President’s Awards recognize outstanding staff
校長特設獎項 表彰傑出員工

On 26 November 2010, the following four individuals and one team were nominated for President’s Awards for Excellent Performance/Achievements 2009/10. They were recognized for their outstanding achievements in teaching, research, and scholarly activities, services and overall contributions.

Cover Story 封面故事

Teaching (Individual) 教學（個人獎項）

Dr Grace Ngai

Since joining the University in 2002, Dr Grace Ngai, Associate Professor in the Department of Computing, has constantly proved herself a passionate teacher who cares deeply about her students. For Dr Ngai, teaching, research and services are integrated and equally important parts of her career. In teaching, she has introduced innovative technology, interactive teaching models and peer- and self-evaluation. Together with her colleagues, she has introduced a multi-module project for students incorporating topics from three different subjects into a shared final project.

Dr Ngai believes that teaching is more than what happens in the classroom. That is why she actively pursues research in human-computer interaction and natural language processing. This includes the development of curricula, teaching methods, and innovative software and technology, such as wearable computer systems and robotics, for use in teaching and community service.

Dr Li Dachao

Dr Li Dachao, Assistant Professor at the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies, joined the University in 2008 and has taught outstandingly since then. He adopts a pedagogical philosophy of "critical construction", which emphasizes the importance of empowering students to raise questions and search for answers autonomously under proper guidance. He encourages his students to develop the ability to self-reflect, challenge prevalent values and articulate counter views.

Teaching (Individual) 教學（個人獎項）

李教授博士

李教授博士不僅在教學方面表現出色，而且非常重視學生的發展。他通過創立"中國語文教育"程式，鼓勵學生自主學習，並鼓勵他們在課堂上進行自由思考。他強調，師生之間的互動很重要，因為這有助於學生的學習成長。

除了教學之外，李博士還積極從事研究和教學領域的教學。他提出了一些優質的研究文章，從而對課程的內容和設計提出了建議。他認為，教學是學生成長的重要途徑，應當鼓勵學生的創造性思考。
Research and Scholarly Activities (Individual) 研究及學術活動（個人獎項）

Prof. Ni Yi-qing

A highly acclaimed expert in civil and structural engineering, Prof. Ni Yi-qing of the Department of Civil and Structural Engineering is the lead consultant in developing “structural health monitoring” systems for mega-structures such as the Sutong Bridge crossing the Yangtze River and the Guangzhou New TV Tower. His contributions earned him the Gold Medal and the Grand Prize at the 37th International Exhibition of Inventions, New Techniques and Products in Geneva and the Gold Prize at the 11th China International Industry Fair in Shanghai. He has also been heavily involved in research assisting the HKSR department’s Highways Department to implement and operate structural health monitoring systems on large-scale bridges in Hong Kong.

Under the auspices of the Asian-Pacific Network of Centres for Research in Smart Structures Technology, Prof. Ni is responsible for researching a structural health monitoring benchmark problem for high rise structures using the instrumented Guangzhou New TV Tower as a test bed. This is the first structural health monitoring benchmark problem for a full-scale structure with the use of field monitoring data. It is delivered via a website to interested investigators globally and serves as a platform for dialogue between researchers and practitioners.

Prof. Ni is a prolific researcher. In the role of principal investigator, he has successfully secured funding from the Research Grants Council for seven research projects since 2001. He has authored and co-authored 73 SCI-indexed refereed journal papers and more than 160 conference papers.

Mrs. Cherry Ng

Ms Cherry Ng, Technical Officer, has been responsible for developing and implementing the English Language Graduating Students’ Language Proficiency Assessment (GSLPA) – a compulsory component of the graduation requirements for University Grants Committee (UGC)-funded degree students. Starting from scratch, Ms Ng and her colleagues have successfully developed the GSLPA online enrolment system, spoken test delivery system and online rating and result reporting systems which now work seamlessly in serving over 3,000 students every year. She also contributes to other aspects of the GSLPA operation, including test administration and planning, website design and maintenance, as well as publicity and marketing.

Ms Ng’s industry, technical expertise, problem-solving skills, dedication, attention to detail and persistence in quality service serve her well in collaborating effectively with software design contractors and internal departments and units.

Overall Contribution (Individual) 整體貢獻（個人獎項）

Ms Cherry Ng

Recently, Ms Ng took on the responsibility of developing a web-based English language diagnostic assessment and tracking system, a joint project with three other tertiary institutions in Hong Kong. Her overall contribution to the GSPQA team and the ELC has been tremendous.

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Services (Team) 服務 (團隊)

Led by Dr Zhu Xinhua, the Language Testing Unit (LTU) at the Department of Chinese and Bilingual Studies provides professional testing services to the University and society. As a pioneer in language testing, LTU has developed the Graduating Students’ Language Proficiency Assessment-Chinese Strand (GSLPA-Chinese) which is widely recognized within the local tertiary education community. The assessment includes the “Shunmin Hanju Shuiping Kaoshi” and “Putonghua Shuiping Kaoshi” which effectively assess the Chinese language abilities of candidates.

The LTU has further extended its Putonghua proficiency testing service to students and the wider community through collaborations with government departments, tertiary institutions and various organizations in Hong Kong, Singapore and the Chinese mainland. In 2003, the grading of the “Putonghua Shuiping Kaoshi” was recognized by the State Language Commission as equivalent to that of the national “Putonghua Shuiping Caoshi”. The LTU was also commissioned by the HKSAR government’s Education Bureau (EDB) to develop professional courses in Chinese language assessment.

Over the past two years, the number of candidates for the GSLPA has exceeded 12,000 and the number of candidates for external “Putonghua Shuiping Kaoshi” has been almost 4,000. In addition, over 1,800 school teachers have completed the EDB training courses conducted by the LTU.

In striving for continuous improvement, the LTU has further developed an international-standard quality management system. In January 2010, the Unit was awarded ISO9001 certification. Dedicated members of the LTU have been actively researching in the field of Chinese language and Putonghua assessment, with publications in academic journals and books.