Young Inventor
Adams Kong

Adams Kong, member of Professor David Zhang's biometric research lab and the only Hong Kong finalist of the Far East Economic Review 4th Young Inventors Award, talks about COMP, Waterloo (where he is reading his Ph.D.), his dreams and Professor Zhang.

You always say you have to thank Professor Zhang whom you have worked with since 1998. What is the most important thing you learnt from him ?

Independent thinking - which I find particularly useful whether I am doing research at COMP or in Waterloo. Whenever I get stuck, Prof. Zhang always encourages me to try to tackle problems myself first before coming to him for help. By taking the more difficult way to find a solution, I have more confidence in myself being able to face all kinds of challenges.

How's life in Waterloo ?

At Waterloo, I am jointly supervised by Professor Zhang, who is an Adjunct Professor, and Professor Mohamed Kamel - director of the Pattern Analysis and Machine Intelligence Lab with over 50 research students and the Canada research chair in Cooperative Intelligence Systems. My Ph.D. project is on the development of a more effective palmprint algorithm, which supports real-time identification for a large database.

I very much enjoy the experience working with researchers from around the world like China, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Egypt. Some of them are associate professors in China. Some of them had worked in well-known high-tech companies as engineers and some of them are even Professors in China. As you can guess, Waterloo is a demanding place. As Prof. Andrew Wong, Distinguished Professor Emeritus at Waterloo, told me "in Waterloo, not all the students are genius but there are no lazy students because they simply cannot survive."

Any advice to COMP students?

Huh··· maybe not exactly an advice but my personal belief. There are always trade-offs in life. You gain something, you lose something. And love, especially, unconditional love of your family is the most precious of all things.