**NEWS UPDATE**

**Prof. MA Wing Kin has been elected IEEE Fellow 2017**

Prof. Ma Wing Kin from the Department of Electronic Engineering has been elected a Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) in 2017 for his contributions to optimization in signal processing and communications.

**The IEEE Grade of Fellow is conferred by the IEEE Board of Directors upon a person with an outstanding record of accomplishments in any of the IEEE fields of interest. The total number selected in any one year cannot exceed one-tenth of one percent of the total voting membership. IEEE Fellow is the highest grade of membership and is recognized by the technical community as a prestigious honor and an important career achievement.**

Prof. Ma is well recognized for his fundamental contributions to signal processing, communications, and more recently, remote sensing. In his research career he has tackled a number of key problems, such as developing high-performance detection solutions for multi-in multi-out (MIMO) communications; interference management and resource optimization in a complex mobile network; matrix factorization techniques that can be used to separate different parts of tissues in a biomedical image; or to tell which materials a remote sensing picture contains under hyperspectral imaging technology. At the heart of these seemingly different developments is optimization—think of real-life problems such as finance and logistics management, which optimization can solve, and give the best answer, for us. Prof. Ma contributed significantly to the use of optimization in engineering problems, enhancing system performance and providing innovative new solutions. In some cases he contributed to the more mathematical side of optimization by taking insight from applications to solve previously unanswered questions in theory.

**PhD students received awards under the Global Scholarship Programme for Research Excellence 2016-17**

PhD students Mr. TAN Yihoa (supervised by Prof. Soung C. Liew) and Miss FAN Congmin (supervised by Prof. Angela Y.J. Zhang) have received funding support to undertake a research attachment at leading research universities in 2016-17. Mr. Tan is currently having research visit at MIT while Miss Fan is at Stanford University. We truly hope that they will have fruitful Spring term in 2017!

**Faculty of Engineering launches the first-ever FinTech Undergraduate Programme in Hong Kong**

Financial Technology (FinTech) is a newly emerging inter-disciplinary field between finance and engineering which has been demonstrating an unprecedented potential to revolutionise the traditional financial service sector. It focuses on employing cutting-edge developments in engineering, particularly information technology and data sciences, in various financial practices to improve service efficiency and enhance end-user customers’ satisfaction. To meet the foreseeable strong demands for FinTech professionals in coming decades, the Faculty of Engineering of The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) will launch a new four-year undergraduate programme in Financial Technology in the 2017/18 academic year, the first of its kind in Hong Kong. The first intake targets for 25 students.

The FinTech Programme will closely collaborate with the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA) and the Hong Kong Applied Science and Technology Research Institute (ASTRI) on this new FinTech programme to organise internships and overseas exchanges for students. It is built upon CUHK Faculty of Engineering’s strong collaboration with the Faculties of Business Administration, Law, and Social Science. This multi-disciplinary training will equip students with both solid technological education in engineering innovations and an understanding of the business and legal environment for FinTech.

New course offerings, including Financial Infrastructures, E-Payment Systems and Cryptocurrency Technologies, Internet Finance, and Financial Informatics, are expected to bring state-of-the-art developments in the field to the undergraduate education for the first time. Programme details can be found at http://fin-tech.se.cuhk.edu.hk.

The Faculty of Engineering has organised an information session at Yasumoto International Academic Park, CUHK, on January 11, 2017 to introduce the programme details. Professor Chen Nan, the Programme Director, shared the programme mission in the session. He said, ‘the programme is devoted to nurturing leadership and entrepreneurship for the next generation of financial talents in support of Hong Kong’s endeavor to grow as an international FinTech hub.’ He also remarked that graduates of this programme would be ideally suited for positions that require strong quantitative and technological skills in the financial services industry.

In the information session, Mr. Shu-pui Li, Executive Director (Financial Infrastructure) of HKMA, gave a talk on ‘Development of a FinTech Ecosystem in Hong Kong.’ He discussed the regulatory and business environment of FinTech in Hong Kong and highlighted the urgent demands for FinTech talents. Dr. Duncan Wong, Vice President of ASTRI, delivered a talk about ‘Development of Blockchain Technology: A New Financial Industry’.

In the information session, Prof. Anthony So also addressed the admission requirements. The information session has successfully attracted many secondary students, their parents and school teachers to attend. The audience have shown acute interest in the new programme.

On behalf of the University administration, Professor Michael Hui, Pro-Vice-Chancellor of CUHK, started the information session with a welcoming address. He concluded his speech by a Chinese proverb ‘a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step’ (千里之行，始于足下). The line expresses the University’s full support and, more importantly, high expectation on this new FinTech Programme.

**Miss Wenzheng Chi, a HKPFS recipient in EE Department received the Best Student Paper Award**

Miss Wenzheng Chi, a PhD student and a HKPFS recipient in the Department of Electronic Engineering, supervised by Professor Max Q.-H. Meng, received the Best Student Paper Award at the 2016 IEEE International Conference on Real-Time Computing and Robotics held in Angkor Wat, Cambodia from June 6 to 10, 2016. The award-winning paper is entitled: ‘A human-friendly robot navigation algorithm using the risk-RRT approach.’ Congratulations!

**Postgraduate students Lo Po Wen, Li Xintong and Wang Jiankun received the Best Innovation Award**

Mr. Lo Po Wen, Mr. Li Xintong and Mr. Wang Jiankun, postgraduate students from Department of Electronic Engineering, supervised by Professor Max Q.-H. Meng, received the Best Innovation Award in the Innovation & Entrepreneurship Competition (Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan and China regions) on 18 November, 2016. The award-winning project is entitled: Continuous Blood Pressure Monitoring System based on Face Recognition.’ Congratulations!

**Prof. HUANG Jianwei is selected as a Thomson Reuters Highly Cited Researcher (HCR) in Computer Science in 2016**

The 2016 HCRs are selected by Thomson Reuters worldwide in 22 broad research fields. The data used in the analysis and selection of the new HCRs came from Essential Science Indicators (ESI), 2004-2014, which accessed a pool of 128,887 Highly Cited Papers. Each of these papers ranked in the top 1% by total citations according to their ESI field assignment and year of publication.

This year, CUHK has two HCRs from all research areas. In the area of Computer Science, there are three HCRs from Hong Kong and 127 HCRs worldwide.

**Prof. WONG Wing Shing received the Research Excellence Award 2015-16**

Prof. Wong Wing Shing has been awarded the Research Excellence Award 2015-16. A research grant HK$200,000 will be awarded.