



The Accountancy Graduates Association of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University Limited

NEWSLETTER

April 2003

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Information and Contents

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President's Message

Dear Fellow Members,

This is the last newsletter of AGA before our AGM on 17 May 2003. I would like to thank you for all your support in the year 2002/2003. Without your support, the events that we organised in the year would not be so successful. I can assure you that the Executive Committee would continue to organise interesting and meaningful events in the coming year. Please feel free to inform us your new ideas, so that we may consider to put them into actions at the appropriate time.

WALKS FOR MILLIONS 2003

Many thanks to those members who have participated in the walk and make donations to the Community Chest. Without the support from you, this meaningful event will not be successfully held.

EGM HELD ON 24 JANUARY 2003

AGA has held an EGM on 24 January 2003 and we have successfully amended our membership structure to simplify our voting members from two categories to a single life membership renamed as "Ordinary member". We have also created a new category of non-voting member named as "Affiliated member" to accommodate current students. Details of the amendments and effect to the current members are summarised in this newsletter below.

OUTSTANDING POLYU ALUMNI AWARD 2003

I have great pleasure to inform you that one of our alumni Mr Samuel Wong has recently selected to be one of the awardees of the Outstanding PolyU Alumni Award 2003. He is the first AGA member received such award so far. To know more about Sam, please read the article on interview with him in the below section.

AGM AND MEMBERS DINNER TO BE HELD ON 17 MAY 2003

I would like to invite you to attend our AGM as well as the members' dinner right after our AGM. It is a very good chance for you to meet with alumni and to share your experience and ideas among us. Please complete the enclosed reply for the AGM and dinner. We are looking forward to meeting you there.

AGA NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

We have decided to issue our newsletters through email starting from 2004. Such move would improve our efficiency in communication with our members and save our cost as well. Please fill up the email notification form enclosed, so that you will not miss our newsletter in the future.

COMING EVENTS

In addition to the coming AGM and dinner, we have organised a seminar on soft skill as well as a potunghua course in the coming months. Please complete and return the relevant enrolment forms immediately in order to secure your enrolment to the activities. The available places for both activities are limited.

Alex C B Wong
President AGA
April 2003



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Interview

Interview with Samuel Wong

Mr Wong is currently a Partner of Ernst & Young Certified Public Accountants. He has been elected as International Vice President and International Deputy President of ACCA Worldwide for the past two years and will be the President in 2003, thus becoming the first non-European member elected to lead this worldwide global professional body which has over 300,000 members and students in 160 countries. He has also been selected as one of the Outstanding Accountancy Alumni and appointed Adjunct Professor by PolyU's Department of Accountancy. In addition, he has been the Honorary Student Mentor of the Department since 2001. His illustrious career and his many contributions to the accounting profession have won him many honours.

Q: Christine, Michelle

A: Mr Samuel Wong King-on

Q: What do you feel about being awarded the “Outstanding PolyU Alumni Award”?

A: I think it is a great honor for myself, and certainly for the firm (Ernst & Young) as well. I think this award will certainly bring me esteem and pride. So, I am very happy that I was elected as one of the five awardees for this year.

Q: As we know, you also got the “Outstanding Accountancy Alumni Award” before, what are the differences between the two awards?

A: As far as I understand the award of Outstanding Accountancy Alumni was given by the Department of Accountancy and was given to the Accountancy graduate only. This time, the “Outstanding PolyU Alumni Award” is basically awarded to graduates of any departments to recognize their remarkable professional achievements and significant contributions to their alma mater and the community. In other words, this “Outstanding PolyU Alumni Award” is of higher standing than the “Outstanding Accountancy Alumni Award” due to keen competition and stricter criteria.

Q: Why did you choose “Accounting” as your major subject in PolyU?

A: It is a long story. When I was a student in the secondary school, I was like any one of you studying in Arts subjects or Science subjects. At that time, I was a pure science student. I studied Physics, Chemistry, Biology and Mathematics. My wish for my future career was to be a medical doctor. I would say it was fortunate or unfortunate that my AL results were not as good as expected. So, I applied to study accountancy at the HK Polytechnic University. I would say PolyU at that time was the only authoritative institute offering accounting education. In fact, there may be some linkage between my father's profession and mine. When I was young, I always had chances to watch my father doing the accounting work at home.



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Q: Would you like to share the benefits of working in Big Four over small accounting firms?

A: Before I joined Ernst & Young, I joined one local accounting firm for a short period of time. I have been working with Ernst & Young for more than 23 years since 1979. I think the benefits of working in Big Four are the reputation, resources and the working prospect.

Firstly, the working experience in Big Four is more valuable than that in small firms. The small firms would not have the reputations and the abilities to do some complex assignments with banks, securities houses and investment funds. So, the reputation is the first consideration.

Secondly, the resources of training are more important, because Big Four have more updated, enhanced and strengthened methodologies. The trainings are more structured and systematic.

Thirdly, the prospect of working in Big Four is better. You will have lots of promotion opportunities.

Q: How does your company weigh the following things in recruiting fresh graduates, academic results, working experience, participation in extra-curricular activities and performance during interview?

A: All of these are crucial to recruit fresh graduates. Personally, I do believe that performance in interview is the most significant. Presumably, a fresh graduate has obtained acceptable knowledge about accounting. So, it is far more important on how to impress the interviewers during the interview. During the interview, you should show your interpersonal skills, EQ, alertness and leadership skill. As a CPA firm, we do provide service to our clients through our people. Hence, we concern about the qualities of our "People".

Q: In light of China's accession to WTO, what do you think about the prospects of accounting in Hong Kong and in the Mainland China?

A: Under the ever-changing environment, it is impossible to stick to the old rules and regulations in order to succeed. One should be alert to the environment you work and be proactive. In other words, you should upgrade your products or service so as to satisfy the customers' needs. Premier Zhu Rongji had said that China requires 300,000 qualified accountants of international standards in the following years, especially after China's accession to WTO, hence, quality accountants are highly sought after in Mainland China.

Q: Would like to give some comments to the accounting students?

A: Someone has said, "Destiny is not a matter of chance; it is a matter of choice. It is not something to be waited for; but rather something to be achieved." Or you can say, "Destiny is in your own hand." You can control your own destiny. I take pride in being a PolyU graduate and I am proud of being an ACCA member. Acquiring qualifications is just the first step of your career. It is far more important to undergo value added and lifetime learning.



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NOTICE TO ANNUAL MEMBERS ON CHANGE OF STATUS

Slimming, no way! We will be getting BIGGER...

24 January 2003 marked a significant milestone of the AGA. We have a major revamp of our membership system that we now have a new class of Affiliate Members (“AMs”) added to our family and the previous Life Members is renamed as a new class of Ordinary Members (“new OMs”).

Any students, being part-time/full-time/undergraduate/postgraduate students taking courses offered by the Department of Accountancy at HKPU and students are now entitled to enrol as AMs of AGA. The AMs are not required to pay any membership subscriptions but they will be eligible to join all the functions held by the AGA. In addition, they are also allowed to convert their membership to new OMs at reduced subscription fees of just 50% of the full rate. The Association is now planning to launch certain promotion activities among the students in order to roll out his new membership scheme.

With a view to better divert the resources and administrative efforts of the Association in developing and promoting the activities for the fellow members, it was also decided the present ordinary membership with annual subscriptions payable to the Association would be re-nominated as Annual Members (“AnnM”). Any existing AnnM who has not paid his/her subscription fee for 2002 and/or before are allowed to have one-time conversion to the new OMs by paying a life membership subscription at only 60% of the normal dues (just HK\$300). Such preferential treatments will only be valid till 30 June 2003. Any AnnM who has paid his/her 2002 annual subscription will also be eligible to pay just HK\$300 to convert his/her membership to the new OMs within 3 months after expiry of the subscription period. No new AnnM will be admitted by the Association. Therefore, do not miss the chance and act now!

If you have any questions about this new membership system, please write to or contact Constance Chan of the Federation of Hong Kong Polytechnic University Alumni Association at 852-2766 5123 (e-mail: fhkpuaa@polyu.edu.hk) or Wilson Chow of the membership sub-committee of the AGA at 852-2289 1890.



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**IMPORTANT -
FUTURE NEWSLETTERS
TO BE SENT BY E-MAIL**

Our newsletters are currently sent to members by post or by e-mail. In view of the increasing concern over environmental protection, to improve efficiency in communicating with members and to save cost for the better use of our resources, newsletters will be sent to members by e-mail commencing January 1, 2004, unless we receive a written advice from members informing us that they would like to continue to receive newsletters by post. Newsletters are also posted on our website.

For those members who have not previously requested for receiving newsletters by e-mail, please now inform us of your e-mail address by sending your e-mail address and contact telephone number to fhkpuaa@polyu.edu.hk, quoting your name and membership number. Alternatively you may fill in the form below and fax it to our Communications Subcom.

To: Communications Subcom (Mr. Derek Yim, c/o Department of Accountancy, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hunghom, Kowloon, Hong Kong) Fax no.: 2330 9845

From: _____ Membership No. _____
(in BLOCK CAPITAL) (Surname first)

My e-mail address and contact number are as follows:

E-mail Address: _____ Tel: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____



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突破繆誤 突破自我

內容重點：

- ✧ 了解生活上的一些誤解，做個精明的人
- ✧ 了解一些領導人的繆誤，讓自己成爲一個真正成功的領袖
- ✧ 如何提升自己的分析及溝通能力

主講者：李國輝先生

李國輝先生(A.C.I.B.,F.C.I.S.,F.C.S.,F.F.A.,Dip.Chinese Law)乃香港一家國際有名的上市公司之高級行政人員。李先生在企業行政管理，公司管治，公司秘書實務及企業融資等方面提供定期的培訓及演講。除此之外，李先生在領袖訓練，人際溝通技巧，個人自信，推銷技巧，及經營管理等訓練特別有心得。李先生乃一位專業及具影響力的演講者及訓練師。他曾於中國及香港的大學和商業機構演講。

李先生最近之出色演講包括：

- 如何成爲辦公室高手
- 如何成爲推銷高手
- 夢想成真的方法
- 如何成爲人際高手
- 如何發揮你的個人魅力
- 不一樣的溝通高手
- 人生的中期業績報告
- 如何提升你的幽默感
- 廿一世紀的成功領袖
- 兩性不同話溝通
- 壓力管理

日期：2003年5月17日(星期六)

下午3時至5時30分(會議準時開始)

地點：香港理工大學 PQ304室

語言：廣東話

有興趣參加者，請與 Mrs Shirley Yue 聯絡 (電話 90224701)



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Putonghua for Accountants

(Content to be provided by Derek)



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AGA Website

At: <http://www.polyu.edu.hk/%7Eaacct/>

We have updated our AGA website. Special thanks are due to our webmasters, Mr. Sam Ho and Mr. Dennis Tsui, who have provided excellent technical support to make the revision exercise possible.

All AGA members are encouraged to visit the website frequently for up-to-date news, such as newsletters, upcoming seminars and activities. Finally, we also welcome any comment on how to make our website more appealing and useful.

(Content to be confirmed by Florence)