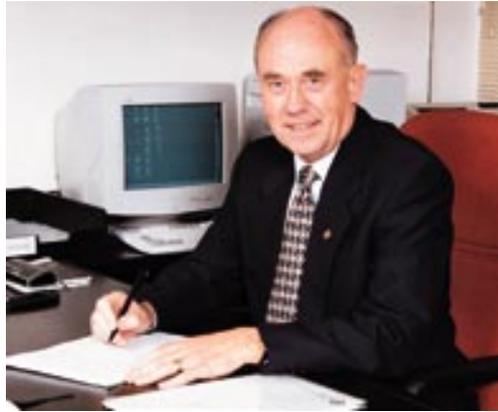


## New Vice-President (Planning) appointed

**P**rof. Edwin John Hearn officially assumed duty as Vice-President (Planning) on May 1.

A highly respected academic with extensive university management experience, Prof. Hearn first joined the Institution in March 1989 as Associate Director (Industrial Liaison and External Relations) — equivalent rank to the current Vice-President. During his service with the former Polytechnic, he represented the Institution on numerous government, business and local tertiary institutions' committees. He left Hong Kong in late 1993 and became Director of International Programmes at the University of Warwick Manufacturing Group, UK.

Having started his career as Graduate Apprentice and then as Control Engineer with the Gloster Aircraft Co. in the late 1950s, Prof. Hearn obtained his bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering from the University of London in 1960. From 1962 to 1973, he taught at the South Birmingham Technical College, first as Lecturer and then as Senior Lecturer. Prof. Hearn was conferred a PhD in Mechanical Engineering by the University of Surrey in 1974.



*Prof. Hearn*

Prior to coming to Hong Kong in 1989, Prof. Hearn had 16 years' experience working at the City of Birmingham Polytechnic. When he first joined the Polytechnic, he was appointed as Principal Lecturer in Stress Analysis. He became Deputy Head of the Department of Mechanical and Production Engineering as well as Staff Tutor in 1981, and took up Headship of the Department in 1985. Two years later, he was appointed as GKN Technology industrially sponsored Professor of Mechanical Engineering.

Meanwhile, Prof. Hearn was the Director of a Design Analysis Consultancy Group in UK.

Pro. Hearn is a Chartered Engineer, Fellow of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, and a Fellow of the UK Institution of Mechanical Engineers, Institution of Electrical Engineers and Institute of Diagnostic Engineers. He is also a Life Fellow of the British Society for Strain Measurement.

He has extensive consultancy experience in the field of stress and design analysis. During his career as an academic, Prof. Hearn has published 11 textbooks and numerous papers in professional journals. ♦

## Staff show off physical prowess

**A**fter weeks and months of preliminary rounds and events, the 1997/98 Staff Sports Competition reached a climax on May 23 when all the award-winning departments/units were honoured at the Prize Presentation Ceremony held at the Shaw Sports Complex.

Officiated at by the PolyU's Vice-Presidents, Prof. T.P. Leung and Prof. Edwin Cheng, the ceremony saw the presentation of the awards for the President's Cup Soccer Competition, the Deputy President's Cup Basketball Competition and the Vice-Presidents' Cup Racket Games Competition which were all played on an inter-departmental or inter-faculty basis.

The President's Cup went to the Industrial Centre, while the Estates Office and the Department of Hotel and Tourism Management became the first and second runners-up respectively. The Estates Office scored its victory at the Basketball Competition, and the first and second runners-up went to the Student Affairs Office and the Department of Electrical Engineering respectively.

Players from the Administration Departments (Group A) seized the Vice-Presidents' Cup after scoring the highest aggregate in tennis, badminton, squash and table tennis to edge out their opponents. ♦



*It's all smiles for the award-winning athletes.*

## Interest a top consideration in choices of study and career

A recent survey revealed that the first-year students selected their present course of study primarily because they were interested in the subject, and more than 70 per cent of them also considered "interest in job nature" a very important factor affecting their future career choice.

When asked about the reasons for choosing their course of study, 44 per cent of the respondents said interest in the subject was most significant. Nearly a quarter of them chose their course of study with an intention to obtain professional qualifications relevant to their desired careers (26 per cent).

As regards the factors affecting their future career choice, a majority of the freshmen considered "interest in job nature" (77 per cent) and "good salary and fringe benefits" (62 per cent) very important, followed by working environment, sense of achievement, and prospect for advancement.

With respect to their expectation of university education, the students, in general, place most emphasis on "acquiring professional qualifications relevant to one's career", followed by "acquiring a good general education" and "studying an interesting subject".

The freshmen survey also showed that apart from the nine per cent who expected to cover half or more of their study/living expenses with income from

part-time work as their major source of financial support, another 56 per cent also expected to earn income from part-time work.

In fact, 39 per cent of the first-year students were from families earning less than \$15,000 per month and 20 per cent between \$15,000 and \$19,999, with the median monthly household income recorded at \$17,839. For the academic year 1997/98, the tuition fees for degree

and sub-degree programmes were \$42,100 and \$31,575 respectively, which represented approximately 20 per cent and 15 per cent of the respondents' median household income.

Furthermore, the home study environment of the respondents seems unfavourable in general. About 64 per cent did not have a room of their own while 35 per cent did not have a desk for their own use. The PolyU's Director of Student Affairs, Mr. Paul Lee, said: "The survey results do suggest that there is indeed the need to provide students with hostels and more quiet rooms and reading space on campus to facilitate their learning."

The findings of the survey disclosed that nearly half, or 46 per cent, of the respondents lived in public housing estates while 14 per cent lived in flats under Home Ownership Schemes.

Conducted annually by the Student Affairs Office, the survey aims at collecting information on new full-time, first-year students for the purpose of planning future services and facilities. Of the total 4,191 newly registered full-time first-year undergraduate and sub-degree students (as of November 15, 1997), 3,561 responded, representing a response rate of 85 per cent.



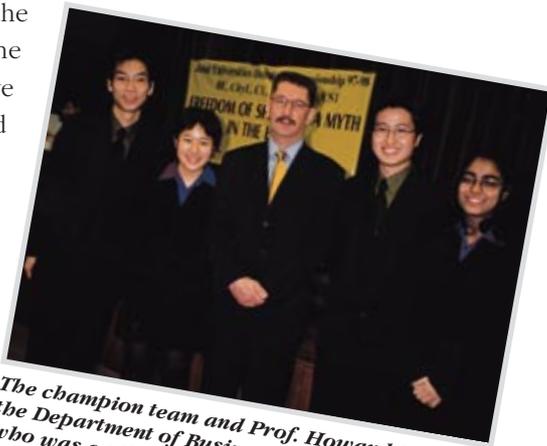
## Two-out-of-two for victorious student debators

Following the triumph of PolyU's Chinese Debate Team at the Inter-university Debating Challenge 1998 in March, the University's English Debate Team outsmarted their counterparts of the Chinese University of Hong Kong at the final of the 1998 Joint Universities Debating Championship to score the second victory.

Held on March 28, 1998 at the Hong Kong Space Museum, the final was judged by a panel of five professors and lecturers invited from local universities. The motion debated was: "Freedom of Speech is a Myth in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region", with PolyU standing against the motion. The stage speakers of the winning team included Kelly Ma and Harsha P. Harjani of the Department of Business Studies, Eddie Lee of the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, and Kenny Fong of the Department of Accountancy. They were supported by a number of team members as floor speakers.

On receiving the award trophy for the Championship, the team members remarked: "This has indeed been a great achievement for us, as the victory has long been aspired for over the years. We will keep up with our hard work and strong team spirit, and hopefully we could score more victories in the years to come."

Formed under the Speech and Debate Society of the Students' Union, the PolyU English Debate Team is wholly run by the students. According to the team members, they usually spend a whole week prior to each match collecting information, discussing and exchanging views, and finally arriving at a line of argument for the match. The team also received advice from PolyU academics. ❖



*The champion team and Prof. Howard Davies of the Department of Business Studies (centre), who was on the judging panel at the final.*



*A moment of triumph and joy for the English Debate Team.*

## 社工實習顯關懷 病者致函表謝意

本校一名社工學生馮靜儀由於在實習期間努力關懷和幫助一位病人，獲該病人致函本校及其就讀學系，高度讚揚其工作態度，並對其關懷和鼓勵致以深切謝意。

本年五月初，正在沙田慈氏護養院接受深切護養治療的病人梁浩華先生，致函本校傳訊及公共事務處，讚揚一位社工學生馮靜儀，在其駐院實習期間，不斷鼓勵和關懷他。雖然梁先生的病情日趨嚴重，並接近癱瘓，但藉着馮同學半年來的幫助和開解，他終於能夠重拾勇氣，積極面對未來。

馮同學獲悉謝函後，表示感到非常驚喜和感動。她透露這次實習是自己首次接觸病人輔導，期間所遇到的個案，令她學習良多；而自己在實習期間亦努力去關懷和鼓勵每一位病人，希望可以在他們的康復過程中盡一分力。梁先生能夠在經歷重重困難中仍然積極面對人生，實在令她覺得十分高興和欣慰。 ❖

致香港理工大學傳訊及公共事務處執事先生：

本人梁浩華自九七年十一月十九日由裁勵庭夫人康復院轉介到沙田慈氏護養院接受延續性深切護養治療，期間非常榮幸能得到貴校社工學系實習學生馮靜儀姑娘以個案負責人的身份，半年多來不斷鼓勵和支持我，使我得以積極面對未來。我患的是腦內科神經細胞疾病，情況不斷走下坡，接近癱瘓，情緒不穩定和低落。在我最需要別人開解和幫助的時候，馮姑娘給了我很大的鼓勵和力量，令我能夠積極面對人生。

本月馮姑娘離開了沙田慈氏護養院，返回貴校深造，本人心情真是依依不捨。謹透過貴校傳訊及公共事務處表揚馮靜儀姑娘，本人決不會辜負她的教導和期望。我會繼續在慈氏護養院接受深切治療，希望能奇蹟地康復。

謹向馮姑娘致以  
崇高的敬禮

梁浩華謹啟  
一九九八年五月

## Outstanding Service Awards for outreaching duo

**A**u Ching, a second-year student in civil engineering, and Ha Chow-ming, another second-year student in real estate, have been honoured with the 1997/98 Outstanding Service Awards for their commitment and dedication to community services.

Both winners have more than five years' experience in community services, and they expressed that they were



*The winning duo with their award certificates.*

really flattered by the awards. "It undoubtedly gives me a great sense of achievement, and encourages me to continue my efforts in community services," said Ha Chow-ming. Au Ching said that the rewarding experience he had gained from his involvement in community services was equally valuable as the award itself.

They revealed that participation in community services had actually afforded them ample opportunities to widen their exposure, to develop their own potential and inter-personal skills, and, more importantly, to enhance their sense of social responsibility. Both opined that "what they have learned from participating in the community services is the same important as what they have studied at the PolyU".

Organized annually by the Hong Kong Student Services Association, the Outstanding Service Awards aim to encourage tertiary students to contribute their efforts towards community services and to show their concern for society and the needy. ❖

## Cultural exchange is all fun

**T**he PolyU Japanese Club, which was set up by students majoring in Japanese in the degree programme in Languages with Business at the Department of English, has recently organized a series of activities to achieve its key objective of promoting cultural exchange with the Japanese community in Hong Kong.

In December 1997, the Club held a barbecue gathering at Repulse Bay, which was attended by more than 70 participants, including both PolyU students and Japanese working and living in Hong Kong. Another successful event was the "Lantau Trip" in February, which also provided a valuable opportunity for the students to learn more about the Japanese culture and to polish their spoken Japanese.

Besides, the Club members paid a visit to the Cantonese Club at the Hong Kong Japanese School in Tai Po on May 19, during which the school kids learned from the PolyU students more about Cantonese and the Chinese culture. ❖



*A day of fun for the Japanese Club in Lantau.*

# Dinner Talks are eye-openers for students

**M**ore than 260 students were attracted to two Dinner Talks held in March and April to share the insights of two prominent guest speakers — renowned economist and President of Lingnan College, Prof. Edward Chen, and famous novelist and former newspaper publisher, Prof. Louis Cha.

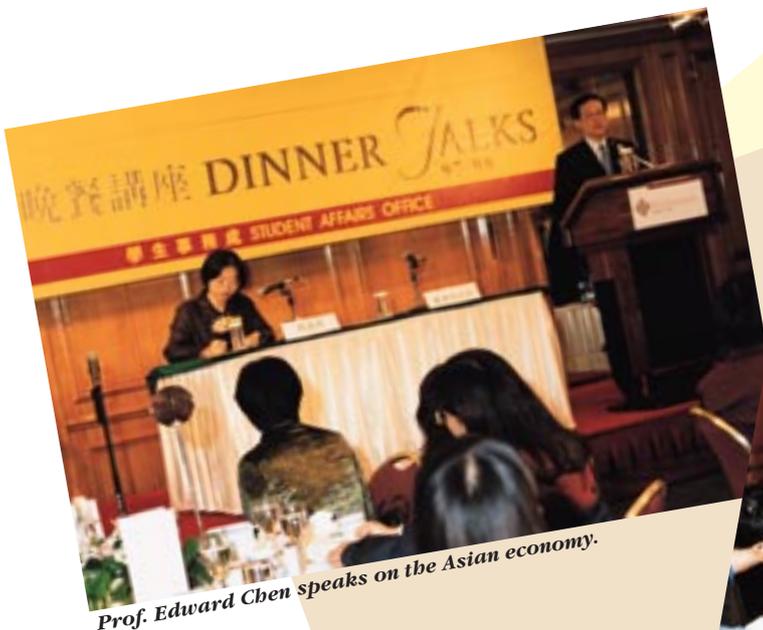
Organized annually by the Student Affairs Office (SAO), the Dinner Talks Programme aims at broadening the students' horizons and sharpening their communication skills. And for the very first time, this year's dinner talks were held in hotel settings — the Grand Stanford Harbour View Hotel — to provide students with an excellent opportunity to groom their social skills. No wonder both sessions attracted a full-house audience shortly after its announcement.

On March 24, Prof. Edward Chen shared with the students his views on “The Asian Economy after the Financial Turmoil”, while Prof. Louis Cha

spoke on “Novel and Life” on April 20. Senior staff members of the University were also invited to participate in the dinner talks as table-leaders to facilitate discussions and interaction among the student participants.

To familiarize all student participants with social etiquette and to build up their confidence in public speaking, two workshops were specially organized by SAO prior to the talks. Besides, two students were selected via public recruitment to act as convenors for both sessions.

Since its launch more than 10 years ago, the Dinner Talks Programme has been widely received by students as it provides great opportunities for them to gain valuable insights from eminent figures and leaders from various fields. Through taking part in the dinner talks, students can enhance their critical thinking ability and social awareness, broaden their interests, and improve their interpersonal skills. ❖



*Prof. Edward Chen speaks on the Asian economy.*



*Senior staff exchange views with students at the gathering.*

## Building Alumni pay tribute to five distinguished practitioners

The Building and Real Estate Departmental Alumni Association (BREDAA) paid tribute to five renowned practitioners in Hong Kong's building and construction industries by presenting to them the honour of the Association's "Honorary Member" at a special ceremony held on the PolyU campus on March 31.

The recipients (in alphabetical order) are: Dr. Chow Yei-ching, Chairman of Chevalier Group; Mr. H. K. Chung, Chief Building Surveyor at Buildings Department of HKSAR Government; Dr. Simon Kwan, Chairman of Simon Kwan & Associates Ltd.; Mr. Leung Chun-ying, Managing Director of C. Y. Leung & Co. Ltd.; and Mr. Macro Wu, Deputy Director at Housing Department of HKSAR Government.

During the ceremony, each of the awardees was presented with a certificate by the Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Chu Zhi-nong, Head of the Department of Education, Science and Technology of Xinhua News Agency (Hong Kong Branch).

Speaking at the ceremony, President of BREDAA, Mr. Jimmy



*Mr. Leung Chun-ying (left) receives the award certificate from Mr. Chu Zhi-nong.*

Wong, said: "We are greatly honoured to present the awards to these distinguished experts in recognition of their outstanding achievements in the profession and significant contributions to the community. With their continuous support and advice, the Association would be able to further expand its alumni network and strengthen the relationships with other professional organizations."

Established in September 1995, BREDAA aims at networking the PolyU's building alumni and encouraging the exchange of professional and managerial knowledge and experience among its members. ❖

## Rehab Graduates to set up Alumni Association



*Prof. Chan (front left) and Dr. Tsang (back left) meet RS alumni.*

Physiotherapy and occupational therapy graduates from the Department of Rehabilitation Sciences (RS) are actively planning to set up their own alumni association. An Organizing Committee has recently been formed, with an aim to formally establish the association within this year.

With the tremendous support from Prof. Christina Hui-Chan, Chair of Rehabilitation Sciences and Head of RS, a number of physiotherapy and occupational therapy graduates and the department's Alumni Liaison Officer, Dr. Hector Tsang, met in early 1998 to start planning for their alumni association.

The Organizing Committee has already sent out invitation letters to all graduates of the department to

encourage them to join the association. It is expected that the constitutions and other details of the association will be finalized in the next few months and, hopefully, the association can be officially inaugurated in December.

Those physiotherapy and occupational therapy graduates who wish to join this new alumni association may contact Dr. Tsang at tel. 2766-6750 or via e-mail [rshtsang@polyu.edu.hk](mailto:rshtsang@polyu.edu.hk). ❖

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