

# SUTD names head of info tech department

By LIM YI HAN

THE Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) has appointed a former American university don to head one of its core areas of study.

Professor Aditya Mathur (right), former head of the computer science department at Purdue University in Indiana, will lead the school's Information Systems Technology and Design (ISTD) discipline.

The 64-year-old, with more than 40 years' experience as a teacher, researcher and leader in the field of computer science, was unveiled as the head by SUTD president Thomas Magnanti last week.

ISTD offers a cross-disciplinary and integrated education in computer science, computer engineering and information systems. Said Prof Aditya: "Most of the companies today are combining the various disciplines. The students must be prepared for a world where they will meet people



from diverse backgrounds."

He was named IT Man of India by the Rakshpal Bahadur Management Institute in India in 2003. The American citizen, who was born in India, also won the Outstanding Achievement Award by the global Society for Design and Process Science in 2010.

Besides ISTD, the university also offers degrees in architecture and sustainable design; engineering product development; and engineer-

ing systems and design.

It is still looking for a head for the discipline of architecture and sustainable design. It has 86 faculty members and aims to increase this figure to 110 by the end of March next year.

SUTD, which opened in May, is partners with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and China's Zhejiang University.

There are 340 students in interim facilities at Dover Drive before the school moves to a permanent campus in Changi in

2014. It aims to have about 1,500 students at the new premises.

Meanwhile, academics at SUTD have come up with breakthroughs to help improve the lives of others.

Assistant Professor Suranga Nanayakkara has developed an "EyeRing" with a faculty member and a PhD student from the media lab at MIT to help the visually impaired.

Users can get information on their surroundings when they wear the rings on their fingers. A camera installed in the ring captures an image of what the user is pointing at. A software will then verbally transmit the information to the user via an earpiece.

The ring has achieved a provisional patent and is now going through the full patenting process.

His colleague, Assistant Professor Yeung Sai-Kit, has developed a system, which makes interior designing easier and faster, with a PhD student from the University of California, Los Angeles.

The "Make It Home" system, which helps automatically arrange furniture, is currently pending a provisional patent.

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