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Dear SIT Alumni,

We hope you will enjoy reading this issue of SIT's Alumni Publication as much as we enjoyed putting it together.

Unlike most of the other local universities, our unique model of collaboration with our overseas university partners lends for a plethora of rich and exciting stories for our newsletter. Real life insights and learning experiences from the sojourns of others abound, together with glimpses into the aspirations and dreams of your contemporaries.

Not only is there always something interesting happening at SIT, our students too engage themselves in a host of other off-campus activities. From graduations to art exhibitions to competitions locally and abroad, our calendar is always full. ReConnect is there at every event to bring you coverage and to keep you connected! We hope that you will continue to stay in touch with us for many years to come.

In this issue, we bring to you the stellar achievements of some of our teams and individuals, both in competitions as well as in their respective areas of interest. Kudos to them for doing us proud! Take a sneak peek into the world of culinary arts in our exclusive interview with Terence Chuah, our SIT-CIA alumni. Speaking of exhilarating journeys, Terence is currently on his professional bridge at Mugaritz Restaurant in Erreterria, Spain, recently ranked number four out of the top 50 restaurants in the world! Also, glean insights into Overseas Immersion Programmes (OIPs), a much anticipated feature of your undergraduate education. Allay any apprehensions at all that you may have as we bring to you the experiences of two OIPs: one, steeped in history at the picturesque University of Glasgow, and the other, working with the best of the best at the DigiPen Institute of Technology.

Amongst other articles, update yourselves on the new promotions and discounts that we have negotiated specially for you in our SIT Alumni Benefits. Also, keep informed and join us for upcoming events such as the Mizuno PAssion Run on 13 October 2013 and the SIT Graduation Celebrations on 22 November 2013 (a day after the actual SIT Graduation Ceremony).

Look out for our next issue in November where we will share more exciting news feeds and updates. Should you want to contribute any stories, do drop us a line at Alumni@SingaporeTech.edu.sg

GSA End of Year Show 300 days

By Amie Tan

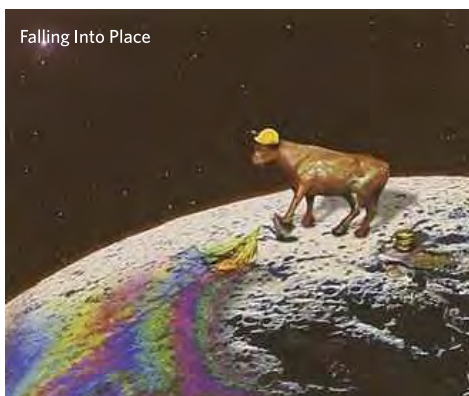
Nestled in a laid-back, charming corner of the hip Dempsey locale, set amidst a backdrop of our rich colonial past, sits an unpretentious pre-war building. Surrounded by lush and verdant greenery, it is home to the Museum of Contemporary Arts (or MoCA as it is more affectionately known).

For three days in May 2013, it was also home to the exhibits of the pioneer cohort of SIT-GSA students. ReConnect made a trip down to bring you the highlights.

27 May 2013, marked the 300th day from whence the Glasgow School of Art opened its doors in Singapore to receive students. To celebrate this milestone, SIT and GSA jointly organised the GSA End of Year Show featuring the various intricate artworks created by the students in the 300 days of their school term. These ranged from set assignment project briefs handed out by the professors to self-initiated projects of their own personal interest. Guests from the industry and academic partners were invited for a private viewing session before the official opening at 7pm.



- 1) **Rising From the Ashes.** Jeremy with his digital artwork of a phoenix - his interpretation of Linkin Park's song "Castle of Glass."
- 2) **Anagram Fun & El'phbetics.** Suzanne created 12 pictorial anagrams using the words "Uncertainty" and "Falling Into Place." Below, her very own set of alphabets made up of repetition of each alphabet's unique sound waves.
- 3) **The Elusive Search For Happiness.** Created by Christabel Chew, editor of GSA's magazine, WOLF. A twist to the conventional fairy tale is a way of seeing things where two characters with polar dispositions (optimistic vs. pessimistic) swap an eyeball, hence gaining a balanced perspective and live happily ever after.



WHAT IS AN ANAGRAM?

An anagram is the rearrangement of the letters of a word or phrase to produce another word or phrase, using all the original letters exactly once. For example, orchestra can be rearranged into carthorse.

All the letters of the name or phrase must be used once and only once. This is the basic rule of anagramming.¹

Can you guess what the picture is showing?

Answer:
Calf Oiling Planet

¹<http://www.anagrammy.com/anagrams/faq1.html>

Cry of Freedom DP Commencement Ceremony

By Amie Tan & Rajshree Singh

Only a number of students who enter the path offered by DigiPen Institute of Technology make it out "alive." And only one gets the title of top student and valedictorian. ReConnect had the chance to learn from these survivors and what it takes to become the cream of the crop.

It was pandemonium.

On 1st June, 59 SIT-DigiPen graduates-to-be burst out screaming and yelling at the top of their lungs in the Matrix Building Auditorium on Biopolis Street.

Lest you think this is something unusual, it is in fact perfectly normal and expected for a DigiPen Commencement Ceremony where it is tradition to end the ceremony with this "ritual." Aptly termed, the "Cry of Freedom," it signifies the return of the students' voices after grueling and hectic semesters which leave them with little or no time to ask questions. For some, even sleep is considered a luxury.

DigiPen is well known for its intensive schedules, rigorous curriculum, and sky-high standards. Many who enroll at the start do not make it through to the end.

One of the student presenters speaking on

behalf of the students recounted that during the orientation, "Claude Comair told us to look left and look right because the person sitting beside you may not make it through to the end with you."

Mr Raymond Wong Senior Vice President of Tecmo Koei graced the event as guest speaker for the day and he handed out some pearls of wisdom from his own life experiences.

"Life is like a box of ping pong balls... like this (he throws a ping pong ball on the floor which bounces back up)...the more effort you put into something, the more returns you will reap."

He went on and reached into his pocket taking out a flattened ping pong ball, "Sometimes you get one of these balls, it may be a person, or a relationship that isn't perfect, but you just have to deal with them. Be prepared for disappointments in life."

After the ceremony, ReConnect managed to steal top student and valedictorian, Lee Fang Liang, away from the flurry of activity for a short chat and some photo taking.

In spite of his stellar achievements, Fang Liang remains humble and earnest. He has already snagged a job as a programmer at Ubisoft, an internationally renowned games developer with a presence in 28 countries. Ubisoft is the third largest independent publisher of video games worldwide and are the developers behind the popular game such as Assassin's Creed and Just Dance.

In his parting shot, to the incoming students of SIT-Digipen, he shares what carried him through his arduous journey. His word of advice to incoming students is:

YOU MUST HAVE THE PASSION. WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH, PASSION WILL CARRY YOU THROUGH.



Valedictorian, Lee Fang Liang

Spoken like a true blue DigiPen graduate revving up with a truckload of passion ready to take on the world.

Ain't No Mountain High Enough UNLV Commencement Ceremony

By Rajshree Singh



Graduation does not mark the end of our educational years, the fun and frivolities of youth, or the wonderful friendships forged. Rather, it marks the beginning of a whole new adventure where the best is yet to be, where the horizon on the yonder is waiting to be explored, and where opportunities abound. This is especially true for hospitality students, who are likely to end up in the most luxurious of hotels, the hippest of restaurants, and the swankiest of casinos.

Apt then that the vivacious Las Vegas is home to the University of Nevada, Las Vegas' Bachelor of Hotel Management degree programme. Graduating students gathered for the last time as undergraduates on 8 June, at School of the Arts' (SOTA) Concert Hall. Nostalgia, happiness, and excitement resonated throughout the concert hall. Proud parents sat anxiously in the audience awaiting the moment where their graduate would move their tassel from right to left to signify their much deserved alumni status.

After both the Singaporean and American national anthems were played, Executive Vice President and Provost White handed the microphone over to undergraduate student speaker, Victor Mai Wenwei. After a warm welcome, Victor humbly took to the stage and shared his gratitude for the past two years.

Graduating with a world-recognized degree in two years surpassed even his wildest dreams. His time spent with classmates in Vegas left him with not only a network of future hoteliers, restaurateurs, and leaders of industry, but more importantly, unforgettable memories and everlasting friendships forged. Laughter abound throughout his speech as he reminisced his once-in-a-lifetime experiences.

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Cont'd from page 3 - Aint't No Mountain High Enough, UNLV Commencement Ceremony



As he finished by thanking his energetic classmates, creative professors, and generous family, he left the hall with a message that summed up the hospitality industry in one word: family.

The word family if split in half is "fam" and "ily." The commonly known acronym, "ily"

or I love you, makes up half the word. But to Victor, the other half, "fam" does not only stand for father and mother, "fam" also stands for friends, associates, and mentors.

To him, the "friends that we make in the industry, [associates] that we will befriend wherever we go, and the mentors that we

will gain throughout the progression of our career," should together form a family of leaders that will be critical in our success.

Out of this diverse batch of 219 graduates, only one was selected for the Outstanding Student Award.

This year Ang Ding Jie, a member of the UNLV Singapore Student Advisory Council, was nominated by his peers for his service on the council and his acts of perseverance and limitless energy. He also stood out for his academic achievements and life's successes.

In a class filled with students like Victor and Ding Jie, we can be sure that our SIT-UNLV graduates are well prepared to continue scaling new heights as they embark on their respective careers!

How to Have a Great Career Talk @ Red Dot

By Amie Tan

Red Dot Brewery is usually home to executives working around Raffles Place looking for a place to chill out and relax after work. On 21st March 2013, for a change it was host to 40 SIT students and alumni.



It was a cosy evening at the brewery. Alumni, current students and staff from the offices of Alumni and Career Services caught up for dinner and mingled over a round of Red Dot's unique brews before the talk began.

Jonathan Kwan, founder of Kwantum Leap Career Coaching, shared his own life experiences and gave advice on the importance of career planning even prior to commencing the job search. He started by mentioning the common phenomenon of soon-to-be graduates who may not know what they want to do in life and end up moving from job to job.

Jonathan's fundamental point is to be self aware. He explained that this is critical to finding a job, especially one to enjoy and excel in. This elaborated further that this sometimes involves a certain amount of risk taking. He reiterated that the job of career coaches is not to make decisions on behalf of their clients, but to help clients gather as much information as possible so that they can make the best choice themselves.

Jonathan also shared an intriguing concept of "luck." He explained that lucky people are always prepared in every situation, and hence the greatest opportunists! They think they are lucky therefore they are. When an opportunity arises, those who are lucky are prepared and ready to grab at it and will actively position themselves most positively in such circumstances. It may seem like they are the ones always getting the best deals or incredible job offers but in fact they are just the most prepared people around!

After the talk, Jonathan continued speaking to individual students who sought his advice. This was at no extra cost of course. Talk about being lucky!

For more career tips and similar talks, keep a look out for emails from the Alumni Office and announcements in the newsletter!



SIT Engineering Career Fair

By Loo Xue Mei

SIT engineering students could finally see the light at the end of the tunnel. But before these creative thinkers could step out into the working world, they had one last hurdle to overcome – presenting their final projects. Potential employers viewed these projects, and ReConnect is proud to announce that SIT students did not disappoint with what they showcased.

On Friday, 7th July 2013, 200 final-year students from the engineering and applied sciences disciplines gathered at the Singapore Polytechnic Concourse to display the posters of their Final Year Projects. This inaugural SIT Engineering Career Fair was an opportunity to showcase their technical knowledge and accomplishments to more than 100 industry representatives, from over 50 companies attending the event. Industry talks were also organised and there were plenty of opportunities for students and faculty to network and mingle with industry partners.

The day opened with a welcome address by Professor Ting Seng Kiong, Deputy President (Academic) & Provost, SIT. Professor Ting congratulated the students on having chosen the engineering profession and said that their prospects were bright. He also highlighted the quality of SIT

graduates and assured industry partners present that our graduates would be an asset to their companies.

Next were sharing sessions by Mr Julian Ho, Assistant Managing Director of the Economic Development Board of Singapore, and Mr Simon Lim, Group Director of SPRING Singapore. In his talk “The Future of Engineering”, Mr Ho stressed that there would always be a need for skilled engineers in society and the economy. Speaking on “The Changing Face of Engineering SMEs”, Mr Lim added that engineering Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in Singapore were expanding globally, moving up the value chain and becoming more innovative, as well as professionalising their culture and employment practices; making them attractive places for energetic fresh graduates to work and build their career.

And indeed, these observations were borne out by the insightful talks in which representatives from various companies shared their industry expertise and information about their companies.



These companies included SMEs like D'Crypt Pte Ltd, Rotating Offshore Solutions and Keystone Cable, as well as larger multi-national companies like Emerson Process Management, Danone Research, Micron Technology, Halliburton, and Keppel Corporation.

We wish all our graduates the very best as they embark on their careers in the next phase of life.

We are SIT Dragons Hear us roar!

By Amie Tan

Love for the sport brought them together, but love for their team led them to victory. ReConnect shares the success story of this young dragon boat team.



As part of efforts for water conservation, Singapore joined international counterparts to commemorate the designated World Water Day on 16 March this year. This is Singapore's fourth year participating since 2009 and the anchor event was held at Marina Barrage, accompanied by satellite activities at five major Active,

Beautiful and Clean (ABC) water sites and partners' adopted water bodies. Activities included a cross country run, bike learning trail, and water sports races.

SIT's very own dragon boating club, the SIT Dragons were invited to participate in the dragon boat race at Marina Reservoir. Although just barely three months old then, they definitely made their presence felt by emerging victorious, clinching the 2nd prize, out of 12 teams made up of representatives from other educational institutions and companies.

The SIT Dragons was started in December 2012 by Jeremy Song and Clayton Tan, both final year SIT-Newcastle students pursuing the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Mechanical Design and Manufacturing Engineering. They discovered their passion for the sport over the course of their studies together at NU and the rest is history. The club is now 20 strong and with such encouraging results, it should not be too long before we see them again at their next competition bearing SIT's name.

Water trainings take place every Sunday at Kallang River from 10am to Noon. Keen to be part of the team or wish to form an Alumni Dragon Boat team? Drop us an email at: [Alumni@SingaporeTech.edu.sg!](mailto:Alumni@SingaporeTech.edu.sg)

Amazing Maritime Adventure By Rajshree Singh

It was that time of year again to celebrate all things maritime, and the anticipated amazing maritime adventure race kicked off the celebrations. Our SIT contestants made this year's Singapore Maritime Week one to be remembered.

When Team Fordon decided to participate in the Amazing Maritime Adventure, part of the Singapore Maritime Week (SMW), the last thing they expected was to win. This was especially so since none of the members were pursuing marine related degree programmes. However, this handicap certainly did not hold them back!

They outperformed and defeated over 40 school teams and made SIT proud by winning the trophy for Best School Team along with a cash prize of S\$3,000. To top



Our powers combined we are Team Fordon! (from left) Year 1 SIT-UoG students Jiang Guowei Jeremy and Samuel Lim Zigui enrolled in and Teo Ming Kai and Jase enrolled in SIT-UNLV.

off their win, it was history in the making as they were the first-ever winners of the newly introduced prize category of Best School Team.

This year's highly-anticipated Amazing Maritime Adventure required participants to race against time and pit both mental and physical abilities to complete tasks at nine stations around the Island. Participants

also had to have knowledge of the maritime industry.

Into its seventh year now, SMW is an annual week-long event organised by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) that is filled with a host of activities such as conferences, dialogues, exhibitions, and social events to engage the maritime community and its various stakeholders.

CDL E-Generation Challenge 2013 By Rajshree Singh

SIT students hold onto their winning streak and continue to be the team to beat. ReConnect proudly shares another SIT team that was in it to win it.



SIT students did it again by being named the Institution Challenge Winner at this year's CDL E-Generation Challenge held on Saturday, 13 April, at City Square Mall.

This strenuous five-hour long race demanded participants travel to all corners of Singapore to complete tasks pertaining to issues involving the Earth's sustainability. In order to excel at the four stations, teams needed to have high stamina, quick feet, and creative minds.

The team's lack of formal educational background in environmental sustainability studies did not stop them from besting a record-breaking number of 88 teams, totalling over 500 participants. Our students have proven that if there's a will, there is definitely a way!

Heart of a Matador By Ng Kaijie

Bravery, precision, and dedication to one's craft - all the ingredients necessary to becoming the perfect bull-fighter and also a chef extraordinaire. Follow the journey of Terence Chuah, a second year Culinary Institute of America student and third-place winner at the 4th International Tapas Competition 2012, as he charts a similar path less travelled.



Cont'd from page 6- Heart of a Matador

At a mere 1.6m, Terence Chuah does not quite fit the bill for an archetypical gallant and swashbuckling matador. But once he dons his chef attire and tall toque hat, Terence cuts a giant of a figure not unlike the confident bull-fighters who strut around their arenas. As he prepared some tapas dishes in his kitchen domain, we could see the confident poise of a professional chef.

Yet, Terence dislikes the label of chef. "I'm only a cook who has just begun his journey. To me, a chef is someone who has reached the culinary pinnacle," he said.

Taking the Bull By the Horns

His journey began at eight years of age when he cooked scrambled eggs with cheese gratin for his elder sister. She complimented his cooking and asked him a seemingly trivial question that would later define his life goal.

"Why don't you become a chef?"

Thereafter, young Terence's mind was made up. But first, he had to convince his family about this unconventional aspiration. "My parents were really reluctant. Which parent would want to see their child working in the hot kitchen, sweating it out just to earn a living?" he said. "They asked me to at least go through the proper academic route first. There was no culinary degree to take at the end of this path," he reminisced. "But I still wanted to be a chef, no matter what."

As luck would have it, Terence was halfway through junior college when Temasek Polytechnic offered a new diploma in Culinary and Catering Management.

He jumped at the opportunity. Timing also favoured Terence again when the Culinary Institute of America's Culinary Arts Management degree programme was offered locally just as he ORDeD. "I was overjoyed when I heard that SIT brought them here. It would have cost a lot to go over to the U.S. for the degree," he says.

The process of dining must be experiential beyond just the five senses and he makes sure that diners appreciate the significance of his creations.

The CIA programme has also broadened his perspectives through courses on consumer psychology, history, and culture. He has become more philosophical and espouses his own beliefs about food as art pieces replete with meaning.



The Chef's Craft. The Tuna Maki that is the focal point and the essence of Japan standing strong even as the Tsunami has left devastation in its path.

Perhaps that was why he was keen to show us his Save Japan food art photo, which sold for \$3,500. Terence contributed to the 2011 Japan Tsunami Fund in the way he knew best - through food. His sense of pride and dedication to his craft is evident when he spoke about how annoyed the photographer was as a result of his unending request for changes to the composition, lighting and food arrangement. Terence already had the end product in mind and simply worked towards that vision.

Stepping Up to an International Arena

This commitment to perfectionism has won him much recognition. He joins culinary competitions, however, not for that purpose, but more so "only to compete with myself and see how far I can go". Most recently, he came in third in the 4th International Tapas Competition 2012 in Valladolid, Spain. The competition sends out invitations to 1,800 culinary schools worldwide and challenges students to create a tapa with both Spanish and their home countries' culinary influences. Terence's winning dish, the Black Legend, was both a reminder of the 16th Century anti-Spanish period with the same name, and a representation of the Singaporean melting pot in the plating and flavour profile. Terence took two weeks to figure out how to perfect the vital squid ink bun ingredient. His house smelled like a bakery because of his repeated experimentations with different types of bread.

Terence credited CIA for giving him the necessary preparation and opportunity to compete on the world stage. In particular, he is especially grateful to CIA Singapore's Managing Director Chef Eve Felder, who recommended Masterchef James Hanyzeski to be his mentor. She felt that an international competition needed an international chef. Masterchef Hanyzeski was teaching Formal Dining in CIA Singapore as a guest faculty, and competed in the 1996 Culinary Olympics.

Competing in Valladolid also gave Terence an entirely different culinary learning experience. "It's a city that only eats tapas, so the locals are real

connoisseurs. To be able to present to them on an international level is a feat in itself. All the competitors cracked our brains to present our tapas in creative ways, so we learnt a lot from each other," he recalls. Some tapas were served by a helium balloon and some even in a hollowed book. "Luckily, Masterchef James advised me not to be overly concerned about the presentation and instead helped me to nail down the flavours."

Charging Ahead



Terence preparing his winning Black Legend tapa with help from CIA Masterchef James Hanyzeski at the 4th International Tapas Competition.

When asked about his future aspiration, Terence turned contemplative. His dream is to open his own chain of restaurants, "sharing the same philosophy of providing good food but with different concepts", to make dining truly experiential. However to reach that pinnacle, Terence knows that he will have to work abroad for a few years to learn the "best practices from the best kitchens".

Where others see a tiring, repetitive life as an exploited kitchen apprentice, Terence instead sees opportunity to learn from the best. His perseverance has already paid off. His achievements have scored him an externship in the 2 Michelin-starred Mugaritz Restaurant in Spain from May to September this year.

Letting none of the above successes go to his head, Terence remains humble and acknowledges that he has much to learn. He admitted that his 14-hour days, 6-days-a-week internship in Les Amis was a gruelling experience. What fuelled his determination however, was a realisation that his chef dream was "either do or die." "I couldn't see myself behind a desk all day, so I had to succeed," he said, "That's why I'm grateful for this opportunity to pursue my passion. I hope to impart the same wisdom I was given to similarly passionate CIA and SIT students, when I become a true veteran of the industry." The road ahead seems a lot clearer and brighter for him now.

Scene City

By Ng Kaijie

Khairul Anwar, a second-year BEng (Hons) in Mechatronics student with the University of Glasgow, discovered a vibrant cultural and intellectual centre whilst on his Overseas Immersion Programme (OIP) last June. ReConnect speaks to him about his time spent there.

Living a Legacy

Khairul's initial decision to enrol into University of Glasgow's (UoG) Mechatronics programme was influenced by the institution's storied history in academia. Since its founding in 1451, the University had produced celebrated scholars such as Lord Kelvin, the British physicist who formulated the first and second laws of thermodynamics, and the father of economics Adam Smith. History came alive when Khairul entered the UoG compound for the first time during the campus tour.

"It's the most beautiful and amazing structure I had ever seen. I was awed by the towers that resembled the castles we see in storybooks," he enthused. "My friends even said that it looked just like Hogwarts!"

The home campus' graduation ceremony which coincided with his OIP, also left a lasting impression on him. Witnessing his seniors graduating in UoG's traditional kilts

inspired Khairul to study harder, so he could don the university colours one day.

Reel Life, Real Work

This motivation was a key ingredient for Khairul to complete the OIP practical coursework, which involved designing line-following robot within a month.

Students were grouped randomly and each was assigned to a PhD student for guidance to simulate real world constraints of working around tight deadlines with limited manpower and other resources.

The groups also learnt to constantly communicate among the smaller task teams which focused on separate specific aspects of the robot. "For example, the sensors and motors teams had to interface with the circuit boards team because the circuits team had to cater for the connections for these parts," Khairul said.

"All of us had to read a log book every day to update ourselves on the progress of the other teams, which is industry practice. We're using it even for our Final Year Project."



A shot of Khairul enjoying the UoG Campus for the first time

Taking Nature's Course

Glasgow's picturesque location in Scotland's West Central Lowlands also gave Khairul plenty of options to be acquainted with nature. The University planned trips to scenic sites such as Loch Lomond, the largest lake in Britain, and Falkirk.

For Khairul, nothing beats taking an occasional stroll in Kelvingrove Park which is situated just 30 minutes from his King's Cross House hostel accommodation.

"It's true that Singapore has a lot of nature too, but Glasgow is on a massive scale. It just feels different and you have to see it to believe it," he said. "The whole experience was so refreshing, on both an intellectual and cultural level. It was definitely one of the highlights of my university life."



You belong to House...Khairul and his schoolmates on the orientation tour with the UoG campus in the background. Taken by Clifford Foo, this photo won top prize in the OIP photo contest organized by SIT.



Nature Hideout. Khairul's favourite after school haunt.

Standing on the Shoulders of GIANTS

By Ng Kaijie

Having an Overseas Immersion Programme (OIP) in DigiPen's Redmond home campus was a big draw for the Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) in Digital Art and Animation students. But having industry giants from the animation field critique their work and visiting Disney Animation Studios and Blizzard Entertainment? In a word: Awesome! The graduating students of 2013 speak to ReConnect about their memorable experience abroad.

Imagine this: Having your animation Final Year Projects (FYPs) critiqued by industry veterans whose artworks are on the books you read, then having your heroes impart to you their knowledge of the craft. If that is not enough to make you swoon, how about presenting your masterpiece in Walt Disney Animation Studios? That dream came alive for a unique cohort of 12 who underwent an eight-week OIP at DigiPen's Redmond home campus.

A Tale of Two Cities

Tiffany Zhang, Sheetha Lakshmanan, Matilda Heng, Ng Yuan Li (Team Little Motifs), and Renee Koh (Team Castella) were part of this OIP class who did the pre-production of their FYP in Singapore and completed it in the U.S. Both segments of the FYP included critique sessions, which gave the students a refreshing view of Singapore's and Redmond's perspectives.

In Redmond, industry experts on animation (Bungie's David Helsby and Walt Disney's Peter Moehrle) and lighting composition (Airtight Games' Dennis Price) were invited to evaluate the class' works. "The line-up of who's who was intimidating at first, but through them we learnt real industry expectations," said Tiffany. This point was driven home by Dennis Price who shared how he spent four weeks perfecting the lighting composition of a short cinematic from the Diablo 3 video game.



Part of the DigiPen OIP class with one of Redmond's faculty.

The lecturers were also highly committed to the class' projects. To Jazno Francoeur, Redmond's BFA Programme Director, "It was one continuous lab, and we availed ourselves to the cohort throughout the entire period." The class saw "having them at such close proximity, so that we could ask them for help at any time as a real privilege". Jazno Francoeur and David Helsby helped the groups by shooting and even acting in video references – "a very practical, hands-on style of teaching so that we could model character emotions accurately," according to Tiffany.

Seeing Further On the Shoulders of Giants

What surprised and impressed the class was their mentors' humility. "The instructors never tried to force anything on us. They would suggest changes, but were mindful of the time pressures," Sheetha recalled. "Jazno would say that we should remember their advice, because even if we can't implement it now, it would be useful in our future careers." Renee also remembered how David Helsby shared his observations that "there was always a starting point before any great artist becomes who he is now." For Renee, this provided her relief as well as motivated her to persevere in her chosen course.

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Dream Come True. Part of the DigiPen Singapore BFA class in front of the DigiPen Redmond campus.

THERE WAS ALWAYS A STARTING POINT BEFORE ANY GREAT ARTIST BECOMES WHO HE IS NOW

Jazno Francoeur,
Redmond's BFA Programme Director

Cont'd from page 9- Standing on the Shoulders of Giants



The Little Motifs credited Marc Tan, their project producer and 3D modelling instructor in the Singapore campus, who gave them a lot of creative liberty in their FYP

The faculty's encouragement of independent thought was constantly communicated to the class. The Little Motifs' final year project *The Trail* tells a simple story between an ogre, a little girl, and a chick – but with an emotional twist. Sheetha explained that the team did not want to settle for the conventional three-act comic story arc of establishment, conflict, and resolution, but wanted to further challenge themselves by incorporating an additional emotional element. "The DigiPen education really taught us to stand up for our ideas," Sheetha said. "Even during the OIP, the lecturers would come up with competing opinions, but they would respect our final decision."

The critique sessions also helped the groups keep stock of their progress. "It's important for us to love the characters and story. But it's also easy to become desensitised after a prolonged project. We realised in the end that there's a lot of 'us' elements in the animation, and it's rewarding to know that our mentors liked them," said Tiffany. Renee agreed, "The most memorable experience was when we played our first week's work against the final project. We were laughing so much at the differences between the two."

Besides the practical element of the OIP, the BFA students went on an industry visit to Zombie Studios, maker of the popular online shooter Blacklight series. "I kind of already knew what I was getting into when I joined this course, but the trip was like a confirmation and a 'Are you ready for this?' moment. I really got to understand the company's pipeline and the industry standard," enthused Renee.



For the Glory of the Horde! The DigiPen students with the life-sized statue of Thrall, the Orc Warchief of Warcraft III fame, outside Blizzard Entertainment.

After their OIP, some students extended their trips to visit Blizzard Entertainment and Walt Disney Animation Studios. At Walt Disney Animation Studios, they met with a fellow Singaporean professional, who shared with them his working experiences and involvement with the new animation film *Wreck It Ralph*. They were also asked to present their FYPs and even send their portfolios to studio executives.

All Work and Play

Given the long hours they pulled during projects, it was fortunate that the Redmond campus was so hospitable. "The students were very enthusiastic about school activities, which gave the place a very homely atmosphere," Yuan Li said. The class was invited to take part in DigiPen's annual five day Zombie Apocalypse event, a modified game of Tag where "zombies" had to "infect" Nerf gun-toting humans.



Game for More. The Nerf-armed girls attempt to survive the final night of DigiPen Redmond's Zombie Apocalypse event.

The OIP also marked the first time members of the class lived independently abroad which served to strengthen their bonds as close friends and classmates. "We were going through a lot of ups and downs during our FYP, but it was our friendship and team spirit that kept us rolling. What was special about our class was that we weren't racing against each other, but really running together to pass the finish line," Sheetha explained. "We were always there for each other, providing emotional and technical support. And I think that's what really drove us these two years."



A Big DigiPen Family. Living together in their own house, the Little Motifs also whipped up an Asian culinary storm together whenever they got homesick.

DigiPen's rigorous and diverse training, together with exposure to the industry's top professionals sets a high standard of expectations for the class, for themselves and their future careers. "Spending a lot of time on each piece of work is important because to us, it is the quality that counts," Yuan Li elaborated. "We don't feel very good when we submit something that we are not satisfied or confident of" she concluded. The final-year cohort of BFA students have graduated from DigiPen in June 2013 and with the training they received, we are sure they will achieve much in their careers.



SIT ALUMNI
CARD DESIGN
COMPETITION

Here's your chance to win a free Samsung Galaxy Tab 2.0 (8GB, Wi-Fi)! Simply submit a design for the SIT Alumni Identification Card to: Alumni@SingaporeTech.edu.sg You win if your design is chosen.

Judging Criteria:

- Creativity and Originality
- Clarity of Theme
- Design to encapsulate SIT's unique identity

Get creative and let your imagination run wild!

Competition Guidelines:

- Design specifications: 79.38mm x 47.63mm
- Design need not incorporate photo identification
- Design must incorporate the SIT Logo
- Design must be your own original work and not include third-party logos or copyright material.
- Only current SIT students and alumni are eligible
- Digital entries preferred in one of the following formats:
 - Adobe Illustrator, Photoshop, or Indesign
- Include a short write-up of your design (between 300 to 500 words)
- Entry submissions no later than Friday, 6 September 2013
- The winner will be notified by email and the winning design will be featured in the November issue of the Alumni Newsletter
- By submitting your design you agree to allow SIT to use your artwork for future events.
- Email your design to: Alumni@SingaporeTech.edu.sg

ALUMNI BENEFITS

As an SIT alum, you are entitled to a variety of benefits. So, take advantage of these special offers for you to enjoy with your family and friends.

Ministry of Food

- Special membership rate \$3 (usual price \$10) valid for 2 years
- Membership benefits include:
 - 10% off total bill
 - 20% off selected meal of the day and dessert
 - Free tea or coffee
 - Complimentary dessert during Birthday Month in one of your visits
 - Discounts at overseas branches



*Application of membership at MOF branches: Bugis Junction, Serangoon NEX, Lot 1 Mall, Jurong Point, Tampines 1, Ang Mo Kio Hub, Tiong Bahru Plaza (Must bring and present SIT Matriculation Card to apply)

*Promotion for SIT Students, Alumni & Staff valid until end-December 2013

The Wine Company

- 10% savings on all food & wine-by-bottle & wine-by-glass; drink-in
- 30% savings on all wine-by-carafe, beer, cocktail, liquor, liqueur
- 30% savings on all wine-by-bottle from wine menu for takeaway



*These privileges will only be available at The Wine Company™ @Changi Village

Ramen Keisuke

- 10% off total bill
 - Must present SIT Matriculation card prior to ordering
 - Valid from 1st June to 30th September 2013
 - Not applicable to other promotions or set meals
 - For dine-in at Bugis Village-Four Seasons outlet



*Win a pair of Air Tickets to Tokyo, cash vouchers and more! Visit <http://facebook.com/KeisukeTokyoSG> for more details

Zalora

- 10% off storewide excluding discounted items and non-sale brands at www.zalora.sg
- Valid from 1st August to 31st December 2013
- Must provide SIT Community 'coupon code'
- SIT Community would need to enter 'coupon code' before paying for the merchandise



*Offer may not be used in conjunction with any other promotions and offers

