

## Three new Heads join PolyU

Three departments at the PolyU recently welcomed their new heads.

*Prof. Edward Newton*, a renowned expert in fashion and apparel design and marketing, has been appointed as Chair of Fashion Marketing and Merchandising, and Head of Institute of Textiles and Clothing.

Talking about his appointment, Prof. Newton is confident in leading the Institute into the next century. "I believe the PolyU is one of the world's leading fashion and textile academic centres. The design, marketing and technological programmes offered are working towards the goal of producing 'preferred graduates', who are capable of supplying creative solutions to the complex challenges of the industry."

Prof. Newton started his long academic career at his alma mater, the Leeds College of Technology, in the early '60s. He became Head of Department of Fashion and Textiles at the Derby College of Arts & Technology in 1970.

He took up the Headship of the Department of Fashion and Textiles at Nottingham Trent University in 1973. Two years ago, he was appointed Senior Dean, Chair of The Deans Committee and member of the Vice Chancellor's Senior Management Group.

Prof. Newton is Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, Fellow of the Clothing and Footwear Institute, Fellow of the Textile Institute and Fellow of the Chartered Society of Designers.

Eminent scholar *Prof. Teo Kok-lay* has recently assumed duties as Head of Department of Applied Mathematics and Chair of Applied Mathematics. Prof. Teo brought with him a wealth of experience of teaching and research. Prior to joining the PolyU, he was Chair Professor of Applied Mathematics at the Curtin University of Technology in Western Australia.

In 1969 Prof. Teo graduated from the Ngee Ann Technical College in Singapore. He then obtained his Master's degree in Applied Science and his doctoral degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of Ottawa in Canada in 1971 and 1974 respectively.



*Prof. Newton*

His academic career began when he became a Lecturer at the School of Mathematics of the University of New South Wales in Australia 25 years ago. In 1984, he was appointed Associate Professor by the National University of Singapore.

He subsequently held the position of Associate Professor in the Department of Mathematics of the University of Western Australia until 1996.

Prof. Teo is a senior member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers in the US; and a member of the Australian Mathematical Society, the International Federation of Nonlinear Analysts, and the Australian Society for Operations Research.

*Prof. Maurice Yap Keng-Hung* joined the PolyU as Professor and Head of the Department of Optometry & Radiography last December. However, his close ties with the institution can be traced back to 1987, when he was Senior Lecturer in Optometry of the former Hong Kong Polytechnic. He left the Polytechnic in 1991 to take up a Senior Lectureship in Optometry at the University of Auckland. He was appointed Acting Head of the Department of Optometry and Vision Science and Director of the Centre for Vision Research in 1994/5. Prof. Yap was also a Visiting Consultant and Head of Optometry of the Singapore Polytechnic in 1997/8.



*Prof. Yap*

Prof. Yap is a dedicated scholar and an expert in Optometry and has actively participated in numerous activities for the betterment of the profession. He has served as an external examiner to the British College of Optometrists (UK) from 1990 to 1993. Since 1994, he has also served as a Senior Advisor to the National Optometry Research Centre, Ministry of Public Health, China. Moreover, he is an editorial board member of the newly established Chinese Journal of Optometry & Ophthalmology. Prof. Yap is a member of the College of Optometrists (UK), a fellow of the American Academy of Optometry and a founding member of the New Zealand College of Optometrists. He was previously President of the International Association of Contact Lens Educators (Asia-Pacific).

Prof. Yap has received funding for over 20 projects and has published more than 50 scientific and professional articles. ❖



*Prof. Teo*

## PolyU academics win coveted awards

**D**r. John Gilleard, Associate Professor in the Department of Building Services Engineering, recently received the coveted “Distinguished Educator Award” from the International Facility Management Association (IFMA) for his outstanding achievements.



*Dr. Gilleard (right) receives the honour from Mr. Bruce Forbes, IFMA Regional Vice-President and CEO of Archibus.*

IFMA is an organization dedicated to supporting facility management professionals through career development, educational and research programmes. It has 15,500 members in chapters throughout the United States, Canada and other countries.

The annual Distinguished Educator Award recognizes excellence in developing curriculum and instructing in subjects related to facility management at a college or university level. Dr. Gilleard was responsible for establishing Asia’s first Master’s Degree programme in Facility Management at the Department of Building Services Engineering.

The programme aims at producing facility managers who can integrate the growing demand of society for clean, safe and accessible facilities, with the safe use of new technologies and the efficient and cost-effective management of buildings.

**B**enny Leong Chin-hong, Assistant Professor of School of Design, has won The Chartered Society of Designers (CSD) Hong Kong Design Awards 1999. At the Presentation Ceremony held last December, Mr. Leong gladly received the Product Design Award (Distinction) for his brain-child “E-One” Injection Moulding Machine, scheduled for commercial use by year 2000.



*The Product Design Award (Distinction) goes to Mr. Leong (right).*

The CSD, founded in 1930, is the world’s largest and most comprehensive organization of designers today. The Hong Kong Region was established in 1982 with the objective of promoting high quality design, fostering professionalism, and protecting and promoting the interest of designers in the region. Hong Kong’s transition to a service-based economy has led to an increase in demand for quality design services, to which CSD has made tremendous contributions. ❖

## External appointments of staff

- **Prof. W.B. Lee**, Head of Department of Manufacturing Engineering, has been appointed as a member of the Editorial Board of the Proceedings of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers U.K. (*Part B – Journal of Engineering Manufacture*). He has also been appointed as a member of the Editorial Committee of the Chinese Journal of Mechanical Engineering and an Advisory Professor of Tongji University in Shanghai.
- **Prof. Chen Yong-qi**, Head of Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics, has been appointed as an Honorary Professor of Nanjing University of Astronautics and Aeronautics.
- **Prof. George Woo**, Chair Professor of Optometry and Dean of Health and Social Studies, has been appointed as a member of the Council of Tianjin Professional University. ❖

## Disabled colleague praised for hard work and dedication

October 29, 1998 was a great day for 50-year-old Simon Lee Tai-lok as he received the “Outstanding Disabled Employees Award” from Mrs. Betty Tung, wife of the Chief Executive.

Mr. Lee started to work in the Pao Yue-kong library of the PolyU since eight years ago. Having lost his eyesight does not deprive him of the chance to work. Every day as readers return the books, Mr. Lee scans each of the bar codes with a laser gun, which records the entries in the computer. He then puts the books into a cart for shelving. At the end of each day, about 500 books will be processed. He also reserves books for people who request them.

To enable Mr. Lee to work independently, the library spent about \$80,000 for a computer, power braille and scanner. By

putting his fingers on a power braille, Mr. Lee can read the text on the computer screen. As for printed materials, Mr. Lee simply scans the paper, and the content is read out in a generic computer voice.

Mr. Lee enjoys his work and gets along very well with his colleagues, who always include him for lunch or tea breaks. This helps him to build a strong sense of belonging to the working environment.

But not everything came as easy as it has sounded. When he began to lose his eyesight 20 years ago, he was very angry, not understanding why he was going blind. But as the eyesight deteriorated, and eventually was completely gone, he had accepted it.

In 1977, knowing that the eyesight already deteriorating could only get worse,



*An unforgettable moment for Mr. Lee as he receives a memento from Mrs. Tung. On the right is Miss Jacqueline Willis, Commissioner for Hong Kong Economic and Trade Affairs, USA.*

Mr. Lee learned how to type and read Braille at the Rehabilitation Centre of the Society for the Blind. Two years later, he learned how to use the telephone system, which paved the way for him to work as a telephone operator at the then Hong Kong Polytechnic in 1981.

In 1996 Mr. Lee learned how to use the computer. The skills obtained help him to work independently. ❖

## PolyU constantly enhancing staff's quality

The training and development of staff is one of the major targets of the PolyU in providing the education of highest possible standard in the territory. People are an invaluable asset of a company and, in a bigger context, even a country. There cannot be too much emphasis on assuring the quality of people who are heavily involved in tertiary education. With this understanding, the PolyU has set aside a budget for the central co-ordination of in-house training programmes in different areas for staff.

Much effort has been put in to provide tailor-made training which suits the needs of staff. In March 1996 and June 1998 surveys have been done, and the results were used to devise the training programmes into five categories:

### Induction Programme

- teacher training for new teachers
- one-day induction programme for newly joined staff
- check-list for the orientation of new staff
- resource kit for new staff

### Computer Skills

- Training courses on various computer software for staff at different levels have been offered since 1992.

### Management Skills

- management upgrade workshops
- two-day workshops on “Effective Supervision and Communication Skills”
- two-day workshops on “Leadership and Teamwork”
- one-day workshops on “Managing Staff Performance”

### Staff Appraisal

- one-day workshops for all staff appraisers

### Language Skills

- Putonghua courses, English courses Chinese practical writing courses and Cantonese courses
- “Effective English Communication for Teaching and Research”

This programme was piloted in response to the suggestions made at the University Council in spring 1996. It is a flexible programme that aims to develop the English communication skills required in teaching and research. Since its full operation in February 1997, the programme has had participants from almost every Department in the University. ❖