ShanghaiTech University
SIST NEWSLETTER

School of Information Science and Technology

OFFICIAL OPENING OF SHANGHAITECH TO FIRST WAVE OF STUDENTS

296 young graduate students began their exciting ShanghaiTech career on September 3rd, 2013. The inauguration ceremony was held in Shanghai Pudong Science Park, Chinese Academy of Sciences, with leaders and participants from Shanghai Municipality, CAS Shanghai Branch, CAS research institutes, together with 12 Academicians and the faculty and staff of ShanghaiTech. The ceremony adopted non-traditional format to match this brand new university. Accompanied by slideshows, each school introduced their students one by one. Vice Major Tiehui Weng,

Deputy Chief of the ShanghaiTech Preparation Work-Group, presented a lab notebook and a crystal key as symbols of truth searching spirit and pursuit of knowledge. As a highlight of the event, participants were treated by an exalting speech from Prof. Mianheng Jiang, Head of the Preparation Work-Group of ShanghaiTech and President of CAS Shanghai Branch.

Centering around the theme of "Chinese Dream", Dr. Jiang said that China was adopting a strategy of innovation-driven development and

transition to realize the dream and to address the challenges in future economic and social development, and the establishment of Shanghai-Tech was to serve this national strategy. He listed eleven cutting-edge technologies that could impact our future human life and global economic development: mobile internet, internet of things, cloud technology, advanced robotics, next-generation genomics, energy storage, advanced nanomaterials, 3D printing, renewable energy, generation IV Reactor, and multi-storied agriculture. ShanghaiTech will integrate technology and education and transform them into productivity.

Dr. Jiang encouraged the students to learn from individuals like Elon Musk (the American entrepreneur who started Space X and Tesla, and proposed the idea of Hyperloop), and develop the passion and competence for entrepreneurship to contribute to the development of society. Dr. Jiang also mentioned the example of a previously obscure mathematician Yitang Zhang who recently stunned the world by proving the "bounded gaps" conjecture about the distribution of prime number after many years of anonymity and hard life, as an example of commitment and perseverance in science.

SIST STUDENT LIFE

THE FIRST

The first team event

The first class

The first seminar

The first discussion

Xiang Xia:
Welcome to ShanghaiTech. Young teachers here could take you to brand-new lessons, which are totally different from our domestic traditional style. By the way, you could make rapid progress in Specialty English listening.

Jian Chen:
The best professors here make me feel I am studying abroad.

Xia Sun:
I feel lucky to be here. If you are eager for innovation and have a dream, welcome to ShanghaiTech. Let's make our dreams come true together. I am waiting for you in ShanghaiTech.

Lihua Yin:
ShanghaiTech is not only a palace for studying, but also a warm family. You could enjoy the international teaching as well as the harmonious atmosphere here. ShanghaiTech helps to fulfill your dream. I would never feel regretted to choose ShanghaiTech and will always feel honored to be a member of her.

Yunjuan Zang:
ShanghaiTech is like a great and kind mother. She provides us the clean and tide environment as well as the first-class international professors. It must be my destiny to meet her. Studying and living here makes me warm and full of passions for creating.

Huajie Jiang:
Talented professors and diligent students make ShanghaiTech bright and beautiful.

Ning Zhang:
New beginning, new height, new direction, new dream, new future.

NEW FACULTY PROFILE:
PROF. PINGQIANG ZHOU

(In July 2013, SIST welcomed Dr. Pingqiang Zhou (PhD, 2012 U. of Minnesota) on its faculty. He is excited to be part of this history making University and shares some thoughts with us here.)

Pingqiang Zhou
Tenure-Track Assistant Professor

In my life, there have been several important choices. Fortunately, each choice I made has been proven to be most suitable for me.

I was born in a rural village in the northeast part of Jiangxi Province, China. My childhood was awesome and I had many great memories. In the elementary school, I was good at math, so when I was in my fifth grade, I was offered a green path to join a mathematical Olympiad class in the local middle school in my hometown. I was not happy with the quality of education in the local middle school, so I declined the offer and chose to take the entrance exam to the No. 1 middle school in my home county. I was lucky enough to pass it and received better junior secondary education in the following three years.

When I graduated from the junior secondary middle school with high ranking, I was offered to be admitted by a technical secondary school, with the guarantee of a decent job offer from the post office in my home county after graduation. However, I was curious about the outside world, so I declined that offer, and chose to receive high school education and then take the entrance exam of universities after that. A few years later, I was admitted by Nanjing University of Posts and Telecommunications (NJUPT), located in Nanjing, a big and beautiful city in the eastern of China.

When I was about to graduate from NJUPT, the employment situation was very good - it was pretty easy for the graduates of NJUPT to find a job in telecommunication carriers such as China Telecom, China Mobile, etc. But I thought the jobs in these carriers were boring and unchallenging, especially when one could predict his future career in the next 30-40 years. Therefore, I chose to take the pass exam to Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, the No. 1 engineering school in China mainland, and was admitted to the graduate program of Computer Science and Technology at Tsinghua University in 2005.

At Tsinghua I was exposed to interesting research problems and started my academic life there. When I graduated from Tsinghua, I was facing the fourth important choice in my life: either finding a decent job in an IT company, or applying for a graduate program at a top university in USA. Because I was more interested in research work, I decided to go abroad for higher education. Left with the deep imprint of Tsinghua, I was admitted by the Electrical Engineering program at University of Minnesota in 2007.

While pursuing my Ph.D. degree at University of Minnesota, I was lucky enough to work with Prof. Sachin Sapatnekar, a great advisor with vast acumen, intellect, and dedication. Over the many years in his group, he has served as an incredible inspiration and talented mentor in my educational development, and the influence he has on me inspired me to continue pursuing a research career after I obtained my Ph.D degree.

Then I started my job hunting in early 2012. Unfortunately, it was extremely hard for people in my area to find an academic position in USA - most time a few hundred applicants, including many senior people, were competing for one position. Even if one was lucky enough to get an academia job, it was still hard for him/she to get funded for research.

So I decided to realize my academic dream outside of USA, and I began looking for an academic job in China, my home country. Unfortunately, for the first a few months, I didn't find an ideal institute who can provide a free, open and independent platform for a young man like me to grow. Until the end of 2012, I got to know ShanghaiTech, a newly founded university located in the Zhangjiang High-Tech Park in Shanghai, whose mission is to become a world-class research university for training future generations of scientists, entrepreneurs, and technological leaders in China. I thought it was a great opportunity for me, so I submitted my application to the School of Information Science and Technology (SIST) at ShanghaiTech. After two round competitions, I was lucky enough to get an offer from SIST. The tenure-track system at ShanghaiTech is quite similar to those at the universities in USA. It provided me with a big startup package, with which I can build my own research team/lab and conduct my research work independently. The salary and housing benefits are also decent for me to live in Shanghai. All of these make ShanghaiTech a unique place for young researchers like me to grow in China. So I am grateful to ShanghaiTech who gave me the chance to continue my academic dream, and it is my pleasure to grow with it.

JOINING SIST:
OUR OPEN TENURE-TRACK AND TENURED POSITIONS

The School of Information Science and Technology (SIST) in the newly founded ShanghaiTech University invites highly qualified candidates to fill multiple tenure-track as well as tenured positions as founding faculty members of the SIST. Candidates should have an exceptional academic record or demonstrate strong potential in frontier research areas of information science and technology or closely related fields.

ShanghaiTech's mission is to become a world-class research university for training future generations of scientists, entrepreneurs, and technological leaders in China. Located in the Zhangjiang High-Tech Park in the cosmopolitan Shanghai, ShanghaiTech is committed to trail-blazing a new education system in China by building an open and free academic institution. We offer both undergraduate and graduate degree programs. In addition to establishing and maintaining a world-class research profile, successful candidates are also expected to contribute substantially to the educational missions of undergraduate and graduate programs within SIST. All faculty members in ShanghaiTech will be part of its new tenure-track system commensurate with international practice, evaluation, and standards.

Academic Disciplines:
We seek first-class faculty candidates in all cutting edge areas of information science and technology. Our recruitment focus includes, but is not limited to, the following special research areas: advanced computer architecture and technologies, nano-scale electronics, ultra-high speed and low power circuits, intelligent multimedia and integrated signal processing systems, next-generation computer systems, computational foundations, big data, data mining, visualization, computer vision, bio-computing, smart energy/power devices and systems, highly-scalable and multi-service heterogeneous networking, as well as various inter-disciplinary areas involving the foundation and applications of information science and technology.

Qualifications:
Candidates must demonstrate
- a strong interest in undergraduate and graduate education;
- well developed research plans and demonstrated record/strength/potentials;
- Ph.D. (Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering, Computer Science, or closely related field);

- A minimum relevant research experience of 4 years.

Applications:
Qualified applicants are invited to submit (all in English) a cover letter, a 2-page research plan, a CV including copies of up to 3 most significant publications, and the names of three referees to: sist@shanghaitech.edu.cn. Mailing Address: School of Information Science and Technology, ShanghaiTech University, Room 201, Building 8, 319 Yueyang Road, Shanghai 200031, China Deadline: December 31st, 2013 (Highly qualified candidates will be considered until positions are filled.) We can fill as many as 10 positions for this round of faculty recruitment.

Compensation and Benefits:
Salary and startup fund are highly competitive, commensurate with experience and academic accomplishment.
ShanghaiTech also offers a comprehensive benefit package to employees and their eligible dependents, including full housing benefits.
For more information, please visit http://www.shanghaitech.edu.cn.

SIST FACULTY RECRUITMENT NEWS

In 2013, SIST has completed two rounds of faculty recruitment. 15 faculty candidates were invited for on-site interviews at ShanghaiTech on March 28-29 and July 18-19. We have filled 5 faculty positions with excellent scholars, whose profiles will be presented in future issues of our newsletter.