

RECENT EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The 2006 IEEE International Conference on Data Mining (ICDM-06)

The 2006 IEEE/WIC/ACM International Conference on Web Intelligence (WI-06)

The 2006 IEEE/WIC/ACM International Conference on Intelligent Agent Technology (IAT-06)



Prof. Ian Foster, Grid Computing Expert, delivers a keynote speech at the Conference

A joint conference comprised of the above 3 sub-conferences was successfully held at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre on 18-22 December 2006. More than 700 experts and scholars from 60 countries and regions gathered together to address and explore the latest trends on research, application and development of information technology.



The joint conference was one of the signature events celebrating the University's 50th Anniversary. Its sub-conferences had been held individually before in USA, Japan, Canada, Mainland China, and France, respectively. It was the first time that they were held jointly in Hong Kong. Being a cutting-edge international forum, the joint conference had brought together global experts and scholars from diverse disciplines, including computer science, information technology, business, and education, systems engineering and robotics, to discuss and share research results as well as practical experiences on data mining, spanning applications, algorithms, software and systems.

At the joint conference, more than 500 papers had been presented, covering a variety of topics, e.g., web information search and retrieval, intelligent e-technology, web mining and web support system. In addition, it also covered the topics such as the state-of-the-art development of WI technologies, design principles and performance characteristics of various approaches in web-based intelligent information technology and IAT, ideas on the development of web-based intelligent information systems, autonomous agents and multi-agent systems, among different domains.

For details of the joint conference, please visit: <http://www.comp.hkbu.edu.hk/iwi06>.



IT Winter Camp



Are you ready?

Through various games and training sessions, some 140 primary and secondary school students gathered here on 28-30 December 2006, as participants of the 3rd IT Winter Camp to gain exposure to IT and to experience university campus life. They were also guided to tour some science laboratories and try hands-on experiments to widen their scientific knowledge during the 3-day Camp.



We have fun ...

5th Postgraduate Research Symposium



Ms. Wing-Yan Chow -
the Best Paper Award

There were fruitful exchanges on a variety of research topics, including mobile positioning, sensor network, data mining, web intelligence, pattern recognition, and so forth, by MPhil and PhD students at the 5th Postgraduate Research Symposium (PG Day) on 11 January 2007.



Keynote Talk by Prof. Anil K. Jain (right)

In the symposium, **Ms. Chow Wing Yan** won the **best paper award** for her paper entitled "Lightweight Piggybacking for Packet Loss Recovery in Internet Telephony". Also, the **best presentation award** went to **Mr. Zhili Wu** for his outstanding presentation.



Mr. Zhili Wu -
the Best Presentation Award

The PG Day is a biannual event for the purpose of enhancing the research atmosphere and sharing research experience and ideas among postgraduate students of the Department. Both faculty members and postgraduate students participate actively in it.

Croucher Advanced Study Institute (ASI): Biometric Data Security and Privacy



Government official introduces
"e-channel"

During the Croucher Advanced Study Institute on 12-13 January 2007, three pioneer world-famous scientists reported the latest development in biometric data security and privacy, and one speaker shared the "e-channel" project development at Hong Kong border control. The ASI has provided a stimulating scientific environment for participants from Hong Kong, Mainland China and abroad to learn the latest development on automated biometric data security and privacy, as well as to exchange views through face to face discussions.



Exchange views with the speaker

More information is available at: <http://www.comp.hkbu.edu.hk/~asi07>

IT Forum 2007

At the invitation of the Department, four distinguished industry leaders had delivered a series of talks on various aspects of the IT profession and shared their insights on the development trends of the IT industry. Details of the IT Forum are recapped as follows:

JAN 30

Mrs. Agnes P.Y. Tang Mak
Senior Vice President
Mobile IT, PCCW
Total Value of an IT Career



Mrs. Agnes P. Y. Tang Mak



Prof. Weidong Kou

FEB 6

Prof. Weidong Kou
Chief Architect, Software Group (AIM)
Greater China Group, IBM
在經歷世界中豐富, 在超越自我中成長

FEB 27

Hon Sin Chung-kai, JP
Legislative Councillor
Functional Constituency – Information Technology
IT Legislation and Cyber Laws

The Hon. Sin Chung-Kai, JP
(2nd from right)



Mr. Tony Buckham

MAR 6

Mr. Tony Buckham
Regional Head of IT Group Systems
Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corp. Ltd.
Information Technology in the 21st Century

The IT Forum talk series had been well attended by undergraduate and postgraduate students, alumni, and staff members.

Problem-Solving Contest – Designing Network Storage Systems

Organized by the Department, the Problem-Solving Contest was held to stimulate and enhance undergraduate and foundation students' interests and problem-solving skills by applying their IT knowledge to a real case study.

Results of the Contest are:

Best Design Award: **Wong Yuk Pang** (Year 3 student)
Award of Appreciation: **Wei Zhicheng** (Year 1 student)

A Presentation Ceremony was held on 5 February 2007 for presenting awards and certificates to the awardees. Congratulations!



Best Design Award: Wong Yuk Pang



Award of Appreciation: Wei Zhicheng

International ICT Expo 2007

Our Department has again been invited by the Hong Kong Trade and Development Council to participate in the International ICT Expo on 14-17 April 2007 at the Hong Kong Convention and Exhibition Centre, to showcase our latest research.

This year's International ICT Expo is divided into eight zones:

- Network & Mobility
- Enterprise Solutions
- Linux & Open Source
- Digital Living & Multimedia
- E-Logistics & Retail Technologies
- Home-grown Innovations
- IT Outsourcing
- Trade Related Services



Opening Ceremony of ICT Expo 2007

Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) 2006

It is gratifying to note that the Department has achieved very good research performance in the past several years, as positively commented by the CS/IT Panel in the recent Research Assessment Exercise. The research outputs of the Department were ranked the fourth among all the local universities/institutions. This is especially noteworthy because the input resources for the Department had been, relatively speaking, quite modest. To look ahead, the Department will continue to keep up and excel in its research work.

STAFF NEWS



(From left) Prof. C.F. Ng (President and Vice-chancellor), Prof. Jiming Liu and Prof. Rick Wong (Dean of Science)

Congratulations!

2007 President's Award for Outstanding Performance in Scholarly Work

Prof. Jiming Liu, Head and Professor of the Department, was presented the President's Award for Outstanding Performance in Scholarly Work, in recognition of his exceptionally outstanding contributions, at the 51st Founders' Day Thanksgiving Ceremony. Prof. Liu pioneered new research fields known as Web Intelligence and Autonomy Oriented Computing. Nowadays these research fields are widely followed by other researchers all over the world.

More information is available at:
<http://www.hkbu.edu.hk/award2007/>



Dr. Kelvin Wong (middle), Mrs. Letty Kwok with our colleagues



(middle to right) Prof. Y.W. Leung, Prof. Jiming Liu and Mrs. Letty Kwok

Long Service Awards

Also presented at the Ceremony were Long Service Awards to three colleagues of the Department, viz. **Prof. Y.W. Leung** (Acting Head), **Dr. Kelvin Wong** (Assistant Professor) and **Mrs. Letty Kwok** (Administrative Executive).

Most Cited Paper Award

Dr. Jian Feng, Lecturer, received the Most Cited Paper Award for the Journal of Visual Communication and Image Representation 2004-2006. The paper, co-authored by Dr. Feng, is entitled "A new cut detection algorithm with constant false-alarm ratio for video segmentation".

Patent

Prof. Joseph Ng, Professor of the Department, together with Thomas Erdner, Wolfgang A. Halang, and Stephen K. Chan, obtained a patent on "Real time capable and fault tolerant data transfer - Realzeitfähige und fehlertolerante Datenübertragung (in German)", Patent Registration Number: 102 53 533, granted by The Germany Patent Office, Munchen, 22 March 2007.

New Face

Dr. Yik-Hing Fung, Post-doctoral Teaching Fellow

BEng, PhD, PolyU

Dr. Fung received the B.Eng. (Hons.) and Ph.D. degrees in electronic and information engineering in 2000 and 2006, respectively, from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University.

Between 2000 and 2001, he was an Engineer with PolyU for a project entitled Web Based Portable Monitoring and Surveillance System. Before joining the Department, he worked for ASM Pacific Technology Ltd as a R&D Engineer. His research interests include image restoration, digital image halftoning, and image compression.



What Our Postgraduate Student Think?

Let Wu Zhili share with you

You may be wondering about what can motivate your preference to computer science, as well as what you can learn in the Computer Science Department at Baptist University. I can quote Bill Gates' words to answer your first wonder, "You cannot go wrong in computer science." Bill Gates believed that being trained in computer science will give you "the ticket to a good career in the near future", and also put yourself in one of the two exciting areas where "a lot of the breakthroughs will be made" (the other is in biology).

What I have benefited from the training in computer science is quite enormous. Our Department has many elite scholars who are experts in agent technology, networking, pattern recognition, information system, and data mining, etc. They lecture in a full spectrum of courses, ranging from the fundamental and essential ones like computer organization, structural and object-oriented programming and data communication, to the advanced ones like artificial intelligence, information security, machine learning, sensor network, and computer graphics, etc. Besides gaining insights from the professors which help us master computer science knowledge, the course projects further consolidate our computer skills.

STUDENTS' CORNER

Exchange Experience in Germany

Katherine Chui Wing Chi

Year 2 Student

Computing Studies (Information Systems) Course

Partying with other students

I was so excited when I knew I would go on an academic exchange to Germany (Hochschule Furtwangen University) for one semester! This was like a dream come true.

When I just arrived Germany, the German language freaked me out. What I saw and heard was all in German. Although I had taken some German courses before my journey, I soon found that it was not sufficient to support my living, especially in some rural area like the town I lived in. Most of the Furtwangen citizens did not speak English, even for doctors and bankers. Luckily, some local students of the university were very helpful. They helped me and other international students in many different aspects.

In these four months, I learned a lot. First, I was capable to look after myself. I found out that I was a great cook, which I did not know before. I always exchanged my food with other international students, so that we can learn the cultures of each other. Sometimes, there were communication problems since English was not our mother tongues, but we were still able to understand each other and things were often sorted out at the end. I made new friends with people of different nationalities, and I was so proud of that.



Excursion to Freiburg

I also learned a lot in the university. Though the courses seemed to be difficult and complicated, I had taken a risk on taking a course that cannot be applied for subject transfer. The course title was "Mobile Interactive Application". It taught about the knowledge of building midlets (the tiny programs running on our mobile phones). But I thought it was hard to find a similar course in Hong Kong. Learning this would definitely be an advantage for my future career.

At weekends, the university usually organized some excursions for the international students to explore other parts of Germany. I was eager to try skiing, but unfortunately there was not enough snow in the last winter. Also, during the Christmas and New Year holidays, I traveled around Europe with my new friends and visited many famous cities including Venice and Barcelona.

Overall, this exchange study in Germany was an invaluable experience and the happiest time in my university life.



In the Eyes of an Exchange Student from Germany

Dipl. Inf. (FH) Alexander Rüschi
 Hochschule Furtwangen University
 Computer Networking / Computer Science

Introduction

In January 2006, I received a paper that granted me a place at the HKBU for writing my final thesis! Although I knew before that I would probably go there, it was really excited as it became officially confirmed. After spending quite some time in countries abroad during my studies, I got travel nerves and was very excited about Hong Kong.

Reading a guide book about Hong Kong that I was given for Christmas made me very surprised. Only a small part of Hong Kong is an island? There are numerous mountains and small islands belong to this Special Administrative Region? A part of the state was only "leased" by the UK? Well, I soon realized how little I knew about Hong Kong and that the picture in my mind of Hong Kong being a great city on a small island with a nice skyline was very incomplete.



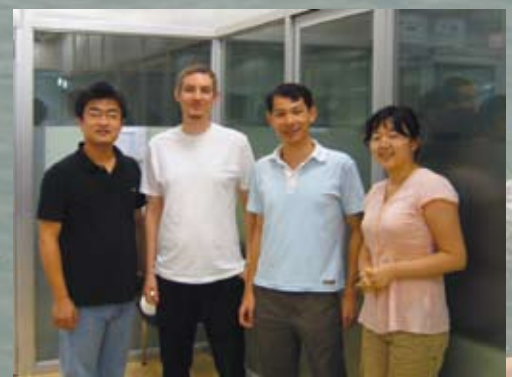
Alex in Disneyland Hong Kong

Inside Hong Kong

After my last exams in February, my trip finally started. Sixteen hours in the air and four hours waiting on the ground were tough but flying with Gulf Air via Bahrain was simply the cheapest. While it was cold and snowy in Germany, I was dreaming about crystal clear water, sandy beaches and hot temperatures in Hong Kong but quickly got my feet back on the ground. Rain and chilly temperatures, also inside my room, made me put on a pullover and a jacket.

Since I was no "normal" student and arrived in the middle of the semester, it was unfortunate that no one was there giving me bedclothes. So, I kept straying in the city for one whole day finding some. I found it strange to share my apartment with another guy as I never did that before and it is uncommon in Europe. First I concerned that he might be a noisy guy keeping me away from sleeping by returning home late and snoring at night, but that apprehension did not confirm. Actually my roommate was a very nice and quiet guy, leaving home at 8 am and returning at 10 pm. On weekends he always left for mainland China and after three months he moved out; so most of the time I had the apartment for myself anyway.

The man who organized the place for me at the University is Prof. Achim Karduck. He is the professor who manages most of the University's foreign affairs and came up with the idea to write my final thesis abroad. Besides being the organizer, he was also the first mentor of my thesis. Dr. William Kwok-Wai Cheung at the Computer Science Department was my second mentor and always tried to help me as best as he could. He assigned me a place in a laboratory of the Department with my own PC.



Alex works with Dr. William Cheung's students

My colleagues in the lab were mostly doctoral students from mainland China working in the field of GRID Computing and Artificial Intelligence. I had a very good relation with my colleagues and we sometimes also went out together for lunch and dinner. The life at the student residence halls was economically priced, pleasant, and comfortable. The whole site had everything that a student needs available: cafeteria, stationery shop, bank, gym, laundry, and so on.



Impression

Hong Kong is a huge and modern metropolis that has everything! There is so much that Hong Kong can offer, even ice skating inside a shopping mall is possible! I was absolutely overwhelmed by the quarter Mongkok and the many people shopping there. What a claustrophobic place!

Although Hong Kong is a big city, it is located only on a small piece of land and so everything is very packed. I was not used to such big crowds at all and often found it stressful to walk through the streets. There are people just everywhere and you really should not walk slower or faster than the mainstream unless you do not bother constantly bumping into other people. The infrastructure was just perfect. There were buses, trains, and taxis at cheap rates taking you everywhere around the clock. A very big plus of Hong Kong is the high security level. In contrast to most western cities to which I have been, I never felt unsafe or in danger even at nights. This high level of security is probably connected with the comprehensive video surveillance. It was very interesting to see that people in Hong Kong do not concern much about the surveillance everywhere. While German politicians are debating whether the state should be allowed to monitor public places with video cameras or not, it seemed to me like that there is no place in Hong Kong not under constant supervision.

Something that I found truly amazing and shocking at the same time were the many tower blocks of flats. I was used to see 4 or 5 of them but not hundreds! So for me it was amazing to sit in the train to Shenzhen and watch those forty-storey tall buildings passing by. I could not believe the cramped conditions of an average family. While an average Hong Kong family shares around 50 square meters, it is common for young Germans to live in their own apartments with a size between 20 to 50 square meters, of course without the family. A great escape from the narrowness and hectic of the city are the nice beaches on Hong Kong Island, the small outlying islands, and the hilly nature parks to which I always liked going to.

Like other foreign students I did not like what the cafeteria offered. Hong Kong is a great city for eating out and there is all kind of food served but unfortunately the University's cafeterias were a great disappointment. Non-vegetarian meals were hard to find and I did not like the taste of most menus served. I am no vegetarian but having meat 3 times a day is simply too much for me. People explained to me that "meat is a big asset in Chinese food" and just adopted this custom. Nonetheless I felt myself confirmed with the idea that people are eating too much meat when I saw advertisements in the MTR stations calling for eating more vegetables.



Visiting Macau

Conclusion

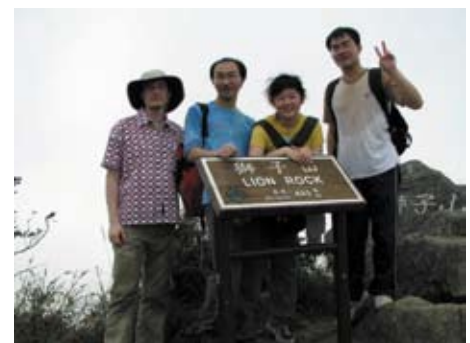
The stay in Hong Kong was excellent and definitely worth the stress I had with my thesis. I found new friends, got a lot of understanding about the Chinese culture, and simply had a great time in this vibrant city. The people are friendly. Although not all of them speak English, they always tried to help me as best as they could. The University offered many events helping foreign students to get in touch with local students, and exploring the city. On weekends I often crossed the border to see the neighboring cities of Macau, Shenzhen, and Guangzhou. After my thesis I traveled from Hong Kong for two and a half months through China and other Asian countries and had a fantastic journey. I will keep Hong Kong in good memories and will always remember Hong Kong Baptist University as a great host university!



Alex at the Khunjerab Pass, the border between China and Pakistan



Alex at Lantau Island



Alex with our postgraduates at Lion Rock

MSC IN IT MANAGEMENT COURSE

MSc Experience Sharing for Job Hunting

Our MSc students gathered on 20 January 2007 where the Acting Head, Prof. Y.W. Leung, and Acting Course Director, Dr. Y.M. Cheung, shared with them the various channels for seeking jobs and the employment opportunities available in Hong Kong after graduation. Our two graduates, Ms. Tingting Wang and Mr. Benson Bincheng Hu, were also invited to share their work experience. All students have benefited through this sharing session and enjoyed a morning filled with fun.

For more information about the MSc in Information Technology Management Course, please visit: <http://www.comp.hkbu.edu.hk/msc/itm/>.



Our graduates, Benson (middle) and Tingting (right), sharing their experiences



Happy Gathering

Scholarship Recipients for Semester 1, 2006/07

Congratulations to the following MSc students!

Their outstanding academic performance was recognized at the Scholarship Presentation Ceremony on 20 January 2007.

Distinction Scholarship:

1. Tong Yick Sze
2. Wong Pui Shan
3. Leung Cheuk Hon
4. Tai Yui Keung
5. Lam Pan
6. Tang Kwok Cheong
7. Tam Tan Yee Jennifer

Merit Scholarship:

1. Tang Siying
2. Huang Nan
3. Liang Junyi
4. Li Cheong Chi Joey
5. Chan Ka Lok
6. Pong Kwok Wai
7. Wong Ka Fai
8. Ng Pui Yan Ivy
9. Li Ling Chi

Application for the MSc in IT Management Course

The IT Management Course focuses on IT Management with emphasis on both technological and managerial sides so that students learn the state-of-the-art methodologies in hot areas of IT Management. Its content is up-to-date and fulfills the needs of the IT industry.

Applicants who possess a Bachelor's degree in science, engineering, business or other relevant fields from a recognized university or equivalent qualification, and are proficient in English, can apply for the Course. For further information, please visit: <http://www.comp.hkbu.edu.hk/msc/itm/>. The deadline for application is 30 June 2007.



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