UGC Teaching Award 2016

Dr Grace Ngai, Associate Professor of COMP, and Dr Stephen Chan, Associate Professor of COMP and Head of the Office of Service-Learning received the Academic Service-Learning Transformers Award in the Category of General Faculty Members/Team at the 2016 University Grants Committee (UGC) Teaching Award.

Dr Ngai and Dr Chan worked together as a team and spare no effort on promoting PolyU’s Service-Learning Programmes for the undergraduates. To increase students’ opportunities to grow and learn through service, they also help to establish collaborations with universities worldwide and endeavour to cultivate a service culture on campus and in the community by organising workshops and exchange activities.

With their dedicated efforts, the programmes were further expanded to more overseas countries such as Cambodia, Myanmar, Rwanda, and Kyrgyzstan. Congratulations to Dr Ngai and Dr Chan again on attaining such outstanding achievement.

Faculty Awards for Outstanding Performance

Congratulations to COMP academic staff on receiving Faculty of Engineering Awards 2015/16, including Outstanding Performance/Achievement in Teaching, and Research and Scholarly Activities. COMP has won the Faculty Awards for Outstanding Performance/Achievement for 10 consecutive years since 2006/07. It reflects the great effort and contributions made by our staff members. We all look forward to more great achievements in the future.

- Faculty Award in Teaching - Outstanding Award (Individual): Dr Richard Lui, Teaching Fellow
- Faculty Award in Research and Scholarly Activities - Outstanding Award (Individual): Dr Zili Shao, Associate Professor

Students’ Sharing

COMP student, Mr Peter Ho, participated in the Microsoft Imagine Cup 2016 Hong Kong Final and brought glory to COMP by winning the championship in the “Innovation” category.

Being one of the winners in Microsoft Imagine Cup 2016 World Semi-Final, Peter was selected to join the World Final in Seattle in July 2016 as the only representative from Hong Kong out of 35 world finalists. Peter got his precious chance to compete with other young technology talents across the globe, let’s know more about his wonderful experience.

COMP student, Miss Bianca Ho, was selected as one of the 12 Hong Kong students to participate in the “MIT KICKSTART” Programme in Hong Kong and Shenzhen from 5 to 11 June 2016.

It was a unique hardware mini-accelerator programme for university entrepreneurs organised by MIT Hong Kong Innovation Node. During the programme, both Hong Kong and MIT participants have to cooperate and form teams to refine ideas, build prototypes, pitch their ideas and showcase their prototypes. Bianca has shared with us her exciting experience of joining this programme.
**Mr Peter Ho**

Microsoft Imagine Cup 2016

Q: What inspired you to create “KinectGarten”?
A: “KinectGarten” is an app which incorporates Kinect technology and requires children to make gestures to pick their answers, making learning interactive and fun. The idea came from the society and my family. My relatives encounter a problem that their children do not like doing homework and are easily distracted by games and toys while studying. Besides, students in Hong Kong are facing severe study pressure. Therefore, I tried to combine gaming and homework for children to play and learn simultaneously.

Q: Have you encountered any difficulties in developing the project? How did you overcome them?
A: Yes. The first challenge was to design funny graphics to attract children’s attention. Since I have limited skills in this area, I spent much time to learn, find and develop suitable materials for the game. Secondly, I was not familiar with the body detection technologies (Kinect sensor). After I had done technical research and watched tutorial videos, I started to know how to do it. That was fun! Thirdly, to ensure the application runs properly, I need to find my target users, i.e. children and teachers, to try and test it. However, it was difficult, and I spent a long time to approach them. Nevertheless, it was an unforgettable experience.

Q: Please share your remarkable moment at the competition.
A: I was given the opportunity to watch other teams’ presentations at the competition in Seattle and surprised that they delivered effective and smooth presentations. I was like “WOW! This team is so amazing!” since the candidates offered innovative ideas and brilliant marketing strategies. Besides, I treasured the chance to make friends with elites from the globe. Although we were competitors, we share the same interest and appreciate each other’s efforts.

During the competition, a guy approached me and said “Good luck and do your best!” in Cantonese. After chatting with him, I found that he is a Hong Kong people who works for Microsoft, U.S. as a software engineer. He is very friendly and helpful as he introduced me to other Hong Kong people in the U.S., drove me to tourist spots during our leisure time and gave me useful advice on my future career. It was a memorable experience indeed!

Q: Could you share what you have learnt from the competition?
A: The competition helped me to understand my strengths and weaknesses. Since I study Computer Science, I consider myself to be more inclined towards technical side than marketing side. Unexpectedly, the judges were more focused on marketing strategies. I could handle all technical questions but not perform very well in business questions. It is my weakness, and I would find ways to improve it.

Besides, some teams from developing countries like Sri Lanka and Romania had great ideas. They worked very hard to realise their products, some of them even had cooperation with doctors or companies like Facebook, Uber. They did an excellent job, and I could feel their passion.

Q: How did COMP equip you for the competition?
A: COMP provided me with comprehensive and solid knowledge about computing technologies that sharpened my skills to join the competition. The coursework and projects were very practical, which enabled me to practise what I learnt in classes, such as programming skills, database, and web technologies. With these skills, I was able to design and implement my “KinectGarten” more efficient and effective than before. Also, professors gave me many recommendations and much guidance throughout the process. Without their professional advice, I would not be able to join the world final competition.

Q: What do you enjoy most about studying in COMP?
A: Apart from practical coursework, I enjoy knowing both professors and students in COMP. Professors are helpful and positive; they are friendly and willing to give me constructive feedback. My supervisor, Dr Henry Chan, provides many opportunities to students to join different competitions. I am very thankful to be one of his students.

I like spending time with friends in COMP to complete coursework. Although some projects required our greater efforts, I enjoyed the moment when we work together to achieve a common goal. The friends in COMP have coloured my university life and brought me many valuable memories.
Q: Please share with us your MIT KICKSTART experience. And how did you feel when you were selected to join the programme?

A: During the 7-day programme, several industry experts shared with us their insights on the latest trends in Internet of Things (IoT). We explored “Lean Canvas” and other business strategy frameworks with a masterclass on “Design Thinking”. I was excited that we were given the opportunities to Shenzhen to take a look at the industrial design and understand rapid prototyping. We also watched the mass manufacturing processes in real life in Shenzhen Kaifa Technology Co., Ltd. and visited Tencent, Inc. to know more about their latest products. We even experienced the most innovative IoT products in IngDan and sourced components in Huangqiangbei - Shenzhen’s famous electronic market. Starting from the fourth day, we began to build our prototype in Maker Bay by using 3D printers and laser cutters. On the last day, I pitched our team’s ideas and demonstrated our prototype to industry professionals, entrepreneurs, seasoned investors, engineers as well as MIT alumni.

As far as I know, nearly 250 candidates from universities in Hong Kong competed for the 12 places; the candidates underwent a rigorous screening process, and I was selected after three rounds of interviews. I felt very pleased and honoured to be one of the Hong Kong students to join the programme.

Q: Why did you join this programme?

A: I would like to take up the challenge to build a prototype from “zero to one” in a limited time. As a student pursuing a Double Degree Programme in Computing and Management, it was a worthwhile experience to learn how programming could complement hardware. Besides, from a management student’s perspective, I am very interested in finding a customer’s pain point and eager to solve real-world problems through technology. I believe technology with good business models could improve people’s lives.

Q: You worked with a project team consisting of students from MIT and Hong Kong, what have you learnt from the experience?

A: In my opinion, MIT students are good at building hardware; while Hong Kong students have creative ideas for developing business models. The experience helped me to learn that there will always be someone smarter, but everyone is unique, it is important to recognise our strengths and maximise our full potential. To be self-confident and respectful of others are the best attitudes in collaborating with others.

Q: Have you encountered any challenges? And how did you overcome them?

A: Our team worked very hard till late night in Maker Bay towards one same goal - to get the prototype done. At that time, I felt we were connected as we tried our best to support and encourage each other with our knowledge and skills under time pressure. Finally, our team members managed to trust and complement each other with different specialities.

Q: As we know, the programme lasted for seven days, please share your memorable moment.

A: I am very fortunate to be a COMP student. I was given a lot of opportunities to broaden my horizons and increase my international exposure through various out-of-classroom activities, such as the U.S. study tour in May 2016. The MIT KICKSTART Programme provided me with a precious chance to cooperate with and learn from MIT students as well as engage with people from different countries.
Students’ Awards and Achievements

Second Runner-up Award in ACM Collegiate Programming Contest 2016

We are delighted that three Year 2 COMP students, Mr Kuohao Fu, Mr Jinshan Gu and Mr Xiating Ouyang, won the Second Runner-up Award at the ACM Collegiate Programming Contest (Hong Kong) held on 18 June 2016 at Cyberport.

This year, around 30 teams of students from universities in Hong Kong and Macao took part in the contest. Each team was given seven challenging programming problems, and the team members had to write programs to solve as many of the problems as possible in four hours. The team who correctly solved the most problems won.

Our students successfully demonstrated their strong programming techniques and teamwork skills to beat other teams. They also owed much of their success to the training and guidance from Dr Ken Yiu and Dr Richard Lui from COMP and Dr Yonghui Wu from School of Computer Science of Fudan University as external coach.

ACM Collegiate Programming Contest (Hong Kong) is an annual event organised by the Hong Kong Chapter of Association for Computing Machinery. It is a prestigious and team-based computer programming competition among the universities worldwide. It provides a platform for university students to demonstrate their knowledge and develop their teamwork, analytical and problem-solving skills, as well as their programming capabilities.

Bronze Award in Pan-Pearl River Delta Region University IT Project Competition 2016

COMP student, Mr Chi Ho Pun, Vincent won the Champion Award in the 2016 Pan-Pearl River Delta Region University IT Project Competition (Hong Kong SAR Region) in June 2016 with his project “App Inventor for iBeacon and Eddystone”. Vincent successfully entered the final round of the competition and represented Hong Kong region to compete with other representatives from 250 universities in Pan-PRD region, Macao and Taiwan at the Macao Polytechnic Institute in July 2016. Finally, he received the Bronze Award.

The tool makes it easy for people to create Android apps that utilise iBeacon and Eddystone beacons. As an add-on for App Inventor, it provides a platform for developing Android apps quickly. Users can make use of the simple drag-and-drop interface to discover beacons nearby and build apps that react as the smartphones near a beacon. Overall, it is designed to help those who want to use beacons without much effort to write code.

The competition was organised by the Guangdong Province Federation of Computers and co-organised by the Internet Professional Association (iProA) for the Hong Kong region. It successfully gathered IT talents to showcase their latest IT projects and exchange innovative ideas on technology. Congratulations to Vincent and his supervisor Dr Henry Chan!
Congratulations to COMP’s Polyhack 2016 Team “West Rail Line”!
Over the past few months, two COMP students, Mr Ping Him Lam, Andy and Mr Tung Hoi Yeung, together with their project team members from other PolyU departments received several awards in various competitions with their project titled “A & E Express”.

The cross-disciplinary team won a Silver Award and a Best Theme Award (Health Matters) at COMP's first hackathon event – “PolyHack” held in February 2016. They then participated in other competitions and made significant achievements. They won a Bronze Award in the 1st YouthPro Technology and Social Innovation Contest organised by the Hong Kong Youth and Professional Network in May 2016, and the First Runner-up Award in the 9th Shadow Entrepreneur organised by Junior Chamber International Hong Kong in July 2016.

The awarded project aims to deal with the long waiting time and the misuse of services in accident and emergency departments in hospitals by providing patients with more transparent information via technology, which allows better utilisation of medical resources.

The team consists of students from COMP and other PolyU departments such as School of Nursing (SN), School of Design (SD), Department of Electrical Engineering (EE), and Department of Electronic and Information Engineering (EIE). Their remarkable achievements are listed below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year/Month</th>
<th>Competition</th>
<th>Organiser</th>
<th>Achievement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| February 2016 | PolyHack 2016 | Department of Computing, PolyU | - Silver Award  
- Best Theme Award (Health Matters) |
| April 2016 | E*Tech X Social | Hong Kong Science and Technology Park | - Finalist (Top 14) |
| May 2016 | The 1st YouthPro Technology and Social Innovation Contest | Hong Kong Youth and Professional Network | - Bronze Award |
| July 2016 | The 9th Shadow Entrepreneur | Junior Chamber International Hong Kong | - First Runner-up |
| July 2016 | IMAGINE IF! Hong Kong Pitch Final | Innovation Forum | - Hong Kong Regional Finalist (Top 8) |

The 1st YouthPro Technology and Social Innovation Contest - Bronze Award
PolyHack 2016 - Silver Award and Best Theme Award (Health Matters)
The 9th Shadow Entrepreneur - First Runner-up
Second Runner-up in the Best Smart Glass App Competition 2016

Congratulations to our undergraduate student, Mr Ping Him Lam, Andy on winning the Second Runner-up in the Best Smart Glass App Competition (Practice Group - Tertiary Student Group) organised by the Hong Kong Computer Society in September 2016.

In the competition, participants had to develop innovative applications for the smart glass by submitting the application design concepts with elaboration, user manual, sophisticated flow diagram or wireframe. Andy developed an application namely “Connection” which is a video sharing social platform for the smart glass.

By receiving this award, Andy successfully demonstrated his technical knowledge and creativity. Let’s congratulate Andy for the achievement again, and we wish him to accomplish more in future competitions.

2016 Microsoft Research Asia Fellowship Award

We are pleased to announce our PhD student, Mr Ziqiang Cao, won the 2016 Microsoft Research Asia (MSRA) Fellowship Award and he is the very first COMP student receiving this prestigious award.

More than 110 distinguished PhD candidates from 40 leading research universities/institutions from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, Japan, and Singapore were nominated for MSRA Fellowship this year. Their credentials, publications and research projects were evaluated, and Mr Ziqiang Cao was among the only 10 extremely outstanding students winning this award.

Microsoft Research Asia will offer Mr Cao a 3-month visiting research opportunity at a top international research institute under the guidance of an experienced researcher as well as a cash award to support his research and academic endeavours.

Mr Cao was also invited to attend the 2016 MSRA Fellowship Award Ceremony held in Seoul, Korea on 3 November 2016 to meet with the Turing Award winner, distinguished scientists from around the world and other award winners.

Congratulations to Mr Cao for the great achievement!
We are proud to announce that members of our Programming Gurus’ Club under the guidance of Dr Richard Lui achieved very good performance in the IEEEXtreme 10.0 24-Hour Programming Competition on 22 - 23 October 2016. One of the teams, The Feast Team, formed by two COMP students, Mr Haozhe Yan and Mr Zhengyun Liao, and a student from the Department of Applied Biology and Chemical Technology (ABCT), Mr Tianze Lin, attained the 1st rank in Hong Kong region, 19th in China region and 75th among 2000 teams from the globe.

All contestants had to compete against each other to solve a set of programming problems in 24 hours and points were awarded based on how the problem was solved, the time it took, and its difficulty. COMP nominated four student teams to join the contest this year and “The Feast Team” successfully solved 15 out of the 20 programming problems and obtained 1163.36 marks. They finally got into top 100 in this annual global competition, and a special edition IEEEXtreme 10.0 gift bundle was awarded to them.

Let’s congratulate our students and Dr Richard Lui for such remarkable accomplishment!

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Team</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Rank (Mark)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Feast Team</td>
<td>Haozhe Yan (COMP – Yr 2)</td>
<td>75 (1,163.36)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Zhengyun Liao (COMP – Yr 1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Tianze Lin (ABCT – Yr 1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>666 Team</td>
<td>Mingru Cheng (COMP – Yr 1)</td>
<td>135 (803.84)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yiran Cheng (COMP – Yr 1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Feijie Wu (EIE – Yr 1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Water Team</td>
<td>Yutong Yang (COMP – Yr 1)</td>
<td>228 (606.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Shiqi He (COMP – Yr 1)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Hanyu Zhang (COMP – Yr 1)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Bugs Everywhere</td>
<td>Man Kit Lee, Tommy (COMP – Yr 2)</td>
<td>256 (580.15)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Chak Wai Li (COMP – Yr 2)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Yiu Chau Tam, Andy (COMP – Yr 1)</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

The four COMP student teams took photo with Dr Richard Lui (second from right)
Student Activities

Computer App Programming (CAP) Competition 2016 was a Great Success

Under the sponsorship of Google (Hong Kong), COMP and the Hong Kong Association for Computer Education (HKACE) successfully organised the Computer App Programming (CAP) Competition at PolyU on 9 July 2016.

Over hundreds of students from 31 secondary schools participated in CAP this year. The competition was divided into “Problem-solving Competition” and “Student Projects Competition”. During the day, most of the students could solve those difficult IT questions by using the App Inventor within an hour.

Dr David Chung, Under Secretary of the Innovation and Technology Bureau (ITB), and Mr James Lam, Chairman of the Hong Kong Subsidised Secondary Schools Council joined the award presentation ceremony as Guests of Honours at the end of the day. Dr Chung also shared his interesting experience in learning programming years ago, which gave students much encouragement.

CAP aims at encouraging students to solve problems by using programming techniques, thus further develop their computing knowledge and logical thinking skills, and enhance team spirit. It also creates a platform for the academia to share insights on computer applications programming with the secondary school students.
Challengers Programme (CHAMP) Activity Highlights

We regularly offer training workshops to COMP students to equip them with practical knowledge and skills required by today's rapidly advancing computing industry.

Microsoft Internet of Things (IoT) Training Workshop

Aiming to provide basic knowledge about IoT, one of the out-of-classroom activities of CHAMP, Microsoft Internet of Things (IoT) Workshop, was held on 16 July 2016. The training session was delivered by industry experts from Microsoft, providing students with the knowledge of setting up their Raspberry Pi. Laboratory exercises on building applications to control and communicate with Raspberry Pi were also offered to enhance students' hands-on learning experience.

The workshop successfully provided valuable opportunities for participants to understand and experiment with the latest IoT technology. Around 30 COMP students attended the workshop, and all of them participated actively in the activities which they found fruitful and interesting.

Microsoft Learning on Cloud Training Workshop

Another technical workshop namely “Microsoft Learning on Cloud” was held at PolyU on 20 August 2016.

Mr Samson Lee, Technology Solutions Professional of Microsoft Hong Kong, was invited to provide a laboratory training on cloud computing to COMP students. This workshop enabled students to leverage cloud technologies to conduct predictive analytics with machine learning method. During the workshop, the participants managed to follow our trainer’s step-by-step instructions very well; they were also given opportunities to practise the newly acquired cloud computing techniques at the end of the workshop.

More than 20 students attended the workshop. They all showed a big interest in the topic and some of them even expressed they would like to get a deeper understanding of the technology. Due to the overwhelming response, another advanced level workshop namely “Machine Learning on Cloud Workshop” was arranged on 6 October 2016.

Fundamental Workshops

Apart from technical techniques, COMP organised a series of fundamental workshops to enhance students' job-seeking skills through practical training exercises in August 2016.

During the workshops, professional cover letter and resume writing techniques as well as effective elevator pitch writing skills were taught through practical exercises. Besides, training sessions were offered to elevate participants' presentation skills.

The workshops successfully enhanced participants' competitiveness, enabling them to obtain essential job hunting skills to compete with others especially in the overseas job market.
COMP Orientation Programme for undergraduate students was successfully held on 1 September 2016, and nearly a hundred new students participated in the event. Prof. Jiannong Cao, Chair Professor and Head of COMP, gave a big warm welcome to all the freshmen and shared his view on how to make the most of university life and unleash their potential as well as be a good thinker.

Prof. Cao also presented Scholarship Certificates to two of our students, Mr Tsz Chun Chan and Mr Hong Ming Tse who have recently received scholarship awards for their outstanding performance. They encouraged the freshmen to take up new challenges and never set limits for themselves.

The Orientation Programme included not only different information sessions conducted by COMP and other administrative units of PolyU, but also a special visit to COMP’s research project showcase and a relaxing chit-chat session with our academic advisors. Once again, welcome all the COMP newbies!

COMP organised a welcoming session for MSc new students at PolyU on 3 September 2016. Prof. Jiannong Cao, Chair Professor and Head of COMP, was proud to welcome our students by highlighting the latest development of the Department and encouraging them to explore their potential.

To let the students understand more about our programmes, activities, facilities and supports, our academic staff conducted several information sessions on that day. At the end of the event, students and the programme leaders had good engagement during the Q&A session.

About 120 new students attended the welcoming session. Welcome all the newcomers again, and we wish them a fruitful, enjoyable and memorable campus life.
MSc Java Programming Workshops

To help MSc students acquire fundamental programming knowledge, from 24 September to 22 October 2016, COMP organised a series of Java Programming Workshops for those who have little programming experience.

The five workshops covered various topics related to the fundamental concepts in programming with the use of JAVA programming. During the workshops, students successfully gained more programming experiences and conquered the fundamental programming skills through doing practical exercises and completing hands-on tasks.

Workshop Details:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 September 2016</td>
<td>Basic concepts and setup; Data Types and Values; Sequential Structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 October 2016</td>
<td>Decision/Selection Structure; Loop/Repetition Structure</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 October 2016</td>
<td>Modular Programming Approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 October 2016</td>
<td>Object-Oriented Programming Approach</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22 October 2016</td>
<td>Some Advanced Topics: e.g. Algorithms</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Department News

COMP’s Undergraduate Programmes were Accredited by the HKIE

We are glad to announce that the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) granted provisional accreditation to our full-time undergraduate programmes in July 2016. HKIE is a professional engineering learned society and qualifying body and has responsibility for setting and maintaining the professional and technical standards of its members. It evaluates the qualifications for admission to grades of Institution membership. A Computer Science degree programme accredited by the HKIE shall meet the academic requirements for Member of the HKIE in the Information Discipline.

Welcome Our New Academic Staff Member

Prof. Song Guo, Professor

Prof. Guo received his PhD in Computer Science from University of Ottawa. Prior to joining PolyU, he was a full professor at the University of Aizu, Japan. His research interests are mainly in the areas of cloud and green computing, big data, wireless networks, and cyber-physical systems. He has published over 300 conference and journal papers in these areas and received multiple best paper awards from IEEE/ACM conferences. His research has been sponsored by JSPS, JST, MIC, NSF, NSFC, and industrial companies. Prof. Guo has served as an editor of several journals, including IEEE TPDS, IEEE TETC, IEEE TGCN, IEEE Communications Magazine, and Wireless Networks. He has been actively participating in conference organisations serving as general chair and TPC chair. He is a senior member of IEEE, a senior member of ACM, and an IEEE Communications Society Distinguished Lecturer.
Alibaba Technology Forum 2016 - Big Data and Cloud Computing Technologies

Co-organised by Alibaba Group, PolyU’s Innovation and Technology Development Office (ITDO) and COMP, the first Alibaba Technology Forum (ATF) in Hong Kong on Big Data and Cloud Computing Technologies was successfully held at Chiang Chen Studio Theatre of PolyU on 17 June 2016, which attracted nearly 300 students, researchers and industry professionals.

In the morning, COMP had a meeting with representatives from Alibaba Group to explore collaboration opportunities. They also visited the demonstration of different research projects to understand the most updated research progress at COMP. That afternoon, Prof. Alex Wai, Vice President (Research Development) of PolyU, and Prof. Jiannong Cao, Chair Professor and Head of COMP, delivered the welcoming remarks at the opening of ATF.

ATF is an annual event which enables Alibaba Group to share their latest technology and vision. This year, it was held at PolyU, providing a platform for academia, students and industry professionals to discuss the opportunities and challenges involved with big data and cloud computing.

Further to the Alibaba Technology Forum and meeting with Alibaba Group at PolyU in mid-June this year, Alibaba Group selected some of our projects for further collaboration. Under the coordination of PolyU’s Innovation and Technology Development Office (ITDO), a group of faculty members from COMP, Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics (LSGI) and Department of Applied Mathematics (AMA) visited Alibaba Group’s Headquarters in Hangzhou on 1 - 2 August 2016.

During the visit, Alibaba Group and PolyU had further discussion on joint projects and explored possible collaborations. They sought the possibility to arrange our faculty members to be visiting scholars to work within one Alibaba Business Unit on collaborative projects. In the near future, they will discuss the detailed proposal content, research scope and budget, and Alibaba Group will provide funding support to COMP projects. Both sides will also explore long-term collaboration opportunities such as co-organising the Alibaba Technology Forum 2017 at PolyU and establishing a joint research laboratory.

A guided tour of Alibaba Group’s Headquarters and some group discussions with professionals from Alibaba Group on Big Data, Cloud Computing Technologies, Deep Learning, and Graph-based Learning were also organised. Overall, this two-day visit was very fruitful. COMP and Alibaba Group made a step further towards a formal partnership.
2016 Cross-Strait Research Forum - Smart Computing for Smart Living

Hosted by COMP, co-organised by School of Computer and Information Technology, Beijing Jiaotong University, and Department of Computer Science and Information Engineering, Tamkang University, the 2016 Cross-Strait Research Forum with the theme on “Smart Computing for Smart Living” was successfully held at PolyU on 19 - 22 July 2016.

Over 70 students and teachers from Beijing Jiaotong University, Tamkang University, National Taipei University, University of Messina, Poznan University of Technology and PolyU participated in this forum.

During the 4-day event, a series of exciting activities were organised, including research seminars, coding contest, student workshops, student sharing presentations, laboratory tours, campus tours and cultural visits. A panel discussion on “Smart Living – Elderly Care” further stimulated innovative ideas among teachers and students. At the closing ceremony, prizes were presented to the winners of the coding contest.

This event successfully provided an opportunity for academic staff and students from different universities to share their research advancements of smart computing. It also created an interactive platform for discussing the future development of smart computing technologies and establishing closer research collaborations.

ASP-DAC 2017 TPC Meeting and EDA Workshop

Sponsored by Huawei, Cadence and IEEE CEDA, COMP successfully organised the TPC Meeting and Electronic Design Automation (EDA) Workshop for the 2017 Asia and South Pacific Design Automation Conference (ASP-DAC) at PolyU on 29 August 2016. This year, 16 subcommittees with more than 100 TPC members from all over the world gathered to attend the meeting.

ASP-DAC 2017 is the 22nd annual international conference on Very Large Scale Integration (VLSI) design automation in Asia and South Pacific region for researchers, scientists, engineers, and students which will be held on 16 - 19 January 2017 in Tokyo, Japan. In order to get well prepared for the conference, all TPC members met with each other for discussing the paper selection and attended a series of EDA workshops.

During the day, the TPC members also visited our project showcase and exchanged valuable ideas with our research teams.
COMP regularly organises activities for the industry partners, academia and the public to exchange ideas on the latest IT technologies. On 20 August 2016, we arranged an open forum entitled “From Digital Leadership to Re-industrialisation: Innovators Meet Entrepreneurs” at PolyU. The forum was a huge success which attracted over 250 participants including business executives, researchers, entrepreneurs, venture capitalists, civil servants and students.

Prof. Jiannong Cao, Chair Professor and Head of COMP, delivered the welcoming remarks. Six guest speakers from government bodies, industry and academia were invited to share their views and experiences on how digital leaders, innovators and entrepreneurs contribute towards the processes of re-industrialisation. Dr David Chung, Under Secretary of Innovation and Technology Bureau, further explained the cases of innovations and technology with government initiatives.

A panel discussion was arranged to facilitate the exchange of ideas about the trend and direction of digital technologies. The forum successfully provided a platform to bring together industry professionals and students to explore the opportunities brought by re-industrialisation.

COMP also arranged a pre-forum project showcase with live demonstration for the participants in that morning. Participants were impressed by our research projects and the newly installed virtual reality (VR) system.
With the aim of strengthening the communication among our staff members, and brainstorming innovative ideas for new research initiative, COMP organised its departmental retreat at Hong Kong SkyCity Marriott Hotel on 25 - 26 August 2016. The retreat provided an opportunity for our staff members to come together in a relaxing and stimulating environment that fostered interaction and discussion.

Nearly 50 COMP staff members actively participated in the retreat. With the theme of “Innovation from Ideas to Real World Impact”, COMP staff members put great effort into thinking and discussing the Smart Ageing Initiative.

They had a meaningful and lively discussion, and successfully identified the initiative objectives, areas of research and the outline of the implementation process. Apart from the discussion, a series of team building activities were organised to develop group cohesion and promote team spirits. Each team tried their best to strive for victory, and they enjoyed the exciting games very much.

The 2-day departmental retreat was a great success. It encouraged collaboration and strengthened internal bonds. With the efforts of all staff members, we look forward to making our research initiative a success in the near future.
The PolyU Education Info Day was successfully held on 8 October 2016, which provided an excellent opportunity for thousands of prospective students, parents and the public to obtain first-hand information of COMP and know more about our undergraduate programmes, admission requirements, career prospects and university life.

In order to deepen visitors’ understandings about our Department and academic programmes, COMP organised a series of activities including booth exhibition, Info Seminar sessions with consultation, and guided laboratory visit of research projects with live demonstration, attracting thousands of visitors.

Apart from getting useful and detailed information from COMP, the visitors had lively discussions and fruitful exchange of views with our current students and faculty members throughout the day.
To keep our academic staff and students up-to-date with the cutting-edge technical knowledge in computing-related disciplines, as well as assist them in gaining exposure to a broad range of research topics, COMP regularly invites renowned speakers from global institutions to share with us their latest research findings.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seminar Topic (July - October 2016)</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Institution</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Security and Privacy in Cloud Computing: Challenges and Opportunities</td>
<td>Prof. Yang Xiang</td>
<td>Centre for Cyber Security Research (CCSR) Deakin University Australia</td>
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<td>Modelling Human Visual Speech</td>
<td>Dr Ziheng Zhou</td>
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<td>Fast Algorithms for Consensus Trees</td>
<td>Dr Jesper Jansson</td>
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<td>Algorithms and Systems for Big Graph Analytics</td>
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<td>Saliency Object Detection: From Contrast-based methods to Supervised-based Methods</td>
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<td>What’s the Insight of Self-paced Learning</td>
<td>Dr Deyu Meng</td>
<td>Institute for Information and System Sciences School of Mathematics and Statistics Xi’an Jiaotong University China</td>
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<td>On Scheduling Two-Stage Jobs on Multiple Two-Stage Flowshops</td>
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<td>Noise Modelling for Robust Low-rank Matrix Analysis</td>
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<td>Understanding and Optimizing Performance and Cost Efficiency of Cloud Storage</td>
<td>Dr Feng Chen</td>
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<td>On Fusion of Heterogeneous Data Sources</td>
<td>Prof. Philip S. Yu</td>
<td>Department of Computer Science University of Illinois at Chicago USA</td>
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<td>Sky is Not the Limit: Semantic-Aware Sky Replacement</td>
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<td>The Key Technologies for the Big Data Storage System</td>
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<td>Prof. Jing Huang</td>
<td>Department of Mathematics and Statistics University of Victoria Canada</td>
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Programme Highlights

A Brand New Programme - BSc (Hons) in Financial Technology

The global financial industry is currently facing a notable challenge - Financial Technology (FinTech). FinTech means using technology to make financial services more efficient. Nowadays, the FinTech industry is growing rapidly since many companies realise the power of FinTech; banks and financial institutions are trying to use digital ways to deliver highly focused financial services to clients to maintain their competitiveness in the market.

To cater for the fast growing demand for FinTech talents, COMP is offering a new top-up degree programme, BSc (Hons) in Financial Technology, in the academic year 2017/18. This 2-year full-time UGC-funded programme aims to produce sub-degree graduates with a comprehensive education in computing and finance and equip them with professional knowledge, practical skills and all-round competence about computer communications and business in the financial sector.

The programme is specifically designed for sub-degree graduates from Information and Communications Technology (ICT)-related and finance-related disciplines, enabling graduates to have a wide range of employment and career progression opportunities in the financial sector in Hong Kong and overseas markets.


Taught Postgraduate Programmes in Computing

COMP offers four Master of Science Programmes which provide education in computing and information technology tailored to suit the professional needs of students with diverse backgrounds, needs and career aspirations.

- MSc in E-Commerce
- MSc in Information Systems
- MSc in Information Technology
- MSc in Software Technology

To help students equip with practical and innovative solutions for their work and contribute to their professional leadership in the ever-changing world, our programmes offer comprehensive curriculum covering a diverse range of hot topics including big data analytics, cloud computing, Internet of Things (IoT), smart cities, security and privacy, human-centered interaction, artificial intelligence and robotics, super-computing, biometric authentication, and software engineering. Students can select from over 50 subjects that suit their interests and future goals. Through each specific programme, students can develop not only advanced expertise but also establish professional networks which help them to scale new heights in their careers.

Info Seminar on MSc Programmes in Computing and Research Project Showcase

The seminar not only provides you with a great opportunity to obtain first-hand information about the features of our programmes and professional advice on issues related to application and study but also help you gain deeper insights into your future career prospect in the challenging world.

Date: 14 January 2017 (Sat)
Time: 2:30 to 4:00 pm
Venue: PolyU, Hung Hom
Info Seminar registration: https://goo.gl/forms/mGha9cAjDy4aTaeE2

Online applications for admission to postgraduate programmes in September 2017 are now being invited. The first round of application deadline of Taught Postgraduate Programmes in Computing is on 1 February 2017. For more information about our MSc programmes, please visit http://www.comp.polyu.edu.hk/en-us/prospective-students/taught-postgraduate-programmes.
Executive Master in Digital Leadership

Executive Master in Digital Leadership is specially designed to provide forward-looking executives with genuinely innovative professional development experience to become well-equipped leaders in today's digital economy. The first cohort of this programme was successfully launched in 2016/17.

Hosted by COMP, the programme involves world-class faculty members from the School of Design, Faculty of Business and top overseas academics as well as distinguished industry experts. Our excellent teaching team will inspire you with new thinking and innovative methodologies for application at work, getting you ahead of the game in your career and businesses.

Digital technologies, which include mobile devices, social media platforms, cloud, big data and analytics, are giving birth to disruptive, high-growth organisations. These companies are rewriting the rules in well-established industry sectors, which are creating a demand for new kinds of leaders who are comfortable with emerging technologies and business models. This programme addresses such a need, with global and local exposure to thrive in the digital age.

Info Seminar on Executive Master in Digital Leadership and Research Project Showcase

Date: 14 January 2017 (Sat)
Time: Research Project Showcase - 3:30 to 4:00 pm
     Info Seminar - 4:00 to 5:00 pm
Venue: PolyU, Hung Hom

Celebration of PolyU’s 80th Anniversary

PolyU is celebrating its 80th anniversary in 2017 with the core message “Proud of PolyU - Proud of Hong Kong”. In celebration of this significant milestone, COMP will specially organise a range of meaningful activities and events including international conferences, forums, competitions and networking events throughout the coming year, aiming at fostering strong bonding and communication between our students, alumni, staff members, industry partners and other stakeholders. We are also moving forward to drive collaboration, knowledge transfer and technology advancement through various remarkable initiatives.

Please mark your calendar to join us at our upcoming activities and share our excitement and happiness, do stay tuned for more event details.

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<th>Date</th>
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<td>19 January - 19 February 2017</td>
<td>PolyHack (PolyU Hackathon) 2017</td>
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<td>9 February - 31 March 2017</td>
<td>Computing Solved It! (CSI!) Inception 2017</td>
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<td>March 2017</td>
<td>COMP Distinguished Alumni Award Presentation Ceremony cum Alumni and Students Reunion Dinner 2017</td>
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<td>29 - 31 May 2017</td>
<td>The 3rd IEEE International Conference on Smart Computing (SMARTCOMP 2017)</td>
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<td>3 - 5 August 2017</td>
<td>The 23rd International Computing and Combinatorics Conference (COCOON 2017)</td>
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<td>26 - 29 September 2017</td>
<td>The 36th Symposium on Reliable Distributed Systems (SRDS 2017)</td>
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COMP Distinguished Alumni Award 2017

Do you know any outstanding COMP alumni? We will soon accept nominations for the 2017 COMP Distinguished Alumni Award.

With over 40 years of success in computing higher education in Hong Kong, COMP has groomed more than 10,000 graduates serving in different sectors of the community with their specialised expertise and professionalism and contributing to the advancement of the society. The COMP Distinguished Alumni Award aims to recognise outstanding COMP alumni for their professional achievements, significant contributions to COMP, PolyU and the community.