HONG KONG POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY (EASTERN USA) ASSOCIATION

Dear alumni and friends,

Kung Hei Fat Choy! Wishing you good health and smooth sailing in the Year of the Rooster!

On September 18, 2004, your new Board had held its first meeting and elected its seven members to the various offices. Two other members of the Association were also invited to take up honorary positions. The offices are held as follows:

Honorary President: Li, Hok Hoi Howard
Honorary Adviser: Ng, Max
Chairman of the Board: Kan, Man Ching David
President: Yuen, Kam Pang Kari
Vice President: Tang, Simon M
Secretary: Chan, Wing Yee Alice
Treasurer: Lai, Michael
Director (Public Relations): Chan, Sze Sze Cissy
Director (Art and Social Activities): Wong, Pui Lam Phoebe

Besides the Board meeting, an inauguration dinner was also held on September 18, 2004. A brief report of the dinner can be found on the next page.

With spring almost upon us, it is time for our Spring Dinner. The dinner will be held on March 26, 2005 (Saturday) at the Golden Unicorn Restaurant in Chinatown, New York City. Do come and join in the fun. You can find the form on the last page.

Talking about spring and Chinese New Year, drinking comes to the mind. Do you know who might be the world’s earliest winemaker? Read on.

Also, since it is the Chinese festive season, we thought we should give you some light reading on investments, office environment, biology and something else. Enjoy!

If you wish to contribute an article for our next issue, please contact us – email: aa.eastus@polyu.edu.hk; telephone: Alice Chan (732) 967 1946, Kari Yuen (718) 391 2345.

With warm regards,

Your Board of Directors
Spring Dinner on March 26, 2005

The spring dinner will be held in Chinatown, New York City as follows:

**Date:** March 26, 2005 Saturday

**Time:** 6pm

**Venue:** Golden Unicorn Restaurant, 18 E. Broadway, New York, NY 10002 (tel: 212 941 0911)

**Price:** $25 per adult/child of 12 and over; $15 per child of 6-11, free for child under 6

**Check payable to:** Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Eastern USA) Association

Please respond by **March 15, 2005** so that we can confirm the final numbers to the restaurant.

Inauguration Dinner on September 18, 2004

The inauguration dinner was held at Holiday Inn, New York Chinatown. The university’s Associate Vice President, Mr Chris Mong, and the Head of the Alumni Affairs Development Office, Ms Cora Sit, flew in to attend the dinner. Mr Mong gave an informative and entertaining speech during the dinner. There were souvenirs, table prizes and 3 lucky draw prizes, all donated by the university, plus a promise by Mr Mong that he would treat lunch if any of the attendees visits him in Hong Kong! In support of the Greening Hong Kong function organized by the Federation of Hong Kong Polytechnic University Alumni Associations and the Alumni Affairs Development Office, the participants contributed a total of $530, which, according to Ms Cora Sit, was the highest donation from all alumni and overseas associations.

The event was reported by Sing Tao on September 19, 2004.

Please go to [http://community.webshots.com/album/227372746vokYWz](http://community.webshots.com/album/227372746vokYWz) to see some of the photos taken during that evening. You can see more photos on the university’s website ([http://www.polyu.edu.hk](http://www.polyu.edu.hk)) – click on “alumni affairs”, then “alumni associations – overseas associations” and then our logo.
Who made the first wine?

Previously, the oldest evidence of fermented beverages was dated to 5400 BC and was found in Hajji Firuz Tepe, in Iran. Recently, laboratory tests on pottery jars dating from 7000 BC from the village of Jianhu, Henan Province in China, had shown traces of a mixed fermented drink of rice, honey, and either grapes or hawthorne fruit.

According to Dr Patrick McGovern of the University of Pennsylvania, the evidence appeared to suggest that the Chinese developed fermented beverages earlier than the Middle East or perhaps at the same time.

McGovern also analyzed samples of 3000 year old wine from the hermetically sealed bronze vessels found in Shang Dynasty burial tombs from the Yellow River Basin. The liquid was preserved by a thin layer of rust which sealed the jars completely. McGovern said the wine in one jar was floral scented when he first smelled it. Another jar contained a liquid with traces of wormwood, suggesting that the beverage might have been an early version of absinthe.

The report on this latest study had been published in a science journal PNAS in December 2004.

Question: do you wish to taste this wine or, shall we say, dare you taste it?

Light Reading

Investment Tips for 2005.... for all of you with any money left, beware of the next expected mergers so that you can get in on the ground floor and make some BIG bucks.

- Hale Business Systems, Mary Kay Cosmetics, Fuller Brush, and WR Grace Co will merge and become “Hale, Mary, Fuller, Grace”
- 3M will merge with Goodyear and become “MMMGood”
- Fedex is expected to join its major competitor, UPS, to become “FedUP”
- Fairchild Electronics and Honeywell Computers will become “Fairwell Honeychild”
- Knotts Berry Farm and the National Organization of Women will become “Knott NOW”
In the office....

- Are you lonely??? Don’t like working on your own? Hate making decisions? THEN CALL A MEETING!! You can SEE people, DRAW flowcharts, FEEL important, FORM subcommittees, IMPRESS your colleagues, MAKE meaningless recommendations, ALL ON COMPANY TIME!!! (How nice!) MEETINGS – the practical alternative to work.
- REMEMBER: the toes you step on today may be attached to the “A...” you will have to kiss tomorrow.
- NOTICE: This Department requires no physical fitness program. Everyone gets enough exercise jumping to conclusions, flying off the handle, running down the boss, knifing friends in the back, dodging responsibilities, and pushing their luck.
- Doing a good job here is like wetting your pants in a dark suit – you get a warm feeling but no one else notices!

Biology lesson – How to tell the sex of a fly

A woman walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter. “What are you doing?” she asked. “Hunting flies.” He responded. “Oh, killing any?” she asked. “Yep, 3 males and 2 females,” he replied. Intrigued, she asked “How can you tell?” He responded “3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone”.

For those older folks who can take it....

- Three old guys are out walking. First one says, “Windy, isn’t it?” Second one says, “No, it’s Thursday!” Third one says, “So am I. Let’s go get a beer.”
- Morris, an 82 year old man, went to the doctor to get a physical. A few days later, the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young lady on his arm. A couple of days later, the doctor spoke to Morris and said, “you’re really doing great, aren’t you?” Morris replied, “Just doing what you said, Doc: ‘Get a hot mamma and be cheerful.’” The doctor said, “I didn’t say that. I said, ‘you’ve got a heart murmur. Be careful.’”
- A little old man shuffled slowly into an ice cream parlor and pulled himself slowly, painfully, up onto a stool. After catching his breath, he ordered a banana split. The waitress asked kindly, “crushed nuts?” “No,” he replied, “arthritis.”
Spring Dinner Form

TO: Kari Yuen (201 Bay 22nd Street, Apt# 2A, Brooklyn, NY 11214)

FROM:

RE: HKPU (Eastern USA) Association - Spring Dinner on March 26, 2005

Enclosed is a check for ______ for the attendance of the spring dinner

_____ adult(s)/child(ren) 12 and above ($25 each)  Amount ($)

_____ child(ren) between 6 and 11 ($15 each)

_____ child(ren) below 6 (free)

Total

=____=

Check details:
Bank:
Check number:
Payee name: Hong Kong Polytechnic University (Eastern USA) Association

________________________          __________________________
Signature                                      Date

Venue: Golden Unicorn Restaurant, 18 E. Broadway, NYC 10002 (tel 212 941-0911)
Time: 6pm
Dress code: Casual
Tel no of Kari Yuen: (718) 391 2345