



Share their Joy and Pride

Every year, the President and Vice-Chancellor hosts a Prize Presentation Ceremony for students winning external awards. This annual ceremony is an opportunity for us to honour and celebrate the outstanding achievements of some of our finest students, and to inspire the university community to learn from their dedication to excellence.

Among the hundreds of HKU students who excel in external competitions, we have selected several winning stories to feature.



Join us to congratulate the winning students and learn more at

<http://cedars.hku.hk/pc2015>



or

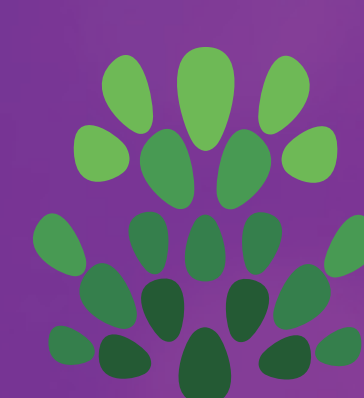
<http://www.facebook.com/hkustudents.award>



HKU Students' Achievements



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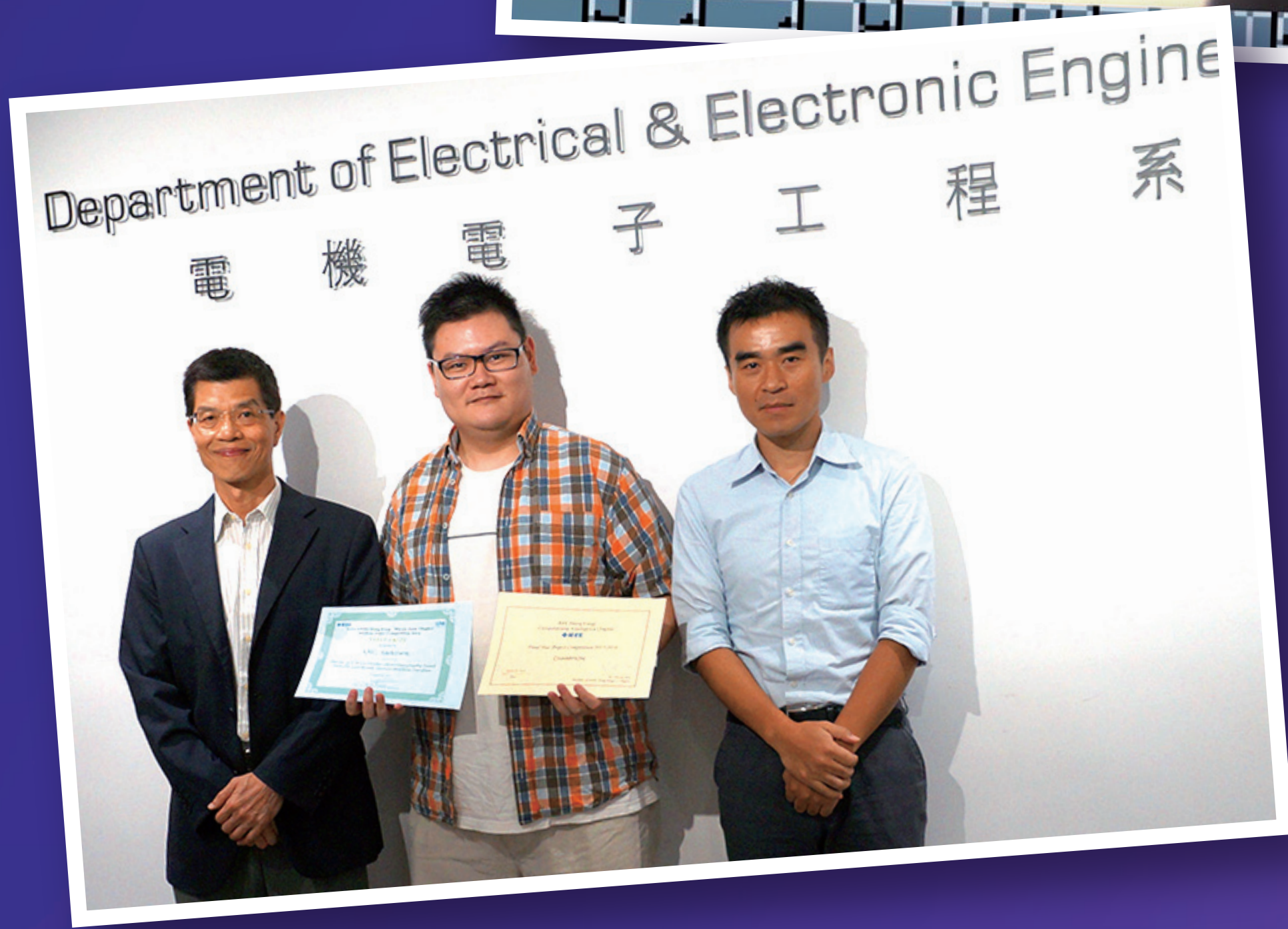
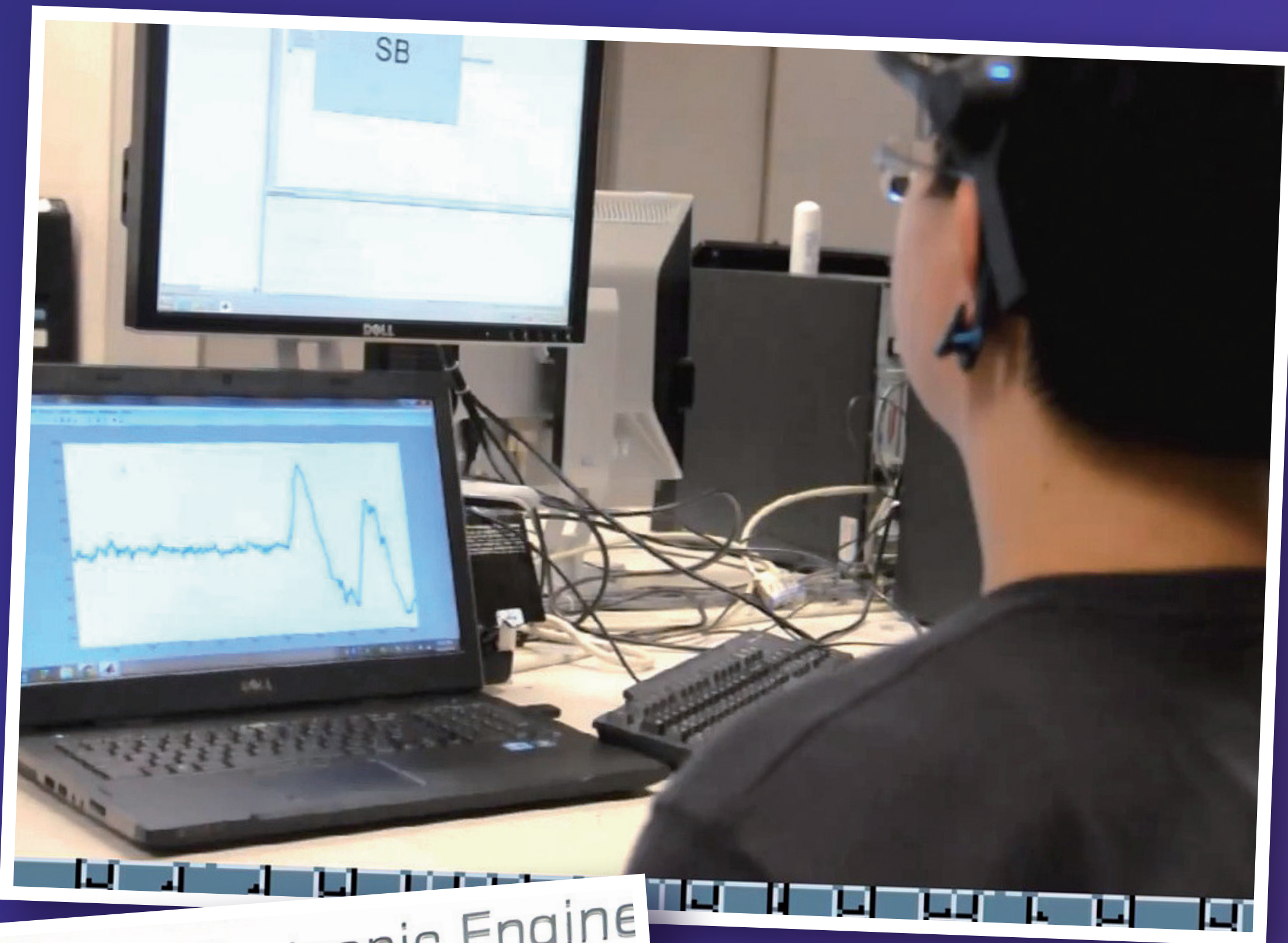
ENGINEERING BETTER LIVES

Ang Man Shun MPhil Candidate

Champion

IEEE-EMBS Hong Kong-Macau Joint Chapter Student Paper Competition 2014

IEEE (HK) Computational Intelligence Chapter Final-Year Project Competition 2013-14



While renowned astrophysicist Prof Stephen Hawking sparked people's curiosity on the theories of the universe in his visit to Hong Kong in 2006, Anderson Ang was inspired by an entirely different matter. "Even for someone as famous as Prof Hawking, the computer used by him is not that sophisticated," noted the engineering student. This, together with the local story of Tang Siu Pun (斌仔) who was paralyzed below the neck and requested to be euthanized in 2004, inspired Anderson to develop a more accessible computer input system for disabled users.

Currently, there are limited options for people with physical disabilities who have difficulty in using a computer mouse. Anderson aimed to find a way in which users could operate simply by using eye movements. His two papers, Single Channel EOG-based Human-Computer Interface and Design of a Novel Ocular-electromyography-based Portable and Mobile Human-Machine Interface were awarded the championship in two competitions respectively for their originality and quality research. He was able to develop a model which allowed users to control the four directional buttons (left, right, up & down arrows) on the number pad, which could further extend to numerical and alphabetical inputs.

To Anderson, one of the main purposes of engineering should be the betterment of human lives, such as improving user accessibility, cost reduction and benefits to low-income groups. He was awarded a grant in 2013 from the HKU 81 Inclusion Fund, which supports efforts to promote equal opportunity and social inclusion for people with disabilities.

"I loved playing with LEGO when I was little. Coming to think about that, what I actually enjoyed was creating something out of nothing. Later on, this interest shifted to computer coding and programming, which have the same nature," recalled the student.

Yet creativity came with the risk of failure. Anderson was one of the few who pitched his own final-year project topic to professors, rather than accepting a pre-set topic. As a result, there were much fewer guidelines or frameworks for him to make reference to. "I feel like a true researcher...when uncertainty arises, I conduct tests to solve problems. Through trial and error, I adjust my research direction. Then I will get stuck again on another obstacle, and the investigation repeats."

While Anderson did feel at a loss at times and panicked about his grades, he treasured the freedom and autonomy. With persistence, he refined his findings over time through numerous experiments. His reward came and he was overwhelmed with satisfaction when he finally scored A+ in the project as one of the top scorers in his cohort.

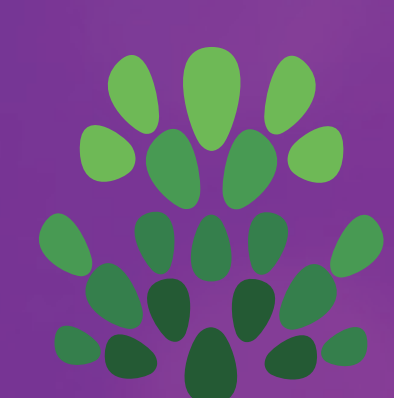
Besides being proactive and determined, Anderson thinks language skills are also important to researchers. "Contrary to stereotypes of engineers, I am a very good speaker and salesman," he laughed. Anderson felt his ability to present the hypotheses, statistics, findings and illustrations logically helped him to make his oral presentation and later answer challenging questions from the judges fluently. The outgoing engineer felt that his experiences in musical performances as the leader of HKU Big Band enabled him to be at ease in front of different audiences. "After all, engineering is as much about science as it is about communication and interactions."

Since the competitions, the engineer has further advanced his plans by cooperating with technology company NeuroSky to develop the hardware and conduct trials with some students who have special educational needs. "My goal is to further simplify the device to make it more convenient and enhance the system's identification to obtain more accurate inputs."



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FROM PRETTY FACE TO BEAUTIFUL LIFE

Lau Ka Man BBA(Law) Year 3 (Team Leader)
Chan Wing Yan Jacqueline BBA(Law) Year 3
Kwan Yi Nga Eos BBA(Law) Year 3
Yip Si Ching Cheryl BBA(Law) Year 3

Champion & Best Proposal Award (Degree)
ACCA HK Business Competition 2014



“Like many in Hong Kong, we have lots of unused or expired makeup products. When we were small, we already dreamt about using lipsticks or blushes to paint and draw pictures,” said Ka Man. Hoping to reduce wastage, the four business students killed two birds with one stone by proposing the upcycling of unused makeup into watercolour paint for low-income families as their project.

The theme of the ACCA HK Business Competition 2014 is to empower Hong Kong families living in poverty by improving their social integration and upward mobility in sustainable ways. Participants submitted business proposals with a budget of HK\$1 million over two years. With their creative idea, the team advanced from among 500 entries to be one of the seven finalists.

While empowerment and upward mobility were the competition’s main themes, the award criteria placed strong emphasis on practicality and sustainability both in operational and financial terms – which was exactly where the team focused their efforts and excelled. To improve technical competence, the team researched similar projects overseas, such as watching videos of upcycling cosmetics in Japan. As the colour variety from makeup products was limited, the team learnt to mix the otherwise unavailable colours using the primary colours. To ensure product safety, the team investigated methods of ozone sterilization – a commonly used and powerful method to remove bacteria, harmful or poisonous materials from expired makeup to comply with safety standards for child products.

With the social enterprise model, generation of regular income was crucial to ensure sustainable operation. The team introduced a series

of art workshops, the income from which subsidized the costs of upcycling. The team members – none of whom are in accounting major nor have accounting experience – found the project’s financial requirements particularly challenging as they were required to “imagine” a budget and a full set of financial statements, which included initial start-up reserve, annual report, revenue and break-even forecast. “You have to adopt the mentality that this is a real business up and running. The judges will even ask you about profit and loss three years and five years later – and they are all from renowned accounting firms,” recalled Jacqueline. With detailed preparation and research, the team was awarded the championship and the Best Proposal Award by the panel for formulating the data from scratch while keeping the estimates realistic.

When asked about their tips for success, the group felt that genuine teamwork was of utmost importance. In group projects, it was very tempting to quickly divide the work amongst members, work separately and “combine the parts” at the last minute. Rather than enhancing efficiency, the students pointed out that such a method might result in inconsistency. “Experienced judges can spot whether a project is truly consistent and completed by the entire team from start till end, or more like a piecemeal of various parts supplied by different students. In our Q & A session, the judges would simply pick one of us randomly to ask questions about any topic. You can’t pass the question to your teammate or ask others to help you out. You have to be familiar with others’ scope of work besides your own to illustrate truly impressive teamwork,” said Eos.

Indeed, the team never regarded their plan as merely a proposal. The students have already taken their next step in contacting interested social enterprises for cooperation, securing more funding and recruiting volunteers to make their colourful ideas come true.



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PIONEERING DISCUSSIONS FOR “MINORITY AMONGST MINORITIES”

Law Wan Ling (Siufung) MPhil Year 2

Outstanding Film Award
The Fresh Fruit Festival 2014

The Special Mention
Everybody's Perfect Film Festival 2014

*I murmur to the mirror
speak out a body that does not belong,
you wake up from my nightmare,
discover a language that not yet exists,
but you stare off into space and betray
Me, a nameless organism*

* Extracted from the poem “Unfinished” by Siufung

“Within the LGBT category, the gays, lesbians or perhaps even bisexuals are more ‘visible’ to the public nowadays. But there are still lots of myths and misunderstandings about transgendered persons.” This is what inspired Siufung to produce a documentary to educate the public about what the student described as the “minority amongst minorities”.

Traditional documentaries on a transgender topic can be easily identified: the film begins with someone doubting their sexual identity at a young age, followed by consultations with doctors and psychologists. The “climax” will be the transgender surgery, followed by the reactions

and interviews of parents, friends and colleagues. Siufung finds this presentation style quite superficial, but understands it is suited to the demands of mainstream audiences – their curiosity about surgical transformation of the sexes. “Yet much more important issues are out of focus through this presentation, such as one’s relationship with one’s body, one’s view of gender and sexual identity, one’s decision in relation to social norms – which are indeed the true essences of the subject,” commented Siufung.

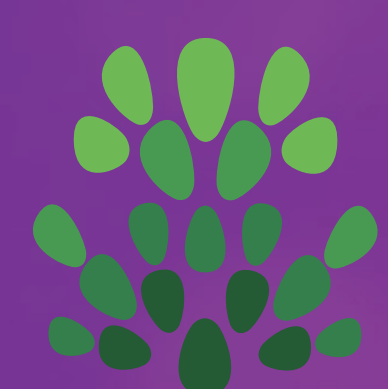
With a background in comparative literature and poetry, Siufung produced a new, fusion-style transgender documentary. The black and white scenes are blended with monologues, modern-style poetry, scattered visual images and cartoon illustrations. With mixed elements and a non-chronological timeline, Siufung’s documentary invites viewers to interpret the meaning themselves instead of spoon-feeding answers. The indirect filming approach also shifts the focus from descriptive facts such as “what”, “when”, “how” and “why” to reflection of more abstract values such as relationships, body image, self-narration and social censorship. Rather than complicating matters, Siufung regards this approach as going “back to the basics”.

The six-and-a-half-minute film was screened at international film festivals in USA, Paris, Germany and Geneva with good audience receptions. While winning the awards is a delight to Siufung, what is more rewarding is the fact that both the judges and the audiences felt touched by the intimate sentiments expressed in the film.

Siufung hopes that such success will inspire more people to speak up about the transgender topic through different channels, such as drama, dance, short stories or other art forms. “Even making a short film is not as difficult as people presume. I only used what I have and film it at home. No expensive cameras, no fancy props or scenes. It doesn’t incur high cost and all you need is your passion.” Naming the film as “Unfinished”, Siufung hopes that this first step in advocacy will give others courage to extend the discussions and ultimately shift the subject from the personal arena to the public domain.



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ENVISAGING KAI TAK 2.0

Master of Urban Design (MUD):
Md Masudul Islam (Team Leader)
Chen Ziyi Li Jiayi Li Lingpei
Wang Yali Wu Yifei

Champion
Kai Tak Fantasy International Ideas Competition
on Urban Planning and Design



The University of Hong Kong has attracted international students of the highest quality. Under one roof, students from more than 80 nations make good use of their talents to serve the local community. In the Kai Tak Fantasy International Ideas Competition on Urban Planning and Design, a team of six international students from the Master of Urban Planning programme worked hand in hand and without borders of nationalities to deliver shining achievements. They competed with 79 teams from nine countries and snapped up the championship for an innovative design to redevelop the disused runway of the old Kai Tak airport.

“We hope our design can promote healthy lifestyle, reconnect people with nature and ultimately, revitalize the area,” Wang Yali explained. The team of non-local students studied Kowloon East’s urban design passionately and noticed what was lacking. “Kwun Tong is largely industrialized, lacking a healthy proportion of greenery,” said Chen Ziyi.

As the team’s philosophy centred on environmental friendliness and healthy living, the team aimed at preserving the natural habitat as much as possible and encouraging visitors to enjoy leisure activities. Members conducted site visits to identify plant and animal species in the area, which included some beautiful egrets. Contrary to the traditional use of straight coastlines which usually become highways or car parks, the team designed a coastline full of curves where visitors could have picnics, take rests and cycle along the bicycle track with sea views. With the landscape planning centring on nature and sustainability, the team was able to position its design Kai Tak 2.0: Healthy Lift Off as an oasis in the desert.

The major challenge came when the group advanced to the competition’s second round, where more concrete details were required by the judges. With only a month to work, the group needed to provide realistic and practical solutions to technical issues that arose. “Eighty per cent of the area is actually sea. As land reclamation is strictly prohibited, we had to design floating islands which were feasible while complying with local marine regulations,” said Wang Yali. This, along with underwater pipelines, a nearby typhoon shelter and a possible monorail in the future, added to the complexity of the task. The team utilized the HK\$150,000 provided by the organizers to second-round contestants to seek expertise in technical areas. They also hired professional consultants to test water quality around Kai Tak. With the data, they were able to propose sustainable water filtration methods, which was one of the well praised features of their design.

The team felt that the members’ combined knowledge and experience in different majors – landscape, urban planning and architecture – provided cross-disciplinary insights to develop the comprehensive plan required. This unique development theme and skilfully achieved feasibility enabled the project to stand out amongst the final four. One of the judges commented that while other projects were sophisticated, their emphasis was towards commercial developments. The government will include the final four designs as references when formulating future plans for Kai Tak.

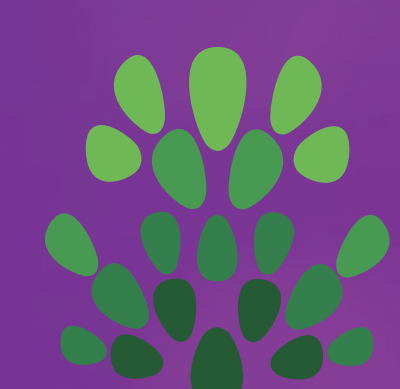
The championship came from repeated brainstorming, hard work and a lot of late nights. “It is good that we are very united and trust each other,” said Li Jiayi.

Besides good communication, the team also had its own way of relieving work pressure – by listening to pop tunes and Bangladesh childhood songs brought by Md Masudul from his home town.

Team members would like to express their gratitude to their academic advisors, Ms Natalia Echeverri and Dr. Jianxiang Huang for their guidance and support.



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UNEXPECTED PLACES, UNEXPECTED AUDIENCES – A CREATIVE BREAST CANCER CAMPAIGN

Chan Yuen Ting Annie BA&BEd Year 2
Cheung Pak Hung BSc Year 3
Hui Chi Ching Vivian BNurs Year 3
Tai Tze Tik Keith BSc Year 3
Doe Chun Kit BSc Year 2
Wong Tien Yun Jasmine BSoSci Year 2

Champion
Project CGI 2014 Case Competition Final Task

welcomed as stall owners selling fresh food need many plastic bags. With one stall owner able to reach thousands of customers, the team's efforts multiplied despite its limited manpower. As plastic bags would be swiftly disposed of, the team also designed recyclable shopping bags for housewives to use in the long term.

Without a business major in the group, the six students from four faculties needed extra effort in formulating business proposals, budgets and marketing plans. Rather than considering this as a disadvantage, the team felt that their lack of pre-set business frameworks or templates enabled them to collaborate creatively and formulate unusual marketing strategies. For example, students drew on their faculties' previous projects to brainstorm ways to diminish social stigma about terminal diseases and medical check-ups. In fact, the judges applauded the fact that the group chose to target middle-aged housewives in wet market settings, unlike other groups who might choose more knowledgeable target groups or more conventional venues.

Besides recognition from the judging panel and the prize, the team found it rewarding that some passers-by who suffered from breast cancer approached them and shared their stories. This was very surprising and touching for the team as strangers opened up and shared intimate experiences. These encounters reassured them that the team was doing the right thing.



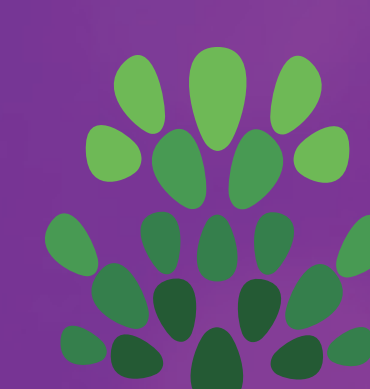
On 25-26 March 2014, the Mong Kok and Shek Tong Tsui wet markets were bedecked with pink balloons and stall owners packed their seafood, meat and vegetables using pink plastic bags. It was all part of the "BEST of the BREAST" campaign developed by HKU SIXFINGERS, a University of Hong Kong student team that joined the Project CGI! 2014 Case Competition organized by CosmoGIRL! magazine.

Reviewing that traditional promotions of the topic usually adopt a solemn and serious tone, the team decided to execute their campaign in an unconventional manner characterized by audience engagement and interaction. By setting up a lucky draw with 19 balls where everyone would "get a prize", the team successfully spread the message that 1 in every 19 women has the chance of getting breast cancer, thus emphasizing the importance of regular check-ups.

To ensure large-scale information dissemination, the team analyzed the needs and shopping habits of wet market customers and decided to distribute custom-made pink plastic bags to stall owners. This was



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JUMPING TO NEW HEIGHTS

Cheung Pak Hung BSc Year 3

2nd Runner-up in Male Individual
2014 FISAC World Youth and International Open Rope
Skipping Tournament

How many times can one jump a skipping rope in 30 seconds? For Pak Hung, the answer is 182. The enthusiastic science student came third in the international rope-skipping tournament which tested contestants on speed, endurance and free-style skipping.

Besides his burst of speed, Pak Hung also excelled in endurance with 982 jumps in three minutes. The required physical fitness was hard-earned through day-to-day training. "First, you try reaching your targeted number of jumps in 10 seconds. When done, you extend to one minute, then two minutes and so forth. It is basically endless skipping but it is necessary to boost your lung capacity," said Pak Hung. His persistence in practising at least two hours a day, five days a week, despite his busy schedule, paid off. Such perseverance and willpower was also applied to his study routine as the student struck a balance between the DSE exams and later university studies and his intense sports schedule.



While free-style rope skipping required less speed and endurance, Pak Hung explained that the difficulty lay in its demand for new tricks and styles that illustrated creativity and sophistication. As in gymnastics, the player performed a series of moves with self-selected music within 75 seconds, which required intense concentration and excellent body coordination. Pak Hung spent a lot of effort in familiarizing himself with individual styles, as well as creating links between moves to ensure smooth transitions. It proved to be a thinking game as well as a sports performance.

It is therefore no surprise that Pak Hung felt highly satisfied when he tackled these challenges successfully. "The feeling of success also comes from inventing creative moves and working happily with others," he said. While group competition was more demanding as it required good performances from all members, Pak Hung enjoyed these events as he could jump and interact with others. His group of four set world records for a 30-second single-rope speed relay in 2012 and 2013, reaching a maximum of 748 jumps in two minutes. Besides competing, Pak Hung and his friends also enjoy showcasing their talents on different occasions, such as the recent Standard Chartered Marathon carnival.

Recalling his childhood, Pak Hung is amazed by his transformation from a shy, passive child who did not exercise to the sportsman he is today who confidently competes on the international stage as a member of the Hong Kong Rope Skipping Delegation. He is therefore keen to inspire others about the sport's benefits by coaching local youngsters and the relatively new Macau rope-jumping team. He finds coaching as rewarding as competition as has to re-analyze his techniques to teach students of different abilities. He finds joy when his students master the skills, but even more so when they become more outgoing and healthy like him.



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MORE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENTS OF HKU STUDENTS....



Hou Liwei BBA(Acc&Fin)
Li Cai BBA(Acc&Fin)
Sui Fuyang BSc(QFin)
Wang Yue BBA(Acc&Fin)
First Prize
2014 China Mainland, Hong Kong and Macao
Accounting and Business Case Competition



Mitra Arjyo BEcon&Fin
Champion
Lee Shiu Essay Competition 2014



Wong Wai Tak Victor BBA(Law)
Prize Recipient
Hong Kong Outstanding Business
Students Award 2014



Ho Ka Ching (Leader) BBA(Acc&Fin)
Chan Wing Yan BBA(IBGM)
Ho Tsun Shing BBA(IBGM)
Kwong Gin Ming Joseph BBA(Law)
Champion
HSBC Asia Pacific Business Case Competition 2014



Abdul Latif Motan Daniyal BEng
Champion
Junior Green Brain of the Year Contest 2014



Luk Hei Ting BSW
Champion in Female Individual
5th All-China University Karatedo Championship



Adarlo Genejane PhD
Outstanding Paper Award
HKIED's 20th Anniversary Outstanding Paper Awards



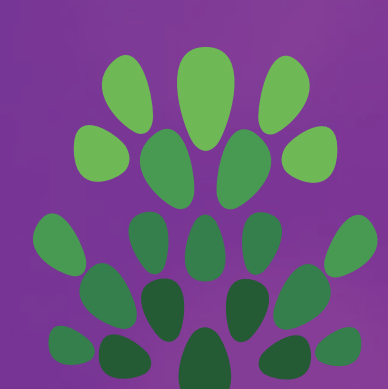
Men's Handball Team
First Runner-up
2014 National Taiwan University International
Handball Invitational Tournament

Chan Ming Tai BBA(Acc&Fin)
1st Runner-up in Male Individual
16th Asian Junior Athletics Championships

5th in Long Jump & New Hong Kong Record
17th Incheon Asian Games 2014: Long Jump



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