Congratulations to Prof. W.C. Siu on winning the Faculty Award for Outstanding Performance/Achievement in Research and Scholarly Activities 2013/14!

Prof. Siu joined the University in 1980 and became Chair Professor in the Department of Electronic and Information Engineering in 1992. He is Director of the Centre for Signal Processing, which is one of the best research centres in the world in this area. He was Head of EIE and subsequently Dean of Faculty of Engineering between 1994 and 2002. Professor Siu is an expert in Digital Signal Processing, specializing in fast algorithms, video coding, pattern recognition and surveillance. His works on motion estimation, transcoding and DCT algorithms are well received by academic peers with high citations. Furthermore, many of his research work have also been ported into industrial uses for hi-tech development. Prof. Siu is an IEEE Fellow. He is also a Vice President, Chair of Conference Board and a core member of the Board of Governors of the IEEE Signal Processing Society (2012–2014).

Prof. Siu has been further nominated by the Faculty for the President’s Award for Excellent Performance/Achievement 2013/14. Congratulations again to Prof. Siu for his excellent research achievement!

**IET Wireless Symposium 2014**

The IET Wireless Symposium 2014 was organized by the Electronics and Communications Section of the Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET) and co-organized by the Department on 20 June in PolyU. The objective of this event is to provide a dynamic forum for IET members and engineers from academia and industry to discuss ideas related to the Fifth Generation-5G wireless communication systems and testing vehicle. The symposium featured a comprehensive technical program including a number of symposia, exhibition and demonstration. Prof. Michael Somekh, Head of Department, made a welcome speech for this occasion. Dr Zhong Kängping, Research Associate of EIE, also conducted a seminar entitled "Ultra High Capacity Coherent Optical Communication Systems" to share the latest technology in optical communication systems in the symposium.

**Award Winning Final-year Project**

Supervised by Dr M.W. Mak, Mr Leung Wing Lung, our recent graduate of the BEng in EIE Programme, won two Merit Awards for his final-year project in the “Young Professionals Exhibition & Competition 2014” organized by The Institution of Engineering and Technology Hong Kong, and in the “Crossover 2014 Pan-Pearl River Delta Region Universities IT Project Competition” organized by the Internet Professional Association. The award winning project “Smart Phone Applications for On-line Ticketing Services” developed an application to perform online ticketing in the Android operating system and studied the technologies involved in the back-end system architecture. Congratulations to Mr Leung for his great work!
Prof. Philip Krein, the Departmental Academic Advisor, visited the Department between 20 and 24 June. Prof. Krein is Grainger Endowed Director's Chair in Electric Machinery and Electromechanics, and Professor from the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, USA. Several meetings for discussion on academic programmes and research, and an open forum for all academic staff members were conducted during the visit. Prof. Krein also delivered a seminar on "A low energy building case study: Targeting zero net energy in the new electrical and computer engineering building at the University of Illinois" on 20 June to introduce the frontiers of design and technology to achieve low-energy buildings being implemented around the world.

Led by Dr Frank Leung and Dr Bruce Sham, a team of 8 EIE students participated in the “Robocon Hong Kong Contest 2014” co-organized by the Hong Kong Cyberport Management Company Ltd., the Hong Kong Computer Society (HKCS) and the Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE) Information Technology Division, held at Cyberport on 22 June. Robocon is an international contest that aims to encourage the design and construction of robots. This competition not only offered a platform for the EIE Team to explore and demonstrate their creativity and technical skills, it also provided a valuable chance for our students to exchange learning experience in engineering with the other participants.

A delegation including 41 students and 4 staff from the Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU) visited the Department on 2 and 3 July. It was a fruitful trip for the students before they enter our BEng(Hons) in Electronic Engineering (BEng in ENC) programme in 2015 after successful completion of their first 2 years of study at the SYSU. The delegates were received by Prof. Francis Lau, Associate Head of the Department, and Dr Bonnie Law, BEng in ENC Programme Leader. Various activities including a tour to our laboratories and the Industrial Centre, an exchange session between EIE and SYSU students, and a lecture on Electronic Music delivered by Dr C.K. Leung were arranged during the visit. We look forward to meeting the students again when they join the Department next year!

Congratulations to LEUNG Kwan Pui, our Year-3 BSc in IMT student, for obtaining the Li & Fung Scholarship for the Student Exchange Programme 2014/15. He is exchanging to the National University of Singapore this semester. We wish LEUNG a fruitful study in Singapore!
Delegation from Beihang University

A 45-member delegation from the Beihang University, Beijing, visited PolyU on 23 July. The academics, research and undergraduate students toured different facilities of the University. In particular, they have visited our microfabrication Laboratory, and the Optical Communications and Networking Research Laboratory.

To promote awareness and understanding about engineering disciplines by the general public, the Faculty of Engineering has been organizing summer camp for secondary school students for many years. This year, the engineering summer camp was held from 23 to 25 July and EIE was one of the participating departments. Our staff members, Dr Ben Cheng, Mr S.Y. Lam, Mr Ivan Lau, Mr Y.M. Wong and Mr Zero Fok, organized industrial site visits and a 3-day intensive electronic workshop. In the workshop, the participants were guided to build their own tin-can headphone amplifier. They were enlightened by the constructive suggestions from our guest judge, Prof. Francis Lau. Many participants found the workshop interesting and mentioned that they have started considering electronic engineering as their future career.

Another key event of the summer camp was the high-table dinner which provided the participants with a taste of university life. To boost the atmosphere, our EIE alumni band “Break Four” was invited to perform at the summer camp dinner, which was the climax of the whole event.

DesignSpark PCB Workshop

A DesignSpark PCB Workshop jointly organized by the Department and the RS Components Ltd. (RS) was held in the campus on 26 July for 19 EIE Robotics Club members. Two speakers from the RS facilitated the workshop and shared with the attendees the useful features of DesignSpark PCB. It is a powerful and professional electronic design package that can perform schematic capture, produce PCB board design and layout, and generate manufacturing files and impressive 3D views to visualize designs in real time. Thanks to the collaboration between EIE and RS, our students and staff can now enjoy free license for using DesignSpark PCB and other packages from RS which would be very helpful to our quality teaching. We expect that workshops of similar nature will continue to be organized in the future.

Visit by Overseas Academic Advisors

Prof. Keyue Smedley and Prof. Kin Leung, the Department’s Overseas Academic Advisors, paid a visit to the Department between 18 and 20 August. Prof. Smedley, Professor from the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of California at Irvine, USA, and Prof. Leung, Professor from the Electrical and Electronic Engineering and Computing Departments, Imperial College, UK, met with the Departmental Learning and Teaching Committee, Programme Leaders and academic staff members for extensive discussions on academic programmes and research during the visit. They undertook a holistic review of the Department’s work and provided valuable advice for future planning of the Department.
On 20-23 August, the Centre for Signal Processing of the Department organized The 19th International Conference on Digital Signal Processing (DSP 2014) at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University. Initiated by Imperial College, London, the DSP 2014 was organized by The Hong Kong Polytechnic University and co-sponsored by the IEEE Signal Processing Society, The European Association for Signal Processing (EURASIP), Asia-Pacific Signal and Information Processing Association (APSIPA), and IET. The Conference has a long history. It was commenced in London in 1968 and was held mainly in UK and western Europe. This is the first time that the Conference was held outside Europe.

DSP 2014 addresses the theory and application of filtering, coding, transmitting, estimating, detecting, analyzing, recognizing, synthesizing, recording, and reproducing signals by means of digital devices or techniques. The Conference has received over 300 high-quality contributions from researchers of 38 countries. It has also attracted high quality presentations with the attendance of a large number of eminent scholars, including over 20 IEEE fellows/FREng attending various parts of the conference activities. A rich technical program consisting of innovative works in different traditional and emerging areas in digital signal processing was formed. Many colleagues of the Department played important roles in DSP 2014. Prof. WC Siu was one of the keynote speakers of this conference. Dr Daniel Lun was the General co-chair, Dr YL Chan was the Technical co-chair, Prof. Kenneth Lam was the Special session co-chair, Dr Chris Chan was the Finance chair, Dr Frank Leung was the local arrangement co-chair and Dr Bonnie Law was the conference secretary.

Seminar by Prof. Joseph Haus from University of Dayton

Prof. Joseph Haus from the University of Dayton at Ohio, USA, conducted a seminar in the Department on 25 August. Prof. Haus served as Director of the Electro-Optics Program at the University of Dayton for thirteen years (1999-2012) and he is Director of the Ladar and Optical Communications Institute (LOCI). He is a fellow of the Optical Society of America, SPIE and the American Physical Society. He has international collaborations with groups for more than thirty years investigating nanophotonics systems including heterogeneous nanoparticles, photonic crystals and metamaterials. In the seminar “Reaching the Ultimate Limits in Nanophotonics”, Prof. Haus introduced his research work in exploring the electromagnetic scattering properties of plasmonic systems and a new model in plasmonics that smears the interface on the sub-nanometer scale with experimentally verifiable consequences.

Li Po Chun Charitable Trust Fund Scholarship and President Emeritus Professor Poon Chung-kwong Scholarship 2013/14

Congratulations to the two EIE students who were awarded the following scholarships in 2013/14 in recognition of their outstanding academic performance!

Li Po Chun Charitable Trust Fund Scholarship 2013/14
LEE Tsz Kwan (PhD Student)

President Emeritus Professor Poon Chung-kwong Scholarship 2013/14
WEI Zheng (Year 4, BEng in EIE)