3D Printing Goes Mainstream
USC Engineering Students Debut the World's First All-In-One 3D Printer
by Jens Windau and Lydia Siriprakorn

Imagine this: You have a hot date coming over for dinner. You are no whiz in the kitchen, but you've googled your way to a menu guaranteed to impress. A teaspoon of this, a 1/3 cup of that – how hard could it be? You get to work, only to realize that you don’t even own measuring cups. Panic? No, that was the old you. You call Grandma a continent away and she faxes a set of cups to you with the push of a button on her all-in-one 3D printer. Crisis averted.

Yes, it’s true. 3D printing is about to undergo a revolution, thanks to a team of Viterbi students. At the helm are Jens Windau and Kai Chang, Ph.D. students in computer science and co-founders of AIO Robotics, their high-tech startup. In 2014, they will live demo the world’s first multi-functional 3D printing device: ZEUS.

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A Global Family
USC Offices and Alumni Groups Abroad Strengthen the Trojan Network
by Charlotte Chang

I had always heard about the strong USC alumni connection, but it was not until I interned at USC Hong Kong that I really got to see it in action. In addition to the international offices, there are more than 20 volunteer-led alumni groups abroad. Both offer great resources to recent graduates, regardless of where in the world students end up.

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ZEUS uses patent-pending technology to scan, print, copy, and fax 3D objects with the single press of a button. For the first time ever, people like you, me, and Grandma can plug in a 3D printer and instantly duplicate items like keys, phone cases, or jewelry.

AIO Robotics is not just another Los Angeles tech startup. It has a unique advantage: the core team is primarily made up of international students. Their cross-cultural synergy gives the company a business reach that extends across the globe. Kai Chang and Debra Chiang are from Taiwan; Jens Windau is from Germany; Christian Siagian is from Indonesia; and Michelle Tam is an American born in Hong Kong. All are USC graduate students with an entrepreneurial spirit.

“The great thing about our international team is our linguistic advantage,” says co-founder Kai. While he and Debra can easily communicate with the manufacturer in Taiwan, co-founder Jens is active in the German 3D printing community and speaking with potential European distributors. “Everyone has a unique contribution. The team’s native English speakers help us proofread and draft our documents,” says Jens.

Together, they are working to increase the accessibility of 3D printing. Unlike its 3D printer predecessors, ZEUS eliminates the need for design software and skilled users. However, it can also adapt and print using the traditional software-dependent method. By integrating robotic technologies and artificial intelligence, Kai and Jens developed a promising and affordable solution. “3D copying in the near future will be as easy as 2D copying in the present,” says Kai. The printing material for 3D-copied objects is biodegradable plastic with a low-cost price of two cents per cubic centimeter.

For consumers, this means that retailers can provide plastic samples of any product instantly without shipping costs or time delays. The ability to fax and copy in 3D allows instant duplication of personal belongings and the option to share them with friends around the world. Archiving, prototyping, replicating, and digitizing models, artwork, jewelry, sculptures, keys, or even a set of measuring cups in a time crunch— is all possible. Not only does their all-in-one 3D printer send 3D files faster and more easily than current 3D printers do, but receiving is also a breeze since it automatically adjusts its settings to suit an incoming print.

What began as Jens and Kai’s idea for a 3D printer while working together in the USC iLab, flourished into an internet sensation on Kickstarter two years later. “We were able to raise more than $100,000 on the first day of our campaign,” says Jens. The revolutionary concept took the media by storm, spurring coverage from leading tech news outlets like CNN Money, Forbes, Mashable, and Gizmodo.

Although this dream has been in the works for years, ZEUS won’t officially go live until 2014. Debra believes, “One day we will see ZEUS in every household, as common as a desktop computer.”

For more information on AIO Robotics, visit [www.aiorobotics.com](http://www.aiorobotics.com).
A World of Superstitions

It’s never too late to turn your luck around! For those of us who could use a little good fortune now and then, check out these superstitions from around the world, shared by USC international students.

HONG KONG
Nelson Chan
BS, Accounting and BS, Business Administration

“If the left eye twitches, it’s bad luck; if the right eye twitches, good fortune is on its way.”

INDIA
Bharat Shinde
MS, Engineering

“If the left eye twitches, it’s bad luck; if the right eye twitches, good fortune is on its way.”

INDIA
Nandish Kolur Somasekhara
MS, Engineering

“Cutting your nails at night brings bad luck.”

BANGLADESH
Tagrina Halim
MA, Education

“When children lose their baby teeth, some mothers put the teeth in a rat hole because they want their kids to have pretty teeth like rats do.”

CANADA
Serena Wong
MA, Educational Counseling

“Men grow playoff beards during the hockey playoffs to bring good luck to their team.”

AZERBAIJAN
Nigar Rasulova
MA, Communication

“When you leave home, elders send you off with a red envelope of money for good fortune. It can’t be opened until you return.”

CHINA
Kele Song
MA, Public Policy

“On her wedding day, the bride wears a red ribbon around her waist that’s tied by the groom’s brother or male relative to symbolize purity. I don’t believe it, but I wore it anyway.”

TURKEY
Sezin Ahmet Turkmenoglu
GCRT, Jazz Studies

“Walk through a doorway with your right foot first for good luck.”
Dear Diary:
As I landed at LAX, I saw a sign in Chinese above my head. It read:
欢迎来到洛杉矶！ (Welcome to Los Angeles.)
I couldn’t believe it! Those Chinese characters relieved me of all the stress and uncertainty that I had brought with me on my 12-hour flight from China.
Growing up, the United States was always that mysterious “Mingzhu” — The nation of beauty” in Chinese. When I was six years old, it was the pink country on the map that I pointed to at random.
Now I am actually here in the land of cowboys, hope, and wonder.
In the taxi to USC, I fell in love with the smell of sand and trees in the L.A. air. The dramatic yet peaceful sunset floated across my face as we drove down the freeway. I feel at home.

累得不行又激动得睡不着的 - (Super tired and excited)
猪俊俊)

August 30, 2011

Dear Diary:
I can’t believe I’m done with my first week of class!
I was terrified of Writing 140. People called it the “Welcome to Hell” class. But my professor is hilarious and my American classmates are amazing. They yammered on while I was still too shy to speak up.
As a foreign kid who is still not used to speaking English, what could I do? I took a deep breath, clenched my fists, and presented my ideas boldly like everyone else. My classmates were receptive and encouraging.
I’m becoming more confident in Writing 140. We’ll see how it goes :)

努力学术中的 - (Hardworking)
猪俊俊同学

Meeting
7:30
Taper Hall
September 12, 2012

Dear Diary:
The summer passed so quickly, and I can’t believe I’m already a sophomore! I’m also officially a history major now. Possibly the only mainland Chinese history major student at USC. I feel a little bit special and lonely.
Many of my friends have asked me, “Why history? How did you decide to study history at a school filled with business and communication majors? What are you going to do after graduation?” I tell them, “I don’t know. Teaching, writing, daydreaming? Those things aren’t important to me. What does matter is that I feel like this is right for me, this is my place. I read my favorite books, study the life and history of my favorite writers, and will write about my own stories one day.”

小猪傻傻-

March 3, 2013

Dear Diary:
I got my first job in the United States! Not only that, but it is at USC! The job search has been a struggle without a car, so working on campus is perfect. I’m proud to be one of the new Campus Consultants at the Tutor Campus Center. Working at 6:30am has been a little bit crazy, but I love seeing the serene and beautiful mornings on campus. I have a few favorite classes this semester, but I especially love T.O. (Thematic Option) students. We went to Big Bear Lake for an amazing class retreat. We talked about things like LGBT issues, the pros and cons of Greek life, and the best ways for USC to interact with local communities. All T.O. kids, despite their varied majors, are all wonderful poets, writers, musicians, speakers, and scholars.

老开心的-(Super Happy-)
傻傻猪

October 13, 2013

Dear Diary:
I took my yearbook picture today! I can’t believe I’m graduating in May.
I had almost given up hope on finding “soulmate” friends—people who share my faith and passions. But I found them in a few of my classmates and I see that my discovery. My differences in age, language, and majors can’t stop us. I’m amazed by this discovery. My friends are the most valuable gifts I’ve gained here at USC. I’m lucky to be graduating with all of them. They’ve made my college years meaningful and unforgettable.

傻傻傻小朋友

Songyu Zhu, a senior majoring in history, is from China.
Love makes the world go ‘round, but that doesn’t mean it’s not complicated. Dating opens up a world of uncertainties for international and domestic students alike. Communicating your true feelings is hard enough when both parties speak the same language, let alone expressing them to someone who takes your breath away, in your non-native tongue.

For international students adjusting to everyday life in the U.S., risking even more emotional vulnerability by dating can seem like a daunting task. “Every relationship comes with its unique challenges,” says Lee, a sophomore majoring in business, “but for couples with cultural differences, there are additional obstacles such as language barriers, gender roles, family perceptions, and food preferences.”

But there is no need to worry. The language of love is universal. It just takes a little patience and an open mind to cross the cultural divide. Simply acknowledging these differences and expectations can help both partners reach a compromise.

Communication is integral to any relationship. Eighty percent of communication is non-verbal, making a language barrier a minor obstacle at most. If your romantic side still needs some encouragement, just attend any alumni event. You’ll hear plenty of international love stories from Trojans struck by Cupid’s arrow.

Lydia Siriprakorn is pursuing a Master of Professional Writing degree and is from Washington D.C.

A Global Family
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The alumni clubs host luncheons, happy hours, professional mixers, and SCend offs for newly admitted students leaving for the U.S., often with the support of the regional USC office. USC currently has eight offices across the globe in Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taiwan, India, Korea, Brazil, and Mexico. These offices recruit qualified international students, expand global partnerships, and develop student opportunities.

I helped organize several of these mixers. They brought Trojans together with alumni from various institutions and American universities located in the city. But it’s not all business abroad! In the fall, the alumni group invites Trojans to watch football together. The office also encourages students to email questions they have about living in the area, volunteer opportunities around the city, and even top tourist attractions.

Whether you are a recent graduate looking for global connections, an international student going home for the summer, or a domestic student traveling abroad, contact your local alumni group and take the opportunity to network with Trojans outside of the U.S. They would love to hear from you too. Fight on!

Charlotte Chang is pursuing a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and is from China.

Love Takes Flight at USC
It Doesn’t Matter What Language You Speak When Cupid’s Arrow Strikes

by Lydia Siriprakorn

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TOP 10 U.S. INSTITUTIONS HOSTING INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS, 2012/2013

1. University of Southern California
2. University of California - Los Angeles
3. University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
4. Columbia University
5. New York University
6. Penn State University
7. University of Michigan - Ann Arbor
8. Purdue University
9. Michigan State University
10. Northeastern University

* Total number includes USC Language Academy and students on Optional Practical Training (OPT)


UNDERGRADUATE

1. Business Administration
2. Accounting
3. Economics
4. Architecture
5. Communication

TOP INTERNATIONAL STUDENT MAJORS AT USC IN 2013

1. Computer Science
2. Electrical Engineering
3. Business Administration
4. Law
5. Economics
Are you interested in learning about how H-1B sponsorship happens from the inside? Dan Beaudry, former head of campus recruiting at Monster.com and author of *The International Student’s Guide to Finding a Job in the United States*, will share powerful job search strategies used by many international students to find U.S. employment. Learn how to:

- Secure H-1B sponsorship at companies that have a policy against sponsoring H-1B visas.
- Find a job before anyone else. Eighty percent of open jobs are never advertised but there are ways to find them.
- Bypass Human Resources, it is often an obstacle instead of a conduit to finding a job in the U.S.
- Invest your time wisely. Submitting resumes online is not an effective use of your time.

The Office of International Services and the International Student Assembly are proud to co-host this event during Career Fest 2014.

**Tuesday, January 28, 2014, 5-7pm**
**Tutor Campus Center Ballroom**

RSVP on the OIS website [www.usc.edu/ois](http://www.usc.edu/ois).