A total of 469 students had a rejuvenating experience this summer attending the intensive training programme “Leadership and Competence for Success”. Through a variety of experiential learning activities in the seven-day camp, the students came to learn more about themselves and their potentials. First launched in 2001, the summer programme seeks to cultivate the leadership qualities of the students, to broaden their outlook and to boost their employability.

Awards and scholarships for outstanding students

- With her article “The Future of Hong Kong”, language and communications student Too Kit-lin has won the BBCChinese.com Young e-Journalist award. The award brought her a valuable chance to work alongside the BBCChinese.com news team in London this summer. At PolyU, Kit-lin is the Executive Editor of the Press Committee of the Students’ Union.

- Miss Fiona Lam Wai-man, a third-year student on the international shipping and transport logistics degree programme, has been awarded the first Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) Scholarship. Fiona outperformed other competitors in her class in an essay submission, an interview and overall academic achievements. The award included a paid internship within MSC’s Hong Kong office this summer, tuition fee for her third-year study and possible offer of employment upon her graduation.

- Miss Wong Suet-yi, a third-year student of the Department of English, has won the 2002 JAL Scholarship to go on a four-week study trip to Japan and attend a seminar there in summer.

- This summer, Miss Cypress Ma had a chance to brush up her French at France Langue in the picturesque city of Nice. With the air fare sponsorship from Air France, she also enjoyed the opportunity to work in Brest. Cypress is now a third-year student taking the BA(Hons) Language Studies with Business programme.
ING donates $1m to support orientation of mainland students

A total of 27 new, outstanding students from the mainland have benefited from an intensive orientation programme funded with a $1 million sponsorship from ING Asia/Pacific Limited.

At a ceremony held on campus earlier on, the President, Prof. Poon Chung-kwong, received the donation, presented by Mr Patrick Poon, Member, ING Asia/Pacific Executive Committee. This is the fourth year the company extends its generous support toward the programme.

Prof. Poon said: “Over the past three years, our summer orientation programme has proved to be of great help in preparing our mainland students for their studies in Hong Kong. This scheme of admitting mainland students has been fruitful, and the first batch of mainland students will soon be graduating this year. This first batch of 23 graduating students fared well in this University and eight of them will actually be graduating with first class honours. This is very encouraging news indeed.”

The three-month orientation programme comprised intensive training in English and Cantonese, computer courses and a series of cultural and social activities.

PolyU has recruited bright students from the Chinese mainland since 1999. This year, 13 students have come from the Southeast University in Nanjing and 14 from Tongji University in Shanghai. With financial support from The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust, all these students have been awarded scholarships that cover tuition, accommodation and living expenses for the entire period of their studies at PolyU.

Mainland placements on the rise

Under the 'Preferred Graduate' Development Programme, the number of non-final-year undergraduate students who have gained placement experience on the Chinese mainland rose by more than 10 times within five years - from 34 in 1998 to 373 this year.

Among the 15 mainland cities in which the students were placed this summer, employers in Shanghai offered the largest number of 123 internships.

Furthermore, the Student Affairs Office secured 82 overseas placements with the support of the International Association for the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience (IAESTE), and another 384 local summer placements for students this summer. International companies which offered the placements included such big names as DaimlerChrysler, Siemens, Disney, Copenhagen Airports and the Public Gas Corporation of Greece.

This year also saw an increase in the total number of partner companies and supporting organisations to 720.
Students of the School of Design displayed their flair at an exhibition held recently on campus. The two-week long event started off with an interesting talk by Mr Raman Hui Shing-ngai, chief character animator for the Oscar Award-winning film *Shrek*.

The Open Days 2002 static exhibition showed a broad range of student works from all of the School’s programmes. One studio was specially devoted to holding the multi-disciplinary graduation exhibition of the final-year students of the BA(Hons) in Design programme. Besides, the graduation show of students on the Higher Diploma in Multimedia Design and Technology course featured works in the areas such as web design, animation and desktop publishing. Seminars were also held and presentations made by the students and supporting companies.

After the opening of the static shows a “new look” fashion show was staged to showcase the final projects of the 21 specialist fashion students on the BA(Hons) in Design Programme.

Industry members and academics appreciated postgraduate students’ creations at a fashion show of the Institute of Textiles and Clothing held earlier on at PolyU. A total of 16 graduating students of the MA in Fashion and Textile Design programme participated in the show. The creative concepts employed in the designs ranged from Chinese culture, geometric figures, yoga and aromatherapy to architecture. The majority of these students came from the Chinese mainland. They were awarded the Lam Tai Fai Scholarship to undertake the one-year programme at PolyU.