~ Tommy Chow ~

Where is the future of our young graduates?

BBC ran a newsline in January 2012, “While Hong Kong’s gross domestic product per head is high at HK$32,000, the disparity between rich and poor is wide and has become a political flashpoint. More than half of the Hong Kong populations earn less than HK$11,000 a month (has gone up to HK$14.3K in 2014) and household incomes have barely increased over the past 10 years despite a booming economy.” After three years, the disparity situation has no improvement but worsening. In October 2014, the news about the so-called “umbrella movement” had spread over every single headline of international journals for weeks. In January 2015, local media and the public were distressed by the 1-km long line at Lok Fu applying for government subsidized apartment, and the record breaking on the cell-size multi-million unit. People were disgruntling that the social instability was stemmed from the high disproportion between property price and incomes of the general public. Many young Hong Kongers have lost their drive of moving up the social stratification and have given up on their dreams of owning a tiny apartment amid insane house prices and poor pay rise. Has Hong Kong become a heaven to the rich while a hell to the grassroots? Is the burgeoning wealth of the Hong Kong rich benefiting from the suffering of the poor and young generations? Will this highly distorted economic model be sustained for another twenty years or even fifty years?

As the economic disparity becomes one of the worst in the world, rising of social instability and the flame of fury has become evident across Hong Kong. Should our hardworking, determined young graduates be losing hope? The “Focus” of the current issue wrote an inspiring story of Dr. D Huang, a 2005 EE alumna. Huang Di is one of my brightest ex-PhD students; she received her PhD in 2005 and I am always proud of her. We have kept regular contact since she left CityU because I often need her help as international journal technical reviewer. The last time I met her was 2010 summer when I went to the University of Maryland visiting and delivering a technical talk. Huang Di and my family went out to dine at Fairfax, Maryland where her working place, National Institute of Health (NIH), is only few miles away. Despite making a good living and enjoying a respectable and stable job at NIH, she looked and talked the same way as she first came into my office from Shenyang. That was 14 years ago and her life apparently has experienced a kind of Hollywood movie change.

Huang Di is not the only EE ex-student that I am keeping in touch with. I have connections with many EE alumni who are working or studying in the US. Just few days back, I received a message from Jiang Yuan (2014 ECE graduate) telling me that he received an intern offer from one of the US high-tech giants. In the US, an intern usually leads to a job offer after graduation. Just one year back, Jiang was still uncertain and not totally confident with the decision on pursuing a Software Master Degree at Dartmouth (Ivy League college). Jiang was precarious on his software ability because he was an ECE student. Jiang like many other students who were not my final year project (FYP) students but somehow they liked coming to discuss their future study/career plan with me. I am glad many of these bright and resolute students considered me as their friend or at least a trustworthy mentor. They were open and honest to talk about their dreams, plans and anxieties. I told Jiang that a bright and hard-working student would always come through difficulties; whether he was an ECE, CE or IE student would make no part in determining his future success. Ten months after he left CityU, I am glad he messaged me as a friend and shared his delight with me. Yuan Yuan (2014 IE graduate) discussed with me about her overseas study plan. Yuan went to Carnegie Mellon, the top US computer science school, to do her master. It has been six months since I last received her message from the US. There are many other EE ex-students who are now living in the US West Coast; they are wearing jeans, bringing a company back-pack with a company computer and driving to work...
day in day out. Despite being well below thirty years of age, they are living in a decent apartment and probably are driving to Target and Costco for shopping in the weekend. They might be moaning and groaning the 28% tax rate (income basket of US$ 85K to 178K per year) that they are paying up to and started disliking Obama for being over generous to social security expense. But knowing the average annual household income is US$51K, they deep down realize that they are the well-off group. During the month that their associated high-tech firms are about to announce quarter reports, they may start to feel the nerve. But at the end of the day their faces may often be gleaming with joy when Facebook, Apple, Microsoft, Amazon, Google, Yahoo announce a respectable profit which results in a rise of share prices. Back to our current students, one of my FYP students has received offers from 2 top US colleges. She has kept discussing with me about where she should head to. I am glad she decided to take on the challenge going to the top US computer science school. In two years, she will be very likely working with an US high-tech firm. Her parents back at home will miss her badly but they will be surely proud of her. I hope she will still remember me when she drives down the Highway 5 to visit other CityU EE old pals somewhere in California or Seattle. I also wish I would be there with them enjoying a nostalgic gathering looking back upon the past happenings at Kowloon Tong.

Singapore recently has appeared in all international headlines for the unfortunate passing away of their founding father Lee Kuan Yew. Singapore, whose GDP per capita has surpassed Hong Kong by 50 percent, has been investing heavily for over two decades on different high-tech areas, making them one of the most successful knowledge-intensive and innovative-driven economy. An HSBC 2014 survey rated Singapore the second best expatriate destination after Switzerland. Singapore has her strong economy built upon well-balanced sectors including business, finance, high-tech and manufacturing. National Singapore University and Nanyang Technological University are two of the most highly rated Asian universities offering competitive master degree programs that could lead to a long term stable high-tech job and life in Singapore. Our EE graduate, Dr Lau Pui Yi (2005 ECE, 2010 PhD) is now working as Researcher at the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) in Singapore.

Back to Hong Kong, the local IT industries have been strong since few years back. The demand on talented software engineers are ever growing. Each year about April and May of this season, we have received calls and emails from local engineering/IT firms looking for skillful young graduates. In summer 2014, plenty of our skillful young graduates landed their first job with HK$15K/month or above, which is about HK$2K more than the university average. The figure shows our young graduates have strong market demand, and I expect the demand will continue for at least another 10 years, because Hong Kong has also moved into an innovative-driven economy. An IT firm’s CEO told me his difficulty in recruiting appropriate IT talents (with 3-year experience) despite preparing to pay up to HK$30K/month during the EE departmental annual dinner held in March. There are also good signs on the local startups with increasing capital cash poured into the technology startups, according to the Hong Kong Venture Capital and Private Equity Association. Report indicates that there are currently more than 300 technology startups operating in Hong Kong confirming the direction of making Hong Kong become a “tech-town”.

年輕畢業生的未來會是如何？

（周偉誠教授著，由博士生李雨鍵翻譯）

BBC在2012年1月播出了一則新聞：「雖然香港的人均GDP高達HK$32,000，但貧富差距卻很大，並已成為政治的導火索。過半數的香港人每月平均收入少於HK$11,000（在2014年已增至HK$14.3K），縱然過去十年經濟繁榮，但家庭收入卻增速緩慢。」三年後的今天，差距狀況非但沒有改善，反而在進一步惡化。2014年10月，有關「雨傘運動」的新聞充斥國際各大媒體的新聞頭條長達數週時間。2015年1月，本地媒體和公眾就為著在樂富排起1公里長的居屋申請隊伍，以及破紀錄地價值數百萬元的微型住房單位而感苦惱憂慮。
人們對於房價和大眾收入的不成比例而帶來的社會不穩定感到憤怒。許多年輕的香港人已失去了提高自身社會地位的動力，在房價不斷提升和收入增長緩慢的情況下，他們也已放棄了擁有小型住宅的夢想。難道香港已成為富豪的天堂，草根的卻如在地獄了嗎？香港富豪們迅速增長的財富是窮人和年輕人所受的痛苦為代價嗎？這樣極度扭曲的經濟模式還將持續20年甚至50年嗎？

隨著香港成為全球貧富差距最大的地區之一，不斷增長的社會不穩定性及怒火已顯得日趨明顯。難道我們努力果敢的年輕畢業生正在失去盼望嗎？本期的“Focus”報導了2005年EE畢業生黃翟博士(Dr Huang Di)的鼓舞人心的故事。Huang Di是我任教過的優秀博士生之一，她在2005年獲得博士學位，而我也一直以她為傲。由於我經常需要她幫忙為國際期刊作審稿人，在她離開城大後，我們依舊保持著聯繫。我最近一次見她是在2010年夏天，當時我造訪馬里蘭大學(University of Maryland)，並講演一學術講座，Huang Di和我的家人一同外出在Fairfax進餐，那裡距離她的工作地美國國家衛生研究院(National Institute of Health)只有數英里。雖然已在過得很好，她的外表和談吐如同首次來到我辦公室時一樣。那已是14年前了，而她的生活顯然也已發生了如同好萊塢電影般的巨大變化。

Huang Di並不是唯一一個與我保持聯繫的EE畢業生，我與許多從EE畢業後在美國工作或學習的校友保持着聯繫。數天前，我收到一條來自2014年ECE畢業生Jiang Yuan的消息，得知他獲得了一家美國科技巨頭公司的實習錄用通知。在美國，實習往往意味著在畢業後獲得一份正式工作。僅一年前，Jiang還在猶豫，對一己作出到特茅斯學院(Dartmouth College, 常春藤盟校)攻讀軟件碩士學位的決定並不抱持信心。由於他是ECE的學生，Jiang對於一己在軟件能力方面能否勝任感到不安。與許多其他學生一樣，Jiang並不是我的畢業習作(FYP)學生，但卻願意與我討論他們未來的學習或工作計劃。我很高興許多聰明果敢的學生能將我當做他們的朋友，或者至少是一位值得信賴的導師。他們會敞開心扉與我討論他們的夢想、計劃、以及焦慮。我告訴Jiang，聰明並且勤奮的學生一定會克服困難，無論他是ECE，CE還是IE的學生，這都不會影響到他們未來的成功。

回到香港，本地的IT產業從數年前起已開始變得強大。對於有才能的軟件工程師的需求正在增加。每年四至五月的這個時候，我們都會收到來自本地工程和IT企業的電話和郵件，聘請技能熟練的年輕畢業生。在2014年夏天，許多有才能的年輕畢業生獲得了他們的第一份工作，月薪為HK$15K或更高，這一收入較大學整體畢業生的平均月薪高出HK$2K。這一資料表明市場對我們年輕的工程和IT畢業生有著很大的需求，我們預計這樣的需求將持續至少10年，因為香港也正朝著創新主導型經濟的方向發展。在每年3月的學系週年晚宴上，一家IT公司的CEO告訴我他正苦惱於招不到合適的IT精英(具有3年經驗)，即使願意支付HK$30K的月薪，根據香港創業及私募投資協會(Hong Kong Venture Capital and Private
Staff Achievements

Prof Ron Chen has been Elected Member of the Academia Europaea

Professor Ron Chen Guanrong, Chair Professor of EE, was elected Member of Academia Europaea (the Academy of Europe) in August 2014, under the section Physics & Engineering Sciences.

Academia Europaea, founded in 1988, is a European, non-governmental association acting as an Academy. Its members are scientists and scholars who collectively aim to promote learning, education and research. Membership is by invitation only and follows a rigorous peer review selection process. Current membership stands at around 2,800 and amongst them are fifty-two Nobel Laureates.

Student Achievements

Winning IEEE MTT-S Undergraduate/Pre-graduate Scholarship for Spring 2015

BENG-ECE final year student, Mr WANG Yaochen, has been awarded the IEEE MTT-S Undergraduate/Pre-graduate Scholarship for Spring 2015 by the IEEE Microwave Theory and Techniques Society (MTT-S), USA. This is the seventh time our students received this award. His winning research project proposal is called “Transition Design for Active SIW Components” which is supervised by Prof Xue Quan.

IEEE MTT-S will award scholarships to undergraduate/pre-graduate students semiannually. The purpose of these scholarships is to encourage students’ interest in microwave and RF technologies.

Staff Movement

Promotion

Congratulations to the following academic staff on their promotion with effect from 1 July 2015.

Dr Andrew LEUNG, promoted to Professor

Dr Ray CHEUNG, promoted to Associate Professor

Dr Joshua LEE, promoted to Associate Professor

Dr Albert SUNG, promoted to Associate Professor (A)

Equity Association), 本地的企業發展有著良好跡象，顯示越來越多的資金正注入到科技企業上。報告表明目前香港有超過300家科技企業，印證著香港正走向成為“科技港”的方向上。
Second Prize in IEEE Hong Kong Section 2014 (Postgraduate) Student Paper Contest

PhD student, Mr LIN Wei, supervised by Dr WONG Hang, has won the IEEE Hong Kong Section 2014 (Postgraduate) Student Paper Contest. The winning paper is called “Novel Wideband and Reconfigurable Circularly-Polarized Antennas for Satellite Communication Systems”.

Electronic Product Design Competition 2015

EPD Competition is an annual activity for ECE students taking EE3003 / EE3004 Electronic Product Design. The competition aims at promoting the interest of our students in learning electronics and developing students' generic skills through project learning. The project of this year is Smart Robot Car. Four groups of students have won the Gold Award, Silver Awards, and Creative Idea Award respectively.

Their names are as follows:

Gold Award
LAI Chun Tak, LAM Kwok Wing

Silver Award
WU Zhanhong, MAO Shu, XU Bowen
WANG Shiqi, FENG Mohan, XU Jian, WU Xuan

Creative Idea Award
LEE Yin To, YAU Lok Yin, NG Lok Fung, CHAN Chi Wai

Certificate of Merit
KWOK Tsz Wing, CHAO Ming Yu, CHOW Man Yiu, WAN Shuk Ying
HO Ka Long, MAK Kwan Hong, WAQAS Mahmood

Information Product Design Competition 2015

Information Product Design Competition is embedded in the course EE3314 / EE3316 Information Product Design. There are Gold Award, Silver Award, Bronze Award and Innovative Idea Award. Congratulations to the following winning teams:

Gold Award - Runbell
CHAN Sau Man, CHAN Chun Yu, CHAN Po Wang, WONG Pak Lok

Silver Award - WhatTheHealth
YUEN Hung Tsan, CHONG Johnson, LAM Wai Kit, LAM Siu Chun Lawrence, TO Kam Hung

Bronze Award and Innovative Idea Award - FUNCH
SO Ting Chi, MAK Tsz Yeung, YAU Wing Yan, TONG Tsz Yan, LEE Sing Yu
Annual Dinner 2015

~ Teresa Chow ~

EE的年度盛事春茗晚宴，於2015年3月7日假又一村花園俱樂部圓滿舉行。一如往年，同事們及其家人都非常踴躍參與，当晚一共延開二十四席，場面好不熱鬧。

自2011年起，為了加強與EE校友的聯繫，學系便借勢春茗晚宴的機會，誠邀歷屆的畢業生參加，讓師生們聚舊一番。今年，誠蒙校友們的賞面，共有七十多位校友出席。遠至1989年，近至2014年的畢業生都有參加，為是次晚宴增添不少歡樂氣氛。當晚參與的校友的運氣亦非常之高，連奪多個幸運大抽獎，令本人羨慕不已！

今年，我們特別邀請了由EE本科生組成的樂隊作表演，他們分別是INFE的李星儒(木結他手及主唱)，CE的楊軒丞(電子結他手及主唱)，ECE的熊朗生(Saxophone)。他們當晚共演繹了一首純音樂及獻唱了兩首廣東歌，其精湛的樂器演奏及動人的歌聲，獲得大家熱烈的掌聲。表演之先，更播放了一輯由Dr Steve Wong合演的短片，簡介他們尋找音樂的夢想之路。Dr Wong的生鬼演出，令大家耳目一新。不得不提的，是該短片乃由一位EE的女本科生身兼導演、攝影師及後期製作三職製作而成，可見我們EE的學生是何等的多才多藝。

去年，由韓藉老師Dr Taejoon Kim主持的遊戲節目Running Table（仿韓國人氣遊戲節目Running Man）獲得一致好評。有見及此，今年他夥拍芬蘭藉的老師Dr Anna Ruokonen，再次為大家主持遊戲環節，令大家對韓國及芬蘭的歷史及語言，增進了不少認識。更有懶出席的各位踴躍參與其中，令在場氣氛推至高峰。

是次的晚宴在壓軸大抽獎的一片歡呼聲中結束。在此，謹代表EE感謝積極投入參與在當晚各個環節中的每位及台前幕後的各工作人員。沒有大家的參與，晚宴便不能歡愉地圓滿舉行，盼望著來年大家繼續踴躍參與！
西昌交流之旅

~ Dr Wong Hang ~

2015年4月25日，我系共13名教職員，在文劍鋒教授(電子工程系系主任)的帶領下和薛泉教授的安排下，成功到訪了西昌衛星發射中心、西昌學院和電子科技大學成都學院。

今次訪問之旅，除了與有關學院進行互訪交流活動外，主要是為四川涼山州的貧瘠山區學童教育作深切探討和規劃協助，我方跟馬布都先生(涼山州扶貧開發協會會長，涼山州教育局局長，涼山州黨組副書記)達成初步協議，加強涼山州學生和西昌學院學生的交流活動，包括暑期交流生計劃、碩士生助學金計劃等等。此外，我方跟涼山州政府更探討了如何在貧瘠山區推行“Smart Village”項目，該項目將為無電無通訊的偏遠山區居民，燃亮起希望和曙光。最後，在馬會長和當地政府安排下，我們一行13人在專車接送下，近距離參觀西昌衛星發射中心。西昌衛星發射中心於1982年開始使用，自1984年1月發射中國第一顆通信衛星以來，到2013年底已發射中國國內外衛星82次，是我國四大衛星發射基地之一。
Adventure Camp for EE Student Ambassadors 2015

15 EE student ambassadors 2015 and Scheme Coordinator, Mr Van Ting, had gone through a 2-day adventure camp on 31 January and 1 February 2015. Students were divided into teams to plan their own route and completed the hiking in a combination of orienteering, team cooperation and communication, and adventure navigating. To survive in the wild environment, they had to cook by themselves by sourcing resources from the nature like woods for building fire. Coupled with a variety of challenging activities such as trust fall and rope skipping, students were trained on team building, leadership and effective communications. All these are very practical skill-set for effective team work in any other occasions throughout their life.

The 2-day experiences were consolidated by a self-reflection and sharing session at the end of the camp. For student ambassadors’ sharing on the adventure camp, please refer to P. 23.
Career Talks by Renowned IT and Electronics Companies on 23 March 2015

The industry is always supportive on providing career advising to our EE students. On 23 March 2015, delegates from renowned IT and Electronics companies spared their valuable time to give career talk on campus to our final year undergraduate and master students. Participating companies are:

- Atos Information Technology (HK) Ltd.
- i-CABLE Communications Ltd.
- Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
- PCCW Solutions

EE students also participated actively at the break-out sessions to know more in-depth about the companies, the jobs and the industry.

Mr Raymond Liu
Graduate Trainee
Atos Information Technology (HK) Ltd.
(2014 MScEIE graduate)

Miss Ada Kwok
Manager
Enterprise Risk Services
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu
(2006 BEngIE graduate)

Miss Hui Mei Suet
Graduate Trainee
PCCW Solutions
(2014 BEngECE graduate)
Technology Talk for EE Alumni 2015

A parallel session of technology talks took place on 18 April 2015, Saturday afternoon. Both topics are the hottest in town —— network hacking and 3D printing. Dr. Alan Yeung, being the Chairperson of Alumni Development, held a seminar named, “Threats and Security on the Internet: Learn how to protect your network system from a hacker’s perspective” at the Innovation Centre himself while a guest speaker Dr. Kwoh Yik-San invited by Dr. LL Cheng shared his experience in 3D printing design in the Cloud Computing Centre. The response of the event was overwhelming. Alumni and speakers kept exchanging their personal views and challenges they encountered in their profession throughout the 2-hour talk, which provided a platform of knowledge exchange.

FYP Supervisor – Supervisees Reunion: Dr. Sammy Chan

Final Year Project is the last hurdle to the finish line. And FYP supervisors are like coaches to guide and assist final year students to reach their final goal. Feeling towards it could vary. It could be torturing yet rewarding, or easy but painful. This year several ex-FYP students of Dr. Sammy Chan came back to campus for a casual gathering with him. It is no surprise to Dr. Sammy Chan that the young men, who looked naive and simple-minded in those days, have already become husband and father, supervisors of many subordinates, professionals in their own industry.
Best Bets for Job Interview Preparation: Job Interview Rehearsal for EE Students

A job interview rehearsal workshop, the first time of its kind in the past decade in the department, was organized on 21 March 2015, Saturday afternoon on AC1 campus. Twelve EE alumni, who are experienced in selecting and screening job seekers in their profession, volunteered to be job interviewers in the mock interview. Students, in their best interview attire, went through three rounds of challenges that afternoon: a 3-minute self-introduction in front of audience, one-to-one interview, and panel interview. Facing interviewers, who are real bosses or supervisors of many others in firms of different scale, our students unavoidably felt the nervousness and stress identical to the real ones. Our alumni gave solid comments and constructive feedback on student’s performance, including their answering techniques, self-promotion tactics, resume preparation. 12 Alumni means 12 styles of bosses and 12 styles of interviewers. The workshop has brought valuable and unforgettable experiences to students, and it might even impose a positive influence onto students’ job seeking journey in the next several years after their graduation. There is no better way than this to prepare for job interviews.
閒寫篇

中國神話漫語

陳關榮

小時候以為《西遊記》講的唐三藏、孫悟空、豬八戒就是中國遠古神話。長大了一點，又以為《封神演義》寫的商紇王、周文王、姜子牙才是中國的遠古神話。懂事之後，才發現這些不過是明清時期小說中的故事。其時到處找書看，因而讀了不少希臘遠古神話。記得有一次，忽然之間傷心莫名：五千年的中國文化，怎麼沒有像希臘那種出神入化、源遠流長的遠古民間傳說，和那些撲朔迷離、寓意深刻的遠古神話故事呢？上中學後，終於讀到了《山海經》和《淮南子》的神話故事，方得以釋懷。隨後書報越讀越多，便頗費心機地把許多散亂的民間傳說和神話故事加以堆積排列、剪裁拼湊，若明若暗地梳理出一個拼圖。最後驚訝地發現，中國的遠古神話非但不少，而且裡面也有許多美麗動人的故事。人們不以為然，可能只是因為中國人說中國事，總不覺得新奇罷了。

話說宇宙洪荒，世上只有混沌——無形無跡，無聲無色。從不知什麼時候算起，過了漫長的一萬八千年。忽然，混沌冥冥之中有了一點擾動，於是混沌初開，噴出一團團的東西。漸漸地，輕而清的部分冉冉上升變成了天，重而濁的部分沉沉下降變成了地。

盤古誕生在天和地之間——他生來就頂天立地。後來，天每日升高一丈，地每日加厚一尺，盤古的身高也與日俱增。這樣又過了一萬八千年。那時，天已經變得極高，地已經變得極厚，盤古也長得無比巨大，依然頂天立地。盤古就這樣冷清孤獨地站立在天地之間，又過了不知多少年。忽然一天，混沌冥冥之中又有了一點擾動，竟令盤古轟然倒下死去。他的頭變成了山，血變成了海，肉變成了泥，毛髮變成了草木，右眼變成了太陽，左眼變成了月亮。於是，世界開始初具形態，大致有了今天的模樣。

盤古之後，有《淮南子·覽冥篇》所記「女媧補天」的故事。那時的世界尚沒有人，非常寂寞，只有天上的兩位神，女媧和伏羲。女媧和伏羲都是人首蛇身，其中女媧執「規」，伏羲執「矩」，為天下掌管規矩。不管如何，女媧在盤古開天闢地之後就來到了世上。但是，女媧覺得日子過得百無聊賴。一天，她來到東海邊，挑選了許多五彩繽紛的石頭，放在火爐裡熔化，再用熔岩把天上的破洞補齊。女媧不停地煉石補天，九天九夜過去了，終於補好了天空的窟窿。於是大地重新恢復了原來的樣子，天空比以前更燦爛絢麗，還出現了五彩雲霞。時至今日，每逢雨過天清，天邊都會再現這種絢麗的虹霞。女媧還從東海捉來一隻萬年老鴟，用它的四條巨腿作為擎天柱，代替不周山，在大地的四角支撐住了遼闊的天空。接著，她又把大量的蘆葦燒成灰燼，用來填平了大地上讓洪水泛流的深溝。她還殺了一條為惡已久的黑龍和許多凶鳥猛獸，幫助人類擺脫了那場特大災難，幸福地生活到今天。

不過，女媧並沒有把天和地修補得十分完整。結果西邊的天傾斜了，所以太陽、月亮、星星每天都要西邊移去；東邊的地歪塌了，所以江河泉溪的水都往東邊流去。多年以後，水在東邊匯成了一片汪洋大海。幸虧在那極東之處海底下有一個深不可測的大洞，叫歸墟，它把世上多餘的水、甚至從天上銀河傾注到人間的水都排走了，因而大海永遠也不溢出來。這個歸墟上浮著五座神山，名為瀛洲、蓬萊、方壠、岱墟。
與和員嶠。每座山高三萬里，方三萬里，有仙人鼓翼而飛，又有金碧輝煌之仙宮，更有能讓人長生不死的仙藥。多年之後，秦始皇還要到山東蓬萊叩拜仙人、派使者東下瀛洲去採覓長生不老藥，全因他深信了這個傳說。

女媧和伏羲之後，出現了一位部落領袖炎帝。炎帝建都於陝西寶雞渭水流域的姜水。當時人類已經繁衍眾多，野生動植物不夠吃了。於是炎帝教人刀耕火種，並叫太陽發出足夠的光和熱，使大地五穀豐登。炎帝因此被譽為神農。神農嘗百草，從而人間有了醫藥。炎帝有兩個女兒，一名瑤姬和女娃，天生麗質。瑤姬不幸早逝，葬於長江邊上巫山南面，變成了神女峰。女娃特別活潑好動。一次，她獨自到東海玩水，不幸被洶湧波濤淹死。她的靈魂化作小鳥，叫聲如「精衛」。

精衛恨東海無端吞噬了她年輕的生命，於是不停地飛往西山，銜起小石子和小樹枝，一顆顆一條條地投到東海裡，發誓要把東海填平，以泄心頭之憤。晉代詩人陶淵明曾感慨萬分，在《讀山海經》中寫下了名句「精衛銜微木，將以填滄海」。

比炎帝稍晚的一個大神是黃帝，也稱作皇帝。黃帝姓姬，建都在河南新鄭的有熊，故稱有熊氏。由於他居住在軒轅之丘，故也稱軒轅氏。當時在四川成都有一個西陵國，其嫘村山上的一個農家小女發現了種桑養蠶並用之繅絲織綢，讓村民告別了麻草獸皮而穿上絲綢衣服。西陵國君大喜，收了姑娘為義女，取名嫘祖。黃帝到成都迎娶了嫘祖，且把養蠶繅絲技術帶到中原。嫘祖還協助黃帝制定了各種治國規範和社交禮儀。當時黃帝手下還有一位得力助手倉頡，負責牲口糧食的管理分配。他擯棄了結繩記事的落後操作，創造了多種圖形符號用來表示事物和進行計量，後來演化為象形文字。

黃帝從西陵引進了養蠶繅絲方法，從炎帝那裡學會了耕作和燒陶技術，如今又有了禮儀和文字，加上族人英勇善戰，他的部落日漸強盛。後代史家稱漢民族就是由黃帝的後代繁衍而來的。

黃帝無奈仰天長歎，提醒了天帝。天帝便遣玄女下界，面授黃帝以兵信神符，最後大敗蚩尤。敗陣的蚩尤部落族人四散逃竄，南遷者繁衍為苗、羌等少數民族。後人也有人把蚩尤與黃帝、炎帝合敬為「中華三祖」的說法。

夸父是一座名叫「成都載天」大山上的巨人氏族的首領，名字中的夸是高大、父是男人的意思。蚩尤在涿鹿戰敗時，曾派人去請夸父救援。夸父氏族出手相助，但也輸給了黃帝。戰敗後，夸父和倖存的族人退回了大山。後來廣袤大地出現了嚴重旱災，太陽像熊熊火球，曬得江湖乾涸、田園龜裂，到處一片荒蕪，成都載天也不能倖免。夸父生氣了，決心要把太陽摘下來。誰知當他俯下身來時，感到頭暈目眩，隨即轟然倒地。夸父看著西沉的太陽，長歎一聲，將手杖拋向西方去，忿忿而死。夸父的手杖化成了果實累累的桃林，古稱鄧林。陶淵明在《讀山海經》中讚之為「餘跡寄鄧林，功竟在身後」。
回來再說黃帝。黃帝最後打敗了炎帝，合併了部落，進而統一了中原，漢族主體自此逐漸形成，因而現代中國人均自認為是炎黃子孫。後來，人們把這段歷史歸功於三皇五帝。其中，三皇指伏羲、炎帝、黃帝，見《古微書》；五帝指東西南北中五個方位的天神：東方青帝太昊、南方赤帝炎帝、西方白帝少昊、北方玄帝顓頊、中央黃帝，見《呂氏春秋》。

黃帝之後，依次出現了三個著名的部落聯盟首領：堯、舜、禹。

堯帝時，有一個神箭手，名叫大羿。當時天上十日並出，地上下一片焦土，於是堯帝令大羿射下九日，救了沃焦。後來在夏禹的孫子大康時期，有另一個神箭手，名叫后羿，是嫦娥（亦作姮娥）的丈夫。當時黃河氾濫，四處洪災。後羿誓要為民除害，射瞎了黃河神河伯左眼。河伯投訴於天帝。天帝不悦，禁止后羿返回天宮。嫦娥只好在下界陪伴夫君。昆仑山上的西王母聞之，動了惻隱之心，饋贈他們不死靈藥，一人一粒。誰知跟后羿學箭的逢蒙，在學成後暗殺了后羿。嫦娥則把兩粒靈丹全都吞下，飄然飛月。儘管月上有桂樹玉兔，吳剛卻砍樹不倒，嫦娥亦返家無期。李白曾經把酒問月：「白兔搗藥秋復春，姮娥孤棲與誰鄰？」李商隱也為此長歎：「嫦娥應悔偷靈藥，碧海青天夜夜心」。

舜帝出身寒微，父親瞽叟是個盲人，母親早年離世。舜帝在位七十年，最後在南巡時死於荒野，葬於湖南九嶷山上。其妻子娥皇和女英是堯帝的兩個女兒，為他一路奔喪，淚灑竹林。後來此地的竹子，竿呈斑痕，猶如淚滴，人稱「湘妃竹」。

舜帝生前發現兒子商君不才，選定了治水有功的大禹繼位。禹的父親鲧在治水失敗後被舜帝所殺。禹帝命禹繼承父親未竟之業，於是有了大禹治水和三過家門而不入的故事。據說大禹初時對治水亦無能為力。舜帝的大女兒娥姫知道後，送了他一本《黃綾寶卷》，教他用錘釧釿石、車船運土。最後大禹開通了三峽，引洪入海。巫山城外有神女峰和授書台，便是娥姫之峰和她當年贈書的地方。

禹帝建立了夏王朝。之後，夏禹傳位給了自己的兒子，名啟。此舉改變了原始部落的禪讓制，開創了後來四千年王位世襲之先河。夏啟繼續傳位給兒子大康。由於夏朝是史上第一個君主王朝，中國亦被稱作華夏。夏之後是商，為第一個
名人轶事

「在我一生中讓我佩服的人有三位：第一位是本傑明·佛蘭克林，第二位是本傑明·佛蘭克林，第三位是本傑明·佛蘭克林。」
——喬治·華盛頓

美國費城及其「殖民地科學家」

陳關榮

提起費城(Philadelphia)，許多人都會想到政治家本傑明·佛蘭克林(Benjamin Franklin, 1706—1790)和他在此地起草的《獨立宣言》與《美國憲法》，以及那張面熟誘人的100元美鈔。

和別人不同的是，我還會想到我家小女兒的母校賓夕法尼亞大學(University of Pennsylvania，簡稱UPenn)，以及那被驕傲地展示在她在榮的電子工程系裡的世界第一台電腦ENIAC(Electronic Numerical Integrator And Computer)。這台電腦於1945年底在該系誕生，是個龐然大物：它重27噸，占地150平方米，內裝18800枚真空電子管、7000只電阻、10000只電容、6000個開關和50萬條電線，耗電140千瓦。這個巨無霸可進行每秒5000次加法運算，當年全球首屈一指。當年全球首屈一指。當然，當年全球首屈一指。前年世界上運行最快超級電腦「天河二號」的33.86千萬億次/秒運算速度相比，不可同日而語。不過，現代科技你連我趕，美國能源部2014年11月14日宣佈，決定斥資3.25億美元以建造兩台超級電腦，其運算速度將達到100－300千萬億次/秒。這真是個史無前例的宏圖大策，讓世人拭目以待。

再回來說說費城。費城是美國一個古老而又頗具歷史意義的大都會，在美國政治、經濟和文化方面均有舉足輕重的地位。

這裡有一座美國獨立紀念館，於1732年作為州政府而建立，1776年在此處發表獨立宣言，其後又在此處起草了國家憲法從而誕生了美利堅合眾國。美國國旗星條旗也在這裡設計。在華盛頓市建立前，即1790－1800年間，費城是美國的首都。這裡還有世界上最著名的鐘——自由鐘(Liberty Bell)。它是費城的象徵，更是美國自由精神的象徵，見證過美國早期歷史上一些重要事件。鐘面上刻著《聖經》利未記上的名言：「向世界所有的人宣告自由」("Proclaim LIBERTY throughout all the Land unto all the inhabitants thereof.”Leviticus 25:10)。

自由鐘(Liberty Bell)
2013年，費城經濟圈的經濟產值（GDP）為4208億美元，美國排名第七位，是東部僅次於紐約和華盛頓的第三大經濟城市。著名高等學府賓夕法尼亞大學的華頓商學院（Wharton School of Business）建立於1881年，是美國第一家學院化的商學院。之後，華頓創造了許多商學院中的「第一」：1881－1910出版並使用了第一本商學教科書、1921成立了第一個商學院工業研究中心並設立了世界上第一個MBA（Master of Business Administration）學位，1970增設了第一個衛生健康管理MBA學位、1973建立了第一個中小企業創業中心，1978設立了第一個管理和科學技術雙學位，等等。它在各種主要的經濟專業領域研究以及管理教育水準方面都極高的聲譽，在2014年《美國新聞與世界報導》全美最佳商學院排行榜中名列第一。

費城有我特別喜歡的當今美國五大交響樂團之一的費城管弦樂團（Philadelphia Orchestra）。該樂團創辦於1900年，歷史上曾榮膺多個「第一」：它是第一個以電氣錄音技術錄製唱片的交響樂團（1925年）、第一個在商業贊助廣播節目中演奏（美國國家廣播公司，1929年）、第一個跨越世界各大洲巡迴演出的美國樂團（1936年）、第一個為故事片演奏配樂的樂團（派拉蒙公司，電影The Big Broadcast of 1937）、第一個進行全國電視轉播的樂團（哥倫比亞廣播公司，1948年），以及第一個到中國演出的美國樂團（1973年）。

費城城區內除了賓夕法尼亞大學（UPenn）之外，還有著名高等學府卓克索爾大學（Drexel University）、天普大學（Temple University）、聖約瑟夫大學（Saint Joseph's University），在全球排名第三的音樂學院—柯帝士音樂學院（Curtis Institute of Music），以及在1805年建立的美國第一所私立美術學院—賓夕法尼亞美術學院。

我對費城情有獨鍾，更因有感於它歷史上的幾位傑出殖民地科學家。「殖民地科學家」是近代歷史學家不時用到的一個特別稱謂，指歐洲宗主國屬下殖民地的本土科學家。在美國歷史上，從歐洲人來到北美洲把它變成殖民地之後，到美國獨立戰爭勝利美利堅合眾國成立為止，這一段時期被稱為是美洲殖民地時期，那時的本土科學家被稱為是殖民地美國科學家。

佛蘭克林是一位最具代表性的傑出美洲殖民地科學家。他的主要貢獻在於對電的研究。他借用數學上正和負的概念，科學地用正電和負電來刻畫兩種電荷的特性，深入地探討了電荷運動的規律，並創造了許多專用名詞如正電、負電、電極、電流、導電體、電池等。他還指出電荷量不會自行增加或減少，後人則在此思想基礎上建立了電荷守恆定律。據說1752年佛蘭克林曾經嘗試過一項著名的實驗：在雷雨天氣中用金屬線放風箏，希望可以驗證「電」在大氣中存在。稍後，德國科學家里奇曼在與俄羅斯科學家羅蒙諾索夫一起模彷他的實驗時，不幸被電擊身亡。佛蘭克林卻因此而發明了避雷針。佛蘭克林由於對電的深入研究和科學貢獻，1753年被英國倫敦皇家學會遴選為外籍院士。事實上，佛蘭克林一生中還有其它一些小發明，如雙焦距眼鏡、蛙鞋、玻璃琴、新式印刷機、新式火爐等，1781年，他當選為美國藝術與科學學院（American Academy of Arts and Sciences）院士。
納克出生在離費城不遠的巴爾德摩，是美國殖民地時期最重要的黑人知識份子,是一個發明家、天文學家、曆書編撰者和作家。他並沒有接受過正規教育，從小跟隨祖母讀書識字並學習四則運算。班納克聰敏過人,1761年製造了一座準確的大木鐘,那是「美國製造」的第一個時鐘。1773年起，他開始學習並進行天文計算，曾準確地預報了1789年的日蝕，並於1791－1802年間每年出版了《賓夕法尼亞、德拉瓦、馬里蘭和維吉尼亞的日曆和星曆表》。1790年,華盛頓總統指派他到哥倫比亞特區委員會任職。他也是一名隨筆和小品作家,時有書文發表,反對奴隸制度和戰爭。他曾把自己第一本曆書贈送給時任國務卿的湯瑪斯·傑弗遜(Thomas Jefferson, 1743－1826),附信中向政府表達了改善美國黑人狀況的強烈訴求。

讓我們延續故事,重回費城。

说到費城的傑出殖民地科學家,絕不能不說大衛·里滕豪斯(David Rittenhouse, 1732－1796)。里滕豪斯出生於費城，並在那裡度過了一生。他來自一個普通人家，沒有接受過正規教育，靠自學成材。19歲時,里滕豪斯在父親的農場內開設了一間科學儀器小店鋪,主要經營鐘錶加工和銷售，基於鐘錶製作的科學知識和經驗,他自行設計和製作了兩架太陽系儀,目前一架保存在賓夕法尼亞大學的圖書館中,另外一架放置在普林斯頓大學的Peyton Hall內。期間,里滕豪斯還製作了美國第一部望遠鏡,並創造性地在中星儀和其他方位測量儀器中使用天然蜘蛛網絡作為十字刻線(Reticule)。他在1785年首先發現了衍射光柵(Diffraction Grating)現象並製作了世界上第一個實驗儀器,次年在美國哲學學會會刊上公佈了這個新發現並在學會上作了演講。在測量學方面,里滕豪斯確定了賓夕法尼亞州與馬里蘭州、新澤西州、紐約州和西北地方的分界線,以及紐約州與麻塞諸塞州的一段分界線。在天文學方面,1769年他在觀測金星凌日時發現金星上存在大氣層。後來人們知道,俄國科學家羅蒙諾索夫早在1761年觀察金星凌日時就已經有了這個發現，不過兩人的獨立觀測報告在許多年後才分別正式發表面世。在數學方面，他發表過兩篇論文,其中一篇關於正弦函數高次冪的積分,另一篇關於對數函數的級分式展開和高階逼近，被認為是現代數學分析和數值分析的前期傑作（見美國數學學會雜誌Notices 2015年第1期)。

在佛蘭克林1790年去世之後,里滕豪斯於1791年當選為第二屆美國哲學學會主席，直至逝世。期間,在1792－1795年，他是位於費城的美國國家鑄幣局(United States Mint)的第一任主席。1781年，他被遴選為美國藝術與科學學院院士。1795年，他又當選為英國倫敦皇家學會外籍院士。
Dr Huang Di （黃翟）
2005 PhD Graduate
Research Scientist at National Institutes of Health, Washington DC, USA

二零零二年,我從已經深秋的瀋陽來到依然盛夏的香港，開始我在香港城市大學電子工程系的博士課程。香港便利的生活,香港城市大學豐富的課內外資源,電子工程系老師細心的說明均讓我順利地克服初來乍到的不適和緊張。城大五年（三年半的博士和一年半的研究助理）的生活簡單而充實,讓我得益多多。離開城大後,我來到美國從博士後做起,現在在美國國家衛生研究院（National Institutes of Health, Washington DC, USA）做Research Scientist。

我在本科學的是電子工程,包括電子電路和簡單軟體程式設計。來到城大電子系,機器學習和資料分析卻更加吸引我。在導師的鼓勵下,我開始專注這個領域,研究和設計能夠有效處理大規模資料的各種統計技術和計算方法。在我讀博士的期間,生物化學實驗技術有了突破性的進展,染色體攜帶的各類資訊都可以被讀出和記錄下來,也因此產生了大規模資料。大家都開始琢磨如何把機器學習和各種計算的方法應用到這些生物醫學資料。我的導師和我也加入了這個行列。不斷發佈的海量生物醫學資訊以及這些資訊所隱含的寶貴內容像磁場一樣深深地吸引著我,成為我博士後和現在工作的研究方向。我現在的工作是分析比對各類細胞的染色體資訊,理解基因和它們的調控機制是如何改變某些生物（或生理病理）過程。比方說,通過比較正常細胞和病灶細胞,我們發現某一（或某些）段染色體呈現不一樣的狀態,而這也引起部分基因表達的變化。我們下一步的目標是發現引起這些染色體的變化的可能原因,以及為什麼這部分基因表達的變化引發了癌症,這些會幫助我們理解如何治療及預防癌症（當然,這是一個遙遠卻在望的目標）。

這些是我從博士到工作的簡單歷程,每個人都有自己的工作軌跡,也有不一樣的體會和分享。對我來說,城大的學習生活為我打開了兩扇門。打開了一扇門,我體驗了不同的文化。這裡的中國嶺南文化和港式的生活讓我覺得新鮮,也豐富了我在城大的生活。打開另一扇門,我學習到如何使“科學研究”具體可行,我學會了如何一步一步從發掘自己的興趣開始,積累知識,設計實現自己的想法,然後不斷檢驗更新這些想法。以下是我分享在城大的得著。

首先,我很幸運,我可以在博士期間找到了我的興趣所在。把愛好變成職業是一種可遇不可求的奢侈,不是人人都可以做到。但是,找到感興趣的工作或研究方向卻是每個人都可以擁有的幸福。初到城大,我的導師建議我多多閱讀相關的近期雜誌期刊。同時,我也和老師同學請教,他們的親身體會會增加我對相關領域的認識。而且,我會參加教授們的講座。這方面我做得不夠,現在還覺得有點遺憾。所有這些都對我的幫助很大。我大概用了一年的時間來確定我的研究方向。當然,這期間我有不同的嘗試。

還有,我的閱讀經驗是,除了廣泛閱讀外,我會挑出幾本讓我覺得舒服順暢的書反覆閱讀,掌握基本概念。同時,我會關注我欣賞的文章,發掘他們的寫作和研究的思路對我非常有幫助。和閱讀經驗不同,在研究課題的選擇方面,我覺得應該走出舒適區,不斷嘗試新的課題。有些課題需要不少的入門知識,但是不要因此輕易放棄它們。

以上是我個人體會。寫這些的時候,香港城大生活的繽紛點滴一直在我的腦中回顧,紛雜卻井然有序的香港,小巧卻一應俱全的城大,都讓我印象深刻。我非常感激城大電子工程系的老師,特別是我的導師周偉誠教授（Prof Tommy Chow）對我的傳授授業解惑。周老師給了我一個寬廣卻嚴謹的研究氛圍,鼓勵我找到喜歡的研究方向,盡心地和我討論,細心地教我如何寫科技論文。這些春風化雨是我博士畢業的有效助力,也是我現在工作的重要參考。
My Exchange in University of Skövde, Sweden

CHONG Yuk Kwan
BENG4-CE, Yr 3

My Pre-departure Checklist

Resident permit in Sweden
Start the application immediately after receiving your acceptance letter from the university. You should also show you got enough money to support yourself (SEK36,500 for a semester).

Details:  http://www.migrationsverket.se/English/Private-individuals/Studying-in-Sweden.html

Insurance
One should purchase both health and travel insurance in order to apply for the resident permit. There is no special requirement for the coverage of the insurance. However, other countries may require certain coverage.

Passport
Make sure your passport is valid during the exchange period.

Acceptance letter
Some airlines may ask you to show the letter if you have not bought your return ticket.

Air ticket
Buy as early as possible to save money.

Other stuff
Electrical adaptor, books, snacks from HK, etc.

Just Arrived…
On the day of arrival, my friend and I missed the last train to Skövde (about 8pm). We stayed at a small hotel in Stockholm for one night (about SEK500) because the hostels in the city center were full. We took the train at 8 am on the next day and it took 2 hours to Skövde (for high speed train). The university is very close to the train station. We just walked to the university and waited for the staff from the university to drive us to the accommodation. Finally, we could settle down after a 14-hour flight and a night in Stockholm.

Orientation
The orientation program introduced some facts about the universities, examination rules, facilities such as the Library, Student Affairs Office and IT helpdesk, Student Union and the International Committee. The information is useful because we need to use the facilities very often. We also had some Swedish fika (is a concept in Swedish culture with the basic meaning “to have coffee”, often accompanied with pastries or sandwiches) in the orientation. There were some welcoming activities held by the International Committee such as movie night and visiting the City Council.

My Place
My accommodation is called Xenia. Every student lives in a single room so we could have much personal space. But we always gathered in the living room so it was quite warm there. We can get basic stuff. There were some minor problems like the fire alarm sometimes rang without any reasons and the Wi-Fi signal was weak. But other things were fine. The dormitory was safe.

My First Class
The lecture class is similar to the one in HK, but the laboratory and tutorial classes are quite different. In Hong Kong, tutors would give us some weekly tasks to solve and sometimes guide us step by step to achieve the goal. But in there, the tutors would only give us some sources and a lab manual to solve the task on our own. They would not teach us actively, but they would answer your questions patiently. You have to take the initiative. For the exam, the professor would not give you any exercises to practise the calculation, but you can find the past paper to practise on your own. Therefore, I think this university requires student to take the initiative to study and ask questions actively. Some courses only take two months. I think they are in a hurry because we have to remember lots of contents for the exams within two months.
People I Met
The students I met were mainly exchange students from other countries like Germany, Spain and Mexico. They are all very kind and speak fluent English. Mexicans are very enthusiastic. They always shake hands or even hug each other when they meet someone. They like to eat spicy food too. In fact, I only make friends with few local students because the courses I took were for exchange students. But the local people there are very nice and polite. I can communicate with them in English without any difficulties.

Out of Classroom
Students can join different clubs and societies such as the choir and the fencing club. I took part in a computer game production by being a voice actor for the characters in the game. It was a lot of fun. I also joined the Lapland trip with other exchange students to explore the northern part of Sweden. We saw the aurora borealis and reindeers. Some of us also tried the ice climbing and dog sledding.

Money
Including the funding from the university, I spent about HKD60,000 during my exchange study. It includes the rent, transport tickets and some trips around Europe. It is advisable to book transport ticket earlier because it becomes more expensive if it is closer to the departure time. The food in Sweden is more expensive than that in HK (except milk), especially eating in restaurants. So it is better to cook by ourselves.

Goodbye
I miss the friends I met there. They are very kind and we had many unforgettable experiences. I also miss the weather, the atmosphere and the environment there. The air is fresh, lots of trees growing around and the society is peaceful and warm. I will not forget the time there, especially the snow time.

Home Sweet Home
I become more independent after the exchange study because I have to buy food, cook and clean the toilet by myself. These things are usually done by my mum when I am in HK. I think I should help my mum much more since they are not easy jobs. I also learn to become more active in study and take the initiative to ask teacher questions when I do not understand something.

Sharing
Most of the students will be very nervous before they go for an exchange study, especially when going to a country with different cultures or going there alone. It is not avoidable because there are many things that we are not familiar with. But I think we can just let it go when all the things are ready. We should not let the nervousness affect our mood to travel and study. But of course, we need to pay attention when we are traveling (safety, be on time to catch the flight). We also need to balance our life between studying and having fun.

Overall Rating
4 (5 = the most satisfied)
My Exchange in State University of New York at Stony Brook

HSU Che Jung
BENG4-ECE, Yr 3

My Blog
My host school – Stony Brook University is 60 miles away from New York City. Almost every weekend, I went to downtown for adventure. Times Square, Central Park, Empire State Building… There are so many remarkable attractions in New York. Walking on the street, I could easily feel that NYC is awesome and still improving!

My Pre-departure Checklist
Air ticket: it is cheaper to buy it earlier. Plus, try to find the student ticket since it is not only cheap but also provides more weight allowance for luggage.

Student Visa: it needs complicated procedures and takes quite a long time to complete. Thus, apply it right away after getting the admission letter. During the application, give as much information about you as you can; otherwise the US embassy can reject your application.

Just Arrived…
The airport that I arrived is JFK, which is one of the busiest airports in the world, and there are 6 terminals!

Fortunately, my friend who is also from CityU contacted the Christian Fellowship in Stony Brook University and they drove us directly to campus. Otherwise, we needed to bring the heavy luggage and take a two hour train ride…

The campus of Stony Brook is so big that I need a 15-minute walk for food. It is so different and inconvenient compared with CityU.

Orientation
There is no doubt that school will hold orientation activities for all exchange students. During the first meeting, school administration would provide useful information for visa, life on campus and upcoming activities. Most importantly, you will meet up other students who are from same country and all over the world. It is the biggest chance to make new friends and DON’T miss it.

My Place
The type of my accommodation is apartment. There are five to six people in one apartment. Each one has his own room while sharing one living room, one kitchen and two restrooms. Thus, it is really comfortable for living. But, the price is not tasty — around 1100 USD per month!

If you think it is too expensive, you can find the house for renting around the campus. They are cheaper but the quality and safety are not guaranteed.

Generally, it is pretty safe in residence, but don’t forget to lock your room before going out.

My First Class
The class size in Stony Brook is relatively small — around thirty students. The teaching style is similar to CityU. That is, lecturer will teach the course through hand-writing on Board or PPT slides. However, the local students in class are really active. They keep asking questions during the class, and even after class is finished.

We need to learn from the local students their attitude!

People I Met
Unfortunately, I could not get into the social circle of local students. The first reason is language; my English is still not fluent enough to have a long chat with native speakers. The second and the most important reason is cultural difference. US males like to talk about American sports, especially American Football. Some other topics include exchanging the list of pubs which are good to go.

As a foreigner and a non-local student, I know a little from their sports and entertainments. Once joining the conversation, I found that I had nothing to share. Americans are kind, but they seldom opened a topic for the Asians. That is, they are NOT really interested in exotic culture.

Out of Classroom
On campus:
Student clubs: involving all kinds of stuff. I have joined some cultural activities such as The Korean Night. There were some fantastic performances and delicious food.
Sports Center: I played the basketball with local students every weekend since the recreation center of Stony Brook was new and facilities are well-constructed. Plus, I met some good friends there.

Off campus: Traveling
The location and communication of NYC are really convenient. I have visited the following states and cities during the exchange period:

1) Boston
2) Buffalo (Niagara Falls)
3) Washington
4) Chicago
5) San Francisco
6) Los Angeles

Money
Since living in New York, everything is more expensive compared with other states. I was really shocked about the price of food when I first arrived at Stony Brook. Plus, I seldom cooked, so I really spent a lot on eating.

To help save budget, it was sometimes good to share among friends food from malls and supermarkets and enjoyed meals together.

For me, the most costly part is the spending on travel such as air fare, hostel and admission fee for attractions.

For communication, try to book the ticket early and keep an eye on the price since there might be some discount activities.

For living, same way is applied, but location is another big issue. Please do not live far away from the place you always need to travel just for cheaper rent. It might charge you more at the end for other aspects such as higher transportation fee.

Goodbye
In the US, classes are interactive. I missed the atmosphere of the class in Stony Brook a lot after returning to Hong Kong.

The most rewarding part of my exchange experience is traveling in the US. Through trip planning, I learned how to manage the budget, and became more familiar with the geographical features of the east coast of the US.

During the trip, I met some kind and generous local people like shuttle drivers. In the chats with them, I was pleased to hear that they know about Taiwan and think that it is a great place. What’s more, they complained about the life in the US. Those talks are precious to me and I learned about the real part of the US and realized that Taiwan is actually wonderful in foreigners’ impression.

The most challenging part is, of course, to use English all the time. Even for ordering a meal, I came across a huge barrier; however, it was the most effective way to improve English.

To live in the US, everyone has to be able to speak English well. Please try to brush up your English as much as you can before you depart for the US.

Home Sweet Home
Generally, I categorized my changes into improvements and drawbacks as below:

Improvements:
1) Affected by roommates, I clean up my room more than before no matter during the time in HK or in Taiwan.
2) Try to chat more with exchange students whenever I meet them.

Drawbacks:
1) Tend to spend more on eating and other expenditures.
2) Feel lonely in Hong Kong since some friends are gone while new people are in.

Sharing
Do not expect too much for American food, they are just burgers and fries. However, they are really tasty!!! Be sure that you have tried “In-N-Out” before you come back!

Actually, the big cities like New York and Los Angeles are pretty safe. It is not like the circumstance described or heard from news or articles. However, do keep an eye around you! My friends were robbed and punched on campus!!! So, be careful.
Overall Rating
4 (5 = the most satisfied)

Student Ambassador Scheme

Realization of “Cooperation” and “Persistence” after Joining Adventure Camp

LIU Junjie, Jack
BENG4-ECE, Yr 2

Being given the opportunity to be a member of EE Student Ambassadors is a great honor to me. However, I had some doubts about whether I can properly take the responsibility of being a student ambassador and get along well with other ambassadors at the beginning. The adventure camp offered me a wonderful chance to know myself better and make acquainted with my groupmates. This precious experience promoted my awareness about the importance of persistence and cooperation.

Cooperation
At the very beginning, we had to brainstorm and prepare ten necessary materials for camping. It was the first time for me to go camping and I actually had no idea about what I should prepare. One of my group mates had camping experience. Therefore he gave many suggestions. Every single member has his or her strengths and weaknesses. When we share what we know and cooperate with each other, we can achieve many things that we cannot do it alone.

Persistence
The camping was a mixture of exhaustion and surprises. We were required to march for 3 kilometers carrying all our belongings within twenty minutes, which I thought impossible. It was hard though I do exercise regularly. However, we finally made it. It was a surprise to me that I accomplished something I thought
was impossible. I asked myself why and I realized that it was the power of persistence that enabled me to finish things I thought was extremely difficult. With persistence, we reached the summit of the mountain the next day. The view on the top of the mountain was rather fantastic.

When being asked about the sharing or feeling on the camp, the two things I must mention are cooperation and persistence. The learnt of how important they are may have influence all over my life.

Hiking was the most exhausting part throughout the camp, especially our energy had been used up on the first day by completing the task called “fast running”. It required us to arrive the destination within a specified time. Actually, it was an impossible mission because the time required was for an athlete but not a person that carrying bulky camping supplies. It was a hard time to us. We supported each other by saying “we can do that”. Finally, we failed the mission but I was surprised that the time we made was quite fast. This reminded me that there may be problems which are new to us and look like unsolvable; however, if we put effort on it, the result may be better than our expectation.

Also, it was my first time to be a leader leading a team to complete the entire adventure camp. It was a challenge to me because I was in charge of everything such as route planning, setting up a campsite and making fire. Sometimes, I was afraid that I could not get the jobs done and felt depressed. When I wanted to give up, the encouragement from my teammates cheered me up. At that time, I felt each of us was connected to each other and the team spirit was ignited.

I appreciate that the department arranges lots of good activities for EESA, especially the training camp and I really like it. It is really an unforgettable experience.
Peer Tutoring Scheme

Tackling Study Pressure and Broadening Social Network through Joining EE Peer Tutoring Scheme

CHUNG Sze Man, Sarah
BENG4-INFE, Yr 2

I had no knowledge of computer structures and technologies before I enrolled in Electronic Engineering since I did not study Information and Communication Technology in secondary school. Also, I have no talent in physics or mathematics, so it was difficult for me to understand the course materials. Luckily, after a few weeks of Semester A, I received an email inviting me to join EE Peer Tutoring Scheme.

We decided to have two sessions a week after discussion with our tutor. Tutees were free to join either one based on their personal schedule. Sometimes I went to both sessions if I had too many problems.

I benefited a lot from the scheme. The tutors were willing to offer help. They explained the lecture notes in simple way if we got confused. Since they are also students, they know the difficulties we have during learning. Therefore, they could provide useful suggestions to us and teach us how to study effectively. As you know, we had to do tutorial questions. For me, it was hard to solve the problems and even could not understand the answers. Having a tutor is so important to me. Besides handling academic problems, tutors also gave advice on our university life and future career. They told me their previous experiences and explained the situations I would encounter in the future.

Last but not least, I met many friends in the Peer Tutoring Scheme. We always study together. We discussed questions and shared useful information. Some of them even became my groupmates.

In brief, this scheme helped me to adapt to the high pressure study environment and broaden my social network. It can bring benefits in various aspects to every participant.

Fruitful Experiences by Joining Peer Tutoring Scheme

KWAN Tak Kai, Takie
BENG2-ECE, Yr2

As a new student studying at the City University of Hong Kong, I was confused and worried, not sure what goals should be set in my upcoming university life. I didn’t know whether the old study pattern I used is workable for the completely new mode of learning in the university; I didn’t know whether I should actively participate in all those activities held in the campus; I didn’t know whether I should take up any challenges to improve myself. With all these doubts and worries, I really hoped that there would be some experienced students to guide and help me.

One day, I received a notice about Peer Tutoring Scheme which aims to assist EE year 2 students to learn more effectively, understand course materials and achieve better academic performance. I joined it immediately because I thought that would be a good opportunity to receive advice from senior students.

Unexpectedly, this scheme helped me a lot. My tutor supported me on both academic and university life. He is a nice person, who was willing to listen to my problems. For the academic aspect, I had an obvious improvement in the major courses. For the university life, he recommended all those useful and meaningful activities to me. My overall improvement was great when compared with the performance few months ago. I am grateful for having joined this scheme.

Also, this scheme serves as a platform for EE students to make friends and find study partners easily. I am aspired to be a tutor next year as I really hope I can help the new students just like how my tutor helped me.

You will definitely get a great reward after joining this scheme! I am looking forward to seeing you in this Peer Tutoring Scheme.
Sharing on Being a Peer Tutor

YUEN Hung Tszan, Ken
BENG3-INFE, Yr3

Being a peer tutor in the past year was an unforgettable experience in my school life. This experience has enhanced my sense of belonging to the department and various management skills. I have learnt how to prepare myself as a good tutor too.

It is not easy for the first year students to handle the studying pressure and the new university life at the same time. This scheme provides a supportive learning environment for them to work with others in different aspects, like meeting new friends, sharing the leaning skills with others and dealing with problems in a team.

In the past year, I motivated and encouraged my tutees to interact with each other, ask questions and express their own opinions. It helped my tutees develop effective learning skills when they facing problems.

Also, this scheme not only helped my tutee, but also helped me to learn how to be a good tutor. It improved my time management skills, communication skills and effective learning skills. I had to prepare well before attending each session with my tutees. I could review all the things I have learnt in year 1, which helps consolidate my fundamental knowledge.

Being a tutor can enrich student’s university life. I encouraged my tutees to join this scheme next year as a tutor. It is a rare chance for students to help others solve their learning problems, to make more news friends, to know more about EE department and to boost confidence.

Alumni’s Sharing

Mr Wyan Wong (2005 BEngIE)
Assistant Vice President, Information Technology
BOCOM International Holdings Company Limited

I: Idy Pang; W: Wyan Wong

I: What did you do after graduation from CityU? And what happened after landing your first job?

W: At the time I was just graduated in 2005, I got no idea of what I was about to do. It ended up that I entered the Telecom industry and worked for a vendor software company for one year. After that, I found out Finance was a field in great demand for high-quality stable software design and online training platform, and therefore I enrolled to a part-time master degree in Finance in CityU, which paved the way for my later career development in the Bank of China, the Bank of America, and my current employer the Bank of Communications. My expertise is more on the software, such as programming, vendor, project management, and global banking.

I: Finance and computing are twin brothers. Especially in Hong Kong, there are ample career development opportunities in the banking and finance field. When you look back, how far has the EE programme in CityU prepared you for your career and life development?

W: We learnt about basic networking concepts in my undergraduate programme. I did not realize how useful it could be until I entered the banking field. Networking is
highly related and applicable to statistics and finance, and its emphasis in Mathematics helped me digest and analyze investment and financial model much more easily. I encourage students who are interested in entering the finance field should pay additional efforts to learn networking.

I: Does it mean that is IE students’ competitive edge in your field?

W: Yes, definitely.

I: Was there any academic staff, whose teaching and sharing was exceptionally valuable to you?

W: Dr. Sammy Chan was my FYP supervisor, and my project was about networking simulator. He was friendly and always patient to me. Besides, Dr KT Ko impressed me a lot. One time he encouraged the whole class of students in a networking course that we should believe in ourselves and perform to the best of our ability regardless of our previous public examination results. He put his trust in us that we were capable to perform well, and because of his words, our confidence was re-established. Even today, his words rebounded in my head, especially during low tide of life. Never underestimate yourself!

I: Very true. We never know how far we can go until we do our best. What advice would you like to give to current students for their career development?

W: Do not focus on EE modules only. Students have to widen their horizon and broaden their knowledge base. The prestigious finance firms and global banks that hire fresh graduates do not consider their major degree a lot. They are willing to hire graduates of History, Literature, Business, Engineering or Language if they find the candidates suitable. They build teams with people of dynamic backgrounds and do not mind spending time and resources to train them up. In their job interviews, they want to find out whether you are “trainable”, whether you can think out of the box, how interesting and smart you are, whether you are a learning person, how good your people skills are, whether you can fit in their corporate culture. If you have a narrow perspective of looking at things, you are never their cup of tea.

I: Interesting. It is true that knowledge and skills can be learnt, whereas characters and thinking styles cannot be tuned that easily. Last but not least, what is your career or personal goal of the next stage?

W: I aim at getting a higher or a key position in my current field.

I: I wish you all the best. And thank you very much for your time and sharing.

W: You are welcome.
2000 = (2+3)^4/5\times(6-7+8+9)
= (-1+3^4)x(-5+6+7+8+9)
= 1\times2\times4^1\times6\times(7-8+9)
= 1\times(2^{(3+5)}-6)\times(7-8+9)
= 1\times2^2\times4\times(-6+7x8x9)
= -1+2+3+4\times(-5+7x8x9)
= -1+((2-3+4)^3+6)x8x9
= 1\times(2+3)^4\times(7+9)
= (1-2+3)\times4\times5\times(6x7+8)