

## Professor discusses Shakespeare's impact on the global stage

As a part of the Global Initiatives Program, Professor Alexander Huang visited Poly to speak with students and faculty about Shakespeare's role in the global community

By RACHEL HOANG  
News editor

Professor Alexander Huang of George Washington University spoke to Poly students and faculty about Shakespeare and his effect on the international community on December 12.

In addition to being a teacher, Huang is the director of the Dean's Scholars in the Shakespeare Program at GWU. His prestige in the international Shakespeare community is particularly inspiring as he did not come to the United States until he was studying for his PhD in English at Stanford University. Although English is not his first language, he quickly rose to international acclaim. He has made appearances on the BBC, won awards for his book "Chinese Shakespeare" and travels all over the world to speak about his work.

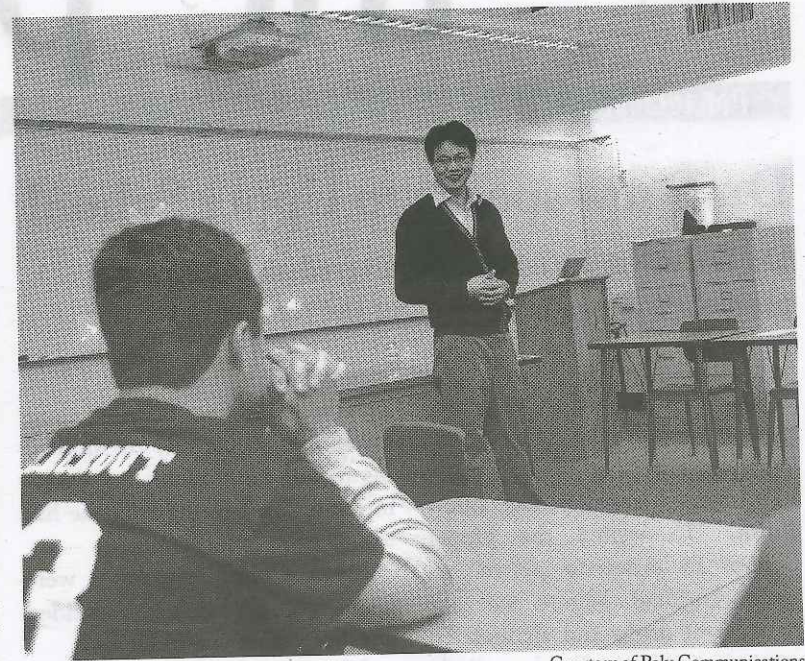
Each year, the Global Initiatives Program sponsors seven to eight internationally-oriented events to encourage students to adopt a broader world perspective. Although the events all emphasize the importance of cultural understanding, they are diverse in nature to reflect the wide range of interests of Poly students. This particular lecture focused on the impact of Shakespearean literature on the world.

During the lecture, Huang gave examples of the ways Shakespeare has been interpreted and adapted throughout the world. Huang also touched upon the uniqueness of Shakespeare's work and its universal messages. As one of the most famous and recognized authors in the world, Shakespeare and his writings are easily adaptable for other cultures to reflect their own political, social

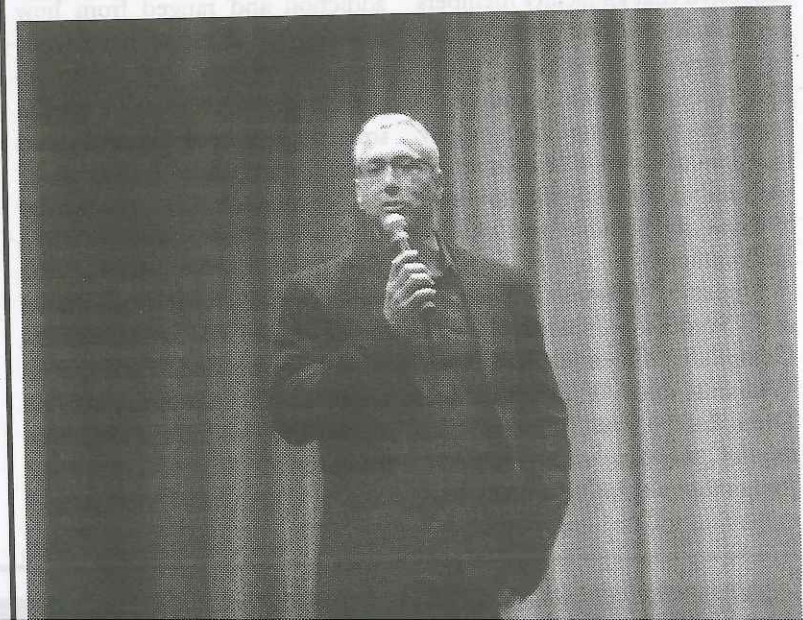
and cultural situations.

English teacher Grace Hamilton, the event coordinator, met Huang while attending a Global Hamlet Symposium in October. Hamilton teaches a Global Shakespeare class at Poly, a senior elective that also counts for Global Initiatives credit. She invited Huang to her class and the Mandarin IV class to speak further about a Chinese film adaptation of Hamlet, *The Legend of the Black Scorpion*, which students had watched in class.

Senior Audrey Xu commented, "It was an honor to be able to hear the thoughts and opinions of someone who had studied Shakespeare so extensively in so many different languages. It really brought a new light to the influence of Shakespeare all over the world."



Courtesy of Poly Communications





## Dr. Drew speaks to Upper School

Dr. Drew Pinsky recently delivered an informal presentation to students about the dangers of drugs

By JULIA WOHL  
Assistant news editor

Addiction specialist and television personality Dr. Drew Pinsky '76 visited the Upper School in order to deliver an unconventional lecture on the dangers of drugs and alcohol. To start off the lecture, Pinsky politely requested that all faculty members exit Garland Auditorium, where his presentation was taking place. Pinsky wanted to conduct a "student-only" assembly largely based on a one-on-one interaction with the students in order to create a more comfortable and candid environment.

Upper School Director of Student Activities and Community Outreach Laurianne Williams said, "We've had Dr. Drew here a few times to talk to the students about relevant things that we don't normally talk

about in assemblies. Since I have never actually heard one of these assemblies, I just rely on student input, and the students are always interested in hearing what he has to say."

After the faculty were dismissed, Pinsky fielded questions from students.

Many questions focused on addiction and ranged from how one can tell if his or her friends are suffering from addiction to the percentage of people in a typical small high school like Poly that suffer from the addiction gene.

Questions about celebrity drug abuse arose, and when a participant in the back of the audience asked what drugs caused the death of Elvis Presley, Pinsky candidly responded, "Elvis was on a ton of sh\*t," prompting a wave of shocked laughter throughout the crowd.

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Courtesy of Poly Communications

Poly's dance program hosted the MMXII Dance Concert 2012 in early December. All proceeds went to My Friend's Place, a charity organization that supports homeless youth.