business, Hong Kong is a natural location for teaching and research in shipping and logistics. Our department, as the sole provider of tertiary education in this respect, has the potential to develop rapidly into Asia's centre of excellence in maritime education and research," he said.

He was a graduate from the University of Plymouth in the UK, where he obtained two Bachelor degrees, a Master degree, and a PhD degree in Shipping. Upon graduation, he had many opportunities with work with prestigious institutions and organizations in different countries. In 1993, he rejoined his alma mater as Director of Research and Head of the Centre for International Shipping and Transport, as well as Principal Lecturer at the Institute of Maritime Studies of the University before taking up his present position at the PolyU.

Prof. Cullinane is a prolific researcher. His research interests include maritime economics, mathematical modelling of shipping markets, international financial management and shipping finance. One of his current research projects being undertaken is freight mode choice in the Baltic Sea region. ❖



Prof. Cullinane

External appointments of staff

- **Prof. Edwin Cheng**, Vice-President (Research and Postgraduate Studies), has been appointed by the Government, on a personal basis, as a member of the Hong Kong Committee for Pacific Economic Co-operation for a term of two years from April 1, 1998. The Committee advises the Secretary for Trade and Industry on matters relating to Hong Kong's participation in the Pacific Economic Co-operation Council and co-ordinates Hong Kong's input to the Council.
- **Prof. Leung Tin-pui**, Vice-President (Quality Assurance), has been re-appointed by the Government as a member of the Town Planning Board for a term of two years effective April 1, 1998.
- **Mr. Barry Burton**, University Librarian, has been elected as Chairman of the Joint University Libraries Advisory Committee for the period from April 1998 to March 1999. ❖