

## Bhasin Award goes to Prof. Sankar Pal

**P**rof. Sankar K Pal, Visiting Professor of the Department of Computing, has recently been conferred upon the very prestigious Shri Om Prakash Bhasin Foundation Award 1998 for his dedicated work and outstanding contributions in the field of Electronics and Information Technology. The award will be presented by the Prime Minister of India.

A distinguished scientist and Head, Machine Intelligence Unit of the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, Prof. Pal is currently associated with several projects related to soft computing, case-based reasoning, pattern recognition and machine learning at the PolyU.



*Prof. Sankar K Pal*

Prof. Pal is also a Distinguished Visitor of the IEEE Computer Society for the Asia Pacific Region during 1997–99. He is a Fellow of the IEEE, Third World Academy of Scientists, and of all the national academies in India. He has received several prizes in India and abroad including the 1990 S.S. Bhatnagar Prize (the most coveted award for scientists in India), 1993 Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship, 1993 NASA Tech Brief Award and the 1994 IEEE Trans. Neural Networks Outstanding Paper Award.

Co-author/editor of six books and about 250 research papers, Prof. Pal is on the editorial board of several international journals including IEEE TNN, Fuzzy Sets and Systems, Pattern Recognition Letters, Neurocomputing, Information Sciences and Applied Intelligence. ♦

## Li puts her heart and soul into ceramic sculptures

**A**t the ceremony of “Artist of the Year Award 1999” on May 15 at the Grand Hyatt, 12 outstanding local artists were honoured in recognition of their creativity and contribution to the community.

Sculptor Ms. Rosanna Li Wei-han, Assistant Professor, School of Design, took the award of the category of Fine Arts. The award, organized by the Hong Kong Artists' Guild, is presented every two years to artists from the fields of Fine Arts, Applied Art, Performing Arts, Popular and Entertainment Arts, Literary Arts, Arts Promotion and Arts Education.

Ms. Li, born in Hong Kong, has obtained a Higher Certificate in Studio Ceramics from the former Hong Kong Polytechnic and other postgraduate qualifications from the Institute of Education, University of London as well as Cheltenham and Gloucester College in the UK. In 1985 she won the Urban Council's Fine Arts Award (Ceramics). From then on her works have been widely exhibited both locally and overseas in more than 50 solo and group shows.



*Ms. Rosanna Li's hard work came to fruition.*

She is an Honorary Adviser of the Hong Kong Museum of Art, serving on the Hong Kong Art Promotion Panel and the Working Group for the development of the Hong Kong Museum of Contemporary Art. She is also a founding member and the chairperson of the Society of Contemporary Ceramics (HK). ♦

## Big day for outstanding 22

To 22 staff members from different departments, the ceremony on April 16 marked their outstanding service in the past two years as they received the “President’s Awards for Achievement 1998”.

Officiating at the award presentation ceremony, President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong said that in order to achieve the University’s mission of becoming a “preferred university”, continuous support should be given to staff members who were committed to offering high standard of service to the University and the community.



(From left) Mrs. Vivian Tsang, Miss Gloria Yeung, Prof. Tang Pak-lai and Miss Stella Tso.



Prof. Poon (middle, sitting) with all the award winners.

At the ceremony, the awardees were each presented with a cash award and a trophy. Their names have been engraved on a wooden plaque erected outside the Pao Yue-Kong Library on campus.

The President’s Awards for Achievement were first introduced in 1996 to give due recognition and encouragement to staff members who have demonstrated excellent performance or distinguished achievements in their field of work. The awardees are listed as follows :

### Teaching

- Dr. Dennis Chan Suk-sun, Department of Accountancy (陳淑榮博士)
- Dr. Ricky Chan Yee-kwong, Department of Business Studies (陳怡光博士)
- Mrs. Alice Jones Ho Yee-men, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences (鍾斯何綺文女士)
- Prof. Lee Yuk-cheung, Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics (李沃璋教授)
- Dr. Tang Chak-yin, Department of Manufacturing Engineering (鄧澤賢博士)

### Research & Scholarly Activities

- Dr. Paul Douglas Brockman, Department of Accountancy
- Dr. Man Hau-chung, Department of Manufacturing Engineering (文效忠博士)

### Service to the Professional Community

- Mrs. Stella Cho Lung Pui-lan, Department of Accountancy (左龍佩蘭女士)
- Dr. Lam Pun-lee, Department of Business Studies (林本利博士)

### Professional Service to the University

- Mr. Cheung Kam-shing, Estates Office (張錦盛先生)
- Ms. Sheila Elizabeth Cooke, School of Design
- Dr. Edmund Lee Tai-chiu, Department of Manufacturing Engineering (李大超博士)
- Mr. Richard Li King-hang, Information Technology Services (李景行先生)
- Prof. Tang Pak-lai, Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology (鄧柏禮教授)

- Mrs. Vivian Tsang Chang Wai-man, Research and Postgraduate Studies Office (曾張慧雯女士)

### Overall Achievement

- Mr. Mak Kwok-choi, Estates Office (麥國才先生)
- Ms. Teresa Tong Lai-mui, Department of Maritime Studies (湯麗梅女士)
- Miss Stella Tso Man-ye, Research and Postgraduate Studies Office (曹敏儀小姐)
- Mrs. Lily Wan Cheng Lai-ying, Department of Mechanical Engineering (溫鄭麗英女士)
- Ms. Wong Kim-ping, Department of Accountancy (王劍萍女士)
- Miss Gloria Yeung Pui-wan, Department of Nursing and Health Sciences (楊佩雲小姐)
- Miss Jenny Yung Bik-gar, Educational Development Unit (容碧嘉小姐)



## 請給大孩子多點愛心與關懷

中國語文教學中心  
楊昆岡博士

**第**二次在理工大學的非系主任代表會議上，聽到有教師提出學生紀律的問題，也聽到潘宗光校長和多位教師的意見，在我心中既產生了共鳴，也捲起了反思的浪潮。

記得七十年代中期我在巴黎大學修讀法語和法國文化的時候，有一天在圓形的演講室內聽「十八世紀法國文學」的課。開講後，一些美國學生陸續進來，四處找位子。有一個坐下沒有脫帽子，坐在講壇後的 Prof. Raimond Picard 非常生氣，大罵美國學生不懂禮貌，連帶批評美國社會的放任與自由。後來這個學生脫下帽子，教授才繼續講課。

這帽子事件留給我的印象是如此深刻，以致二十多年後，我在理大「語文及文化科」的考場內，勒令兩個考生脫下他們的帽子。其中一個馬上照做，另一個懇求我讓他戴著帽子考，我不答應，他只好脫掉帽子，露出剛剪過髮的頭顱。我不覺莞爾，有點歉意，但覺得此時此地講帽子的禮儀還是需要的。

坦白說，學生的無禮，有時是無意的，有時是蓄意的，是否需要糾正，視乎情形而定。九二年我從加拿大回來，在離島的一間官立中學代課。一天，一名學生搖搖擺擺的走出來，把課本砰的一聲扔在我前面的桌子上。我很生氣，嚴厲地訓了他一頓。後來我發現，他的家就在同一大廈同一層我的住所的斜對面。我以為他會記仇，把我當作陌路人，誰知乘電梯時碰上，他竟主動跟我打招呼。我不在那大廈居住已有六七年，想起那孩子，不知現在究竟怎樣了？

去年十一月「實用翻譯」的課上，一名女學生的手提電話響了，她感到有點尷尬，對我說聲「對不起」，然後跑到課室外面去接聽。我覺得她的態度很好，處理的方法也很正確，所以沒有說一句話。

可是有時當老師的不能不說話，說了話，難免會有一些反響。也是「實用翻譯」的課。學生做練習的時候，我告訴一名學生，他的字寫得太小，會影響他人對他的觀感，甚至會影響到他將來的事業，結果他從下一堂起就不再來上課。不再來上課倒沒什麼，我倒真的希望他的字不再像螞蟻那樣小。有一次，在教寫作的課堂上，我告訴一位女學生她的姓名寫錯了，她感到非常意外，說她的媽媽也是這樣寫的。我奇怪的是，從幼稚園到中學為什麼沒有人指出她的錯誤？又有一次，我「西方文學名著選讀」的課上，對學生解釋為什麼選托瑪斯·曼的《魂斷威尼斯》，我談到自己對同性戀的看法，不料竟惹得一位有同性戀傾向的女學生大動肝火，自此不見蹤影。

年輕人是非常敏感的，不但會因為「言者無心，聽者有意」

的話，引起不必要的誤會，更會因為你一時的疏忽，而影響他們的情緒。我曾因為心裡想著問題，碰到我教過的學生，沒有親切地和他們打招呼，他們臉上即刻流露出老師沒有那麼關心他們的失落表情。其實，老師也是人，也有自己難唸的經，也有自己擔憂的問題，譬如，自己的孩子這次考試成績好不好？某篇論文夠不夠時間完成？合約完了會不會續約？有沒有升職的機會？諸如此類的問題，直要困擾老師到退休。

以前的大專學生對老師的教學有意見，會派代表來向老師反映。今天的大學生直接得很，不喜歡，不選；選了不滿意，不來，或來了在後面說話。遲到早退，更是家常便飯。有點禮貌的還懂得說聲 Sorry! 給你一個合理的或牽強的解釋，沒有禮貌的竟當作是大學生的權利了。我比較幸運，教的是沒有強迫性的選修科，也得到過一些學生的信任，和我商量升學的問題，要我指導他們寫畢業論文，為他們修改求職信，為他們的比賽當評判，為他們的文集寫序。我因此得到不少和他們溝通的機會。

據我觀察所得，這一代的大學生，帶著不少問題進入大學之門，個子雖然高大，心智卻是個大孩子，特別需要老師的關懷和諒解，鼓勵和尊重，而不是威嚇和責難，漠視和敵視。上課的時候學生在背後談天說地，當然是學生不對，因為他們這樣做，既不尊重老師又影響教學，但做老師的，也應該檢討一下，自己所用的教學法是否不夠靈活？教材是否有點枯燥？不喜歡學生遲到早退，自己是否準時依時上課下課？不喜歡學生不修邊幅，自己是否頭髮蓬鬆，滿臉鬍子沒剃便到課室？正所謂「己所不欲，勿施於人」，老師們反求諸己，以身作則，恐怕不能算是什麼老生常談，尤其是今天教師薪酬優厚，隊伍裡總會有幾個志不在教學的人，反省就變得更加重要了。

理大舉行第四屆畢業典禮的翌日黃昏，西天還殘留著一點霞光，我步出校門，在第一個十字路口中央等待綠色的訊號。我左邊一個個子高大，身穿筆挺西裝的年輕人注視著我，我抬頭一看，原來是兩年前選過我好幾門課的學生，樣子成熟穩重了很多。他告訴我他畢業了。我恭喜他，問他找到工作沒有。他說找到了，又說昨天忙亂得很，想找老師照相留念，但不知往哪裡去找。我說沒關係，以後有空來學校聊聊。交通燈轉綠，我和他分手，取道北行，腦中浮現出一個高個子，臉上帶著稚氣的年輕人，經常來敲我辦公室的門。如今這辦公室已隨著奠基樓的拆除而消失，但當日對話的情形仍留在我的記憶中。日月遷移，轉眼間大孩子稚氣脫盡換來成熟，投身社會的時刻亦已來到，我想，我和我的同工在這種成長過程裡也該有點功勞吧！