

Thanking donors for long-standing support

To express its gratitude to the donors for their generosity, as well as its admiration of their genuine concern about the well-being of its students, the University held a reception on May 7 to thank them.

Speaking at the reception, President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong, said the donors' benefaction would not only benefit students, but also the University as a whole.

He said the donors' long-standing support "gives us the assurance that the University is on the right track of providing the community with the graduates it needs,

and that they share the PolyU's vision and commitment."

This year, 399 PolyU students have been awarded scholarships and travelling scholarships, while 338 students granted bursaries. Together with education loans and emergency grants/loans, the total value of donation received by the PolyU students stands at about \$11 million.

In addition, the donors have supported various PolyU student activities through the provision of sponsorships and subsidies, in which more than 4,500 students have participated. ❖



Students perform at the reception.

PolyU partners offer summer placements to 580 students

Despite the economic downturn, a total of 580 placement openings have been secured for students of various disciplines to work in Hong Kong, on the Chinese mainland and in overseas countries this summer.

The summer placements are secured by the PolyU with Partner Companies and supporting organizations participating in the 'Preferred Graduate' Development Programme, a collaborative scheme established in 1996 with employers to provide practical training to students before their graduation. So far 335 companies have participated in the Programme.

More than 80 students will be placed in private or state-owned enterprises and multinational firms on the mainland, including 30 in Hangzhou, 34 in Beijing and 18 in Guangzhou and Shenzhen respectively. Multinational companies and government institutions like *Panasonic (China) Limited*, *Deloitte (DIT)*, *Xizi Elevator Group*, *Eastcom Communications Co. Ltd.* and *China Science Academy* are also on the list.

With the continued support of the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE) and academic departments, more than 40 students will be placed to receive job training in 18 overseas countries this year, including Austria, Australia, Brazil, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Greece, Mexico, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States and the United Kingdom.



A group photo at the orientation.



Students listen attentively to the sharing of a PolyU staff.

To prepare students who are taking up placement under the Programme, the Student Affairs Office of the University held three sessions of pre-placement orientation in May and June. The orientation featured keynote presentations by prominent speakers on such topics as *Working in Different Cultures* and *Work Ethics and Attitudes*. A number of enthusiastic PolyU staff members also shared their experiences of living and working in different countries to provide students with the best tips to lead a meaningful work life. ❖

New executive committee of Students' Union inaugurated

The sixth session (1999-2000) of the Executive Committee of the Students' Union celebrated its inauguration in May, with President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong as the officiating guest.

The sixteen-member Executive Committee, chaired by Mr. Alex Li Chi-tak, the President of the Students' Union, was established after the annual election in March.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Prof. Poon said that the PolyU attached very great importance to the communication between the University and students. "The University will, as in the past years, hold regular meetings with the Students' Union to exchange views on various issues," he said. ❖



New office-bearers take an oath at the ceremony.

Summer programme on building and real estate offered to secondary school students



建築及房地產暑期課程

高中的同學在今年暑假期間有機會透過參加理大開辦的建築及房地產課程，一嘗大學生活的滋味。

該為期兩星期的暑期課程由建築及房地產學系主辦，對象為中五、中六及中七學生以及中學畢業生。課程於七月十九至三十日期

Upper secondary school students can now have an opportunity to familiarize themselves with university life by studying a summer programme on building and real estate.

The two-week summer programme is offered by the University's Department of Building and Real Estate to Form 5, 6 and 7 students and graduates from July 19 to 30. It aims to equip students who are interested in building and real estate with an overview of the industry and an introduction to the social framework in which the building and real estate profession operates.

The programme will also help the participants to develop an appreciation of the significance and contribution of the industry to the prosperity of our society.

The programme comprises a series of lectures, seminars, hands-on workshop training and visits. ❖

間開辦，特為對建築及房地產行業有興趣的中學同學介紹有關的基本知識和此行業的架構，以及該行業對香港社會繁榮的重大貢獻。

透過是次課程，大學希望令參加者認識大學學習的模式。課程包括一連串的講課、研討會、實習及參觀。 ❖

Awards for crème de la crème

Miss April Lee Suk-han, a final-year fashion design student, has won a \$500,000 scholarship from the Landmark Fashion Foundation for her academic merit and creative talent.

This scholarship will enable April to continue her studies as she has been offered a place at the prestigious Royal College of Art in London to complete a two-year course leading to a master's degree in womenswear design.

The collection which won her the scholarship is based

on recycling, a theme close to the spirit of the late 20th century. "It's paper and textiles together," April said. "Career people use paper all day long and the collection is to remind them of recycling, to promote the conservation of energy."

Miss Sheila Cooke, Associate Professor of the University's School of Design, said, "April demonstrates both academic merit and creative talent, and has a strong feeling for ecological issues and a strong sense of colour, both of which she expresses through her work."

Since its establishment in 1997, the Landmark Fashion Foundation has supported three programmes in association with the fashion design course at the PolyU. These include the \$30,000 graduation fashion show creativity award, the \$250,000 European study visit award and the \$500,000 master's degree sponsorship at the Royal College of Art.



April (2nd from left) received the award from Mr. Barney Cheng (1st from right), leading local designer. Ms. Gwennie Wong of Hongkong Land and Miss Sheila Cooke of the PolyU also attended the ceremony.

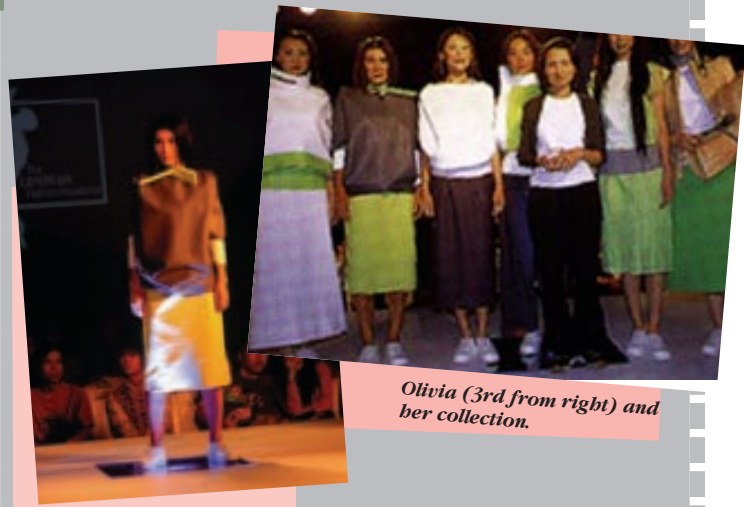
Miss Olivia Wong Choi-wah, graduating fashion design student of the PolyU's School of Design (SD), for winning the Landmark Fashion Foundation Creativity Award this year.

Olivia was presented with a cash prize of \$30,000 by the Landmark Fashion Foundation, sponsor of the award, at the Graduation Fashion Show held on May 11.

Her winning collection *Infinity* consisted of simple tops and skirts, with high necklines with thong fastenings. She used many of the innovative synthetic fabrics made of stretch fibres that have similar properties to natural fibres.

Commenting on her own design, Olivia said, "I called the collection *Infinity* because I feel that I have my life and my career before me and there is no limit to what I can do."

The Creativity Award was given to the most promising student whose work excels in originality, colour and fabrication.



Olivia (3rd from right) and her collection.

The team of **Miss Selina Chan Ngan-sze**, a second-year accountancy student, and her partner, won the first prize and the award for Best Content in the open category of a Website Design Competition.

The competition was jointly organized by the Business and Services Promotion Unit of the Financial Secretary's Office and South China Morning Post Publishers to enhance the understanding of Hong Kong as a service economy through a practical and stimulating exercise. The rules are simple – create the best web page to promote Hong Kong as a service economy.



Selina (left) with Mr. Robert Biscontri, Lecturer of the Department of Accountancy, who chaired the panel of experts that judged the first phase of the competition.

The team's winning web page has a red and blue calligraphic banner floats and bobs across the screen, announcing "Hong Kong – The City that Means Business". In making the web page, Miss Chan was responsible for the content, while her partner took care of the architecture.

Among other things, Miss Chan won an all-expense-paid seven-day trip to California and other prizes including a notebook computer and a digital camera.

Club to foster wider use of English

A group of first-year language and communication students have formed an English Club to promote wider use of English on campus.

Chaired by year-one student Miss Melody Man and supported by the English Language Centre, the Club aims at providing students with more opportunities to use English and enhance their language skills.

"Besides speaking English during lectures, students are willing to spend more time and effort to join English supplementary programmes or use the support services at the English Language Centre," Miss Man said.

Since its establishment in February, the Club has held a variety of activities to encourage students to listen, learn and speak. These activities included an inauguration party, a Valentine's week promotion and fund-raising, and two chat and snack parties which provided PolyU students with an opportunity to meet international exchange students.

So far the response from the participants has been very positive. The chat and snack parties in March and April, in particular, were well received with nearly 100 students participated.

To encourage students to learn on-line, the Club has also designed a web page with a collection of interesting articles like film or music commentaries. During the period from mid-March to early May, the number of visitors of the web page was close to 200.

Commenting on their activities, Miss Miu, another office-bearer

of the Club, said students joining various activities got a chance to learn the subtleties and the peculiarities of the language by conversing with overseas students. "Learning various idioms was interesting," she said. "It's an enriching experience. We have made friends with them and learned some slang such as 'twenty-four seven' and 'you're the man'. These gave us a better understanding about their particular culture."

To consolidate the achievements made so far, the Club has already got many innovative ideas for the next academic year. These activities include board and wall displays, talks, an orientation party, a Halloween party, a singing contest and a barbecue party with international students.



Miss Melody Man (left), chairlady of the English Club poses with a participant at the Valentine's week promotion.



HTM students learn Italian cooking

A four-week intensive Italian cooking class, sponsored by the Italian Government and jointly organized by the Italian Trade Commission and the University's Department of Hotel and Tourism Management (HTM), was introduced earlier this year for the final-year Hotel and Catering Management students who took Special Events Catering subject.

The cooking class was the first in a series of a campaign launched by the Italian Trade Commission to promote Italian foods and wines.



HTM students and the organizers of the cooking class at the opening ceremony.

The opening ceremony of the class was held in January this year. In collaboration with five famous Italian restaurants, these final-year students had a tremendous opportunity to learn and experience authentic Italian gastronomy and culinary methods from antipasti to dessert from renowned chefs Mr. Angelo Sabatelli of GRISSINI (Grand Hyatt), Mr. Claudio Rossi of MISTRAL (Grand Stanford Harbour View), Mr. Gianni Lacaendola of COVA, Mr. Giovanni Greggio of NICHOLINI'S (Conrad) and Mr. Ken Au of CAMMINO (Excelsior).