Home-grown Scientist Honoured for Research in Sustainable Energy

“I firmly believe that regardless of one’s gender, as long as one has the passion, dedication and determination to pursue research wholeheartedly, one can excel and produce results of world-class quality.”

Professor Vivian Yam 任詠華 (BSc 1985; PhD 1988), Philip Wong Wilson Wong Professor in Chemistry and Energy, was chosen as the 2011 L’Oréal-UNESCO Women in Science Awards Laureate for the Asia/Pacific region for her work on light-emitting materials and innovative ways of capturing solar energy.

Professor Yam obtained her Bachelor and Doctoral degrees from HKU and was a Swire Scholar (1985-1988). She then joined HKU’s Department of Chemistry in 1990 and has been dedicated to teaching and research at the University ever since. At the age of 38, she was elected a Member of the Chinese Academy of Sciences as the youngest member of the Academy. She was also the first Chinese scientist to be honoured with the Royal Society of Chemistry Centenary Lectureship and Medal for 2005-06.

Every year, the L’Oréal Foundation and UNESCO recognise five exceptional women scientists, one from each continent, and honour them for the contributions of their research, the strength of their commitments and their impact on society.

Professor Yam’s main area of research is in inorganic / organometallic syntheses and photochemistry related to luminescence and solar energy conversion. The major focus is on the molecular design and synthesis of novel inorganic and organometallic metal complexes that may find potential applications as functional metal-based molecular materials.
CEO and Co-Founder of Blackstone on Global Economic Prospect

Stephen Schwarzman, Chairman, CEO and co-Founder of the Blackstone Group, drew a packed audience at Loke Yew Hall with his speech, entitled “Global Growth Prospects and Financial Services Post-Regulatory Reforms”.

Schwarzman gave a positive outlook on the Asia economy, which has on the whole weathered the great recession much better than the US and Europe. The 21st century belongs to Asia, especially with China’s fast-growing economy, remarked Schwarzman. “In 10 years, nearly 50 percent of the global GDP will come from the developing world”, he said.

The “Edward K Y Chen Distinguished Lecture Series” was initiated in 2007 by a group of former HKU students of Professor Edward Chen (BA 1967; MSocSc 1971; Hon DSocSc 2008) as an accolade to their fine scholar and loving teacher.

Zest to Dunhuang: Paintings and Calligraphy by Jao Tsung-I

The exhibition Zest to Dunhuang presents the paintings and calligraphy of the eminent scholar and artist, Professor Jao Tsung-I, which were inspired by the ancient oasis town of Dunhuang in north-western China.

Dunhuang lay at the junction of the trade routes known collectively as the Silk Road, and became a significant site in the development of Buddhism in China.

A scholar of extraordinary and broad talent, Professor Jao has written over 80 books, and his paintings and calligraphy have been displayed around the world.

Among Professor Jao’s many awards includes an honorary degree in humanities from the Ecole Pratique des Hautes Etudes in France and the Prize for Special Contributions to the Protection of Dunhuang Relics.

An additional sixty works, including paintings of heavenly figures such as apsaras and bodhisattvas, and earthly subjects such as lohan, will be on display alongside Professor Jao’s calligraphy.

The exhibition will take place at the HKU University Museum and Art Gallery until February 6, 2011.

Previous speakers of this lecture series include Mr Jack Ma, founder of Alibaba Group, and Lin Yifu, Chief Economist of the World Bank.

For a full report, please visit: www.fbe.hku.hk/News/FBE LectureInsight/