Continuing Education’s Wu Helps Develop New Public Health Software

BY CAROLINE LADHANI

School of Continuing Education faculty member and alumnus Vezen Wu is capitalizing on computing knowledge he learned in the School’s Computer Technology and Applications (CTA) program to create computer software addressing global public health concerns like SARS and bioterrorism. The 25-year-old Wu says the software could provide public health professionals with access to up-to-date information on global health information in the same way the stock market is monitored.

Wu, an equity analyst on Wall Street with an undergraduate biology degree, graduated from and began teaching in the CTA program last year. The evening certificate program, a rigorous, four-semester course, teaches cutting-edge information technologies through various tracks of study. Those include information systems design and analysis, computer programming, software development and network administration and design. Two new tracks — network security and advanced database and application design — will be offered in fall 2003, with a geographical technologies track slated for spring 2004. Wu said the skills he learned in Columbia’s CTA program have been integral in developing the new software, called MedfoLink. His work on MedfoLink is in collaboration with a small, interdisciplinary team of Columbia faculty and students.

“We developed MedfoLink using the modern technologies (Continued on Page 10)