Bhasin Award goes to Prof. Sankar Pal

Prof. Sankar K Pal, Visiting Professor of the Department of Computing, has recently been conferred upon the very prestigious Shri Om Prakash Bhasin Foundation Award 1998 for his dedicated work and outstanding contributions in the field of Electronics and Information Technology. The award will be presented by the Prime Minister of India.

A distinguished scientist and Head, Machine Intelligence Unit of the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta, Prof. Pal is currently associated with several projects related to soft computing, case-based reasoning, pattern recognition and machine learning at the PolyU.

Li puts her heart and soul into ceramic sculptures

At the ceremony of “Artist of the Year Award 1999” on May 15 at the Grand Hyatt, 12 outstanding local artists were honoured in recognition of their creativity and contribution to the community.

Sculptor Ms. Rosanna Li Wei-han, Assistant Professor, School of Design, took the award of the category of Fine Arts. The award, organized by the Hong Kong Artists’ Guild, is presented every two years to artists from the fields of Fine Arts, Applied Art, Performing Arts, Popular and Entertainment Arts, Literary Arts, Arts Promotion and Arts Education.

Ms. Li, born in Hong Kong, has obtained a Higher Certificate in Studio Ceramics from the former Hong Kong Polytechnic and other postgraduate qualifications from the Institute of Education, University of London as well as Cheltenham and Gloucester College in the UK. In 1985 she won the Urban Council’s Fine Arts Award (Ceramics). From then on her works have been widely exhibited both locally and overseas in more than 50 solo and group shows.

She is an Honorary Adviser of the Hong Kong Museum of Art, serving on the Hong Kong Art Promotion Panel and the Working Group for the development of the Hong Kong Museum of Contemporary Art. She is also a founding member and the chairperson of the Society of Contemporary Ceramics (HK).

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Big day for outstanding 22

To 22 staff members from different departments, the ceremony on April 16 marked their outstanding service in the past two years as they received the “President’s Awards for Achievement 1998”.

Officiating at the award presentation ceremony, President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong said that in order to achieve the University’s mission of becoming a “preferred university”, continuous support should be given to staff members who were committed to offering high standard of service to the University and the community.

At the ceremony, the awardees were each presented with a cash award and a trophy. Their names have been engraved on a wooden plaque erected outside the Pao Yue-Kong Library on campus.

The President’s Awards for Achievement were first introduced in 1996 to give due recognition and encouragement to staff members who have demonstrated excellent performance or distinguished achievements in their field of work. The awardees are listed as follows:

Teaching
- Dr. Dennis Chan Suk-sun, Department of Accountancy (陳淑樺博士)
- Dr. Ricky Chan Yee-kwong, Department of Business Studies (陳怡光博士)
- Mrs. Alice Jones Ho Yee-men, Department of Rehabilitation Sciences (何顯文女士)
- Prof. Lee Yuk-cheung, Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics (李沃璋教授)
- Dr. Tang Chak-yin, Department of Manufacturing Engineering (鄧澤賢博士)

Service to the Professional Community
- Mrs. Stella Cho Lung Pui-lan, Department of Accountancy (左龍保麗女士)
- Dr. Lam Pun-lee, Department of Business Studies (林本利博士)

Professional Service to the University
- Mr. Cheung Kam-shing, Estates Office (張錦盛先生)
- Ms. Sheila Elizabeth Cooke, School of Design
- Dr. Edmund Lee Tai-chiu, Department of Manufacturing Engineering (李大超博士)
- Mr. Richard Li King-hung, Information Technology Services (李景行先生)
- Prof. Tang Pak-lai, Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology (鄧柏禮教授)

Research & Scholarly Activities
- Dr. Paul Douglas Brockman, Department of Accountancy
- Dr. Man Hau-chung, Department of Manufacturing Engineering (文效忠博士)

Overall Achievement
- Mrs. Vivian Tsang Chang Wai-man, Research and Postgraduate Studies Office (曾張慧雯女士)

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請給大孩子多點愛心與關懷

中國語文教學中心
楊昆博士

第

二次在理工大學的非系主任代表會議上，聽到有教師提出學生離經的問題，也聽到某光校長及多位教師的意見，在我心中既產生了共鳴，也捫起了反思的波瀾。

記得十七八歲時期我在巴黎大學讀法語和法國文化的時刻，有一天在課堂的演講室中「十八世紀法國文學」的課。開課後，一位美國學生突然進來，四處找位子。有一位學生說他沒有位子，坐在講課後的 Raimond Picard 非常生氣，大罵美國學生不懂禮貌，甚至批評美國社會的放任與自由。後來這個學生脫下帽子，敬禮才開始講課。

這位事件給我的印象是如此深刻，以致二十多年後，我在理大的「理論與文化科」的課堂內，聽到一位教師試著授予學生的帽子。其中一個學生成績不及格，另一個要求我讓他戴著帽子考，我不答應，他只好脫掉帽子，露出額角的復古頭型。我不覺得不適，甚至有學者認為這個禮儀還是必要的。

坦白說，學生的無禮，有時是有意的，有時是無意的，是否需要制止，看乎情勢而定。九二年我去加拿大遊學，在離島的一間官立中學代課。一天，一位學生搖搖晃晃的走出來，把課本砰的一聲扔在我面前的桌子上。我很生氣，嚴厲地訓了他一頓。後來發現，他的家就在同一大學同一年級的住所的斜對面。我以為他會告狀，他靜靜地告訴我，他稱乘電梯時碰上，他竟主動跟我打招呼。我不在那大學居住已逾六年，想起那孩子，不知現在究竟怎樣了？

去年十一月「實用翻譯」的課上，一名女學生的手提電話響了，她感到很尷尬，對我說：「對不起。」然後跑到課室外面去接聽。我覺得她的態度很好，處理的方法也很正確，所以沒有說一句話。

可是有時當老師的不能不說話，說了話，難免會有一些反應，尤其是「實用翻譯」的課。學生做練習的時候，我告訴一名學生，他的字寫得太小，會影響他人對他的觀察，甚至會影到他將來的事業，結果他從下一次起就不再上課。不再來上課的沒有什麼，我倒希望他會退學，自己去探索人生。我很擔心他會退學。

有一次，我在寫作的課堂上，提醒一名學生她的姓氏寫錯了，她感到非常意外，說他的媽媽也是這樣寫的。我奇的是，從幼稚園到中學為什麼沒有人指出她的錯誤？又有一次，我在「西方文學名著選讀」的課上，對學生解釋為什麼選托馬斯·曼的《魂斷威尼斯》，我談到自己對同性戀的看法。不料竟惹得一位有同性戀傾向的女學生大動肝火，自此不見蹤影。

年輕人是非常敏感的，不但會因為「言者無心，聽者有意」的話，引起不必要的誤會，更會因為你一時的疏忽，而影響他們的情緒。我曾因為心裡想著問題，碰到我教過的學生，沒有親切地和他們打招呼，他們臉上即刻流露出老師沒有那麼關心他們的失落表情。其實，老師也是人，也有自己難唸的經，也有自己擔憂的事，譬如，自己的孩子這次考試成績好不？某篇論文夠不夠時間完成？合約完了會不會續約？有沒有升職的機會？諸如此類的問題，真要煩惱老師到退休。

以前的大專學生對老師的教學有意見，會派代表來向老師反映。今天的大學生則很不同，不喜歡，不滿意，不來，或來了在課堂裏睡眠。遲到早退，更是家常便飯。有學者還編製了說聲「Sorry」，給學生一個合理的或強硬的解釋，沒有禮貌的對待是大學生的權利？我比較幸運，教的是沒有強迫性的選修科，也得到較少學生的在信，和我只是升學的問題。要我指導他們作畢業論文，為他們修改論文，為他們的比賽當評審，為他們的文集寫序。我因此得到不少和他們溝通的機會。

據我觀察所得，今天的學生，帶著不少問題進入大學之門，面目雖大，心中卻是個小孩子。特別懼怕老師的關懷和諷諷，鼓勵和尊重，而不願管束和責罵，尊重和敬重。我遊學的時候學生在課堂內談天說地，常是學生不對，因為他們這樣做，既不尊重老師，又影響教學，而老師的，也應該檢討一下，自己所用的教學方法是否不夠靈活？教科是否有點枯燥？不喜歡學生遲到早退，自己是否要時時上課下課？不喜歡學生成績運用，自己是否太為嚴格？滿臉嘉許沒有刺便到課室，正所謂「己所不欲，勿施於人」。老師們反求諸己，以身作則，恐怕不能算是什麼老生常談，尤其是今天的教師薪資優厚，隊伍裏總會有個體不依教學的，反省就變得更加重要了。

理大舉行第四屆畢業典禮的翌日黃昏，西天邊殘留著一片霞光，我步出校門，在第一個十字路口中央等待綠燈的訊號。我邊走一個個個子高大，身穿筆挺西裝的年輕人注視著我，我抬頭一看，原來是兩年前選上我幾門課的學生，樣子成熟穩重了很多，我告訴他畢業了。我恭喜他，問他找到工作沒有。他說找到了，又說昨天趴忙得很，想找老師照相留念，但不知往哪裡去找，我說沒關係，以後有空來學校聊聊。交通燈轉綠，我和他分手，遙望北行，腦中浮現出一個個高個子，個身帶著稚氣的年輕人，附載來我辦公室的門。如今這辦公室已隨著奠基樓的拆除而消失，但當日對話的情形仍留在我的記憶中。4月遷移，轉眼間大孩子稚氣脫盡換來成熟，投身社會的時刻亦即來到，我想，我和我的同工在這種成長過程中也應該有所功勳吧。