

# Faculty of Engineering Newsletter

June 2008

THE UNIVERSITY OF HONG KONG



## DEAN'S MESSAGE

**A**fter close to one year as the Dean at HKU Engineering, I am pleased to have worked with so many caring alumni and colleagues. Many colleagues, Associate Deans, Department Heads, Programme Directors and Faculty Board Chair, share my vision of wanting to move HKU Engineering forward. In an increasingly competitive and globalised economy, we have to orient ourselves to meet the need of new paradigms in engineering. There are new challenges ahead of us.



We want our graduates to be among the best in the world. In other words, they can address the most challenging problems facing engineers and technologists worldwide. These graduates can work easily at an international setting, and should be hotly sought after by multinational corporations. To encourage this international mindset, we ensure that our students can communicate in a multi-lingual and multi-cultural environment. Our international exchange programmes encourage our students to study overseas, and we plan to have more scholarships to encourage more students to participate in these programmes.

We want to attract the best professorial staff to join our faculty in order to participate in world class research and teaching activities. Many of our professorial staff are internationally engaged, participating in international journals, conferences, and organisations as well as with international and mainland universities. Our staff cannot remain insular in our endeavours for world-class research achievements. Technology development is the result of the meeting of minds, and it is important that our staff reach out as widely as possible. Large economies have large industrial bases that often incubate and stimulate interesting technology ideas and encounter challenging problems. Hence, we would like to encourage as many of our staff to engage internationally to bring home good practices and ideas from around the world.

Technology is still the primary generator of wealth in a modern society. Some of the wealthiest nations in the world have a large sector of their economies based on technology. We hope that Engineering can help stimulate the growth of more technology-based jobs in Hong Kong and the surrounding region, which in turn bring wealth to the region. By training and engaging a pool of talents in Hong Kong, we stand to attract multinational corporations and technology giants to establish their R&D operations in Hong Kong and the surrounding region.

HKU Engineering remains to be the premier institution that attracts the best and the brightest in Hong Kong to study here. We hope to receive continued alumni support to maintain our excellence.

Sincerely,

Weng Cho CHEW  
Dean of Engineering

## Distinguished Lecture Series

The Engineering Faculty has successfully held three distinguished lectures in March and April, 2008. Two William Mong Distinguished Lectures were held on March 27 and April 7 respectively, where Professor Alan Oppenheim and Professor Mark Randolph delivered the lectures “Sampling



The audience raising questions for Prof. Mark Randolph during the Q&A session on April 7.



Prof. Alan Oppenheim delivering the lecture on March 27.



HKU Engineering members taking a picture with donor Prof. Y. C. Cheng (4th from the left) and speaker Prof. Ke Lu (centre) after the lecture.

Sampling” and “Offshore Geotechnical Design”. The Engineering Distinguished Lecture, supported by Y. C. Cheng Engineering Fellowship, was delivered by Professor Ke Lu of Chinese Academy of Sciences. All the lectures were well attended and the enthusiastic audiences raised many interesting questions about what they heard during the lectures. In the future, Engineering Faculty will continue to invite renowned scholars from all over the world to share with us their thoughts and expertise in different areas of engineering.

The 7th International Conference on Quality Software (QSIC 2007) was held in Portland, Oregon, USA from October 11 to 12, 2007. Professor T.H. Tse of the Department of Computer Science served as the Steering Committee Chair.

The IEEE International Conference on e-Business Engineering (ICEBE 2007) was held in Hong Kong from October 24 to 26, 2007. Professor Francis C.M. Lau of the Department of Computer Science served as the General Chair. Dr H.F. Ting served as a Finance and Registration Chair. Dr Zoe C.H. Yu served as the Local Arrangements Chair and the Web Chair.

The International Workshop on Service-Oriented Applications, Integration and Collaboration (SOAIC 2007) was held in Hong Kong from October 24 to 26, 2007. Professor Francis C.M. Lau of the Department of Computer Science served as the General Chair.

The IEEE International Symposium on Service-Oriented System Engineering (SOSE 2007) was held in Hong Kong from October 24 to 26, 2007. Professor T.H. Tse of the Department of Computer Science served as the General Chair.

Over 150 overseas and local guests gathered at The University of Hong Kong to attend the HTCIA Asia Pacific Training Conference, December 12-14, 2007, which was organised by the International High Technology Crime Investigation Association. The Center for Information Security & Cryptography (CISC) of the Department of Computer Science was the supporting organisation of this meaningful event.

The Awards Presentation Ceremony of the Hong Kong Olympiad in Informatics (HKOI) 2008, supported by the Department of Computer Science, was held at Wang Gungwu Lecture Hall on December 21,

2007. HKOI is an annual programming competition for secondary school students in Hong Kong co-organised by Hong Kong Education Bureau and the Hong Kong Association in Computer Education. It serves as a preliminary contest to the National Olympiad in Informatics (NOI) and the International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI). Professor David Cheung gave a welcome speech in the ceremony.

The 1st AAAC Annual Meeting AAAC08 (where AAAC stands for Asian Association for Algorithms and Computation) was held in the Department of Computer Science from April 26 to 27, 2008. The meeting served as a platform for postgraduate students from Japan, mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, etc. to present what they have learned and to exchange research ideas.

The 1st International Conference on Software Testing, Verification, and Validation (ICST 2008) was held in Lillehammer, Norway from April 9 to 11, 2008. Professor T.H. Tse of the Department of Computer Science served as a Publicity Chair.



## New “Aeronautics / Aerospace Engineering” Elective

The demand for air travel is expanding rapidly worldwide, particularly in China and Asia. In order to broaden our students' knowledge in the area of aviation and aeronautical engineering, the Department of Mechanical Engineering will offer a level-2 elective subject called "Foundation of Aeronautical Engineering". The objective of this course is to introduce issues related to the operation and maintenance of aircrafts. It shall cover history of aviation, propulsion and aerodynamics of aircraft, airframe structure and construction, flight control systems, operation and maintenance of aircrafts.



## Boeing - Cathay Pacific Engineering Internship Programme

The Boeing-Cathay Pacific Engineering Internship Programme was established in 2007 by the Boeing Company and Cathay Pacific Airways for the mechanical engineering students of HKU, HKUST and HKPolyU to apply. Each participating university nominates 4 candidates to attend a selection interview by the sponsors. In the interview, the nominees are grouped to perform a team work exercise. Selection is based on a number of criteria including but not limited to: academic achievement, communication ability, teamwork ability, and interest in commercial aviation. Four training places are offered each year, with two students selected for the June through December internship while another two students selected for the January through May internship. A selected

intern will undertake an exciting 6-month engineering training in the Boeing Company's commercial aviation development plant in Seattle, USA. Cathay provides roundtrip airfare to Seattle while Boeing will pay for the working visa processing fees. Other costs related to housing, food, and rental shall be the responsibility of the intern. During the 6-month training, the intern is a full-time employee of the Boeing Company, receiving attractive wages and benefits.

This year, the selection interview was held on March 7 in the Department of Mechanical Engineering. Our Level 2 ME student Ms. Tang Kit Wai was selected to join the training programme starting from January 2009. We are very proud of her marvellous achievement. We trust that the high-quality training will not only strengthen her engineering skills and broaden her horizons, but will also enable her to develop a career path in the aviation sector, thereby setting a good example for our engineering students to follow.



## First Asia-Pacific Conference on FRP in Structures (APFIS 2007)

The inaugural Asia-Pacific Conference on FRP in Structures (APFIS 2007) was held at the Intercontinental Grand Stanford Hotel, Kowloon, Hong Kong from December 12 to 14, 2007. APFIS 2007 was organised by the Department of Civil Engineering, The University of Hong Kong, as well as the International Institute for FRP in Construction (IIFC). Over 140 delegates from 26 different countries around the world attended the conference and welcome addresses were given by Professor W.C. Chew (Dean of Engineering, HKU) and Ir. K.K. Choy (Buildings Department and HKIE).

## ‘RIVANS’ Workshop

The RGC funded ‘Relationally Integrated Value Networks’ (RIVANS) project is unveiling critical factors for developing value-focused team networks. Their particularly good relationships can empower truly integrated teamwork, which in turn would help to agree and achieve overall ‘best value’ targets. 35 experts including experienced practitioners deliberated at the 1st RIVANS Workshop on December 1, 2007, on the selection, assembly and development of integrated project teams and construction supply chains for boosting efficiencies and production levels of construction clients, consultants and contractors.

## Fong's Research Centre for Advanced Mechanical Systems ("FRCAMS")

Fong's Industries Co., Ltd. made a donation of HK\$15 million to HKU Mechanical Engineering in support of the University's applied research in advanced machineries. HK\$7 million of the donation has contributed to the establishment of the Fong's Research Centre for Advanced Mechanical Systems ("FRCAMS") and HK\$8 million will sponsor the identified research areas of projects of FRCAMS. The opening ceremony, officiated by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Lap-Chee Tsui, was held on January 17, 2008. The Centre is a successful example of the partnership between the University and the industry. The Centre will take a leading role in exploring, promoting and conducting applied research for water treatment, dyeing, steelwork and associated manufacturing industries in Hong Kong and the Asia-Pacific region.

*Mr. S.L. Fong presenting a cheque to Vice-Chancellor Prof. Lap-Chee Tsui at the opening ceremony.*



## HKU Graduate Won Young Professional Award in British Columbia, Canada

Upon graduation from the Department of Civil Engineering in 1999, Stella Chiu Sze Tak moved to Canada with her family. Stella established herself as a professional and well-rounded engineer in Canada in only a few years. She specialises in process design for wastewater treatment and water distribution system modeling, and is highly engaged in her profession, the community and her church. Stella is also an active member in the BC Water and Waste Association and is editor for their quarterly publication *Watermark*.

In April 2007, Stella was nominated by her employer for the Young Professional Award presented by the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of British Columbia (APEGBC). This award recognises exceptional achievements by the recipient in three key areas: work-related achievements, service to the profession and service to the community. The recipient also must be no older than 35 years of age on the date of the award presentation. The award was announced in October 2007 and Stella Chiu is honored to be the recipient of the Inaugural Young Professional Award.

## Young Engineering Graduate Won Two Awards

Mr. Vincent T. H. Chu graduated from the University of Hong Kong in Civil and Structural Engineering. He is an outstanding engineer and won two awards - "Young Engineer of the Year 2008 (Certificate of Merit)" and "The Ombudsman's Award 2008" at the age of 31.

## Ir. Prof. Chow Che-King Received HKIE Gold Medal 2008



In recognition of his achievements, Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) presented the Gold Medal to Ir. Prof. Chow Che-King at the HKIE 33rd Annual Dinner on March 11, 2008. The HKIE Gold Medal was set up to bestow distinction on an outstanding member and to recognise significant specific contributions and achievements to his/her fields of engineering.

Ir. Prof. Chow Che-King graduated from HKU with a B.Sc.Eng (1st Honour) in 1955 and started his career as a resident site staff for Tai Lam Chung dams. He rose to become head of Civil Engineering Office and later as the director of Territory Development until retirement. During his 40 years of civil service, Ir. Prof. Chow has made significant contributions to Hong Kong including the Hong Kong Waterfront Road, Chek Lap Kok Airport feasibility study, Lantau fixed crossing design, Shatin New Town and harbour reclamations for urban expansion, just to name a few.



Outside of his engineering profession, Ir. Prof. Chow has been an enthusiastic supporter of education, training and community services. After his retirement, he was awarded OBE medal and appointed as Hong Kong Affairs Adviser. He was also an honorary professor of the University of Hong Kong, council member of the Hong Kong Academy of Engineering Sciences, honorary adviser of the Association of Engineering Professionals in Society, presidency of the Hong Kong Former Senior Civil Servants Association and Political Selection committee members. He was the author of the book "My Life as an Engineer, 50 Years of Infrastructure Development in Hong Kong" published by the Hong Kong University Press.

# Outstanding Engineering Graduate and Humanitarian Relief Worker Won Numerous Awards

Dr. Albert W.Y. Ko is a PhD graduate from the Department of Industrial & Manufacturing Systems Engineering specialising in artificial intelligence and applied robotics. His research interests include artificial immune systems (AIS), modular robots, and intelligent search and rescue systems.

Dr. Ko wears many hats. Outside of the laboratory, he is an experienced humanitarian relief worker and was the first Hong Kong engineer recruited by Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF). He spent more than a year to serve as a full-time volunteer in different missions around the world, including the emergency interventions in Sigli, Indonesia during the Tsunami in 2004, and in Bahg, Pakistan during the Kashmir earthquake in 2005. Dr. Ko has visited and worked in over 100 cities in 22 countries to date.

Dr. Ko is currently serving as board member and advisor for various international and local non-profit organisations, and is keen in promoting volunteerism to the younger generations in his society. In 2006, Dr. Ko raised more than \$200,000 for an international relief organisation by cycling alone across the Qinghai-Tibet plateau. Locally, Dr. Ko and his fellow researchers established FIRST Laboratory (Free Instructional Robotics Science & Technology Laboratory), a small-scale volunteer-based non-profit organisation that offers 100% free robotics courses to deprived students.

Dr. Ko's professional achievement and his continuous contributions to the society have earned him the "Ten Outstanding Persons Award 2007" from Junior Chamber of Commerce, the "Young Engineer of the Year Award 2008" from the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers, and the "Outstanding Volunteer Award 2008" from the Agency of Volunteer Services.



## Dedicating a Life to Constant Learning and Community Outreach

Success is a journey, not a destination. When the President of HKU Engineering Alumni Association (HKUEAA), Dr. Francis Lung, referred the Faculty of Engineering to alumnus Ir. Carmen Au, the awardee of Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) Young Engineer of the Year Award 2007, to share her successful story in this newsletter, Carmen clarified at first instance that she is still on her way to success. Receiving the award is just the beginning of another challenging journey.

Let's now share the first part of Carmen's journey, which started at the University of Hong Kong, by quoting what the editor of the Hong Kong Engineer (the monthly journal of HKIE) said about Carmen:



Carmen with children in Yuyuen County, Shaoguan, who have benefited from the China Care Fund.

*"If one's a bright student in the science stream with a mind set on a professional career, what would one do? The medical profession's loss was the engineering profession's gain, because this year's recipient of HKIE's Young Engineer of the Year Award, Ir Carmen Au, opted to don a hard hat rather than hang a stethoscope around her neck.*



Drawings which are the gifts from the children in the mountain.

Carmen began her all-round training from day one. Studying for her civil engineering degree at the University of Hong Kong (HKU), in 1994, she came across old friends in the Catholic Society who wanted to help disadvantaged children on the Mainland. On the surface, the idea seemed simple enough: like any charitable organisation, they would arrange for materials to be procured and sent to children in China who did not have access to a decent education.

However, the philosophy that drove this group of friends to set up what eventually became the China Care Fund went deeper than that. Their idea was not to descend on a "poor" community like some fairy godmother, to distribute money and be benevolent. In fact, those the fund was designed to benefit the most are the young Hong Kong volunteers. Leaving behind

their privileged lives in the territory, to take arduous journeys by train and bus to remote villages to distribute materials and live, if only briefly, among the villagers, they come to experience the hardship of rural life, learn something about their motherland at first hand, and appreciate how lucky they are.

"What these young people get from their personal experience far outweighs the benefit any donation can give," Ir Au said. "It was before the handover when we started. There wasn't as much news about the Mainland as there is today, but after their trips they would flip through the back pages to see what was happening in China. They'd learnt to care about their motherland."

The friends began with trips to Shaoguan in Yuyuen County, attracted the attention of a retired professor who wanted to build a school in honour of his wife, and eventually, in 2002, became a full-fledged non-profit charitable organisation.

Ir Au used to take groups of 20 youngsters to Shaoguan twice a year but is now too busy with her work as a civil engineer to do so. After spending several years in Hongkong Electric Co Ltd's projects division, she moved to Maunsell Consultants Asia in 2001. Among the projects she was involved in are the award-winning infrastructure work for Penny's Bay, the design for Tsing Lung Bridge and a project that fully reflects the fast-track spirit: the design and construction of the approach viaduct

to the new boundary bridge between Lok Ma Chau and Huanggang, a project that was completed and opened to traffic in just 14 months.

Now involved with the design of Wanchai Development Phase II, Ir Au is busier than ever, although this has not prevented her from continuing her involvement in voluntary work. She is active in the HKU Engineering Alumni Association and recently organised a study tour as well as report on sustainable development for small to medium-sized enterprises in Bangkok, Thailand. She is also a graduate mentor.

Ir Au is committed to her work, both as an engineer and as an engineer-in-the-community. In fact, what pleased her most about winning the Young Engineer of the Year Award was the attention it attracted to the China Care Fund, which prompted a friend to donate HK\$10,000, thus enabling the fund to provide spectacles to rural children in China who suffer from short-sightedness or lazy eye. And she wants to do more.

"In some villages there are only primary schools so when the children grow up they have to leave home to continue their education. We're working on an individual sponsorship scheme under which each donor will support one child by providing a full year's schooling and boarding fees. If the donors want to we'll also take them up to the villages to meet the children they've sponsored."

Continuous learning to better others as well as oneself seems to be Ir Au's approach to life. Anyone interested in adopting it could start by supporting the China Care Fund flag day on Hong Kong Island on June 23."

Angela Tam, the Hong Kong Engineer, May 2007\*



Fund raised are used to provide spectacles to rural children in China.



Maunsell AECOM group congratulating Carmen as the Young Engineer of the Year in the 32nd HKIE Annual Dinner. Many of the gentlemen here are senior condisciples of HKU.

Continuing her journey after receiving the award, Carmen is currently the Vice-President of HKUEAA and has led a team of engineering graduates and students to organise the 32nd Annual Ball 2008 for the engineering alumni, professors and students. Some HK\$60,000 was raised, which will be used for the benefits of HKU engineering undergraduates.

Since being a graduate mentor in 2006, Carmen enjoyed sharing her experience and insights with her mentees, including Kitty, Patrick, Ivan, Man and Karen, who are all within the family of HKU Engineering Faculty. She believes the friendship built between mentor and mentees is based on equity and for life. Enjoying spa and a 9-course French cuisine at C'est Bon after working hard for a 4-day study tour in Bangkok with her mentee was an invaluable experience to both.

Initiatives among the six awardees of the HKIE Young Engineer of the Year Award from 2003 to 2008 are being drawn together this year to take a further step on community outreach as role models to the young generation. Being School Ambassadors and sharing the life challenges and achievements as engineers in the community will surely inspire the high school teenagers on the engineering industry.

Carmen agreed that continuous learning to better others as well as oneself is her approach to life. She has a vision to enhance our young people's perception of their inner self and through social encounters to transcend their territorial perimeters and social values. Interested ones are invited to join her in the next journey by supporting the China Care Fund ([www.chinacarefund.com](http://www.chinacarefund.com)), becoming a mentor for HKU engineering undergraduates, or joining the coming China visit to explore alternative means of power generation for environmental benefits in Guangdong province with her mentees and friends of HKUEAA ([www.hku.hk/hkueaa](http://www.hku.hk/hkueaa)).



Past Presidents and Honorable Guests of HKUEAA Annual Ball.

\* Remark: Reprinted with permission.

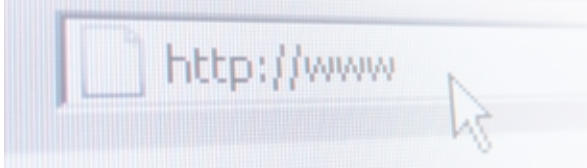
## Engineering the Future...

*"You have not done enough, you have never done enough, so long as it is still possible that you have something to contribute."*

Dag Hammarskjold (1905-1961)

The University of Hong Kong and the Faculty of Engineering will celebrate its 100th anniversary in year 2011. For the past 97 years, the Faculty has made significant contributions in pioneering engineering research and the education of young engineers.

We treasure your continuous support. Please stay in touch and visit our new alumni web site at <http://engineering.hku.hk/alumni>



## Successful Engineering Alumni Sharing Experience with Future Leaders

The HKU Lecture Series 2008 – “Meeting Of Minds: Successful Career for Engineers” - was held on March 28, 2008. This ‘one-of-a-kind’ recruitment talk was designed exclusively for secondary school students who are interested in pursuing higher education in engineering. The speakers are engineering graduates who achieved great success in career and life. They shared their thoughts on why engineering students should develop a career in which they are genuinely interested in, how they should develop their analytical and critical thinking abilities, and last but not least, the importance of broadening their learning experience and exposure. The speakers truly inspired a group of future leaders.

Speakers included HKU engineering alumni: Dr. James Lee, Group Chief Executive Officer, Systech Telecom Group; Ir. Dr. Lo Wai Kwok, MH, JP, President, The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers & Managing Director, Surface Mount Technology (Holdings) Ltd.; Ir. Professor Mak Chai Kwong, JP, Permanent Secretary for Development (Works), HKSAR Government; and Dr. Allan C. Y. Wong, SBS, MBE, JP, Chairman and Group Chief Executive Officer, VTech Holdings Ltd. The facilitator of this event was Professor Paul Y. S. Cheung, Programme Director, Medical Engineering Programme, Faculty of Engineering, HKU.

From left to right:  
Dr. Allan C. Y. Wong, Ir.  
Professor Mak Chai Kwong,  
Professor Paul Y. S. Cheung,  
Ir. Dr. Lo Wai Kwok and  
Dr. James Lee.





# News from HKU Engineering Alumni Association (HKUEAA) Graduate Mentor Scheme (GMS) 2008

**H**KUEAA has a mission to requite The University of Hong Kong and bond HKU engineering students with industries in different areas of engineering. Now in its eighth year, the GMS meets the needs of the holistic training of engineers in a knowledge-based society through the pairing of engineering students with alumni and friends. HKUEAA gathers a wealth of socially experienced mentors from all walks of life who are willing to give and share their valuable lessons in life. By matching engineering students with mentors, the programme successfully broadened students' horizons and enriched students' knowledge over the years.

The GMS 2008 Inauguration Ceremony was successfully held on Saturday, March 15, 2008 at Rayson Huang Theatre, HKU. Honourable guests included Professor Lap-Chee Tsui (Vice-Chancellor, HKU), Professor W.C. Chew (Dean, Faculty of Engineering), Dr. Y. S. Hung (Head, Department of Electrical and Electronic Engineering), Dr. Philip L. Y. Chan (Head, Department of Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering), Mr. W. S. Sze (Deputy Head, Department of Mechanical Engineering), Ms. Janet Chung (Director, HKU Development and Alumni Affairs Office) and Ir. Dr. W. K. Lo (President, Hong Kong Institution of Engineers). A total of 37 mentees and 24 mentors were selected this year.

In the lovely Saturday afternoon, the inauguration ceremony started with speeches by Dr. Francis Lung (President of HKUEAA), Professor W. C. Chew (Dean of Faculty of Engineering), Dr. Ivan Lau (HKUEAA GMS Secretary) and Mr. Chris Suen (Chairman of Engineering Society, HKUSU). They expressed their happiness about the achievement of the programme by students meeting and learning from the mentors, and wishing them great success in the coming year.



*Mentors met their mentees and chatted with each other.*

The inauguration marked the official commencement of the GMS 2008. At the ceremony, we gave our sincere gratitude to mentors who have been supporting GMS for years and are continuing to devote their time in the future; we also welcome new mentors and mentees. With their dedication and participation, we believe GMS will continue to have a fruitful and successful year.

Professor Lap-Chee Tsui spent more than an hour with guests, mentors and students in the 'Tea Gathering' after the ceremony. The friendly atmosphere was reflected in the guests' clapping and rounds of applause from students and mentors. When being asked about the forthcoming advancement of 4-year university system, Professor Tsui revealed his aspiration to strengthen the university's culture.

Everyone enjoyed sharing precious moments with fellow mentors and mentees in this short but memorable ceremony. We are certain that all of our mentors and mentees will keep on sharing and learning from each other in the coming year.

## GMS 2008 Career Talks

**T**he GMS aims to serve all engineering students and foster a strong tie with them even after they graduated. The objective of GMS Career Talks is to provide a platform for engineering students to express their views and get advice from alumni speakers regarding their career inclinations.

Two GMS Career Talks were successfully held at Rayson Huang Theatre in November 2007 and January 2008. With the support

of 10 alumni speakers from various engineering disciplines, the career talks covered a wide range of engineering careers. More than 100 students were inspired by the speakers' experiences and career aspirations.

Owing to the success of the first two career talks, HKUEAA GMS conducted the third career talk in April 2008 with special focus on job interview skills and experience. Five fresh engineering graduates were invited to share their recent practical interview experience. There were positive discussions about interviewing skills, speaking manner, dressing code, and career goals.



*24 brilliant mentors and 37 mentees showed their support at the GMS Inauguration Ceremony on March 15, 2008.*

For more information about GMS, please visit HKUEAA web site at <http://www.hku.hk/hkueaa>

## Electrical Engineering Students Won HSBC Young Entrepreneurship Awards 2007-08

A team of Electrical Engineering Year 2 students won the Silver Award of the HSBC Young Entrepreneurship Awards 2007-08 ([www.asiayea.com](http://www.asiayea.com)). It was the first time that engineering students won this award since it was first launched in Hong Kong in 2000. The award aims to help encourage innovation, stimulate creativity and promote entrepreneurship amongst students in Hong Kong. The competition was highly competitive. A total of 337 teams had participated in the competition this year.

In October 2007, our EE2 students Lee Lap Cho Eldon, Leung Chung Ming Philip, and Wong Tsz Chung Peter formed a team called "U-Grass" and wrote a business plan to develop a roof-top greening entrepreneur business. They started writing their business idea in October 2007. After competing with other 337 teams in round one, 52 entrants with creative business ideas were selected to submit a full business plan in round two. In this round, 6 qualified teams were shortlisted for panel interview in February 2008. The team then qualified for the Eco-Business Innovation Award and was selected to enter into the Hong Kong Final Contest. In the Hong Kong Final Contest held on April 3, 2008, the team presented their business plan at the HSBC Headquarters and won the Silver Award. The team received a HSBC self-development fund of HK\$25,000, a trophy for each member and one-week entrepreneurial study tour. The team advisor was Dr. Wilton W. T. Fok.



*Dr. W. Choy was elected to IEEE senior member in October 2007 and became a Member of Editorial Board of Research Letters in Optics, Hindawi Publishing Corporation, New York, US in March 2008. He was also the Committee Member of IEEE/OSA AOE (Asia Optical Fiber Communication and Optoelectronic Conference), Shanghai, October 10-14, 2007.*

*The 3G Mobile Quiz Challenger was being demonstrated in the DaTang TD-SCDMA Application Experience Centre. Project team members Dr. S.W. Cheung, Dr. V.W.L. Tam and Dr. W.W.T. Fok attended the opening ceremony and demonstrated the project in Beijing, while other team members Dr. K.S. Lui, Dr. Beta Yip and Miss Jade Wong stayed in Hong Kong to ensure that the project was up and running smoothly. It is expected that the project will be deployed as one of the applications during the Olympic Games in August 2008.*

*Dr. L. K. Yeung and Dr. K. S. Lui received the Cisco Collaborative Research Initiative Award established by the Cisco Research Center of Cisco Systems Inc., USA. It was the first time the award went to a Hong Kong university.*

*Our postgraduate student Mr. Chen Jian-wu received the Best Conference Paper Award in the 7th International Symposium on Communications and Information Technologies (ISCIT 2007). The award paper, entitled "Optimal CFO and Channel Estimation for OFDMA Uplink Using Importance Sampling" was co-authored with his supervisors, Dr. Y.C. Wu and Prof. T.S. Ng.*

*Dr. K. Z. Chen has been awarded a Science Prize (the second grade) by the Ministry of Education in China in January 2007 to recognise his achievement in "Research on computer pattern recognition technology" together with the achievement on the same area made by Nanjing University, China.*

*Prof. A.H.W. Ngan will be conferred the Degree of Doctor of Science (DSc) by the University of Birmingham, U.K. In Commonwealth countries, the DSc is a higher doctorate degree awarded to a member of a university who has established a proven record of internationally recognised scholarship. This represents a long-term recognition of materials science research at HKU by a top U.K. counterpart, since this is a succession to the award of the Doctor of Engineering (DEng) Degree by Birmingham to Prof. B.J. Duggan, also of HKU, in 1994. Prof. Ngan will travel to the U.K. to receive the degree in a university congregation in July 2008.*

*Prof. L. Q. Wang has been leading an international team for developing a state-of-the-art Thermal Control System for the Alpha Magnetic Spectrometer on the International Space Station (searching for antimatter, dark matter and spectra of cosmic rays; headed by Professor Samuel C. C. Ting, Nobel Laureate in Physics, MIT, USA and involves 335 scientists from 56 institutions in 16 countries).*

*Mr. Man Chun Sing, Alex, conducting his final year project "Computational Investigation of Airflow over the Hong Kong International Airport Terminal Building", won the Champion of the Best Final Year Project Competition organised by the ASME Hong Kong Section, HKIE-MMNC and IMechE Hong Kong Branch.*

## Aero Challenge 2008

To raise the level of aviation interest among the younger generation, the Royal Aeronautical Society (Hong Kong Branch), Boeing Company and Cathay Pacific Airways jointly organised a 1-day design competition "Aero Challenge 2008" on February 2, 2008. The camaraderie event attracted over 40 participants from local universities and aircraft maintenance companies (14 students were from HKU Mechanical Engineering Department).



At the competition, the participants were grouped into design teams and each team had to design and build a model airplane using handy materials such as paper and balsa wood. To increase the challenge of the competition, the designed air-glider needed to carry a 1-dollar coin in the competing flight.

One of our HKU teams won the champion prize of the event as their airplane model could fly the longest distance with remarkable stability. They brought a lot of trophies back, including airplane models, pilot manuals, a memory shield and a tour to the Air Traffic Control (ATC) Tower at the Hong Kong International Airport on March 15, 2008.

The "Aero Challenge" is an annual event and students are strongly encouraged to join. More details can be found at <http://www.raes.org.hk>

## The 5th Inter-University Invitational Civil Engineering Competition (5th IUICEC)

The 5th Inter-University Invitational Civil Engineering Competition (5th IUICEC), hosted by the Tongji University, Shanghai, was held from January 26 to 30, 2008. 18 teams from 13 universities in China, Korea, Italy, Singapore and the United States participated in the competition, where the teams had to design and fabricate a scaled crane-like structural model. Loading tests were carried out to rank the models according to their appearance, lightness in weight, and capability of sustaining loadings without excessive displacements. Mr. Ling Ho Yin, Miss Liu Xiao Yu and Mr. Wong Kwan Lok Eugene, all from the Department of Civil Engineering, joined the competition and received the Third Prize.

**Dr. Jun Yang**, Assistant Professor of the Department of Civil Engineering, received the Outstanding Young Researcher Award 2006-2007 from the University of Hong Kong. The award was presented at the Award Presentation Ceremony for Excellence in Teaching and Research which was held in Rayson Huang Theatre on January 22, 2008.



Dr. Yang received the award from Professor Paul K.H. Tam, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President of the University of Hong Kong.

**Miss Man-Kuen Heung** (2007 graduate) of the Department of Civil Engineering received the Best Final-year Geotechnical Project Award for 2007 from HKIE Geotechnical Division for completing the project "Overburden Pressure and Initial Static Shear Correction Factor in Liquefaction Analysis" under the supervision of Dr. J. Yang. The award was presented at the HKIE Geotechnical Division's Annual Dinner held on February 29, 2008.



Miss Heung received the award from Ir. Dr. Eric Li, Chairman of HKIE Geotechnical Division.

**Mr. Au Kin Fan** (2007 graduate) was awarded the Chow Che King Prize 2006-07.

**Miss Chan Yun Yee** (2007 graduate) was awarded the Environmental Engineering Prize 2006-07.

**Mr. Cheung Fei Kit** (2007 graduate) received the Merit Award of Environmental, Hydraulic and Hydrology Discipline presented by Institution of Civil Engineers, Hong Kong Association, on May 26, 2007.

**Mr. Kwan Ho Yin** (Year 3 BEng student) was awarded the Edward Keller Achievement Award in Civil Engineering in November 2007.

**Mr. Lam Tang Yiu** (Year 2 BEng student) was awarded the Walter Brown Memorial Prizes in Mathematics 2006-07.

**Miss Lau Ching Ling** (2007 graduate) was awarded the Best Students Awards by the Joint Structural Division of HKIE & IstructE in November 2007 and Tai Tung-Ngok Prize in Civil Engineering 2006-07.

**Mr. Li Chun Lok** (Year 2 BEng student) was awarded the Li Po Chun Scholarships by the Li Po Chun Charitable Trust Fund in September 2007.

**Miss Li Wai Ming, Helen** (Year 4 BEng student) was awarded the Gammon Construction Limited Prize in Civil Engineering in November 2007.

**Mr. Ling Ho Yin** (Year 3 BEng student) was awarded the HK Cheng Prize in Civil Engineering 2006-07.

**Mr. Shiu Kwan Tai** (Year 3 BEng student) was awarded the Ho Lu Kwong Prize in Civil Engineering 2006-07.

**Dr. Tsang Hing Ho** (PhD 2006 graduate) was awarded the Li Ka Shing Prize for the Best PhD Thesis in the Faculties of Dentistry, Engineering, Medicine and Science for the period 2005-06 by the Graduate School of The University of Hong Kong.

**Mr. Wong Kwan Lok Eugene** (Year 3 BEng student) was awarded the CL Tse Prize in Civil Engineering 2006-07.

**Mr. Wong Yuen On** (2007 graduate) was awarded the Wing Lung Bank Ltd. Prize in Civil Engineering 2006-07 and the HKIE Geotechnical Division Award - Best Student 2007-08.

**Dr. Z.Q. Yue** was awarded the Best Peer Reviewer from the Chinese Journal of Rock Mechanics and Engineering 2006-07.

At The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers Prize Presentation Ceremony held in the Joint Professional Centre on January 18, 2008,

- **Mr. Chan Shu Ning** (MPhil student), **Miss Chu Mei Ling** (January 2008 graduate) and **Mr. Lincoln Lee Chung Hin** (Year 4 BEng student) received The HKIE Scholarship 2004-05.
- **Mr. Shiu Kwan Tai** (Year 3 BEng student) received The HKIE Scholarship 2005-06.

The following paper, co-authored by **Professor Francis C.M. Lau** of the Department of Computer Science, was selected for an "Outstanding Paper Award" from the China Association for Science and Technology in December 2007. It was one of 200 papers being awarded, based on a wide selection of articles published in Chinese journals in the areas of science and technology.

**Dr Kevin K.H. Pun** of the Department of Computer Science has been appointed by the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong SAR as a member of the Unsolicited Electronic Messages Appeal Board.

**Dr Wen-ping Wang** of the Department of Computer Science has been awarded the Research Output Prize by the Faculty of Engineering for 2007-08.

**Mr Cheung Tang Lung, Mr Lau Chi Ho, and Mr Yu Choi Kuk**, BEng(CompSc) 1, have been awarded the Entrance Scholarships in Computer Science for 2007-08.

**Mr Li Chi Chung**, BEng(CompSc) 2, has been awarded the Hong Kong Computer Society Scholarship for 2007-08.

**Mr Yu Lian**, BEng(CompSc) 3, has been awarded the HKMA Information Technology Management Club Scholarship for 2007-08.

**Mr Jack Li**, a second year IMSE student, and his HKU fellow students have won the champion of the "transcosmos Cup" competition, organised by transcosmos, a renowned Japanese IT company. The competition aims to spark participants' entrepreneurial idea and make their "Company-Dream" come true! The objective of the contest is to motivate the young generation in China (including Hong Kong and Macau) so that they become interested in entrepreneurship within the IT industry. The competition held in 2007 was the first competition transcosmos held with the cooperation of top-ranking universities in China, Hong Kong, and Macau. All formal universities were eligible to take part in the contest regardless of grades. The final competition was held in Shanghai on November 30, 2007.

## Engineering Society, HKUSU



This year marks the 95th anniversary of Engineering Society, HKUSU. The new cabinet, Epoch, aims at enhancing the cohesion of our members and promoting the status of all engineering students. In addition to academic activities, the Engineering Society also organises social functions for their members.

Starting this year, four Academic Societies are affiliated with Engineering Society and HKUSU. We firmly believe that a change in the composition of our Society necessitates an ever-evolving organisation like ours. One thing remains unchanged: our ambition to pursue the best for our members.

## Orientation Camp

Orientation Camp is an important function for freshmen to help them adapt to university life. Traditionally, freshmen will be divided into groups and being taken care of by 'Group Father' and 'Group Mother'. With various programmes such as mass games and sharing session with current students, freshmen enjoy an unforgettable and meaningful experience.



## Engineering Summer Camp 2008

The Faculty of Engineering is organising the Engineering Summer Camp from July 14 to 18, 2008. The 5-day residential programme is designed for Form 4 to Form 7 students from local and overseas secondary schools who are considering future university studies to explore the various engineering disciplines in HKU, to experience university life, and to have fun!



The Summer Camp consists of lectures presented by top-notch professors, laboratory visits with demonstrations, interesting hands-on projects, and field trips to large-scale infrastructural projects. The lectures will cover topics on the latest developments in engineering. Field trips to Cyberport, Stanley Earth Station, Ngong Ping Sewage Treatment Plant in Lantau Island and other major infrastructural facilities will further increase participants' knowledge and understanding of a subject of study. Participants will stay in University residential halls so that they can fully experience university life. Alumni and current students will share with the participants their thoughts about study and work.

More details on <http://engineering.hku.hk/summerncamp>

