Marshal joined our department as a Lecturer in 2012 and is now Assistant Professor of Engineering Education.

He wins the Distinguished Teaching Excellence Appreciation because:

1) Marshal has been proven an excellent teacher

Prior to joining us, Marshal was already an award-winning and accomplished teacher in the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. We are fortunate that Marshal was a chemical engineer at heart and chose to come here. In a few short years, he has quickly gained our trust as a capable and dedicated colleague, as well as the respect and love from our students. Marshal has not only taught 11 different courses for us, but is also very active in department service. For a small department like ours, he has been a godsend for us amidst the 334 transitional period.

Marshal is a talented teacher who is immensely passionate about his craft. His student evaluation scores are record-breaking in our department as can be seen from the attached record, but his teaching excellence goes far beyond those numbers. Students have often remarked that Marshal’s lectures are crystal clear, engaging, well-organized and never boring. Marshal is no easy grader either. He likes to give frequent quizzes and challenging homework. When he took over the Reactor Engineering course in 2014, he started assigning a project that goes beyond equation solving but involves some modeling and MATLAB programming. But rather than complaining about the workload, students responded to the challenge eagerly. His dedication and hard work he puts into his teaching is truly inspiring, and it becomes difficult for students to let him down.

2) Marshal is also a versatile teacher

His teaching portfolio includes highly technical and mathematical subjects such as Reactor Engineering, but also non-technical ones such as Academic and Professional Development. He teaches core courses and electives. He teaches students at all levels, from freshmen to M.Sc. students. He is also developing a course with a lot of hands-on experience in Food Science and Technology, and he supervises undergraduate research and final-year projects. Amazingly he seems to excel in everything he teaches. Clearly, he knows how to change his pedagogy depending on the subject and the audience, and he is constantly looking for ways to improve his teaching.
This is also evident from his passion in teaching innovation. He is a frequent attendee of CELT seminars, and he has a teaching innovation grant on developing virtual labs. He has also embraced the use of technology in teaching, and is keen on online courses and blended learning.

3) Marshal is a gifted teacher

Outside of the classroom, Marshal is a charismatic and personable person who loves to be around students. In fact he remembers just about every student he taught, and students are very comfortable approaching him. He keeps in touch with many of our graduates. One precious quality about Marshal is that he does not only care about the academically gifted students, but he is equally, if not more, attentive to students who need help. He sees the good in every person and he trusts his students. When he selects students to do undergraduate research with him or TA for him, he does not pick those with the highest grades. He likes to enlist the help of students to serve the department – from organizing industrial visits, to making a new departmental promotional video; from promoting our programs to associate degree students, to serving as TAs in his courses. He believes in his students and wants them to believe in themselves. He is willing to take the risk to create learning opportunities for them.

4) Marshal provides outstanding service to teaching

Marshal has also served diligently as the Associate UG Coordinator of the department. We are very grateful that despite his heavy teaching load, he remains enthusiastic and willing to serve. His energy and work ethics is a marvel to see and infectious to those around him. Among the duties that he has taken on, he organizes several industrial visits for our students every semester, including a 2-day trip in the Pearl River Delta every January to visit several chemical plants. This is very time-consuming, but is very beneficial to our students who have limited exposure to the industry and consequently have doubts about their future careers. Marshal enjoys doing it since he sees this as an indispensable part of our students’ education, and the visits also gave him chances to interact with students on a more personal level. He also leads our sub-degree direct-entry admission and has taken a special interest in this group of students who often have different, sometimes neglected, needs. Lastly, Marshal has been a strong advocate of continuous curriculum improvement in our department, and he would often provide us ideas with alternative viewpoints from his extensive teaching experience. He is not someone who just does what he is told and
follows tradition. He is full of good ideas on how we can enhance our students’ learning experience and future employability, and he works tirelessly to implement them. Marshal is probably the best teacher we have in our department. Temperament-wise, he has everything one would want in an educator. It is clear that he sees teaching as his calling in life, and that he puts his heart and soul into it no matter whom he teaches or what he teaches. His positive impact on our students goes far beyond what he does in the classroom, and that impact will be life-long.

Congratulations to Marshal for the amply deserving Distinguished Teaching Excellence Appreciation Award.