

MSc Alumni Newsletter 2020

Recent News

New President and Vice-Chancellor



The Council of Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) have announced the appointment of **Professor Alexander Wai Ping-kong** as the University's President and Vice-Chancellor for a five-year term with effect from 1 February 2021.

Professor Wai is an eminent leader in Hong Kong's higher education sector with distinguished academic accomplishments. He is currently the Deputy President and Provost of The Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU).

Professor Wai has great achievements in the higher education sector and several important research areas. His key research achievements in recent years include collaborating with internationally renowned partners in international and national High-Speed Rail projects, lunar space exploration, and building the Aviation Services Research Center to make Hong Kong an aviation maintenance hub. He also worked with the Royal College of Art to establish a laboratory for artificial intelligence in design under the InnoHK project.

Professor Wai is pleased to accept the appointment. "HKBU is at the forefront of liberal arts education with a strong commitment to nurturing creative and caring leaders for our community and the world. I am excited to join the HKBU family, and work hand in hand with students, teachers, colleagues, alumni, and other stakeholders to grow its academic and educational strengths, extend its tradition of excellence to a wider scope, and create impact through the generation of new knowledge and research."

Online Teaching and Examination



In view of the volatilities of the COVID-19 pandemic, the University has suspended the on-campus classes since February 2020 for the courses offered in Semester 2, 2019-20. Online teaching and learning has then taken place. The online classes were conducted via Zoom. The academic calendar has been slightly adjusted. For example, the last day of classes has changed to 9 May 2020 and examination for Semester 2 has been scheduled to 14-28 May 2020 (original period 4-18 May).

At the end of Semester 2, the Department has conducted online examination for the courses offered in that semester. The online examination system was run on stable platform and software. To let students get familiar with the online examination system, several online mock examinations were run. Instructions and user guides have been provided to students to illustrate the operation of the online examination system. At the end, all examinations in Semester 2 have been completed successfully through the online examination system.

New Associate Programme Director



Dr. Fion Lee Sau Ling is appointed as Associate Programme Director for the programme of Master of Science in Advanced Information Systems (MSc in AIS) from the academic year 2020-21. She will work with the Programme Director of MSc in AIS to serve the programme.

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New Professors and Lecturers

Six energetic staff have recently joined the Department. They are:



Dr. Chen Jie (Assistant Professor): Dr. Chen received his PhD degree from Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. His areas of expertise are: machine learning, computational photography and computer vision.



Dr. Han Bo (Assistant Professor): Dr. Han received his PhD degree from the University of Technology Sydney, Australia. He worked as a researcher in RIKEN AIP in Tokyo, Japan, before joining us. His area of expertise is machine learning.



Dr. Ma Jing (Assistant Professor): Dr. Ma received her PhD degree from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. She worked as a researcher in Singapore and South Korea before joining us. Her areas of expertise include: natural language processing, social network analysis and mining, rumor detection and fact verification.



Dr. Yang Xian (Assistant Professor): Dr. Yang received her PhD degree from Imperial College London, UK. She participated in European research projects, and she worked as a researcher in Microsoft Research Asia. Her areas of expertise include: artificial intelligence and its application to health care and cloud computing.



Dr. Jacky Chan Chun Pong (Lecturer): Dr. Chan received his PhD degree from the City University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong. His areas of expertise include: computer graphics and computer vision.

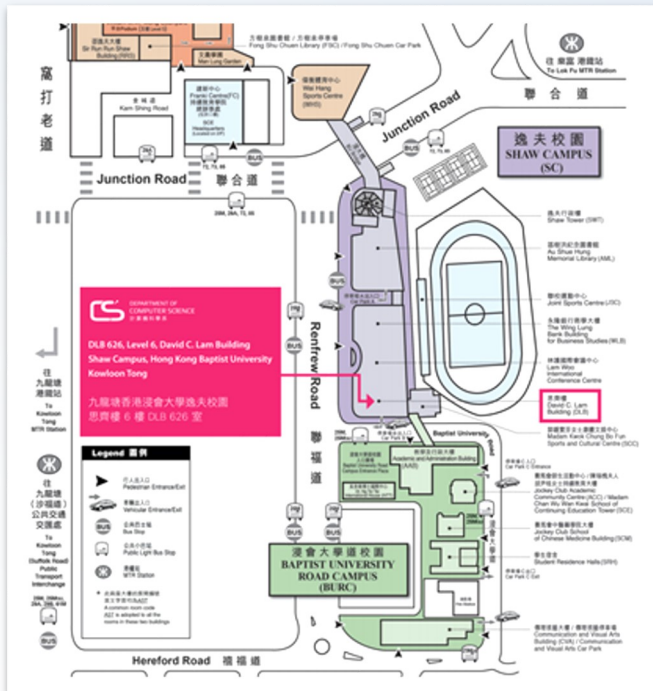


Dr. Kevin Wang King Hang (Lecturer): Dr. Wang received his PhD degree from the National Tsing Hua University, Taiwan. His area of expertise is computer security.

Welcome!

Office Relocation to DLB

The Department office has relocated to David C. Lam Building, Shaw Campus since early January 2020. While most staff have moved to the new offices at DLB, the teaching staff would remain in Sir Run Run Shaw Building, Ho Sin Hang Campus, until the development of the new academic building has been completed. The new Department office locates at DLB 626, Level 6, David C. Lam Building, Shaw Campus, Hong Kong Baptist University, Kowloon Tong.



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Second MSc Degree in a German University

AIS and ITM collaborate with the Regensburg Technical University of Applied Sciences (OTH) to offer further study opportunities in Germany to AIS/ITM graduates.

The collaboration enables both HKBU AIS/ITM students and OTH students to get two MSc degrees in two years: MSc in AIS/ITM from HKBU and MSc in Computer Science from OTH in Germany. In these two years, students spend one year at HKBU to enroll in MSc in AIS/ITM and spend another year at OTH in Germany to enroll in MSc in Computer Science. As a result, they could learn further, gain overseas learning experience, and widen their exposure. Upon completion, graduates will be competitive IT talents with advanced IT expertise, global best practice and innovative vision.

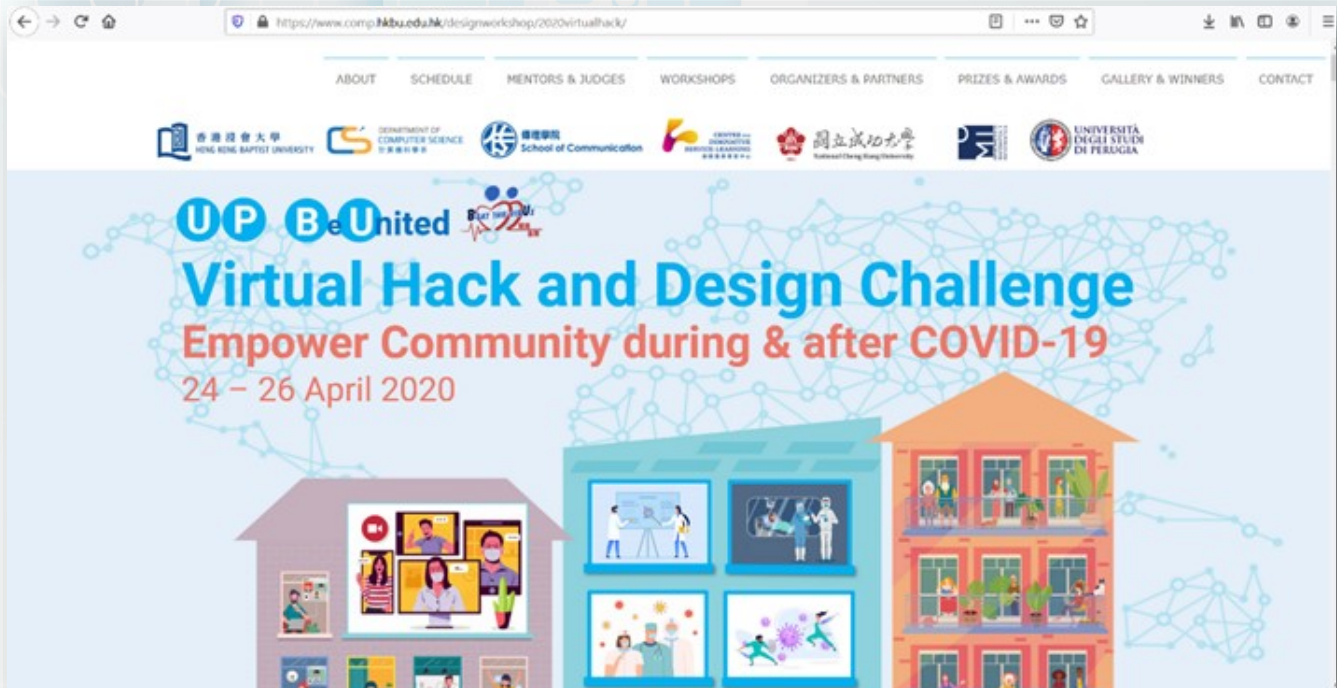
OTH's Faculty of Computer Science and Mathematics consistently ranks the first place in the CHE German national ranking. Education in Germany has been the backbone of Germany's technological advances.

More information about global experience activities can be found at

<https://www.comp.hkbu.edu.hk/outreach/>



Virtual Global Exchange - Global Virtual Hack and Design Challenge



On 24-26 April 2020, more than 110 students from 16 countries/regions including our MSc students, formed diverse teams to engage to the Global Virtual Hack and Design Challenge. During the 48-hour, the teams designed innovative solutions to address the current COVID-19 crisis and plan ahead for future. Guided by industry mentors, participants communicated remotely across different time zones, collected global wisdom to bring positive impact to the community. The Champion project team developed a mobile app called “Shield” which uses GPS satellite positioning, Bluetooth technology, real-time data analysis, and heat maps to provide users with social distancing indicators and travel risk levels. More details can be found at <https://www.comp.hkbu.edu.hk/designworkshop/2020virtualhack/>.

MSc Alumni Share Experience with Students through Professional Mentoring Scheme

The Professional Mentoring Scheme was launched to provide an opportunity to let the students meet with the alumni. Alumni are invited to join the scheme as professional mentors and share their experience on study, career planning, job hunting and interview, etc. In 2019-20, a mentor-mentee meeting was held on 2 Nov 2019. Through this scheme, students as mentees can learn the experience from the mentors and prepare their career plan before graduation.



Sharing by MSc student: starting career in PwC Hong Kong

Liting Wang, a student of MSc in ITM in 2019-2020, has started her career in PwC Hong Kong, as a graduate trainee in Innovative Leadership Programme. She has shared her feeling about the study and job appointment as follows:

“香港浸会大学ITM专业真的挺好的，我在PwC面试时确实很多东西是平时在课堂上锻炼过、学习过的。所以在面试中游刃有余的回答，甚至比一些科班出身的同学思维更开阔更跳跃，这都是ITM专业带给我们的优势。”



“The ITM Programme of HKBU is really good. When I conducted the interview in PwC, I came across a lot issues that have been covered in the classes of ITM. It makes me feel confident when responding to the interview questions. I feel I can even think more open-minded than those who have gone through specialized training. These are the advantages of studying ITM.” (In English)

Online Certificate Course by a German University

MSc in AIS and MSc in ITM have been collaborating with OTH Regensburg (Technical University of Applied Sciences) in Germany for Certificate Course. Our students could apply for admission into the Certificate Course offered by OTH. If they are admitted, OTH would waive their tuition fee. With the offering of the Certificate Course, student can gain alternative learning experience and interact with the overseas professor(s) and students from this opportunity.

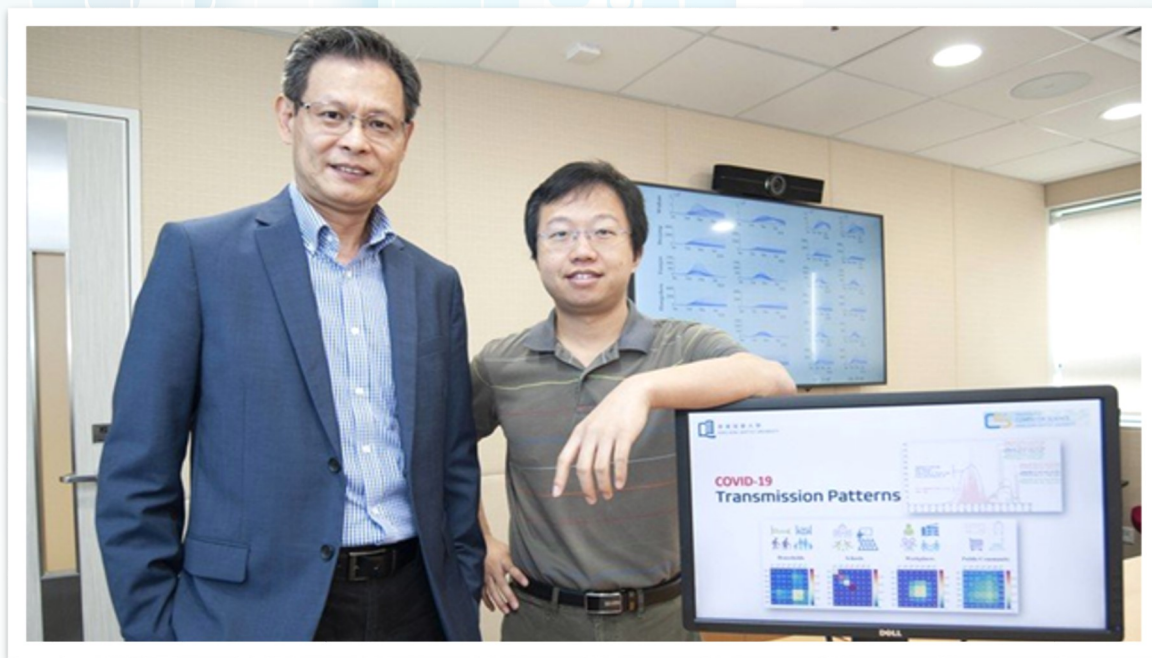
Two MSc students won prizes in Global Virtual Hack and Design Challenge 2020

In the Global Virtual Hack and Design Challenge held in April 2020, MSc students have actively engaged in the events. After working hard in the 48-hour challenge, GUO Fusheng Sam (MSc in AIS, 2019-20) and his team members won the Champion in the Global Virtual Hack and Design Challenge 2020, while the team of WANG Liting (MSc in ITM, 2019-20) won the Third Prize in the event. After the event, GUO Fusheng Sam, a member of the winning team shared “Being able to work with other team members closely for 48 hours in such a special period allowed me to feel the warmth brought by my peers.”

Congratulations to all winning teams!



Prof. Liu Jiming Unveils COVID-19 Transmission Patterns



Professor Liu Jiming (left), Chair Professor and Dr Liu Yang (right), Assistant Professor of the Department of Computer Science led a study in developing a novel computational model that explicitly characterises and quantifies the underlying transmission patterns of COVID-19.

With the COVID-19 pandemic resulting in lockdowns in different parts of the world, from the US to many European nations, there have been intense debates on when and how we can safely reopen the economy.

Professor Liu Jiming, Chair Professor and **Dr Liu Yang**, Assistant Professor of the Department of Computer Science led a research team to use a data-driven modelling approach to answer the time-critical question of when the stringent social distancing and quarantine measures against COVID-19 can be loosened so that normal life and economic activities can be restored in a safe manner.

In collaboration with the National Institute of Parasitic Diseases of the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention and the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the research team developed a novel computational model that explicitly characterises and quantifies the underlying transmission patterns among different populations throughout the various phases of the COVID-19 outbreak.

Prof. Xu Jianliang Develops COVID-19 Alert System

Professor Xu Jianliang, Associate Head and Professor of the Department, led his research team to develop a COVID-19 alert system which will send a message to users through a mobile app if they and an infected person have visited the same place within a time period that gives rise to risks of exposure. Users' privacy is well protected by the system as all information is stored on an individual's mobile phone.

The system can effectively warn people who have been in contact with a confirmed case, but it does not collect personal information. It strikes a balance between disease prevention and privacy protection.

HKBU has launched a trial run of the system on campus in the Semester 1, 2020-21 with the aim of enhancing COVID-19 risks alert capability inside campus venues and during teaching and learning activities. Staff and students are invited to join the trial voluntarily.



Professor Guo Yike (right), Vice-President (Research and Development) of HKBU, and Professional Xu Jianliang (left), Associate Head and Professor of the Department, say the HKBU COVID-19 alert system can protect individual's privacy.



Professor Guo Yike (second from the left) and Professor Xu Jianliang (left) and the research team.

Dr. Martin Choy Man-ting Received Teaching Award

Dr. Martin Choy Man-ting, Senior Lecturer of Department of Computer Science, was awarded the Faculty Performance Award in Teaching 2020. The selection committee highly commends Dr. Choy's outstanding performance in teaching which is exemplary in many ways. Overall, Dr. Choy is an all-round scholar who is keen to achieve perfection in every aspect of teaching and students' learning experience.

With his great passion for teaching, Dr. Choy always aims to create an inspiring and friendly learning environment for his students and believes that students could achieve most learning outcomes with pleasant stimulations. On the other hand, Dr. Choy welcomes students' feedback and reviews his teaching method regularly so as to ensure students could truly acquire knowledge. In return, Dr. Choy's students appreciate his unwavering dedication in teaching and enjoy his classes very much.



Collaboration with Wisers to conduct research on Big Data, AI and Digital Media

The Department of Computer Science and the Department of Journalism at Hong Kong Baptist University (HKBU) signed a long-term strategic collaboration agreement with the Wisers AI Lab of Wisers Information Limited (Wisers).

The agreement will enable the partners to embark on research in the areas of big data, artificial intelligence (AI) and digital media, as well as the in-depth exploration of data integration and the innovative development of the journalism and media industry in the digital era.

HKBU is the first university partner of Wisers in Hong Kong and mainland China. To examine news production and dissemination in the big data and AI era, HKBU and Wisers are collaborating on a series of research projects which focus on the impact of news chatbots and personalised news recommendation systems on news reading habits.

The partnership between HKBU and Wisers will help drive in-depth research projects with a data-driven approach, and promote the use of novel ideas and approaches for nurturing journalists and AI-equipped data analysts for the new era, which will bring long-term benefits to the media industry at large.



(From left, first row) Professor Rick Wong and Mr Tony Wang sign the agreement. (From left, back row) Dr Cane Leung, Dr William Cheung, Professor Huang Yu, Dr He Chao, Dr Chen Li and Dr Zhang Xinzhi attend the signing ceremony.

Library and Email Services for Alumni

Our MSc students can continue to have access to the library services of HKBU by paying an annual fee. In recognition of the disruption to Library services during the 2019-20 academic year, the Library will offer a fee waiver to graduates conferred with an HKBU-awarded qualification in 2020. For details, please refer to

<https://library.hkbu.edu.hk/services/apply-for-library-privileges/graduate-service-package/>.

Stay Connected

To stay connected with us, please join our [WeChat Alumni Group](#). The naming convention of the group: <“BU COMP MSc Alumni”> + <Cohort>. For example, if your intake year is 2019-20, you are eligible to join the group “BU COMP MSc Alumni 2019/20”. Both ITM and AIS graduates from the same cohort will join the same group. Our department will make announcements to our alumni via this group from time to time. Stay tuned!

Should you have any questions about joining the group, feel free to contact our MSc alumni coordinator Dr. Jean Lai at jeanlai@comp.hkbu.edu.hk.

We look forward to catching up with you in the forthcoming alumni events!

Department of Computer Science

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