



**I witness, I fight**  
*Asst Prof Adams Kong*

His reverse-engineering skills combined with a consuming spirit not to let criminals roam the street led Asst Prof Adams Kong to a world-beating discovery.

He is the proud inventor of the world's first body vein identification system.

This leading expert in palm print identification has gone one step further by having a system that identifies criminals by taking photographs of them and reverse-engineering them so the veins, or blood vessels, on the bodies are more visible.

These are then compared to photos of suspects that are also put through the same process. The system was inspired by a case Asst Prof Kong helped crack when he used skin marks to identify a paedophile and put him behind bars in the US.

In 2010, he received a \$250,000 proof-of-concept grant from the National Research Foundation for the identification system. Despite his success, the humble don from the School of Computer Engineering insists he is just trying to do his bit for society.

"Many girls suffer as victims of sexual offences while the perpetrators roam free. How would a normal person react? They would want to help," says the 37-year-old, who holds five patents and has two more in the works.

"I care for the young ones among us and I would also like for there to be justice in society. It is a driving force for me," Asst Prof Kong adds.

With fresh media reports about victims of crime being left in the lurch and, in some cases, to die, Asst Prof Kong feels that helping people is slowly becoming less of a social norm.

It's a trend he attributes to rising individualism. "Society tends to overemphasise accomplishment, which draws on the 'I am better than you' mentality instead of 'what can I do for others?'"

"As an educator," says Asst Prof Kong, "do I equip my students with knowledge that will aid their careers in a self-serving way? Or do I equip them with values that help them become good people eager to contribute to society?"

"To shape the world – that's the goal I'm working towards," he adds.