

Weekly Discovery

We SHARE to inspire and ignite ideas!

3 May 2016 - 6 May 2016

EDUCATION Teaching in the Time of Google

higher education is	Q
higher education is doomed higher education is obsolete higher education is dead	

It is the responsibility of institutions of higher education to deliver quality education that foster creativity from understanding of knowledge. However, one could argue that with the proliferation of the Internet, knowledge is so readily available anytime and anywhere, so what purpose does higher education serve? Read this article to find out the answer.

HEALTH TECHNOLOGY A gadget to sniff out food that's still safe to eat past its use-by date!



Introducing the FoodSniffer! It's a gadget that can sniff out foul gases undetectable to the human nose and can therefore tell if uncooked food items are safe to eat. The FoodSniffer uses sensors to detect the temperature and humidity of raw food. It also detects ammonia or any dangerous organic compounds lurking in the food. To use, hold the Foodsniffer close to the food you want to test and press a button. Results will be conveyed to your smartphone or tablet telling you whether the food is fresh or is spoiled and needs to be discarded.

NANOTECHNOLOGY Nanotubes line up to form films



Researchers at Rice University in the US have discovered that a simple filtration technique can result in wafer-scale films of highly aligned carbon nanotubes. The thin films offer possibilities for flexible electronic and photonic devices. Find out more about these nanotubes here at SUTD library.

Source: The Chronicle Review (April 2016)

OPTICS

A flexible camera: A radically different approach to imaging



Researchers of the Columbia University School of Engineering and Applied Science have developed a new and unique camera in the form of a flexible sheet. It may be wrapped around everyday objects to capture images that cannot be taken with conventional cameras. The camera features a flexible lens array that can vary its optical properties if the sheet camera is bent. The ability to adapt to lighting changes helps the camera to produce high resolution images through a wide range of sheet deformations.

PRODUCT DESIGN Super-thin electronic skin lights up a digital display on your hand

Source: Dailymail(April 2016)



An ultra-thin electronic skin will transform the back of your hand into a digital display. The skin is just 3 microns thick. It uses LEDs that last for several days and the display is very bright. The skin needs to be connected to sensors on the body for it to be used. Find out more about the electronic skin here.

Source: The Verge(April 2016)

Source: ScienceDaily(April 2016)

ROBOTICS Robot offers safer, more efficient way to inspect power lines



The college of Engineering of the University of Georgia invented a prototype of a robot that can glide along electrical distribution lines, searching for problems or doina maintenance. The robot weighs just 20-25 pounds, while many of the robots in current use weigh 200-300 pounds. It has a spinning brush that removes plant debris, bird droppings and even salt deposits from electrical lines. It is also fitted with a camera, which enables electricians to clearly inspect potential problem areas. The wireless robot can be controlled by a smartphone, tablet or laptop. Source: Phys.org (April 2016)