To ensure that staff and students enjoy a quality environment, the PolyU is undergoing a multimillion dollar facelift. One of the projects is an auditorium, which will become an ideal venue for cultural performances, film shows, concerts, conferences and meetings, exhibitions, etc.

The auditorium, named Jockey Club Auditorium in recognition of the Club’s generous donation of $66.26 million for the construction, held a topping-out ceremony on March 8. Mr. Chau Chanson, LLD, JP, Deputy Chairman of The Hong Kong Jockey Club, together with Dr. Sir Gordon Wu, KCMG, Chairman of the PolyU’s Council, and Prof. Poon Chung-kwong, PolyU’s President, officiated at the ceremony.

Addressing the ceremony, Sir Gordon was confident that this new facility would help inject new energy to the University’s active student bodies and also further strengthen a sense of belonging among staff and students.

Prof. Poon elaborated that The Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust’s donation meant more than a financial assistance. “It signifies the Jockey Club’s sharing of our vision to produce graduates who are not only professionally competent, but also lively and creative, possessing sound general knowledge and communication skills.”

Sir Gordon also touched on the PolyU’s impending student hostels project in Hung Hom Bay Reclamation Area. Although the Government had committed 75 per cent of the necessary funds, the University was still working hard to secure the remaining costs in the form of donations from external bodies.

“I am particularly happy to report that the Trust has agreed to pledge a generous donation of $117 million, contributing to nearly half of the construction cost to be raised by the University,” he added.

Mr. Chau said the Jockey Club “has a long-standing relationship with the Institution and has donated more than $230 million towards the building of its various facilities, including the Jockey Club Rehabilitation Engineering Centre and the student hostels.”

The Jockey Club has been an ardent supporter of projects that provide education and training opportunities for the young people of Hong Kong. “Over the past 10 years, the Trust has provided nearly $3.9 billion for the capital cost of educational facilities, teaching and training equipment, as well as scholarships and grants for the academically outstanding and needy students,” Mr. Chau continued.

The Jockey Club Auditorium will come into operation around mid 1999. With a floor area of approximately 4,860 square metres and seating capacity of 1,090, the auditorium is specially designed to be multi-purpose for both indoor and outdoor functions.

Reminiscent of the grandeur of ancient classical theatres, the auditorium is elegantly...
set with balcony and main floor seating. From structural to technological designs, all details have been carefully planned, including the provision of spacious leg-room and help devices for the hearing impaired and wheelchair users.

The auditorium is also quipped with a modern stage and comprehensive audio-visual facilities to cope with different requirements of event-organizers. In addition, there are more than 400 car parking spaces on campus available to the organizers and guests.

Mr. Mark Taylor, Technical Director of Urban Services Department and Mr. K.C. Chow, Technical Manager of Academic of Performing Arts, have also given valuable advice on the design and theatrical provisions of the auditorium.
University Council welcomes new members

Three new members have been appointed by the Chief Executive to be on The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Council for a three-year term from April 1, 1999 to March 31, 2002.

Mr. Roy Chung Chi-ping, Managing Director of Techtronic Industries Co. Ltd., is executive member of the Hong Kong Paediatric Foundation of Hong Kong Paediatric Society and Executive Committee member of The Outward Bound Trust of Hong Kong Ltd. A master’s degree graduate in Engineering Business Management from the University of Warwick, he is the President of the Hong Kong Electrical Appliances Manufacturers’ Association and Consultant Professor of the Faculty of Automation of Shanghai University. In October 1997 he received the Young Industrial Award of Hong Kong from the Federation of Hong Kong Industries.

Mrs. Camille Tang Yeh, who received her master’s degree in Business Administration from Harvard University, has recently joined the Harvard Business School Asia Pacific Research Office as Executive Director. The link between Hong Kong and Mrs. Tang Yeh is very strong as she was raised and has lived in Hong Kong for over 30 years. She completed both primary and secondary education in the territory. She is currently a director of Vision 2047, the Youth Development Council and Executive Committee member of the Society for Promotion of Hospice Care. She also serves as a member of the Hong Kong Government Subventions and Lotteries Fund Advisory Committee and the Hong Kong Award Council for Young People.

Mr. Ng Man-kung, Managing Director and General Manager of Chiyu Banking Corporation Ltd., joined the bank 29 years ago. He started at the bottom of the heap as a clerk and worked his way up by hard work and further studies in the evenings, including a course in banking at the then Hong Kong Polytechnic.

Mr. Ng has participated actively in public affairs both in the territory and on the mainland. He was appointed Hong Kong Affairs Adviser by the State Council in 1995 and elected Selection Committee member of the Hong Kong SAR two years later.

Mr. Ng has served on numerous bodies for the betterment of Fujian province, his birthplace, including Deputy to Fujian province Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference.

Four other members have also been appointed from the University:

Prof. Peter G. P. Walters, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Information Systems, and Prof. Joshua Wong Sook-keung, PolyU’s Vice-President and Dean of the Faculty of Communication, were nominated by the University President and will serve on Council for one year until the end of this year.

Prof. Ronald So Ming-cho, Chair Professor and Head of Mechanical Engineering, was elected by the eligible staff of the University. Dr. Gillian M. Humphreys, Assistant Professor of Department of English, was elected by and from the Senate. Both Prof. So and Dr. Humphreys will serve on Council for two years until December 31, 2000.
Seven local schools are using a new multimedia system developed by the PolyU to monitor the progress made by individual students through the school’s intranet.

The innovative system, known as SMILE (System for Multimedia Integrated Learning), is supported by $5.5 million worth of computer equipment network infrastructures donated by the Hong Kong Telecom, Oracle Systems Hong Kong Limited and Silicon Graphics Limited.

“Through the SMILE system, school teachers can put all course material online in multimedia format. They can also develop interactive multiple-choice questions, automate the marking process and grade the answers easily,” he said.

For school administrators, SMILE provides a cost-effective platform for teaching and administrative support, because the system is capable of generating transcripts and examination results easily.

SMILE is modeled upon an integrated system developed by Dr. Stephen Mak, Mrs. Linda Fan, Associate Professor, and their colleagues from the Department of Building and Real Estate. The department has successfully used the system to enhance its administrative services and teaching activities since last year. The system currently in use at the department is built in with a video-on-demand component.

SMILE was officially introduced on March 30 at a ceremony held on the PolyU campus. The schools participating in this project are: Buddhist Wong Wan Tin College, Carmel Holy Word Secondary School, Kwan Tong Maryknoll College, Pui Ying Secondary School, Shatin Government Secondary School, Shatin Methodist College and Shatin Public School.

According to Dr. Stephen Mak, Project Leader and Assistant Professor of the PolyU’s Department of Building and Real Estate, this wholly self-developed system can strongly enhance interaction between teachers and students as well as the effectiveness of school administration.

Dr. Mak further pointed out, “More importantly, teachers can closely monitor the progress of individual students through the sophisticated analysis and feedback system. Students can also submit their homework online, review teachers’ comments, and join the system’s subject-based online discussion forum for exchange of ideas.”

The participating schools will either install the system on their own Intranet or connect their local area network to the SMILE data centre on a pilot scheme for six months. The Polytechnic University, together with Hong Kong Telecom, Oracle and Silicon Graphics Limited, will render technical support throughout the process.

The Department of Building and Real Estate is a pioneer in the use of information technology in the local community. It set up its own web server in as early as 1994, and its website was the second one in Hong Kong.
The selection for The Outstanding PolyU Alumni Award 1999 came to a successful close in late March. The winning list of five distinguished graduates, out of more than 170,000 graduates produced by the PolyU and its forerunners (the former Hong Kong Polytechnic and Hong Kong Technical College), was officially announced while about 500 guests watched on in the Grand Ballroom of the Regent Hotel.

The biennial event, first launched in 1997, aims to give public recognition to the Institution's outstanding graduates for their accomplishments in their professions and their contributions to the community.

Dr. Alex K.W. Cheung
• Associateship in Building Technology & Management, 1982 (一九八二年建築科技及管理院士)

Dr. Lily Chiang
• Doctor of Philosophy in Manufacturing Engineering, 1993 (一九九三年製造工程博士)

Mr. Dennis Chan Shui-lun
• Higher Diploma in Product Design, 1981 (一九八一年產品設計高級文憑)
the Outstanding Five

Mr. David C. Lee, JP
• Higher Diploma in Surveying & Building Technology, 1970

Mr. Otto Poon Lok-to, OBE
• Higher Certificate in Electrical Engineering, 1962
• Higher Certificate in Mechanical Engineering, 1964