



## Common Code Admission Sheds New Light on Broad-based Engineering Education and Training

**I**n September 2007, the Faculty of Engineering decided to use one common code (6963) to cover the twelve Bachelor of Engineering programmes for the undergraduate intake from September 2008 onwards. Under this new admission system, students enter a common first semester during which they study two elective courses offered by two different departments. Departments also organise activities such as alumni sharing and visits during the first semester so that students can develop a deeper understanding of various engineering disciplines. At the end of the first semester, students can decide on the engineering programme they want as major for their bachelor degree (with the implementation of the 4-year curriculum in 2012, students will decide on their major programme at the end of the first year). Each student is guaranteed to enter the programme of his/her choice because there is not a quota restriction on the study programmes.

Why would the Faculty decide to adopt the common code admission system? Generally speaking, students usually have limited knowledge about the various engineering disciplines when they apply to HKU Engineering. The common code admission system allows students to explore different areas of engineering in the first semester and thus enable them to make an informed choice. Moreover, engineers need a broad knowledge base to meet the demands of today's workplace. Studying elective courses from two different departments will give them an opportunity to learn about an area of engineering that is different from what he/she intends to major in.

With the implementation of the common admission scheme, an Academic Advisory Sub-Committee was formed in April 2008 with major responsibilities on planning and coordinating the induction and academic advisory programme for new students. A comprehensive induction programme for newly admitted students of the BEng programme was held on August 12 and 14, 2008 when students attended briefing sessions about the new curriculum structure. In addition, departments offered face-to-face guidance on the course selection, programme information and career prospects of different programmes. Over 400 new students attended the induction programme.



## Civil Engineering Students Participated in Re-construction of a Nursery in Sichuan



At the entrance of the school, members of student project team and Mr Peter Lee, with teachers of the nursery.



At the site of the collapsed school buildings, students collected design information from teachers of the nursery.

After the 512 (May 12) Sichuan earthquake, the Department of Civil Engineering was invited by "Operation Concern", a Hong Kong charitable organisation founded by a group of orthopaedics, to join in the re-construction

of a nursery at Chongzhou. A project team of 36 Year 3 students of the department has been working on the designs of the new nursery since September and they have visited the site for two weekends up to October. The project students also

received valuable support from a group of professional architects and graduate engineers on their scheme designs. They will present three designs to the nursery during their next trip to Chongzhou.

CIVIL ENGINEERING



Picture taken with the teachers and students of Sichuan University.

## Other Post-Sichuan Earthquake Relief Work

Dr R K L Su led a post-earthquake reconnaissance team to Sichuan from June 29 to July 3, 2008. Team members included Dr H H Tsang, Mr W H Siu (PhD student), Mr M H Cheng (2007 graduate), Miss M L Chu (2007 graduate) and three delegates from the Australian Earthquake Engineering Society of The Institution of Engineers Australia. The team investigated the building damages at various cities such as Chengdu, Dujiangyan, Mianyang and Yingxiu. The team was invited to visit the Department of Civil Engineering at Sichuan University and a series of presentations were given.

A partially-collapsed building at Dujiangyan, Sichuan.



Dr J Yang (3rd from right) and team members on the way to Yingxiu, Sichuan.



Investigating the damage to the road.

**D**r J Yang of the Department of Civil Engineering was on a reconnaissance team to investigate the devastating earthquake that occurred in Sichuan, China on May 12, 2008, the worst to strike China since the 1976 Tangshan event. Although much of the Sichuan region affected was rural, the damage has been vast and severe, with at least 70,000 people killed, whole villages flattened, and transportation and power grids snapped.

The team, sponsored by the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) and comprised of other three experienced engineers from North America, spent four days in the field collecting data and documenting observations on infrastructure damage. A report on the investigations was published by ASCE and can be accessed at <http://content.asce.org/08ChinaQuakeTeam.html>.

## Experienced Relief Engineer of IMSE Administered Rural Recoveries

INDUSTRIAL AND MANUFACTURING SYSTEMS ENGINEERING

**T**he Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering (IMSE) has been contributing its expertise to international relief operations well before the happening of the 2004 Tsunami and 2006 Kashmir earthquake. Dr Albert Ko, with over eight years of international disaster relief experience, led the emergency supply team for Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) to organise humanitarian supplies for their Sichuan relief teams during the emergency and the post emergency phases. In the recovery phase, Dr Ko led a group of professional engineers for Sowers Action to carry out reconstruction projects in rural Ding'Xi (定西) area, a quake-affected county in southern Gansu that is neglected by the media and relief organisations. Dr Ko has visited the Ding'Xi area twice in August and October. His engineering team inspected over 20 remote schools scattered in the area; some of them are as far as eight hours apart by car. At this time, six projects are progressing in parallel.



Dr Ko giving a seminar to young engineers at the HKIE on emergency engineering.

Dr Ko and his engineering teammate visiting schools at 3000 metres above sea level.



Dr Ko visiting a school in Ding'Xi with his engineering team. Picture taken with the principal of the renovated school during the recent visit in October 2008.

### Training future relief engineers

Members of IMSE department are actively involved in training future emergency engineers to cope with intensifying threats posed by global climate change and political instabilities. The first foundation emergency engineering course in Hong Kong was conducted by IMSE in January 2008, in cooperation with MSF and the young members committee of the HKIE. Some of the engineers attending the course later became part of the relief force during the 512 earthquake. Owing to overwhelming demand, an advanced course was delivered in November covering topics from humanitarian logistics and refugee camp planning to field security and environmental health.

IMSE is also being invited by the Hong Kong Institute of Planners to customise a seminar on camp planning and management to strengthen their members' ability to cope when disasters strike. The department is also continuously providing advice to humanitarian organisations on developing more efficient relief systems.



## “Opportunities and Strategies of the Development of IT & Electronics Industry in Hong Kong”

*Dr Samson Tam, Legislative Councilor*

Dr Samson Tam, the Legislative Councilor of the information technology functional constituency, presented a seminar on “Opportunities & Strategies of the Development of IT & Electronics Industry in Hong Kong ~ Let IT Lead” on October 28, 2008. The event was organised by the Faculty of Engineering with the Electronics Division of Hong Kong Institution of Engineers and Internet Professional Association as the supporting organisations.

In the seminar, hot issues such as how IT and electronics industries can remedy the damage done by the global financial crisis, how to improve our global competitiveness through technology development and long-term planning, and development of technology in HK were addressed. Dr Tam also shared his secret of success with the audience. His key to success was LUCK, which stands for Location, Understanding, Connection and Knowledge. At the end of the seminar, Dr Tam stated that students who are studying IT and electronics should not be too worried about the financial crisis as these industries are generating real productivity and there are still many opportunities in Hong Kong and China.

*The seminar was interactive with a very responsive audience.*



*Prof W C Chew (left), Dean of Engineering, presented a souvenir to Dr Samson Tam (right).*



*Academia and the industries networked together after the seminar.*



## Information Day 2008

The University of Hong Kong (HKU) held its Information Day for undergraduate admissions on Saturday, October 18, from 10:00 am - 6:00 pm. Members of the public, particularly teachers and students of secondary schools and parents, came to HKU to learn about the various programmes being offered and to visit the facilities and hostels of the university. There were a great variety of interesting talks, exhibitions and demonstrations of various academic disciplines throughout the day.

The Faculty of Engineering and its departments put in a lot of effort in setting up informative booths and demonstrations so that students and general public can gain a basic understanding of various engineering disciplines. The admission talks of the faculty and departments were crowded by prospective students, their parents and secondary schools' career masters. Some international students also showed interest in applying to the engineering programme in 2009-10. Over 1,100 visitors attended the 16 sessions of engineering admission talks.

Besides, visitors were able to learn about the most updated technology and research achievements from the hands on activities and demonstrations organised by various departments. Many engineering students, especially first year students, acted as our ambassadors through the role of student helpers on the Information Day. Visitors were impressed with the wide range of activities, as well as the hospitable and helpful attitudes of our student helpers.



## Engineering Distinguished Lectures

Professor Sailing He, Centre for Optical and Electromagnetic Research, Zhejiang University, China, visited HKU Engineering on October 8, 2008. After a series of meetings with members of Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Prof He also delivered a lecture entitled "Improving the Photonic Integration Density and Functionalities with Nanostructures & Nanoparticles". HKU Engineering is exploring the possibility of establishing more exchange opportunities with Zhejiang University in the future.

*Prof W C Chew (left) presented a souvenir to Prof Sailing He (right) at the end of lecture.*



Prof Britton Chance, University Professor Emeritus of Biophysics, University of Pennsylvania, USA, delivered a lecture entitled "Technological Integration of Engineering and Medical Science" on November 5, 2008 in HKU campus. Now over 90 years of age, Prof Chance is internationally well known and highly respected for his pioneer work in the development of sensitive optical techniques for studying biological reactions with computer simulations. Prof Chance won an Olympic gold in 5.5m class sailing with his US yachting team in 1952 and carries the spirit to this day impressing an audience of about 100 people with his highly energetic and charismatic persona.



*From left: Prof K W Chow, Prof Albert Chau, Prof Ed X Wu, Dr Barbara Chan, Prof Britton Chance, Prof W C Chew, Prof Paul Y S Cheung, Dr. Shoko Nioka, and Dr Kenneth Wong.*





## The Completion and Handover Ceremony of 'Ge Wu Lou'

'Ge Wu Lou', the second 'Ming De Projects' of the Department of Civil Engineering, The University of Hong Kong, was completed and handed over to the Rong Shui Vocational Training School at the end of August 2008. In the new academic year, 600 students from nearby ethnic minority groups will begin to move into the new dormitory.

'Ge Wu Lou' was made possible by the generous donation of Dr Nicolas Yeung (1971 graduate) and his wife. The building was designed by year 3 students of Civil Engineering under the guidance of professionals. The students spent over four months to design the building in order to meet the Mainland's requirements. Since the project commenced in mid 2007, our students have visited the site four times to supervise the progress, to inspect the quality of work and to work out problems with the construction workers, thus

making this venture one of the best quality construction projects in the area. Over 40 of our students were involved in the project from its design to construction stage.

On August 29, 2008, the Rong Shui Vocational Training School organised a completion and handover ceremony for 'Ge Wu Lou'. Professor A K H Kwan, Head of the Civil Engineering Department, led a team of 18 delegates to attend the event. Dr and Mrs Nicolas Yeung were also present at the ceremony to share the students' joy. Before the ceremony, students of our Department performed the final site inspection and some students even spent a night in the dormitory to enjoy the fruits of their labour. Prof C F Lee, former Pro-Vice-Chancellor, who has been taking active interest in the 'Ming De Projects' over the years, also joined the ceremony.



*Iris Tse, a representative of the student project team, delivered a speech at the ceremony.*



*Group photograph of the delegates from the Department of Civil Engineering.*

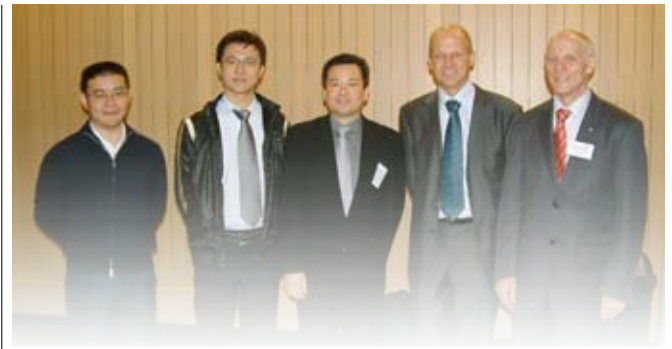


*The new student dormitory, Ge Wu Lou, at completion.*

The Department of Civil Engineering of The University of Hong Kong and the Department of Civil Engineering of The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) jointly organised the 9th International Symposium on Environmental Geotechnogy and Global Sustainable Development held in Hong Kong from June 1 to 4, 2008. The chair of the organising committee was Dr A T Yeung and the co-chair was Prof Irene M C Lo of HKUST. Dr A T Yeung also delivered the feature lecture “Electrokinetics for soil remediation” at the symposium. More than 110 participants from 26 economies attended the symposium.



Dr A T Yeung at the opening ceremony of the symposium.



From left: Dr J Chen, Dr J H Zhu, Dr B Young, Prof K J Rasmussen and Prof G J Hancock.

Dr B Young served as a member of the International Scientific Committee of the 5th International Conference on Thin-walled Structures held in Brisbane, Australia, June 18 to 20, 2008. He chaired a technical session and presented a paper at the conference. Furthermore, Dr B Young also served as a member of the International Scientific Committee of the 5th International Conference on Coupled Instabilities in Metal Structures, Sydney, Australia, June 23-25, 2008. He also chaired a technical session and presented a paper at the conference.

## Inter-university Research Forum on ‘Project Management’

A four-university research forum on “Project Management” was initiated during a visit to the National University of Singapore (NUS) by Prof Mohan Kumaraswamy under the ‘Engineering Overseas Visitor Programme Fellowship’ programme. The forum was hosted by the ‘Centre for Project Management & Construction Law’ of National University of Singapore (NUS) on August 26, 2008. The participating universities were Loughborough University, Universiti Teknologi Malaysia, NUS, and The University of Hong Kong (represented by Prof Mohan Kumaraswamy). Active exchanges on ongoing research and emerging focal areas led to the formation of the ProMaRC (Project Management Research Collaboration) which will soon have its own web site for exchange and dissemination.



Dr R K L Su and Dr H H Tsang were invited to deliver seminars entitled “Lessons Learnt from the Sichuan Earthquake” at the headquarters of the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers and the Hong Kong Housing Authority on June 3 and July 4, 2008 respectively.

Dr F T K Au attended the international conference “Language Issues in English-medium Universities: A Global Concern 2008” organised by The University of Hong Kong on campus from June 18 to 20, 2008 and presented a paper entitled “A Tale of Two Classes: Language Issues in Teaching Civil Engineering”. The paper reported a study of the language issues in teaching the course “Theory and Design of Structures I” at the university and the Zhuhai campus of Sun Yat-Sen University in the year 2006-07.

Dr S T Smith served as a member of the International Scientific Committee of the Fourth International Conference on FRP

Composites in Civil Engineering, CICE 2008, which was held in Zurich, Switzerland, July 22-24, 2008. He attended this conference and chaired two technical sessions and delivered a technical paper.

Prof Mohan Kumaraswamy was appointed as one of two joint coordinators of a new Task Group (TG72) on Public Private Partnership (PPP) by the CIB (Conseil International du Bâtiment, or the ‘International Council for Research and Innovation in Building and Construction’). The task group will facilitate international exchange and synthesis of research on the multi-disciplinary issues that underpin PPP.

Dr A T Yeung made a presentation on “Use of a Mobile Biometric Authentication and Global Positioning System in LPM Projects” during a liaison meeting of LPM contractors, geotechnical engineering office, Civil Engineering and Development Office, Hong Kong SAR Government on July 25, 2008.



## 'BUILDING RIVANS' Workshop



This workshop, held on May 31, 2008, aimed at 'Boosting Value by Building RIVANS'. In short, the RIVANS (Relationally Integrated Value Networks) research project aims to develop a holistic framework for 'relational' integration of hitherto mutually suspicious project participants in disjointed supply chains, into cross-linked mutually beneficial 'value networks'. Jointly identifying and then focusing on 'network values' (common value objectives) is expected to empower the optimal integration of project teams, and also to obtain a synergy through relationally integrated processes. This goes well beyond the mere 'structural integration' in procurement modalities such as DB (Design-Build). It also goes well beyond

the basic relationship building expectations from 'partnering'. A total of 40 participants from the Hong Kong construction industry and academia, together with Prof Derek Walker from RMIT, Australia, spent an interesting and invigorating Saturday morning in building RIVANS up to new levels. For a summary, visit [http://www.hku.hk/cicid/3\\_events/68/68\\_RIVANS\\_Workshop\\_II\\_Report.pdf](http://www.hku.hk/cicid/3_events/68/68_RIVANS_Workshop_II_Report.pdf).



Participants at the RIVANS workshop

**Prof Francis Chin** gave a plenary talk entitled "Online Frequency/Code Assignment Problem in Cellular Network Communication" at the Annual Conference of Theoretical Computer Science (TCS 2008) held in Xi'an, China from September 19 to 21, 2008. More details at <http://tcs2008.snnu.edu.cn/news/shownews.php?id=33>.

The 8th International Conference on Quality Software (QSIC 2008) was held in Oxford, UK from August 12 to 13, 2008. **Prof T H Tse** was the Steering Committee Chair.

**Prof Francis Chin** gave a keynote speech entitled "A Clustering-Based Approach for Finding Motif Pairs from Protein Interaction

Data" on May 28, 2008 at the International Conference on BioMedical Engineering and Informatics (BMEI 2008) held in Sanya, Hainan, China.

The 1st annual meeting of Asian Association for Algorithms and Computation (AAAC '08) was held from April 26 to 27, 2008 in the Department of Computer Science. Over 100 participants from various universities in Asia attended this meeting. AAAC was founded in 2007 with an aim to encourage collaboration of Asian people in all areas of theoretical computer science.

**Prof Francis Chin** was the keynote speaker of the 25th Workshop on Combinatorial Mathematics and Computation Theory held in Hsinchu, Taiwan from April 25 to 26, 2008.

**Prof V Li, Dr N Wong** and **Dr M H Pong** participated as exhibitors in the HK Electronics Fair (Autumn Edition) held from October 13 to 16, 2008. More details about the exhibition at [http://hkelectronicfairae.hktdc.com/fair\\_dtl/detail.htm](http://hkelectronicfairae.hktdc.com/fair_dtl/detail.htm).

**Prof Alfonso H W Ngan** organised an international conference "Dislocations 2008" held at the Gold Coast Hotel in Hong Kong from October 13 to 17, 2008. This conference is funded by the Croucher Foundation and the National Science Foundation, USA.

**Prof Alfonso H W Ngan** was invited as a speaker at the MMM-2008: Multiscale Materials Modeling 4th International Conference, held in Tallahassee, Florida, USA, from October 27 to 31, 2008. He gave a talk on "A statistical mechanics framework for elastostatics".

The Department of Mechanical Engineering will organise the 1st International Conference on Applied Energy (ICAE'09) during the period of January 5 to 7, 2009. **Professor Dennis Y C Leung** is the Chairman of the Organising Committee. The conference will be co-organised with Malardalen University (Sweden), Royal Institute of Technology (Sweden), HKUST, HKPolyU, CityUHK, HKPC, and Energy Institute (HK Branch). The conference will provide a unique platform for scientists, engineers and industrialists all over the world to discuss the advances of science and technology in applied energy and its implications to our environment. More details about the conference at [www.hku.hk/icae09](http://www.hku.hk/icae09).

**Professor A K Soh** was a visiting professor at the Department of Mechanical Engineering at National University of Singapore from July 1 to October 31, 2008. During this period, he conducted collaborative research and taught a course entitled "Actuators and Sensors for Automotive Engineering".



## 95th Anniversary Dinner

The 95th anniversary dinner was held at Loke Yew Hall on October 12, 2008 to celebrate the 95th anniversary of Engineering Society, HKUSU. Over 30 alumni and 120 students shared a warm and joyful evening. The guests of honour included Ir C Y Fong, title sponsor of the dinner, Ir Edmund K H Leung, OBE, JP, and Prof W C Chew, Dean of Engineering. Other honourable guests include our alumni Dr Francis K K Lung, President of H.K.U. Engineering Alumni Association, Ir Crystal W C Ho, Chairperson of Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, Young Members Committee (HKIE-YMC), Ir Johnny C H Chan, Chairman of Young Engineers in Society Committee (YES), Association of Engineering Professionals in Society (AES), and Ir Lee Ping Kuen, Senior Vice-Chairman of AES.



Eng Soc thanks the Dean



Performance

Group tables at Loke Yew Hall



Group photo with guests

## Profiles of Engineering Alumni

HKU Engineering is proud of its significant contributions to Hong Kong and the engineering community internationally by training top-rated engineers. We share the joy of our graduates as they find their own paths and excel in what they do.

### Tony Shum

Year of graduation  
1977

#### Curriculum

BSc (Eng)  
Department of Civil Engineering

#### Current occupation

Regional CEO, Asia of AECOM



#### Personal tips on career success

*"One should have Long-term vision, Advanced planning, Enthusiasm, Perseverance, Humility, Discipline and Integrity. Always strive for Excellence, prepare to take up new and increased Responsibility and be willing to Sacrifice for the sake of goodness. Figure out the above properly, you will find LEADERSHIP – my final tip on your career success!"*

#### Interest / hobbies

What is better than a healthy and relaxing lifestyle? Used to be interested in soccer and swimming, I am now more keen on karaoke, food and wine tasting and travelling around.

#### Influence of civil engineering study

Professionalism is undoubtedly an important attribute that I gained through the 3-year university life in HKU Civil Engineering Department. The study programmes and teachings by our professors and lecturers molded and inspired the way I think and analyse, which ultimately has developed me to the person I am today. Schoolmates and graduates I met in the university have benefited my networking at work and life. Many of them become my best friends and business partners.



### Bonnie Wong

Year of graduation  
1999

#### Curriculum

BEng (IMSE)  
Department of Industrial and  
Manufacturing Systems Engineering

#### Current occupation

Planning Engineer  
Cathay Pacific Airways, Hong Kong

#### Interest/hobbies

Travelling, swimming, reading

#### Personal tips on career success

*"HKU Engineering programme has provided me with a broad spectrum in both sophisticated engineering principles, as well as up-to-date business management concept. In addition, joining extra-curricular activities in HKU enhanced my soft skills, such as interpersonal and problem solving skills, though intangible, they are definitely valuable assets for my career development."*





### **Simon H Y Chan**

**Year of graduation**  
1989

#### **Curriculum**

BSc (Computer Studies)  
Department of Computer Science

#### **Current occupation**

Advisory IT Architect  
IBM China/Hong Kong Limited

#### **Interest/hobbies**

Photography, reading, travelling

#### **Personal tips on career success**

*"Learning should not stop at graduation and should be a lifelong commitment. HKU education provides a very good foundation on technical as well as critical thinking skills. Being flexible and innovative is another key factor especially given the difficult economic conditions facing us today."*



### **Lam Hin Chung, Alpha**

**Year of graduation**  
2008

#### **Curriculum**

BEng (Computer Engineering)  
Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering

#### **Current occupation**

Programmer  
Google, Seattle, USA

Alpha Lam is a 2008 computer engineering graduate. He received an advance offer from Google in Seattle, USA while he was working as a summer intern during his second year of study. In October 2008, Alpha officially started his first job in Google as a programmer.

While working as an intern in Google, Alpha gained wide exposure and deep insight into this top international information technology company. After a few months of hard work on a computer vision project, Alpha demonstrated his talents and capability and successfully secured an attractive offer from Google well before his graduation. This success story illustrates the importance of industrial training and summer internship, which are conducive to students' competitiveness in their future career development.



# Olympic Athlete Windsurfing Full Steam Ahead

**Vicky Chan Wai Kei**

BEng 2005

Department of Civil Engineering



*Beijing Olympics*



*Graduating at HKU*

## My windsurfing journey...

I started taking windsurfing lessons when I was 14, encouraged by my mother who also windsurfs for pleasure. Then I was quickly promoted to the development squad, and within one year I was selected for the Hong Kong team. After I graduated from the University of Hong Kong in 2005, I became a full-time athlete. In the past 13 years, I have been representing Hong Kong in many international competitions. I got bronze medal at the Youth World Championships at the age of 17, gold medal at the World University Sailing Championships in Turkey, silver medal at the Doha Asian Games and Bali Beach Games.

## The past, the present, and the future...

After I graduated in 2005, I decided to become a full-time athlete. I did not struggle much with the decision, although most people thought that it was a hard decision. I love windsurfing, I like competitions, even though I have to go through the tough training. The most important thing is: I have the opportunity to represent Hong Kong, to perform at my best, and to make my dream come true! As an athlete, I am aware of the physical boundaries and wouldn't know for how many years I can compete. Five years? Ten years? The only thing that matters is that I do my best every day.

## Beijing Olympics 2008...

When I knew I am going to participate in the Olympics, I thought: "My dream comes true, finally!" It is a great honour to represent Hong Kong at the Olympic Games especially that the event was to be held in my home country China! It was a new challenge for me - competing with the best sailors from all over the world. I put in a lot of time and effort in training; I did my best in every race. At the end I finished 9th in the Olympics and have no regrets. It is the beginning of a long journey - most of the Olympic medalists had competed in two or three Olympics before they proudly stood on the podium. With this valuable experience, I am confident that I can do better at the London Olympics in 2012.

## My education and training...

I took 5 years to complete my bachelor degree in civil engineering. It was very hard for me to do both study and windsurfing training at the same time. Normally the windsurfing training took up five and a half days during the week, involving everything from running and cycling, to rowing and weight training to build up all-round fitness, and spending most of the time windsurfing on the water no matter what the weather was like. Then there were classes to attend and assignments to complete. Although studying and windsurfing were my life during that five years, I learned a great deal. Not only the knowledge in engineering but also good time management skills!

## My leisure activities...

I like reading and cooking during my leisure time in Hong Kong. Every time I can afford a long vacation, I like to go windsurfing and surfing. I went to Bali for surfing after the Asian Games - it was really fun! After the Beijing Olympics, I went to Taiwan for windsurfing again! Windsurfing, surfing, and then windsurfing all the way!!





# One Family Cultivates Two Generations of Mechanical Engineering Graduates

**Fong Chun Yau** MSc, CEng, RPE,  
FHKIE, FMIMechE, FCIWEM  
BEng 1978  
Department of Mechanical Engineering



*Do I look exhausted at the finish line after 4 hours of the 42km run at the 2008 Standard Chartered Marathon?*

## **My career....**

After my graduation in 1978 from HKU, I joined ATAL Engineering Ltd as an engineer and I later acquired my professional qualification (Chartered Engineer) in 1983. I am now the director overseeing the environmental engineering operations in Hong Kong, Macau and China with core business in design, build, operation of sewage / water / waste treatment plants. I am proud of being the project-in-charge in recent years for the construction of the largest sewage treatment plant in Stonecutters Island under the Government's Harbour Areas Treatment Scheme (HATS) and the state-of-the-art water treatment plant at Ngau Tam Mei, Yuen Long.

## **My interest/hobbies....**

Since my school days I have been enjoying my hobbies: soccer and long distance running. I was the captain of the faculty football team in the university, and am now leading the HKIE-MMNC Division football team, playing regular games with various universities and institutions. I am now also a member of the HKU Marathon team.

## **My education.....**

I cherish the memory of the time I spent in the Peel Laboratory Drawing Office, Ho Tung Workshop, Duncan Sloss Building and Knowles Building. Back in the old days, I was using Fortran computer language, slide ruler for calculation, T-ruler for hand drawing and cable (telex) for long distance communication. The knowledge and skills I acquired from HKU became a solid foundation upon which I developed a logical mindset, passionate interest in mechanics technology, strong leadership and communication skills.

I treasure HKU. It is a treasure because there are things I can get there which I cannot get elsewhere; because it is not only my alma mater but also my children's university. Same university, same faculty, same Mechanical Engineering Department! Camy, my daughter, is a HKU mechanical engineering graduate in 2006 and is currently working in a utilities company. Kelvin, my son, is currently a year 2 undergraduate student of HKU Mechanical Engineering Department. I have been nurturing my children hoping that they would become mechanical engineers when they grow up – to get things fixed in no time at any time!

## **My pleasure.....**

This year happens to be the 30th anniversary of my graduation from the university. Our class had a reunion gathering on November 15, 2008. We started with a campus tour in HKU followed by a dinner with our former teachers including Prof S T Tan, Mr W S Sze, Prof B J Duggan, just to name a few. I was so excited about seeing my former classmates and teachers, and shared with them the joy and wisdom in the good old days.

*The family witnessed the great success of Beijing Olympics in August 2008.*



## Staff Awards

**Prof J H W Lee** and **Dr Wenping Wang** (Department of Computer Science) have been awarded a three-year \$29.8 million inter-disciplinary project by the Hong Kong Jockey Club Charities Trust to develop WATERMAN – a water quality forecast and management system for Hong Kong.

**Dr S T Smith** received the CICE 2008 Best Paper Award in the category of “FRP Strengthening of Existing Structures” at The Fourth International Conference on FRP Composites in Civil Engineering, CICE 2008, July 22 to 24, 2008, Zurich, Switzerland for the paper entitled “Field testing of RC slabs with openings strengthened using CFRP” (by H M Seliem, E A Sumner, R Seracino and S T Smith).

**Dr S T Smith** received The President’s Award for Excellent Services to the International Institute for FRP in Construction (IIFC). The award was presented at the final session of The Fourth International Conference on FRP Composites in Civil Engineering, CICE 2008, July 22 to 24, 2008, Zurich, Switzerland.

**Dr H H Tsang** was awarded the Hsai-Yang Fang Research Award by the International Society of Environmental Geotechnolgy (ISEG), for the paper entitled “Utilisation of Scrap Tires for Earthquake Hazard Mitigation”, co-authored with Prof S H Lo,



*Dr T S T Ng (left) received The Chartered Institute of Building (CIOB) Prize for the Best Project Management Paper at the BuHu 8th International Postgraduate Research Conference 2008. The paper was entitled “Optimising Construction Time and Cost in Construction Material Logistics” co-authored by Ms Fang Yuan.*



*Dr S T Smith (right) accepting The President’s Award for Excellent Services to IIFC from IIFC President Professor K W Neale.*

Miss Fiona H Y Fong (2006 graduate) and Miss X Xu (MPhil student). ISEG is headquartered at the Global Institute for Energy and Environmental Systems of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, USA.

**Prof Mohan Kumaraswamy** was awarded the Emerald Literati Network 2008 Award for Excellence as ‘Outstanding Reviewer’ for the ‘Journal of Engineering, Construction & Architectural Management’. The award recognises the “very impressive and significant contribution” he has made.

## Student Awards

**Ms Stella Chiu**, a graduate of the Department of Civil Engineering, received the Young Engineer Achievement Award at Engineers Canada Awards 2008 in Vancouver, British Columbia. Stella moved to Canada after completing a BEng degree in HKU eight years ago and in such a short period earned recognition for both her professional engineering abilities and her dedication to her profession and to the community.



*Stella Chiu – Canadian awards.*



*Giving a speech on stage at the ceremony.*

### HKU Civil Engineering Graduate Won Young Engineer of the Year Award 2008 – Certificate of Merit in Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE)

**Ir Johnson K C Lee** graduated from HKU in civil engineering in 2001 and subsequently obtained his second degree in law from the University of London through an external programme in 2006. He now works as an engineer in the Water Supplies Department (WSD), responsible for ensuring the safety of dams and impounding and service reservoirs.

Since 2002, Johnson has been serving the HKIE and was elected as the Chairman of the Young Members Committee for session 2006-2007, overseeing the interest of 8000 young engineers (age under 35). He has led young engineers to organise and participate in various local and international events, including the World Engineers’ Convention 2004. As an engineer, Johnson has also helped to inspect and to improve the structural conditions of the schools in region of poverty in China, including those in the recent Sichuan earthquake disaster area.

In recognition of his contribution and achievement to the engineering profession, to the HK community and to the HKIE, Johnson was awarded the captioned Certificate of Merit.



*Ir Dr W K Lo (left), President of HKIE, presenting the Certificate of Merit to Ir Johnson K C Lee at the HKIE Annual Dinner.*

**Mr Leung Ho Kwun Michael** (Year 2 BEng student, 2007-08) was awarded the Providence Foundation Outward Bound Training Awards 2007-08.

**Mr Shiu Kwan Tai** and **Mr Wong Hon Wai** (2008 graduates) were awarded the Hui Yin Hung Scholarship 2007-08.



## Staff Awards

**Dr G Pang** and his student **Ms Ya-li Hou** got the Best Paper Award in Logistics in the IEEE International Conference on Automation and Logistics.



*Dr G Pang  
Ms Ya-li Hou  
(PhD student)*

A Microsoft Research Asia (MSRA) Grant on Mobile Computing in Education was awarded to a project initiated in the Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering.

**Dr V Tam (Principal Investigator)**  
**Dr C H Leung**  
**Dr E Lam**

## Student Awards

Two students received the award from Chou Exhibition in Engineering 2006-07.



*Mr Fung Dat Shun  
Dixon (EComE-3)  
Mr Lau Ka Yue  
(EE-3)*

**Mr Mou Wai Ki (EE-2):**  
Yook Tong Electric Co Ltd  
Electrical Energy Scholarship 2007-08

**Mr Hui Yan Ting (CE-2):**  
Fung Ping Shan Donor Scholarship 2007-08

**Mr Lau Ka Yue (EE-3):**  
Meinhardt Consulting Engineers Electrical  
Energy Scholarship 2007-08

**Mr Fung Dat Shun Dixon (EComE-3):**  
Kai Chong Tong Scholarships 2007-08

Electrical engineering student **Mr Wong Chun Yiu** received the JRP Scholarship 2007-08.



Our PhD student **Mr Zhao Shaohua** received the third place award from IEEE Signal Processing Postgraduate Forum 2008 (IEEE Hong Kong Chapter of Signal Processing).



## Student Awards

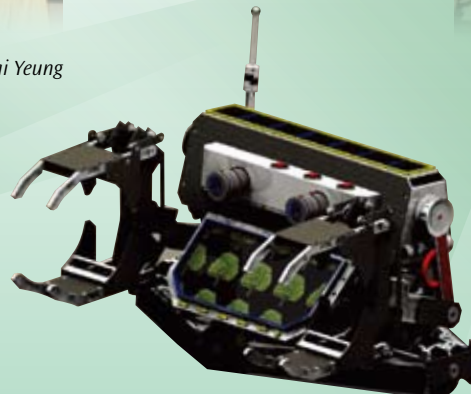
Level 3 student **Cheung Wai Yeung** and level 2 student **Ng Wang Fei** of Department of Mechanical Engineering received champion prize and 1st runner-up prize respectively in a public design competition called "SolidWorks 3D Design Contest". The event was organised between June and September 2008 by Intelligent CAD/CAM Technology Ltd and SolidWorks Corporation and sponsored by HP and A&P Instruments. The theme of the challenge is to encourage students to transform daily living experiences into creative design ideas. Cheung's winning design concept is a musical tooth brush called "Rhythm Toothbrush" while Ng's innovative design idea is an environmental friendly robot called "Intelligent Robot".



*Cheung Wai Yeung*



*Ng Wang Fei*



**Mr Shek Fung Man**, a recent graduate working in HAECO, won the 1st runner-up award at the 2008 Meyer Poon Memorial Award of the Hong Kong Institute of Acoustics. There were four short-listed candidates for the three awards.

## Staff Awards

**Prof David Cheung** has been appointed by Mr Michael Suen, the Secretary for Education, as a member of the working group on development of textbooks and e-learning resources. Comprising 16 members in different fields, the working group will make recommendations to the Secretary for Education on future development of e-learning resources and textbooks. More information about the working group is available at <http://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/200810/16/P200810160222.htm>.

**Prof David Cheung** has been appointed as a member of the Digital 21 Strategy Advisory Committee (D21SAC) for two years from October 1, 2008. Chaired by the Secretary for Commerce, Industry and Technology, the D21SAC is the highest level government advisory body on information technology matters. More information about the D21SAC is available at <http://www.ogcio.gov.hk/eng/about/ed21ster.htm>.

**Mr Zhenyu Zhang, Mr Bo Jiang, Dr W K Chan and Prof T H Tse** received a best paper award for their paper entitled "Debugging through evaluation sequences: a controlled experimental study" at the 32nd Annual IEEE International Computer Software and Applications Conference (COMPSAC 2008) held in Turku, Finland from July 28 to August 1, 2008.

**Dr R E Overill** of King's College London (KCL) and **Dr K P Chow** of the Centre for Information Security and Cryptography of the Department of Computer Science received a Partnership Grant Award from ICUK Development Fund in June 2008 for their project of development of power laws and Bayesian belief networks for a digital forensics software system. The purpose of this partnership project is to bring together the expertise of the KCL security group on power law analysis and the HKU security group on Bayesian belief networks.

**Dr Beta C L Yip** and **Miss Wong Ka Yan** have been elected Fellows of Hong Kong Meteorological Society for their contributions to meteorological computing research.

**Mr Ieong Sze Chung Ricci, Miss Jiang Lin, Mr Kwan Yuk Kwan, Miss Lai Ka Ying, Mr Law Yuet Wing, Dr C F Chong, Dr K P Chow, Dr Lucas Hui and Dr S M Yiu** were selected for a Best Paper Award by the 3rd International Workshop on Systematic Approaches to Digital Forensic Engineering (SADFE 2008) for their paper entitled "Protecting Digital Legal Professional Privilege (LPP) Data".

## Student Awards

The 2nd ACM/ICPC Annual Invitational Competition of the South-Central Region was held in Changsha, China in April 2008. This is a regional competition for the ACM International Collegiate Programming Contest. The HKU team "akk", sponsored and coached by the Department of Computer Science, was selected for a bronze award. The team consisted of **Ms Choi Sin Man, Mr Lam Hin Chung and Mr Lui Ka Cheong**.

**Mr Cheung Tang Lung**, BEng(CompSc) I student, was awarded an Eliot Hall Memorial Scholarship for 2007-08.

HKU programming teams, coached by **Dr Joe Chong**, won the champion and 2nd runner-up in the ACM Collegiate Programming Contest (Hong Kong) held at City University on July 5, 2008.



The champion team "far", composed of **Bryan Hui (CE1), Eddie Ng (ActurSci2) and Yip Lik Yau (ActurSci1)**, solved 4 problems out of 6 in 457 minutes. The 2nd runner-up team "hihi", composed of **Chan Sze Hang (CS2), Lai Yiu Ming (CE2) and Wong Lai Yin (BioInfo2)**, solved 3 problems in 477 minutes.

**Miss Lai Ka Ying** and **Mr Mei Lijun**, PhD students, were awarded the Hong Kong and China Gas Company Limited Scholarships. **Mr Mei Lijun** was also awarded a Hung Hing Ying Scholarship.

**Mr Lu Hao**, BEng(CompSc) student, was selected for an Azeus Systems Scholarship.

**Mr Tay Jeremy Kheng Siang**, BEng(CompSc) student, won the championship of the Final Year Project Competition 2007-08 organised by the Department of Computer Science under the supervision of Prof Francis Lau. **Mr Lai King Cheuk** and **Miss Ying Chun Ching** were the first runner-up under the supervision of **Dr Kenneth Wong**, and **Mr Chan Wing Ip** was the second runner-up under the supervision of **Dr Vincent Lau**.

**Mr Ge Shen** and **Mr Li Hongxing**, PhD students, were awarded University Postgraduate Fellowships by the Policy Board of Postgraduate Education for 2008-09.

**Mr Li Chi Chung**, BEng(CompSc) II student, was awarded a Hong Kong Computer Society Scholarship for 2007-08.

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