

# The young leaders driving China's textile industry

USTER fosters new talent in 10 years of university programs.

Scholarship celebration pictures taken at DHU in 2010 typifying many such occasions.

Progress in China's textile industry is increasingly being driven by a young and dynamic generation of professionals – and USTER is proud to play a role in fostering the development of these talented individuals. The close links with Chinese universities started 10 years ago, and in that period USTER has developed a scholarship program which now covers eight universities and has so far involved well over 500 students.

Richard Furter, USTER's former Head of Textile Technology, started the scholarship initiative and was personally involved in developing the program through its early years. He was assisted by Ellen Liu, Head of Textile Technology in China, who translated these programs. She remembers that students in the program were immediately impressed by the concept of quality control and management and the potentiality offered by quality testing and monitoring instruments.

Today, the company is still convinced that the USTER scholarship program will encourage successive generations of

students to continue the transformation of China's textile industry from a traditional sector to a modern global player in quality markets.

## Internships for practical experience

Since 2010, USTER has also been offering internships at its laboratory in Suzhou, in collaboration with Donghua University. Each year, two masters degree students are able to gain experience as testing engineers, working with USTER staff – as well as having access to latest test technology to help with their theses. The internships allocate students' time 50:50 between work in the lab and individual study, all supported by regular training from USTER Textile Technologists.

Ms Liu also continues the popular and valuable program of university lectures started in 2007 by the late and highly-respected USTER expert Richard Furter and continued by Thomas Nasiou, CEO of Uster Technologies. Both these men spent time lecturing students at Donghua and Qingdao universities. Mr Furter initiated the lecture program based on his personal strong belief that the young professionals will drive the Chinese textile industry into a well-developed, modern business.

He put a lot of effort in fostering the future generation. Through a career with USTER spanning 47 years, he was renowned for his seemingly limitless knowledge. He was even asked to write an independent textbook, titled 'Textile Measuring Technology and Quality

Control' which was officially acknowledged by China's textile education authorities and has been a 'set book' for textile students since 2012.

## Scholarships at eight universities

The first USTER scholarships at Donghua University and Qingdao University started in 2008. Since then, the program has expanded to include six more establishments which regard the company as a partner in fulfilling their educational goals: Tianjin Polytechnic University, Xi'an Polytechnic University, Jiangnan University, Zhongyuan University of Technology, Nantong University, and Yancheng Institute of Technology. They appreciate the specific technical focus of the lectures on quality management and control, as well as USTER® STATISTICS.

So far, 563 students at different levels (undergraduate, masters and PHD) have been awarded USTER scholarships. Successful students must demonstrate high performance – in marks and engagement – but also involvement in research and university projects, along with well-developed personal and interactive skills.

Over the years, many USTER scholarship winners have gone on to work in key textile industry posts, or as university professors themselves. "My company employed me as testing engineer when I graduated just because I had learned USTER® instrument knowledge during my internship. I can say that USTER knowledge helped me to



Richard Furter signing for students his textbook, titled 'Textile Measuring Technology and Quality Control'.

gain this career opportunity," says GuangZhen Guo, who works as a supervisor in CFIB branch in Fujian province. He studied at Donghua University and had the chance to take part in a year-long USTER internship program. Professor Yong Liu was, as a PhD student, a winner of one of the first USTER scholarships in 2008. Today he holds the positions of vice-dean of the textile college of Tianjin Polytechnic University and doctoral supervisor. He says: "I was inspired to devote myself to the textile industry and contribute to the development of textile talents as well as to scientific and technological progress." This reaction is typical of the majority of students, who report that their scholarship gave them the confidence to remain in the textile sector and the encouragement to anticipate the changes in China.

#### Belief in the future of textiles

USTER is convinced that younger staff members are the key to implementing sustainable and successful quality management concepts in the spinning industry.



Students attending an USTER lecture, picture taken at DHU in 2009 typifying many such occasions.

The university environment introduces students to modern methods and attitudes in the textile industry, opening their minds and giving them the courage to challenge strong traditions. "There is a trend now for yarn producers to realize how textile engineers can help to improve the competitive capabilities of their spinning mills. They seek employees with university degrees and offer higher salaries," says Ms Liu. "Some companies will even promise quick promotion to ensure that young professionals stay in the job for many years."

The Chinese government has itself recognized the potential benefits of increased quality standards, and launched new initiatives to promote a high quality and brand oriented policy for manufacturing industries in 2016. Students who are ready to embrace quality management concepts will provide a good foundation for this campaign. And Uster Technologies is pleased to take part in the development of China's textile industry through its continuing commitment to supporting the future textile professionals with its scholarship and internship programs. ♦

## Textile Institute of Pakistan appoints Mr. Abdul Majeed as Chancellor

The Governor Sindh/Patron has appointed Mr. Abdul Majeed as Chancellor, Textile Institute of Pakistan (TIP) for another term of three years, with immediate effect.

Mr. Abdul Majeed, Chancellor Textile Institute of Pakistan assumed his office at TIP in February 2014, he is a renowned industrialist, social worker and authority in textiles in Pakistan.

Mr. Majeed is Founder, Director and Chairman of National Foods Limited and Associated Textile Consultants (Pvt.) Ltd. He is also Chairman of Precision Rubber Products Ltd and Nazaria-e-Pakistan Trust, Sindh. In addition to playing a vital role in the establishment of National Foods as a leading food company in Pakistan, he is a long standing Board member of the Textile Institute of Pakistan, National Textile University,

Faisalabad and the Nazaria-e-Pakistan Trust, Lahore. He is also the former member of the Federal Textile Board and the Engineering Development Board, Government of Pakistan.

Mr. Majeed is a graduate of F.C. College, Lahore with B.Sc. in Physics and Mathematics. After his graduation he was selected by the British Council for Higher Studies in Textile Engineering and completed a B.Sc. (Honors) in Textile Technology from Manchester University in 1959. He has traveled extensively and is a keen sports enthusiast.



Mr. Abdul Majeed, Chancellor, TIP.

He is keenly interested in innovation and is pivotal in leading the R&D team at NFL. His other interests and affiliations range from serving the Rotary District 3270 in different capacities as Secretary and Chairman from 1987 till present, as well as being active in social forums. He was a past President of the Rotary Club of Karachi North, Vice President Alumni Association of F.C. College, Lahore, member of

the Advisory Committee, School of Management and ex-board member of the Society for the promotion of Arabic. A life member of Anjuman Himayat-ul-Islam, Lahore and Arts Council, Karachi, a professional member of World Future Society, Bethesda, USA. ♦