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理學院通訊

# Newsletter



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## Happy Chinese New Year!



We wish you  
a happy and healthy  
*Year of the Tiger.*



Best wishes,  
Faculty of Science



### Staff Honours

Our faculty has recently received good news about the following faculty members who have been awarded for their distinguished achievements:

**Prof. YAU Shing-tung**, Distinguished Professor-at-Large of the Mathematics Department, has been elected as a Wolf Laureate in Mathematics by the Wolf Foundation for his work in geometric analysis that has had a profound and dramatic impact on many areas of geometrics and physics.

**Prof. XIA Keqing** of the Physics Department received a Second Class award of the 2009 State National Science Award for his research



“Experimental Studies of Turbulent Thermal Convection.” The award is one of the highest honours given by the Central Government in recognition of advancements in basic scientific research.

**Prof. JIANG Liwen** of the Biology Department received the National Science Award Grade 1 Prize for his project “Molecular Characterization of Plant Prevacuolar and Endosomal Compartments.” The award was given out by the Ministry of Education of China in its annual Higher Education Outstanding Scientific Research Output Awards for 2009.

# Hearty Congratulations to All!



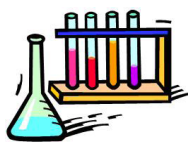


## Excellence in Education: the Student's Perspective

Since 1999, the Faculty of Science has recognized its members' excellence in teaching with the annual Faculty Exemplary Teaching Award. Each year, one faculty member from each of the six Science departments – Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics, Physics and Statistics – are awarded by the Faculty for their outstanding performance in teaching. In 2008 – 2009, the award recipients were the following teachers:

**Prof. Edwin CHAN Ho-yin** (BCH), **Prof. KWAN Kin-ming** (BIO), **Prof. Dennis NG Kee-pui** (CHM), **Prof. FENG Dejun** (MAT), **Prof. HUI Pak-ming** (PHY), and **Prof. WONG Hoi-ying** (STA). The six winners were presented with their award during the 2008 – 2009 Faculty Exemplary Teaching Award cum Dean's Honour List Award Ceremony on Saturday 16 January, 2010.

Students of award-winning faculty members Prof. FENG Dejun, Prof. HUI Pak-ming and Prof. Dennis NG Kee-pui were interviewed to give insight into what makes an excellent teacher from the perspective of students. All the students pointed out that Prof. Feng, Prof. Hui, and Prof. Ng are all very well-prepared for classes, and use lucid examples to explain abstract or complicated concepts to students. Students CHUI Kin-lung, NG Chun-fai, and WONG Ka-hou – all senior undergraduates from the Chemistry Department – appreciate Prof. Ng's generous use of examples and excellent communication skills. They went on further to say that Prof. Ng's passion for Chemistry and teaching is felt by all his students, who find attending his lectures a rewarding learning experience.



The students interviewed all agreed that the award-winning professors perform very well in class,



(Clockwise from top left) Winners of the 2008 - 2009 Faculty Exemplary Teaching Award: Prof. Edwin CHAN Ho-yin (BCH), Prof. KWAN Kin-ming (BIO), Prof. Dennis NG Kee-pui (CHM), Prof. FENG Dejun (MAT), Prof. HUI Pak-ming (PHY), and Prof. WONG Hoi-ying (STA), seen here with Dean of Science Prof. NG Cheuk-yiu.

but what makes these teachers stand out from the rest is their caring attitude that reaches beyond the classroom to impress the students. LEE Yan-sin and TSE Yuen-chi (both Year 3 Physics students) recalled Prof. Hui's considerate pedagogical approach with concrete examples. Contrary to the impression that students generally dislike homework, Tse is grateful for Prof. Hui's homework assignments, because they give very detailed instructions and guidance. Moreover, Tse pointed out that Prof. Hui advises his students what reference materials they may refer to on top of the course readings, and he carefully listed the pros and cons of each source. To Lee, Prof. Hui is also a great teacher because he can put himself into the students' shoes, and broaden their knowledge by gladly teaching them concepts and experiences beyond the scope of the course. Hence, it is no wonder that Prof. Hui is well-liked by Physics students, who enjoy visiting him for counseling, advice, or just to say hello.

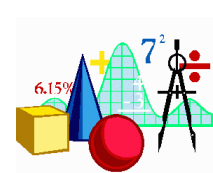


Like the other two award-winning teachers, Prof. Feng is considered a great teacher by his students for communicating effectively in class. Furthermore, Prof. Feng is very knowledgeable and is always glad to be of help to students by staying back after class or seeing students who drop-by during his office hours. Apart from performing as a great





mathematics teacher in class, Prof. Feng is also an academic advisor for Mainland Chinese students at the Mathematics Department. WANG Xinyang, a Year 1 Mathematics student, praised Prof. Feng highly of his caring and responsible attitude. During his transition into the university community here within the first month of his arrival in Hong Kong, Wang received much moral support and academic



advice from Prof. Feng. Wang says that he felt much more confident in his choice to attend The Chinese University of Hong Kong after talking with Prof. Feng.

After hearing the students' comments on the award-winning teachers, we can generalize some common qualities of effective teachers who are

well-liked by their students. To students, successful teachers communicate clearly, possess profound knowledge in the course materials and general subject matter, build and maintain good rapport with students, make themselves available for students' questions even outside of the classroom, and most importantly, have a genuine passion for teaching. Once again, hearty congratulations to the six award recipients of the 2008 – 2009 Faculty Teaching Exemplary Awards. The Faculty of Science hopes to continue upholding a high standard of teaching and learning in the years to come.

Our reporter would like to acknowledge our thanks to the following students for providing their invaluable input for this article: CHUI Kin-lung (CHM Yr 3), FONG Pok-wai (MAT Yr 3), NG Chun-fai (CHM Yr 3), Danny KWAN (MAT Yr 3), LEE Yan-sin (PHY Yr 3), SHI Fangye (MAT Yr 3), TSE Yuen-chi (PHY Yr 3), WANG Xinyang (SCF Yr 1), and WONG Ka-hou (CHM Yr 4).

## Summer Institute 2010

The following three courses will be offered under the Summer Institute in 2010:

School / Department / Programme	Course Title
Biology	Exploring the Fungal Kingdom
Biochemistry / Molecular Biotechnology	Frontiers in Molecular Biology and Biotechnology
Chinese Medicine	Introduction to Chinese Medicine

## 理學院通訊 Faculty of Science Newsletter

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