News and Events

Double Degree Programme
A new double degree programme leading to the award of Bachelor of Engineering (Civil Engineering) (Law) and Bachelor of Laws will be offered in September 2004. The five-year programme aims to prepare undergraduates with a solid foundation in both civil engineering and law, and will be the first double degree at its kind in Hong Kong. This programme under the Civil Engineering (Law) programme, which is a 3-year programme with additional credits in legal studies. On completion of this degree, students can proceed to the Bachelor of Laws degree, a self-funded 3-year full-time programme in law. Students who have taken sufficient credits in Chinese law under the Civil Engineering (Law) programme will have the option to pursue a further one-year law degree at Tongji University, which will qualify its graduates to sit for the Chinese Bar Examination and obtain a legal qualification in China. For full details, please visit the website at: http://www.hku.hk/civil/undergr_law.html

Legal Information Website
The China IT & Law Centre, a joint centre involving the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems (CSIS) and the Faculty of Law, was recently awarded a grant of $13.2 Million by the Department of Innovation, Technology and Industry of the Hong Kong Government to strengthen the Centre’s capacity as a legal information website. The website aims to provide members of the public with information on areas of law in HK that bear most directly on their daily lives. The site is to enable ordinary citizens to access their legal position with some confidence before resorting to seeking legal advice.

http://www.hku.hk/civil/undergr_law.html


In Memory of Professor Y.C. Wong
It is with great sadness that we mourn the passing away of Professor Wong Yung Chow on May 13, 2004. Professor Wong was the Dean of Engineering in 1950-1953 and the Pro-Vice-Chancellor in 1963-1966. We are deeply grateful for his contributions to the University. Professor Wong will be sadly missed.

Career Talks
The Engineering Society, HKUST, in partnership with the Friends of the Earth (HK) organizes a solar cart competition every year. The 4th Solar Cart Competition was held in Science Park on 23 November 2003, and 23 racing teams competed for the 2003 solar awards.

Friends of the Earth (HK) organizes a solar cart competition every year. The 4th Solar Cart Competition was held in Science Park on 23 November 2003, and 23 racing teams competed for the 2003 solar awards.

25th Reunion for the class of 1978 in December 2003. There were talks by alumni in the morning, a friendly soccer match in the afternoon, and finally a dinner on campus. The event was a memorable and enjoyable get together.

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Silver Jubilee Celebration
The Department of Mechanical Engineering hosted the 25th Reunion for the class of 1978 on 27-28 November 2003. There were talks by alumni in the morning, a friendly soccer match in the afternoon, and finally a dinner on campus. The event was a memorable and enjoyable get together.

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Honours and Awards

Dean of Engineering
Chair of Electronic Engineering
Dr Y.G. Li
Professor T.S. Ng
Professor Norman W.M. Ko
Dr K.T. Chau
Professor T.S. Ng
Dr H.Y.K. Lau

Dean's Message

As Hong Kong moves towards a knowledge-based economy, a cornerstone of economic success is the capacity to generate new knowledge and technologies. It is one of our strategic objectives to engage in innovative, high impact research, within and across disciplines, and to attempt to meet the needs of society through applied research.

On 16 April 2004 the Faculty staged an exhibition entitled 'Advancing the Frontiers of Technology'. The exhibition showcased a wide spectrum of our research work, under four strategic research groupings: Urban Infrastructure and Environmental Systems, Information and Communication Technology, Biomedical Engineering, and Nanotechnology. Over 40 research projects were displayed, and we are pleased that the exhibition was of great interest to the industrial leaders, entrepreneurs, R&D participants and academics who visited it. In this Newsletter we will talk about two pieces of our applied research work as examples of some of our research activities.

Education is the first and foremost responsibility of the Faculty. We will be offering in 2004, in conjunction with the Faculty of Law, a new and exciting joint degree programme: B.Eng. Civil Engineering (Law). This pioneering programme will deliver a distinctive blend of cutting-edge civil engineering and legal knowledge, and has been introduced to meet a rapidly growing demand for this kind of expertise.

To provide more flexibility to students, the B. Eng. curricula in Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Electronic and Communications Engineering, Information Engineering and Electrical Engineering will be grouped under a single JUPAS code 6139 in 2004, so that students can be admitted to this Faculty and acquire more information on each of the disciplines before deciding on the curriculum of their choice. This Faculty is committed to providing a sound and solid education in engineering, and to the pursuit of academic excellence in research as our contribution to the continuing development of Hong Kong.

Applied Research

HKU - Drilling Process Monitor (DPM)

Drilling holes in the ground to obtain geophysical information and for accommodating piles, oil nails, submarine cables and pipelines is a routine but important operation in many construction projects (Photo Nos. 1 and 2). Drilling machines are presently in use, but they are not equipped with a real time monitoring system for the drilling process and operation. Therefore, the drilling process and results are recorded manually, leaving scope for error and inefficiency.

The HKU Drilling Process Monitor (DPM) is a portable, digital device that can be mounted to a drilling machine for ground investigation or geotechnical construction (Photo 2). The DPM can automatically, accurately and continuously measure and record the entire drilling progress and operation in real-time.

The progress and operation are defined by various drilling parameters including the position, movement and rotation of the drilling head and rod, and the dynamic pressure and torque that are applied to control and operate the machine. This information can be presented graphically or digitally. Figure 1 shows the typical results from DPM on the quantitative identification of cavities inside a slope (Photo No. 3). The DPM data will be of great value in current geotechnical and construction practice.

The methodology has been developed for applications in ground investigation, slope stabilization, tunnel construction, pile foundation, and drilling quality control and management. Clients, designers, construction managers and contractors will all find the DPM data invaluable in the processes of design and construction.

This project is led by Professor C.F. Lee, Dr G.Z. Yue, Professor L.G. Tham and Professor K.T. Law of Department of Civil Engineering.

E-Commerce Software Infrastructure Development Project

E-Commerce Software Infrastructure project led by Professor C.F. Lee has recently received a second ITF grant from the Innovation and Technology Commission. The award of the project is in recognition of their distinguished research accomplishments, the University has presented Outstanding Researcher Awards to Professor Victor O.K. Li and Professor T.S. Ng, and Outstanding Young Researcher Awards to Dr K.T. Cheung and Dr Y.G. Li.

Professor A.T.Y. Chwang has been awarded a Croucher Senior Research Fellowship for 2004. Professor L.P. Sun introduced the advancing front concept for the generation of high quality finite element meshes over arbitrary plane domains. The research is part of the development of a novel method for generation of high quality mesh elements from CAD-CAM models. The project has led to an international collaboration between a Hong Kong based research team, the research team of Professor L.P. Sun at the University of Leeds in the UK, and the research team of Professor A.T.Y. Chwang at the University of Hong Kong. The research is part of the development of a CAD-CAM software which will also be commercially licensed.

Professor J.H.W. Lee is one of the four key task leaders in the Area of Excellence (AoE) in Marine Environmental Research and Innovative Technology (MERIT), one of only two AoEs awarded by the UGC in January 2004.

Professor S.Y. Lau has been awarded a Croucher Senior Research Fellowship for the academic year 2004-05. Professor Lau introduced the advancing front concept for the generation of high quality finite element meshes over arbitrary plane domains. The research is part of the development of a novel method for generation of high quality mesh elements from CAD-CAM models. The project has led to an international collaboration between a Hong Kong based research team, the research team of Professor L.P. Sun at the University of Leeds in the UK, and the research team of Professor A.T.Y. Chwang at the University of Hong Kong. The research is part of the development of a CAD-CAM software which will also be commercially licensed.

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Honours and Awards

Professor A.T.Y. Cheung was elected an Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 2003. He was also elected an Honorary Fellow of the Hong Kong Academy for the Advancement of Science and Technology on 27 February 2004.

Professor C.F. Lee was elected an Academician of the Chinese Academy of Engineering in 2004.

Professor Y.K. Cheung was elected an Honorary Fellow of the Hong Kong Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology on 27 February 2004. He was also awarded the first Gold Medal of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) at the HKIE 25th Annual Dinner on 5 March 2004. The latter award was in recognition of his outstanding contributions and achievements in the engineering field.

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Professor S.H. Lo has been awarded a Croucher Senior Research Fellowship for 2004-05. Professor Lo introduced the advancing front concept for the generation of high quality finite element meshes over arbitrary planar domains. His recent research focuses on the development of advanced mesh generation algorithms for complex geometries that can be used in CAD/CAM systems. He also contributes to the dissemination of CAD/CAM technology in Hong Kong.

Professor A.T.Y. Chwang has been awarded a Senior Croucher Research Fellowship for the academic year 2004-05. Professor Chwang is Professor and Head of the Department of Mechanical Engineering. He is widely regarded internationally for his work in Computer-aided Design and Manufacturing (CAD/CAM), geometric modeling and applications, layered manufacturing and robotics. He is one of the leaders in the field of CAD/CAM knowledge, and has contributed significantly to the dissemination of CAD/CAM technology in Hong Kong.

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Applied Research

Aiming to deliver the ground model, the project will deliver three products: an XML Schema Modelling Suite, a Business Process Modelling Kit, and a standard XML schema for information exchange. The second suite will be a tool to specify processes for information exchange between enterprises. The third product is an engine to execute the processes. A prototype of the Schema Modelling Suite has been used in a project commissioned by the Information Technology Service Department for developing common schemas for information exchange between hospitals, clinics and the Health Department. For additional information on these projects, please visit: http://www.cecid.hku.hk.

E-Commerce Software Infrastructure Development Project

This project is led by Professor C.F. Lee, Dr Q. G. Yue, Professor L. G. Tham and Professor K. T. Law of Department of Civil Engineering.

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**HKU - Drilling Process Monitor (DPM)**

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Professor S.T. Tan has been awarded a Croucher Senior Research Fellowship for 2004-05. Professor Tan introduced the advancing front concept for the generation of high quality finite element meshes over arbitrary plane domains. This research has been extended to the generation of high quality 3D finite elements for the discretization of complicated geometries using the advancing front concept. In recognition of his distinguished research work, Professor Tan was awarded the first Gold Medal of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) at the HKIE 29th Annual Dinner on 5 March 2004.

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Professor W.M. Ko, Honorary Professor of Mechanical Engineering, was awarded the Distinguished Service Award of the University of Southampton, UK, in 2004. He was also elected Honorary Fellow of the Open University of Hong Kong in 2003.
News and Events

The 4th Solar Cart Competition

You might have seen a charming cart racing around the campus of Hong Kong University during the past several months. The cart is powered by solar energy, and was designed by a group of Mechanical Engineering (ME) students and fabricated in the University’s Technology Support Centre.

It was a heated race because all the cart engines were powered by solar energy. The racing teams were competing also for the design, team spirit, and solar charity awards, in the hope of being the winners of the grand prize. There were 23 racing teams from different faculties and departments, all working on their projects for months. The cart is powered by solar energy, and was designed by a group of Mechanical Engineering (ME) students and fabricated in the University’s Technology Support Centre.

A solar cart race not only makes us aware of using renewable energy, but also offers us innovative learning and hands-on experience in designing and building a car, technologically challenging, and optimizing performance," commented Mr. Tsang H.K., a visiting scholar. "The projects for the competition and the race itself have also helped us understand the importance of health and sport, and the value of a balanced lifestyle."

The 4th Solar Cart Competition was held in Victoria Park on November 23, 2003, and 23 racing teams competed for the 2003 solar awards.

Dr. Dennis Y.C. Leung
FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG

Research Exhibition

Over 40 research projects of the Faculty were presented in the exhibition. The Frontiers of Technology, held on 27 February 2004. Mr Anthony S.K. Wu, the President of the University, attended the exhibition and there were more than 20 public presentations in areas such as nanotechnology, medical engineering, drug discovery, medical imaging, data mining and computational biology. This is the second exhibition of its kind in the past two years. The presentations can be viewed at:


Department of Computer Science

The name of the Department of Computer Science is changed to the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems. The name of the Department of Computer Science will be changed to the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems.

Frontier Research on Nanomechanics

The Croucher Advanced Study Institute, organized by the Croucher Foundation, was held from 16 to 20 February 2004. Seven respected international experts from USA, Europe and China presented lectures on the leading research and unsolved problems in the field.

Legal Information Website

The China IT & Law Centre, a joint centre involving the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems (CSIS) and the Faculty of Law, was recently awarded a grant of $3.2 million by the Department of Innovation, Industry and Technology to provide free legal information services to members of the public. The website aims to provide members of the public with information on areas of law in HK that bear most directly on their daily lives. The site is due to expand ordinary citizens to access their legal position with some confidence before resorting to seeking legal advice.

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Dr. Dennis Y.C. Leung

FACULTY OF ENGINEERING
THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG
Dr Y.S. Hung

**Computer Science and Information Systems**

The name of the Department of Computer Science and Information Systems (CSIS) was changed to the Department of Computer Science with effect from July 1, 2004. The Laboratory of Environmental Hydraulics was awarded a grant of HK$1.6 million to study the interaction between shallow coastal waters and wave energy, with Dr Dennis Y.C. Leung as principal investigator. The grant is funded by the Earmarked Research Grant Council of the University of Hong Kong.


**Research Exhibition**

The Research Exhibition is an opportunity for students and staff to present their research achievements to the community. This year, the exhibition featured 43 research projects of the Faculty of Engineering. The projects covered a wide range of topics, including renewable energy, telecommunication, and medical imaging. The exhibition was opened to the public on 16 April 2004, and was attended by over 500 visitors.


**Career Talks**

The Career Talks are a series of events aimed at providing students with information and insights on career development. This year, the Career Talks included a panel discussion on the future of the engineering profession, a talk on entrepreneurship, and a workshop on resume writing.


**Department of Computer Science**

The Department of Computer Science is a leading research and teaching department in the Faculty of Engineering. The department is housed in the newly constructed X Window Building, which was officially opened on 27 February 2004. The building features state-of-the-art facilities, including a large lecture hall, a computer lab, and a research lab.


**Silver Jubilee Celebration**

The Silver Jubilee Celebration was held on 27 February 2004 in the Faculty of Medicine Building. The event featured a lecture by Professor A.K.H. Kwan, Chief Editor of the *Engineering Newsletter*, on the history and development of the Faculty of Engineering. The celebration also included a special exhibition of research achievements from the past 25 years.


**Inter-Faculty Research Gathering**

The Inter-Faculty Research Gathering was held on 27 February 2004 in the Faculty of Medicine Building. The gathering featured presentations by researchers from the Faculty of Engineering, the Faculty of Medicine, and the Faculty of Science. The presentations covered a wide range of topics, including renewable energy, telecommunication, and medical imaging.


**Graduate Mentor Scheme**

The Graduate Mentor Scheme is a program designed to provide career guidance and support to graduate students. The program is open to all graduate students in the Faculty of Engineering. This year, over 80 graduate students from the Faculty of Engineering participated in the program, and over 100 mentors were recruited from industry and academia.


**Legal Information Website**

The Legal Information Website of the Hong Kong University Engineering Alumni Association was launched on 6 February 2004. The website provides information on legal issues, as well as links to legal resources and organizations. The website aims to provide members of the public with information on areas of law that are most directly on their daily lives.


**In Memory of Professor Y.C. Wong**

Professor Y.C. Wong was the Dean of the Faculty of Engineering from 1989 to 1993. He was a distinguished scholar and a respected member of the academic community.


**Double Degree Programme**

A new double degree programme leading to the award of Bachelor of Engineering in Civil Engineering (Law) and Bachelor of Laws will be offered in September 2004. The programme aims to prepare graduates with a solid foundation in both civil engineering and law, and will be the first such degree at its kind in Hong Kong.


**Friends of the Earth (HK) Solar Cart Competition**

Friends of the Earth (HK) organized a solar cart competition every year. The 4th Solar Cart Competition was held in Victoria Park on 23 November 2003, and 23 racing teams competed for the solar awards.


**Legal Action Committee**

The Legal Action Committee of the Hong Kong University Engineering Alumni Association was launched on 26 January 2004. The committee aims to provide members of the public with information on legal issues, as well as links to legal resources and organizations.