Distinguished Lecture in Electronic and Information Engineering

It was our great honour to have Prof. Leon Chua, the recipient of 2014 Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science of PolyU, and Chair Professor of Nonlinear Circuits and Complexity Theory (under the Distinguished Scholars Scheme) of the Department, to deliver a Distinguished Lecture in Electronic and Information Engineering entitled “What's New in Wolfram’s New Kind of Science?” on 21 November in PolyU. The lecture attracted about 200 academics and students from local and mainland universities. Prof. Chua is Professor of the Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences Department of the University of California, Berkeley. He was elected an IEEE Fellow in 1974. He was the first recipient of the IEEE Gustav Robert Kirchhoff Award in 2005 and was awarded the IEEE Neural Networks Pioneer Award in 2000. In this lecture, Prof. Chua presented a definitive and explicit mathematical theory which explains and clarifies Stephen Wolfram’s remarkable intuitions and insights from his monumental tome "A New Kind of Science", which contains a huge collection of complex dynamical phenomena recorded from countless hours of brute force computer simulations of one-dimensional Cellular Automata (CA).

Winning in Emotion Recognition in the Wild Challenge 2014

A team of EIE staff and a research student, including Dr. Zheru Chi, Mr. Jun Kai Chen, Dr. Zenghai Chen, and Dr. Hong Fu, won the Second Runner-Up Award in the Emotion Recognition in the Wild Challenge 2014 organized by the 16th ACM International Conference on Multimodal Interaction, on 12-16 November, in Turkey. The winning team proposed a new feature descriptor called Histogram of Oriented Gradients from Three Orthogonal Planes (HOG_TOP) to represent facial expressions in their paper "Emotion Recognition in the Wild with Feature Fusion and Multiple Kernel Learning".

Keynote Presentation at International Conference on Cyber-Enabled Distributed Computing and Knowledge Discovery

Dr. Ben Cheng was invited to deliver a keynote presentation at the International Conference on Cyber-Enabled Distributed Computing and Knowledge Discovery (CyberC'2014) held on 10-12 October in Shanghai, China. The conference is one of the major conferences on cyber-related technology supported by the IEEE computer society. “Big Data” was selected as the conference theme of this year and the conference had attracted more than 200 attendees from both academia and industry. Dr. Cheng’s talk on “Delay-Aware Big Data Collection Strategies for Sensor Cloud Services” was well received by the audiences and obtained a Keynote Excellence Award from the organizing committee. The handouts have been made available on Dr. Cheng’s website (http://www.eie.polyu.edu.hk/~bcheng/).

Innovation Festival in Malmo, Sweden

Chan Chi Lam, our Year-3 BSc in IMT student, was nominated by the Faculty of Engineering to visit Malmo, Sweden, with three other engineering students between 8 and 16 November. The students from Hong Kong worked on three international final-year projects under the themes of health and elderly, Internet of things and environmental products, with six students from the Lund University and the Malmö University during the visit. The final prototypes of the projects were showcased at the Innovation Festival organized by the Government of Sweden and City of Malmo from 13 to 15 November in Sweden.
The annual PolyU Education Info Day held on 11 October this year attracted about 8000 visitors to visit our booth and the Department. The demonstrations in the booth and laboratories covered a broad range of study and research areas of EIE such as computer and information engineering, circuits and microelectronic engineering, and communications engineering, etc. The programme leaders, Dr C.K. Leung, Dr Frank Leung and Dr Y.L. Chan, also conducted five information seminars to introduce our undergraduate programmes to prospective students. This event successfully facilitated visitors to access different aspects of technology interactively and aroused their interest towards electronic and information engineering discipline.

Alumni BBQ Gathering

The Alumni Association of Electronic and Information Engineering (AAEIE) joined hands with the Alumni Association of Nursing Studies (AANS) and the Hong Kong Community College Alumni Association (HKCCAA) to organize a BBQ gathering in Sai Kung on 26 October. It was a joyful event for 45 alumni from different fields to meet and update each other.

Honorary Professorship 2014 by the Zhejiang University

Congratulations to Prof. Michael Somekh for being awarded the Honorary Professorship 2014 by the Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China. Prof. Somekh joined PolyU in 2014 as Chair Professor of Biophotonics and Head of EIE where he is establishing new characterisation methods based on both plasmonics and phononics as well as developing enhanced processing techniques in biological microscopy.

20th Congregation and Departmental Graduation Tea Reception 2014

The Faculty of Engineering held its 20th Congregation on 13 November to celebrate the graduation of 288 students from the EIE undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. It was our great pleasure to have Mr Peter Lam, Managing Director, Engineering, Hong Kong Telecommunications (HKT) Limited, as the Guest of Honour to make the congratulatory address at the graduation ceremony. On the day our graduates, including the recipients of the Best Academic Performance Award, the Technical Excellence Award and the Outstanding Presentation Award, also joined the Departmental Graduation Tea Reception to reunite with professors and their fellow classmates.
Seminar by Dr Guan Yong Liang from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Dr Guan Yong Liang from the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore, conducted a seminar on 21 November in the Department. Dr Guan is Associate Professor of the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. He was Head of Division in 2011-2014 and Director of the Positioning and Wireless Technology Center in 2007-2011. His research interests broadly include coding and signal processing for communication systems, storage systems and information security systems. In the seminar “Coding and Signal Processing for Magnetic and Semiconductor Storage”, Dr Guan outlined how coding and signal processing techniques such as 2-dimensional equalization, dirty-paper channel coding, joint synchroniztion-pinning bits, and signal redesign, could help to alleviate some of the challenges.

Seminar by Prof. Tyrone Fernando from University of Western Australia

A seminar entitled “Functional Observability and Functional Observability Indices” was given by Prof. Tyrone Fernando from the University of Western Australia on 5 December in the Department. Prof. Fernando introduced functional observability indices and the minimum order for a functional observer in terms of those functional observability indices in this seminar. Prof. Fernando is Professor of the School of Electrical Electronic and Computer Engineering and a senior member of the IEEE. His research interests are in control theory and application of control theory to biomedical engineering and power systems.

Seminar by Dr Svetlana Vitusevich from Forschungszentrum Juelich, Germany

Dr Svetlana Vitusevich from the Forschungszentrum Juelich, Germany, held a seminar on “Advanced Nanostructures for Biosensing Applications” on 10 December in the Department. She reported the recent progress and challenges in the development of advanced high-speed devices for biosensor applications. Dr Vitusevich is an active teacher at the Technical University of Dortmund and a group leader at Forschungszentrum Juelich. She has authored or co-authored more than 300 papers in refereed scientific journals and 8 patents. Her research interests include design and development of novel device structures for future information technologies, transport and noise properties of different kind materials and advanced electronic devices.

Seminar by Prof. Anthony Kuh from University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, USA

A seminar delivered by Prof. Anthony Kuh to introduce the machine learning algorithms and applications in signal processing, smart grids and energy was organized by the Centre for Signal Processing on 15 December. Prof. Kuh is currently a Professor of the Electrical Engineering Department at the University of Hawaii. He served as Chair of the Department from 1999 to 2002. Prof. Kuh was a recipient of the NSF Presidential Young Investigator Award in 1988. He was elected Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) in 1998 for his contributions to analysis of neural network models and their applications to signal processing. His research interests are in machine learning, adaptive signal processing, and sensor networks.
AAEIE AGM and Alumni Gathering 2014

The EIE Alumni Gathering 2014 was successfully held by the Alumni Association of Department of Electronic and Information Engineering (AAEIE) at the PolyU Staff Club Restaurant on 15 December. About 30 alumni and staff members joined this gathering to meet their old friends and professors. The Association also held its Annual General Meeting to present their annual activity report in this occasion. Graduates are welcome to register as a life-member of AAEIE at http://aa.eie.polyu.edu.hk/ to enjoy different on-campus and off-campus benefits, and participate in various kinds of events organized by AAEIE and the Federation of PolyU Alumni Associations.

Dr Ng Tat-lun Memorial Scholarship 2014/15

Congratulations to Lai Shun Cheung, our Year-2 BEng in EIE student, who was awarded the Dr Ng Tat-lun Memorial Scholarship 2014/15 in recognition of his outstanding performance in academic and extra-curricular activities! The Scholarship Presentation Ceremony was held on 12 November in the campus.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!