Dr. Alan K. T. Lau presented with Excellence Teaching, Learning and Technology Award

Dr. Alan K. T. Lau, Associate Professor of the Department of Mechanical Engineering and Project Coordinator of “Bio-Home”, a project sponsored by one of the biggest local houseware manufacturers, Bunhoi Group, has won the Ernest L. Boyer International Award for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology, in the 20th International Conference on College Teaching and Learning, Jacksonville Florida, USA. He is also the first scholar outside America receiving this Award.

With his introduction on how to link up with the industry to enforce the outcome-based education (OBE) for university’s students and received a lot positive comments from different scholars and educators, Dr. Lau has seized the award from 7 finalist nominees. During his presentation, he demonstrated on how to enforce teaching quality and finally help student achieve learning outcomes from their programmes through active engagement with the local and international engineering industry. Under his passion on teaching and hard working attitude, he has been received over HK$ 4 million donations from the local industry to support a series of teaching activities, which include technical seminars, knowledge transfer sessions, China visit, summer placement scheme, overseas visits (last year was in Australia to learn environmental policy and home design as well as cultural difference), final year student project and participation in an international houseware fare (20 – 23 April, The Hong Kong Houseware Fair, The Hong Kong Convention Centre. Our booth was a focus in the Fair and well publicized, occupied a large section in all local newspapers). Through all these initiatives, the students can practically apply their knowledge into real applications, and even learn on how to well communicate with all visitors, buyers and industrialists. Some students were even directly offered a job interview in site.

Dr. Lau was also a recipient of Young Scientist Award (2002); Young Engineer of the Year Award (2004); Faculty Award in Research (2005); Outstanding Research Award in “Nanocomposites for Space Applications, USA (2006; Most Cited Article Award in Chemical Physics Letters (2008) and President Awards in Service (2007) and Teaching (2008). He is also Member of European Academy of Sciences.

Award Background:

The award honors the world's highly creative men and women who have contributed significantly to teaching, learning and technology in higher education. Nominees for the award are chosen in institution-wide searches and have contributed in highly creative ways to teaching, learning and technology at their own colleges and universities. In addition, their contributions must have broad, significantly positive effects on student learning, motivation and creativity beyond their own departments and institutions.

An international panel of distinguished faculty reviews all nominations for the award and selects the winner who is honored at the International Conference on College Teaching and Learning. This prestigious award is sponsored by the Centre for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning and the recipient will be presented with a trophy and a US $5,000 cash award contributed by McGraw Hill Learning Solutions.
In the final round, only 7 out of 21 awardees for the Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology were shortlisted to the Ernest L. Boyer Award, including nominees from Louisiana State University (USA), Tennessee State University (USA), United States Air Force Academy (USA), University of Central Florida (USA), Texas A&M University (USA) and Poznan University of Medical Sciences (Poland).

Trophies for (left) the Ernest L. Boyer International Award for Excellence in Teaching, Learning, and Technology and (right) Award for Innovative Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Technology.
Photo taken during the Award Giving Ceremony
A group photo taken in The Hong Kong Houseware Fair (20 April 2009) – 1G19
Photos taken during the Exhibition with our Students’ design products