STAFF AWARDS/ACTIVITIES

Awards

◆ Professor J.H.W. Lee was awarded the Alexander von Humboldt Research Fellowship, University of Karlsruhe, Germany in January 2005.

◆ Professor C.F. Lee was awarded the Silver Bauhinia Star from the Government of HKSAR on July 1, 2005.

Activities

◆ The Inaugural Y.K. Cheung Lecture

In order to recognize Professor Y.K. Cheung’s contributions to the engineering profession and education, the Department of Civil Engineering of The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and the Structural Division of The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers (HKIE-SD) jointly established the “Y.K. Cheung Lecture” in January 2005. A prominent local/overseas engineer or academic will deliver the Lecture biennially on the state-of-the-art developments in structural engineering.

The Lecture is sponsored by the Professor Y.K. Cheung Trust Fund at HKU. The Fund was established from donations by friends, former students and colleagues of Professor Cheung. The Henderson Land Development Company Ltd., Maunsell AECOM Group and HKIE-SD also sponsored the Inaugural Lecture.

◆ Professor J.H.W. Lee

• Gave a series of lectures on “Environmental modelling in river and marine environment” at the Institute of Water Conservancy and Hydropower, Hohai University, during October 20-24, 2004 under the sponsorship of the K.C. Wong Education Foundation.

In particular, a keynote address on “Environmental Hydraulics”, was given in a National Forum for Doctoral Students in Hydraulic and Environmental Engineering, held in Hohai University on October 21, 2004.

• Delivered a keynote Lecture, “VISJET - V: a virtual reality environmental modelling system”, and a Seminar on “Innovative applications of multi-media and 3D digital technologies in environmental planning and EIA for public purposes”, Hong Kong Institute of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on May 31, 2005, Hong Kong Science Museum. The seminar was attended by over 150 EIA practitioners interested in the application of information and communication technologies to enhance public engagement in the environmental assessment and planning process.

• Gave a keynote lecture on “Model for forecasting of algal blooms and red tides in subtropical coastal waters”, International Conference on Environmental Fluid Mechanics, Indian Institute of Technology, Guwahati during March 3-5, 2005. He also gave an invited Lecture on “Urban flood control in Hong Kong”, at the Institution of Engineers (India), Assam State Centre, Guwahati, on March 6, 2005.

◆ Dr. A.T. Yeung

• Presented a paper on “An innovative Korean system of pressure-grouted soil nailing as a slope stabilization measures” on May 4, 2005 at Safe and Green Slopes, 25th Annual Seminar of the HKIE Geotechnical Division.

• Taught a short course on “Practical Aspects of Bored Pile and Barrette Construction in Hong Kong” on May 7, 2005 for the ASCE Hong Kong Section. Eighty-eight participants attended the course, including 36 Government officers.
• On behalf of the Faculty of Engineering, Professor A.M. Chandler and Dr. R.K.L. Su presented a series of talks related to seismic effects of tall buildings in Hong Kong in April 2005 to secondary schools including Hong Kong True Light College, Heep Yunn School, PLK Vicwood K.T. Chong Sixth Form College and Cotton Spinners Association Secondary School. More than 150 students attended the talks.

• Professor Malcolm Bolton, Professor of Soil Mechanics and Director of the Schofield Centre, Cambridge University, UK, visited the Department from August 28-31, 2005 under the auspices of the Faculty of Engineering’s William Mong Distinguished Lecture in Engineering and Computer Science. Professor Bolton’s lecture entitled “Performance-based design of earthworks and foundations” was delivered on August 30, 2005.

• Professor Xiao-Ling Zhao, Director of Research, Department of Civil Engineering, Monash University, Australia, visited the Department from June 24-July 1, 2005 under the auspices of the H.K. Cheng Structural Engineering Fellowship. His public lecture entitled “Concrete-Filled Tubular Columns” was delivered on June 28, 2005 and 2 seminars entitled “Recent Developments in High Strength Steel Tubes” and “Recent Developments in Cold-Formed Tubular Members and Connections” were delivered on June 27 and 29, 2005 respectively.

• Dr. Ernian Pan, Associate Professor, Department of Civil Engineering, The University of Akron, USA, visited the Department from August 22-24 and August 31-September 2, 2005 under the auspices of the William Mong Visiting Fellowship. His seminar entitled “The Wonderful Green’s Function and Its Application to Nanoscale Quantum Wires and Dots” was delivered on September 2, 2005.

• Professor Malcolm Bolton, Professor of Soil Mechanics and Director of the Schofield Centre, Cambridge University, UK, visited the Department from August 28-31, 2005 under the auspices of the Faculty of Engineering’s William Mong Distinguished Lecture in Engineering and Computer Science. Professor Bolton’s lecture entitled “Performance-based design of earthworks and foundations” was delivered on August 30, 2005.

Staff News

• Mr. P.K.K. Lee was appointed the Chairman of the Fellowship Committee, the Member of the Membership and Qualification Board as well as the Member of the Accreditation Board of The Hong Kong Institution of Engineer for the 2005-2006 session. He was also re-appointed a Member of the Professional Construction Industry Co-ordination Board for 12 months from September 2005.

• Dr. A.T. Yeung was appointed a Member of the Civil Discipline Advisory Panel of The Hong Kong Institution of Engineers for the 2005-2006 session.

• Dr. S.C. Wong was appointed a Member of the Road Safety Council and was re-appointed as a Member of its Road Safety Research Committee for two years with effect from June 1, 2005.

• Professor J.H.W. Lee was invited by Delft Hydraulics Laboratory, Netherlands, to be the Chairman of the International Audit Committee, Review of Delft Hydraulics Software Systems, during August 29-30, 2005.

• Dr. B. Young joined the Department as Associate Professor in January 2005. He received his B.Sc., B.E. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Sydney in 1991, 1993 and 1998, respectively. Prior to joining The University of Hong Kong, he worked in the University of Sydney as senior researcher for 1.5 years, the Nanyang Technological University in Singapore and the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology as Assistant Professor for 6 years. He was one of the code writers of the “Hong Kong Code of Practice.
for the Structural Use of Steel” for the Buildings Department, HK-SAR. He was also involved in the development of the Singapore Standard on the “Cold-formed Welded Steel Structural Hollow Sections” for the Productivity and Standards Board of Singapore Government. His research interests include cold-formed steel structures, testing and design of steel structures, stainless steel structures, aluminium structures, structural stability and fire resistance of metal structures. He holds an Australian contractor builder licence. Dr. Young’s contact details are: 2859 2674, young@hku.hk.

Dr. A.S.K. Au joined the Department as Assistant Professor in September 2005. He received a first class honour BEng degree in Civil Engineering from The University of Manchester and was awarded the Institution’s Prize for Civil Engineering Students, the Edgar Morton Prize, A.H. Gibson Prize for his academic performance. After that he worked as an assistant engineer in the KEC Joint venture for a year. At that time he was involved in Airport Core Project of Kowloon Station for Airport Express. In 1997, he obtained the Croucher Foundation Scholarship (HK) and Overseas Research Scholarship (UK) and furthered his study at the University of Cambridge UK. He conducted research in the area of geotechnical engineering and earned his doctoral degree in 2001. Prior to joining The University of Hong Kong in September 2005, he worked in the City University of Hong Kong as a lecturer for 3.5 years. His research interests include compensation grouting, fracture control grouting, application of FRP in soil nail, properties of cement mixed soil, landslip preventive measures and application of grouting technique to stabilize loose fill slope. Dr. Au’s contact details are: 2857 8552, skau@hkcc.hku.hk.

Four laboratory staff members of the Department were promoted. Mr. B.C. Kwok and Mr. N.C. Poon have been promoted to Senior Technician while Mr. T.O. Chan and Mr. O.K. Chau have been promoted to Works Supervisor II with effect from June 1, 2005.

Supercritical Vortex Intake for Storm Water Diversion in HK Island

Due to intense urbanisation, reclamation, and global climate change, Hong Kong has witnessed extreme rainfall intensities in recent years. The Hong Kong Island West Drainage Tunnel scheme involves the upstream interception of storm flow by a number of vortex intakes. Each will intercept high speed storm flows of up to 18 m³/s in steep hillside slopes. The stormwater will be diverted in vortex drop shafts to a tunnel below ground level, to be discharged to the sea.

Researchers in the Croucher Laboratory of Environmental Hydraulics, led by Professor J.H.W. Lee, collaborated with the Hong Kong Drainage Services Department and international consultants to carry out a hydraulic model study. The objective is to develop an optimal and practical engineering design for the diversion of the high speed flow efficiently and safely from mid-levels into the deep tunnel. The flow diversion involves first the interception of the supercritical flow by a unique bottom rack structure, followed by conveyance into a spiral vortex intake system.

In 2004-2005, the Croucher Laboratory has been commissioned by the Hong Kong Drainage Services Department to carry out a series of 4 research consultancy projects related to the Hong Kong Island West Drainage Tunnel and the Lai Chi Kok Transfer Scheme.

CIGID (Centre for Infrastructure & Construction Industry Development) Activities
(http://www.hku.hk/cigid/page3.html)

February 22, 2005
Conference on ‘Public Private Partnerships – Opportunities and Challenges’.

February 23 and 24, 2005
Seminars on ‘Conflict prevention on large construction projects’ and ‘The relationship between organizational culture and organizational effectiveness: Case study of construction companies in Thailand’ by Professor Stephen O Ogunlana, AIT, Thailand.

March 2, 2005
Seminar on ‘Sustainable Building Design and Planning’ by Dr. Raymond Yau, Ove Arup & Partner Hong Kong Limited.
April 9, 2005
SMILE-SMC Dissemination Workshop 2.

May 21, 2005
A lecture on “SME Development Experiences in the UK” by Dr. Christopher Miller, Welsh Enterprise Institute, University of Glamorgan, UK.

May 23, 2005
Seminar on ‘Forensic Project Management: An exploratory examination of the causal behavior of design induced rework’ by Professor Peter Love from Australia.

July 9, 2005
SMILE-SMC Training Workshop.

The ‘2005 Award for Excellence’ by the Literati Club for ‘the Outstanding Paper’ in the Journal of Engineering, Construction & Architectural Management was awarded to M. Kumaraswamy, T. Ng, O. O. Ugwu, P. Ekambaram and M. Rahman, for the paper entitled “Empowering Collaborative Decisions in complex Construction Project scenarios”.

RWE Thames Water – HKU Graduate Recruitment Programme 2005

On July 22, 2005 RWE Thames Water from London, UK conducted a one-day graduate assessment exercise for a selected number of freshly graduated civil engineers from our Department. RWE Thames Water is the UK’s largest water and wastewater services company providing a service to 13 million customers.

The purpose of the assessment exercise was to identify and recruit suitable candidates for their graduate development programme in the UK. The assessment was conducted by a team of five staff of the Company, including the Director of Engineering, a Principal Project Manager of Engineering, a Senior Consultant of Learning and Development as well as two of our former graduates (Tommy Chiu and Billy Ma) working with the Company in the UK, with all five of them flying from London to Hong Kong specifically for this purpose.

This was the first time that a foreign company came to Hong Kong for recruitment of our graduates to work in the UK. It shows that the quality of our civil engineering programme is valued very highly abroad, and opens new and interesting career paths for our graduates.

STUDENT AWARDS/ACTIVITIES

Awards

◆ Mr. Chio Kai Ming (first from left) and Mr. Liu Ka Yeung (second from right) (Year 3 BEng students) have been awarded the Gammon University Fellowship 2005-06.

◆ Miss Kwong Tsz Yan (2004 graduate) was awarded the prize of the Best Undergraduate Student in Geotechnical Subjects by the Geotechnical Division of HKIE at their Annual General Meeting held on 18 March 2005.

◆ Mr. Chan Shu Ning (Year 1 BEng student) was awarded the Robert H.N. Ho Scholarship for the academic year 2004-05.

◆ Mr. Chan Kai Yin and Mr. Lee Yuk Yu (2005 graduates) were awarded the Hui Yin Hing Scholarship for the academic year 2004-05.

Chan Kai Yin
Mr. Ng Pui Lam (PhD student) was awarded the DuPont Scholarship for the academic year 2004-05.

Mr. Tsang Hing Ho (PhD student) won the 2005 Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Award to further his leading research into earthquake engineering. He takes on a six month tenue at the University of Melbourne.

Mr. Tsang will develop new strategies for seismic hazard and risk assessment in areas that remain unprepared for earthquakes, including Singapore and Peninsula Malaysia. He believes that this has the potential to save lives, especially in nations with limited infrastructure.

"I want to do earthquake engineering research because I want to do something interesting, challenging and meaningful," he says.

"The cutting-edge knowledge will be transferred to Hong Kong, and other parts of the Asia-Pacific region. The whole methodology will be further developed and I will definitely play an important role in those collaborative works."

Mr. Tsang is hopeful that his research can be generalized to help all areas of the world. He says that the Boxing Day earthquake has raised the profile of this issue worldwide and that governments are now more receptive than ever to discussions and research into this topic.

The $25,000 Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Awards provide financial support for Asian postgraduate and postdoctoral fellows to undertake research in Australia.

Mr. Tsang says he was very grateful to receive the award and hopes it will help him contribute to society in the future.

Mr. Nip Ka Ho (2005 graduate) (left) was awarded the Chow Che King Prize 2004-05.

Mrs. Mak Wan Hung (Year 2 MSc student) was awarded the Madam Ng Man Ching Prize in 2004-05 for her performance in Transportation Engineering courses in her first-year of studies.

Mr. Wong Chun Ho (2005 graduate) was awarded the H.K.U. Engineering Alumni Association Prize 2004-05.

The PhD thesis by Mr. Ken T.M. Wong, "Red tides and algal blooms in subtropical Hong Kong waters: field observations and Lagrangian modelling" (thesis supervisor Professor J.H.W. Lee) was awarded the Zhu Ke-zhen Award by the Hong Kong Meteorological Society in May 2005. This science award for young researchers was established in 1999 to honor the contributions of the renowned Chinese meteorologist Zhu Ke-zhen. This is the first time an award has been made since its establishment.

Mr. Wong Chun Ho (2005 graduate) receiving the award from Mr. C.Y. Lam, Director of Hong Kong Observatory

Miss Chan Wai Kei (2005 graduate)

- Was awarded the best sportswoman for the year 2004-05 by the two Alumni Association in Malaysia and Singapore Jubilee Prizes.
- Obtained the excellent 5th place in the 23rd World University Games held in Izmir, Turkey in August 2005.

Mr. Ng Pui Lam (PhD student) was awarded the DuPont Scholarship for the academic year 2004-05.

Activitys

Mr. Tsang Hing Ho (PhD student) won the 2005 Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Award to further his research into earthquake engineering at the University of Melbourne. Below is an extract from an article from the University of Melbourne on his research.

Hong Kong student makes waves with quake research
Media Release, Tuesday 6 September 2005

A 24 year-old Hong Kong PhD student modelling the effects of large scale earthquakes has a plan that could potentially save lives, targeting the same volatile shelf that was devastated by the Boxing Day disaster.

Mr. Tsang Hing Ho, from The University of Hong Kong, won the 2005 Endeavour Australia Cheung Kong Award enabling him to further his leading research into earthquake engineering. He takes on a six month tenure at the University of Melbourne.

Mr. Tsang will develop new strategies for seismic hazard and risk assessment in areas that remain unprepared for earthquakes, including Singapore and Peninsula Malaysia. He believes that this has the potential to save lives, especially in nations with limited infrastructure.

"I want to do earthquake engineering research because I want to do something interesting, challenging and meaningful," he says.

"The cutting-edge knowledge will be transferred to Hong Kong, and other parts of the Asia-Pacific region. The whole methodology will be further developed and I will definitely play an important role in those collaborative works."

Mr. Tsang is hopeful that his research can be generalized to help all areas of the world. He says that the Boxing Day earthquake has raised the profile of this issue worldwide and that governments are now more receptive than ever to discussions and research into this topic.

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Mr. Tsang says he was very grateful to receive the award and hopes it will help him contribute to society in the future.

Summer Industrial Training - Guangxi Project

The Guangxi project which involved our undergraduate students designing and building a primary school commenced in April 2004. The construction of the school has been completed and the building was officially opened on October 1, 2005. More details will be provided in the next Newsletter.
ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING EVENTS

6th International Conference on Tall Buildings (ICTB-VI)
Mini Symposium on Sustainable Cities
Mini Symposium on Planning, Design and Socio-Economic Aspects of Tall Residential Living Environment
6-8 December 2005
Kowloon Shangri-la Hotel, Tsimshatsui

The aim of the conference is to provide a forum for all stakeholders to exchange ideas on how to further advance the development and management of tall buildings so as to fulfil the needs of the society, clients, and end-users. In view of the increasing awareness of sustainability and socio-economic aspects, two mini symposia entitled Mini Symposium on Sustainable Cities; and Mini Symposium on Planning, Design and Socio-Economic Aspects of Tall Residential Living Environment, will also be concurrently held with ICTB-VI. The conference is honoured to have Deputy Minister of Construction Huang Wei, Professor Lap-Chee Tsui, and Deputy Minister of Education Wu Qidi to be the Guests of Honour, along with Ir Peter Ayres, Permanent Secretary Lo Yiu Ching, Professor Max Fordham, and Professor Wang Tiehong as the Keynote speakers. Audiences will also gain an insight of groundbreaking planning, architectural, structural and building services concepts; innovative construction techniques; new materials; and novel analytical approach from over 150 experts around the world. The Conference registration form can be downloaded from the conference website at www.hku.hk/civil/conference/ictb6/. For enquiries contact the Conference Secretariat, ICTB-VI by Email: ictb6@hkucc.hku.hk or Fax: (852) 2559 5337.

Donation from Mr. Choi Kin Chung

A donation of HK$0.5 million from Mr. Choi Kin Chung was received in July 2005. The donation would be used with effect from the 2005-06 academic year, to subsidize undergraduate students to undergo industrial training in Mainland China so that more students be encouraged to take up training placements there.

Newsletter by Email

To view a soft version of this Newsletter, please visit our Department website on http://www.hku.hk/civil, or if you prefer to receive a soft version of this Newsletter by email, please send notification to civdept@hkucc.hku.hk.