

Touch and Taste Japanese Culture at the Japanese Festival



Participants are very excited about the flower decorations made by themselves with the guidance from Ikebana (flower arrangement) teacher Mrs Yamahata (eighth from right).

Making sushi, playing traditional Japanese games, and learning the classic Japanese flower arrangement, were among the various fun-filled activities that could be founded at the Japanese Festival organised by ENGL on 13 and 14 February.

The event was held successfully with the collective effort from the department's Japanese teachers and over 20 students. Participants were able to see the different aspects of Japanese cultures with the various activities at the festival. Being the co-organiser of the festival, the Consulate-General of Japan at Hong Kong sponsored a Japanese flower arrangement demonstration workshop and a Kendo demonstration by the Hong Kong Kendo Association as highlighted events on the 2 days.

The festival aimed at developing students' understanding in Japanese culture as well as arousing their interest in Japanese. It was one of the events to celebrate PolyU's 70th anniversary in 2007. In fact, PolyU has a history of offering Japanese academic programmes for 30 years and in recent years, ENGL is responsible for providing Japanese programmes both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.



Dr Xu Xunfeng, Acting Head of ENGL (right) presents a souvenir to Mr Kuniyuki Nakahara, Consul and Director of Public Relations & Cultural Affairs of the Consulate-General of Japan, to thank for their various support for the event.



Traditional Japanese games for kids still have attraction for modern youngsters.



Students of BA in Language Studies with Business are preparing tasty Japanese dumpling (a kind of Japanese dessert known as Dango) for visitors to try.

ENGLink is published by the Department of English, The Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

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Event Highlights

English Entrepreneurship Competition Showcases Students' Outstanding Presentation Skills

Year 1 students of BA in Language Studies for the Professions (BALSP) has taken part in an English Entrepreneurship Presentation Competition to test the skills and knowledge they learnt from the English for Professional Communication subject.

Three final teams competed for the top English entrepreneur award at the finals of the competition held on 25 January. Students demonstrated their creativity, effective use of various presentation techniques, as well as excellent team work at the competition.



Team members of "Connected" (from left) Jennifer, Louisa, Rachele and Vicki have outstanding performance from presentation to image building of the team.

Students' performances were highly complimented by the judges and the audience. Congratulations to the excellent work of the three teams:

Champion - Connected: A membership-based service that helps university students to make friends so as to enrich their social life during their course of study.

1st runner-up - Gouté Café: A new café in PolyU that provides customers a home-like atmosphere with fusion food and drinks and modern facilities.

2nd runner-up - Beautographer: A professional photo printing and editing service plus a series of value-added services for PolyU students.



The other 2 teams, Gouté Café and Beautographer, also make very professional presentations and they all treasure this opportunity to put the things they learnt into practice.



The talk helps students prepare themselves for interview of Japanese-speaking jobs.

A recruitment consultant from Pasona explains to students the situation of Japanese companies in Hong Kong.



Career Talk for Japanese-Learning Students

Pasona Asia Co Limited, one of the largest Japanese recruitment firms in Hong Kong, gave students first-hand information and tips about getting jobs in Japanese companies in Hong Kong at a career talk held recently at PolyU campus. Recruitment consultants from the company also arranged job registration and assessment interviews for eligible students after the talk. It is the first time for ENGL to organise this kind of career talk for Japanese-learning students and the objective is to keep them informed of the career prospects for Japanese-speaking positions.

Department Updates

New Academic Staff



Dr Hideaki Sugai, Associate Professor

Before joining PolyU last December, Dr Sugai worked as a researcher at the National Institute for the Japanese Language in Tokyo for six years and also taught at the National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies. He was involved in investigating large scale standardised language tests and helped to develop test items for EUJ, a national exam for foreign students who wish to enter Japanese universities. Apart from research, he conducted training seminars for in-service Japanese language teachers.

Dr Sugai's academic training was completed at University of Hawaii at Manoa where he obtained a PhD in linguistics. Because of Hawaii's academic environment and geographical location, theories of language acquisition and linguistic typology became the foundation of his training even though that may not be too obvious while he is teaching Japanese subjects at PolyU.

Dr Sugai is trying to integrate his linguistic background and the pedagogical practices he has come across, so in the last few years he has started investigating differences in rhetoric style between L1 and L2 writing. This is an interesting field because human thinking could be universal but when thoughts are expressed, they appear in a variety of rhetoric patterns depending on the cultural background of L2 writers.

Hong Kong is such an exciting place and Dr Sugai is grateful to be given the chance to live and work here. Though he is familiar with overseas Chinese culture because he taught at the National University of Singapore for four years before returning to Tokyo, everything that he sees and experiences in Hong Kong is still new and fresh to him. He hopes he can contribute not only to the Japanese programme at PolyU but also to the local Japanese language education in general.

Dr Sugai's hobbies are Taichichuan and watching Japanese TV drama.

Brainstorming and Idea Exchange at Departmental Retreat

About 30 academic and non-academic staff joined the semi-annual retreat on 12 January where they got together to express views and generate ideas on the development of the department. This one-day activity also allowed colleagues to share and discuss their work in a deeper level which is usually not possible with their daily busy work schedules. The topics touched on at the retreat included academic programmes, teaching and learning, research, department's future plan etc.



The retreat offers a good opportunity for colleagues to get together and discuss various matters in a relaxed environment.



Deputy President Mr Alexander Tzang (left) commends the hard work of ENGL colleagues at the retreat and shares his views on the department's development.

Department Updates

Japan Society of Hong Kong Offers HK\$20,000 Scholarship to Students

The Japan Society of Hong Kong presented HK\$20,000 scholarship to ENGL in February to encourage those students studying Japanese in the department to pursue excellence in their academic and personal development. Three awards of HK\$10,000, HK\$6,000 and HK\$4,000 will be granted to the nominated students on the basis of academic merits, community involvement and leadership accomplishments.



Staff and students of ENGL are grateful for the scholarship from the Japan Society of Hong Kong

Jiangsu Polytechnic University Delegation Visits ENGL

A delegation of 16 senior staff from Jiangsu Polytechnic University made a visit to ENGL in January. The two groups exchanged views on teaching methods and shared experience in subject development. The delegation was composed of representatives from academic and administrative departments of the University and they all found the visit gave them a good overview of the latest development of tertiary education in Hong Kong. The visit has also established an opportunity for future collaboration between the two institutions.



Our teachers give delegates of Jiangsu Polytechnic University a brief overview of ENGL's academic programmes and coursework assessment methods.



Dr Li Lan (left) and Dr Cathy Wong (middle) exchange souvenir with the head of the delegation at the end of the visit.

Upcoming Conference: 3rd International Symposium on Teaching English at Tertiary Level

The conference, which will be held from 9 - 10 June 2007 in Hong Kong, is jointly organised by the Department of Foreign Languages of Tsinghua University and the Department of English of the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. It aims to provide a platform for academics to discuss and review various issues related to teaching English at tertiary level.

Issues and questions that the symposium will address:

- English for Academic/Specific Purposes
- Curriculum/syllabus/materials development & related research
- CALL/WELL/Distance learning
- Self-access language learning
- Teaching and learning styles
- Testing and assessment

Details of the symposium and registration form can be found from the website: <http://www.engl.polyu.edu.hk/events/3rdISTETL.html>

Award and Achievement

Louis Ng's Effort Bears Fruit with the Outstanding PolyU Student Award

"I have achieved my target!" was the first feeling in the mind of Louis Ng, a BALS Year 3 student, when he knew that he was among the six recipients of the Outstanding PolyU Student Awards 2006. "I have been looking at this award since my first year at PolyU and I worked persistently towards those requirements and qualities during my course of study. I really have to thank the support from many teachers of the department including Dr Xu Xunfeng, Prof. Winnie Cheng, Dr May Fan and Ms Mable Chan," said Louis happily.



Louis receives the Outstanding PolyU Student Award from President Prof. Poon Chung-kwong.



Cathay Pacific's "I Can Fly" programme further reinforces Louis's interest in the aviation industry.

While most students tend to occupy their university life with pure studying or lots of part-time jobs, Louis has taken a broader outlook by joining several large-scale youth programmes which have enriched his life a lot. He joined Cathay Pacific's "I Can Fly" programme and also worked at the Airport Authority Hong Kong as an intern under the organisation's scholarship. He was also in the group of 30 elite students from 8 local universities under the Global Citizenship programme which made a trip to New York to have an encounter with leaders from different sectors there.

On top of his involvement in various external activities, Louis has also contributed to PolyU's student activities. He was the external vice president of the Information Services Affairs Committee of the Student Union and is currently a PolyU Student Ambassador, helping to promote the university to secondary students.

Louis is now working towards the next challenge of getting a good job as he will be graduating this summer. He is passionate about the aviation industry and is also keen to join the PR/Communication profession field. "I don't like moving around and I will be very careful in selecting jobs. Long-term development in the chosen field is my objective and I will strive for management level positions in the long run," Louis firmly expressed.



The Global Citizenship programme brings participating students of local institutions, including Louis, an eye-opening trip in New York.

BAELT Graduate Shines at World Chinese Dance Competition



The dance of mothers' love wins Mable Chu (middle) and her two team members the gold award at the competition.

Mabel Chu, a graduate of 2006 from BA in English Language Teaching (BAELT), won one gold and two silver awards at the 2007 2nd World Chinese Art Festival Dance Competition held in February. The event was participated by outstanding Chinese art performers from different parts of the world which aims to promote Chinese culture through competitions in various art performances.

Mable has been learning Chinese dancing since Primary 6 but she stopped for a couple of years in between due to public examinations. She picked it up again 4 years ago in an amateur dance troop. Mable is now a teacher at St Clare's Girls' School, teaching English for Form 1 and 2 students and English Literature for Form 3 students.

Students and Alumni News

Flags of Harmony and Unity – Massive Celebration of the HKSAR's 10th Anniversary and PolyU's 70th Anniversary

As you are aware, this year sees the celebration of the 10th Anniversary of the establishment of the HKSAR & the 70th Anniversary of PolyU. To commemorate this historic year, PolyU will assemble over 20,000 staff, students, alumni and their companions, and friends of the University to form a giant National Flag of the motherland and Regional Flag of the HKSAR in a major celebratory event, entitled “Flags of Harmony and Unity”. Co-organised by the Scout Association of Hong Kong, it has also been accredited by HKSAR Government as an activity celebrating the 10th Anniversary of its establishment.

This event, to be held on Sunday 23 September 2007 from 2:00pm to 5:00pm (tentative) at Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground, Chai Wan, Hong Kong, will be an attempt to set a new world record and to raise fund for PolyU and for supporting children education in the mainland and the elderly in Hong Kong. Registration is required for participating in the event. **As YOU are the one who can make this historic event a success, you are strongly encouraged to register NOW.**

You can now complete your registration on line and obtain more details about the event by visiting the website: www.polyu.edu.hk/70thanniversary (click on “Flags Event”). You can also contact the following staff for any queries about registration or the event:

Dr Benjamin Leung, Lecturer (Tel: 2766 7353; e-mail: egben@inet.polyu.edu.hk)

Ms Catherine Law, Marketing Manager (Tel: 2766 7508; e-mail: egclaw@inet.polyu.edu.hk)

Please note that donation is on a voluntary basis – it is not a precondition for participating in this event. As early registration is very important for the formation of flags, please register as early as possible. If you register before **23 June 2007**, you will have a chance of winning fabulous prizes sponsored by Canon Hongkong Co. Ltd. (details will be announced on the web later).

We look forward to seeing you on 23 September at Siu Sai Wan Sports Ground and together set a new world record.

A Fruitful and Enjoyable Gathering for Mentorship Programme Participants



Mentors and mentees actively engage in discussion and they are able to establish a good understanding of each other in the process.

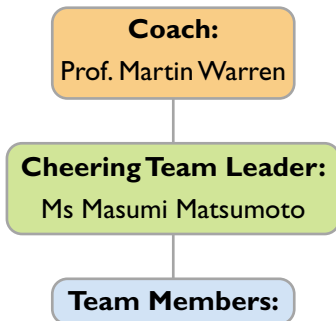
Mentors and mentees got a good chance to understand each other better at a tea gathering which was taken place at PolyU campus earlier. It was particularly exciting for new mentees in the 2006/07 academic year as it was their first time to meet their mentors. The event started with a sharing by a current mentee about the valuable experience she obtained from her mentor in the past year. Participated mentors and mentees were then divided into several groups where they had free conversation on school life, studying, career etc.

Students and Alumni News

BALSB Students Linked by the Same “Goal”

A group of year 3 students from BA in Language Studies with Business (BALSB) formed the LSB Football Team in October 2006 to unite all the boys who like playing football in the class. The first game, which took place at Keith Legg Sports Field, was played between the LSB Football Team and the team of Shunsuke Nakamura & Friends. Since then, the football team continues playing matches with competitors from various PolyU departments such as Engineering, Nursing and Social Science. Other classmates are motivated by the energetic spirit of these boys and they also formed a cheering team to support the LSB Football Team whenever there are matches.

Key people of the LSB Football Team:



Prof. Martin Warren is a great coach on and off the pitch.

Number	Name	Position
13	Frank	Goalkeeper
2	Daniel	Defender
5	Guchi	Attacking/Defensive Midfielder
7	Frankie	Sweeper
9	Roy	Striker/Defender
11	Hollis	Forward
22	Freddy	Defender/Midfielder
42	Kevin	Shadow Forward



What a big cheering team! Every team member printed their name at the back of the uniform to show their committed support.



Go goal! BALSB boys enjoy the time playing football together.

Students and Alumni News

Work-Integrated Education (WIE) for Students of BA (Hons) in Language Studies for the Professions

Through offering different placement opportunities to students, WIE aims to provide opportunity for students to apply their professional knowledge to the workplace environment, broaden their vision and to pave way for their future careers. Forty out of 114 students admitted in September 2005 have now completed the WIE requirement and they cherish the experience as one of the most memorable episodes in their university lives.

Quotations from students:

"I made a very clear decision after the placement and I knew that I enjoyed working in corporate communication jobs."

"I now have more confidence in myself, becoming more mature and would not only think about myself all the time."

"After staying for two months abroad, I experienced the differences between the Chinese and Western cultures, and started to understand how they work and think differently. I also learnt to appreciate the strengths of others."

Some of our current partner organisations:

- Apex Translation Communications Ltd.
- Central Language Services Ltd.
- Hong Kong Federation of Youth Groups
- Mission to New Arrivals Ltd.
- Shanghai University
- Tsinghua University
- University of Warwick
- Weber Shandwick Worldwide
- Yahoo! Hong Kong Ltd.

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In addition to understanding the operation of different businesses, students can polish their interpersonal skills with the WIE work placements.

