

## WHAT'S HAPPENING around our little big campus

82 Accountancy Graduands the First to Receive SIT-Conferred Degrees

Aiming for the Stars and Beyond

New Industry Partnerships: DSM, Kiso-Jiban, LTA & INCOSE, PSA, Siemens

Health and Social Sciences Cluster Triumphs at First Inter-Cluster Games

New Perspectives and Deeper Understanding, thanks to The Singapore Ireland Fund OIP Grant

SiTizens Find Love at SIT's New Alumni Welcome Party

Undergraduates Enjoy Warm Friendships with SIT's Philanthropic Partners

Rave Reviews for Alumni Movie Nights

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Dear SIT Alumni,

## When Love is in the Air ...

As we head into the middle of 2017, there is much to be excited about at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). On campus, celebrations are underway for our very first batch of 82 graduates from the Accountancy degree programme – they are also the first to receive an SIT conferred degree. What's more, 84% of them have already secured priority offers from local accounting firms!

On another very happy note, love is in the air for SIT alumni. In this issue of *SiTizen*, we speak to some SiTizens who have found their life partners through SIT. Among them are Mr Tan Juan Hui, a Hotel Administration graduate and Ms Dephne Chea, a Marine Engineering graduate, who were married in 2015 and are now the proud parents of a one-year-old baby boy. Another couple, Mr Gary Wong and Ms Tui Sze Sze, who also graduated from different degree programmes, said they actually had the annual New Alumni Welcome Party in 2013 to thank for their first meeting. They are now preparing for their wedding banquet in August.

SIT alumni are certainly keeping in touch with one another and with their university through a range of alumni activities and events. These include the ever popular Alumni Movie Nights organised by the SIT Alumni Leisure Network. Two screenings have been held in March and May, with a third being planned for later this year. SiTizens are also playing futsal together at the SIT@Dover Campus and learning how to cope with stress at the Personality Application Workshop: Optimising Stress.

In the meantime, undergraduates at SIT are enjoying firm friendships with the university's philanthropic partners such as Mapletree Investments, Baker Tilly TFW LLP and Samwoh Corporation. SiTizens are also making it a point to pay it forward, as they did when they helped Madam Wong Mah Jia Lan – whose generous giving has made possible the Wong Kwok Leong Bursary at SIT – auction off her artworks to raise funds for charities in April.

Read about all this and more in this issue of SiTizen. Should you wish to contribute a story, do drop us a line at [Alumni@SingaporeTech.edu.sg](mailto:Alumni@SingaporeTech.edu.sg)



Mr Gary Wong and Ms Tui Sze Sze, who first found each other at the 2013 New Alumni Welcome Party. They are now married.



# Proud Day for SIT's First Accountancy Graduates

**84% of pioneer graduating cohort land priority offers from local accounting firms**



82 students received their SIT-conferred Bachelor of Accountancy with Honours degree at the ceremony.

Like many of her peers, Ms Hilary Lim Yi Jun took pride in being among the first cohort of 82 students to receive an SIT-conferred degree at the SIT Graduation Ceremony held on 24 February, 2017. She said, "I felt honoured and special to be part of the pioneer batch of SIT Accountancy graduates, leaving a legacy for our juniors to follow."

She said it turned rather emotional for her during the ceremony, especially when Mr Shaun Ang Yongxiang, the valedictorian, asked his fellow graduates to bow and thank their parents and loved ones in the auditorium for supporting them as they completed their Bachelor of Accountancy with Honours programme. It was indeed a touching scene.

As early as 12:30 pm on 24 February, the graduands from the Bachelor of Accountancy with Honours degree programme were streaming in for a celebratory tea session held at the Student Activities Centre, some with parents and family members in tow. The joyful mood was infectious as the soon-to-be graduates chatted with their lecturers, who were already decked out in academic gowns and mortarboards.

There were plenty of hugs and handshakes and much picture taking. Then at 3 pm, it was time for the formal event and the graduates trooped off to the auditorium.

In his speech, Guest of Honour Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) & Second Minister for Defence, said that as the fifth Autonomous University for Singaporeans, SIT and the applied degree pathway it pioneers is becoming a significant pillar of the nation's higher education landscape.

He highlighted that SIT's distinctive Integrated Work Study Programme (IWSP) had resulted in 84 per cent of the present batch of graduates receiving job offers from the same accountancy firms they worked with during their IWSP.

Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, added that many of the graduates had earned recognition and praise from employers for their excellent standards and work ethic during their IWSP stints.

In his valedictory address, Mr Ang reflected on how graduation is both a time to reminisce about "the great but simple experiences" of university life and also a time to "focus on the next stage...and charge forward to achieve" their dreams. He added that with the SIT-DNA instilled in himself and fellow graduates, they are "backed by a positive desire to make the community that we live in a better place".

At the ceremony, gold medals, outstanding student awards, and book prizes were presented to Accountancy graduates as well as students from other degree programmes. (Please see "Award Recipients" for details.)

## SkillsFuture Work-Study Degree Programmes

Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) & Second Minister for Defence, also announced the launch of the SkillsFuture Work-Study Degree Programmes (in Information Security, Software Engineering, Hospitality Business, Electrical Power Engineering and Civil Engineering) at SIT.

These programmes will involve cooperation between SIT and industry including MNCs, and government organisations.

These partner organisations will jointly assess the placement of potential candidates into these undergraduate programmes and work with SIT to develop the curriculum in line with industry needs. They will also mentor and guide student-trainees in the workplace through a structured on-the-job training curriculum, some of which are credit-bearing portions of the undergraduate programme.



Minister Ong Ye Kung reminded the graduates that the key purpose of SIT was to enable more young Singaporeans to fulfil their goals and aspirations.



Many penned well wishes for their fellow graduates during the pre-graduation ceremony celebratory tea session.



Snapping wefies in their graduation robes was the craze.



New graduates picking up their SIT Alumni Cards.



All ready to make their mark in the corporate world.



This was how jubilant some graduates were.



A father's pride in his daughter's accomplishment.

## Award Recipients

### KEPPEL GOLD MEDAL

**Aloysia Han Ming Xuan**

Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Mechanical Design and Manufacturing Engineering  
Newcastle University

**Ang Chong Xian**

Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Mechatronics  
University of Glasgow

**Boo Kenney**

Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Marine Engineering  
Newcastle University

**Chang Ze Hao**

Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Mechanical Design Engineering  
University of Glasgow

**Khoo Peng Ying Pauline**

Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Interior Design  
The Glasgow School of Art

### SEMBCORP MARINE GOLD MEDAL

**Chit Ye Bo**

Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Offshore Engineering  
Newcastle University

### ST ENGINEERING GOLD MEDAL

**Liu Yongsheng**

Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Naval Architecture  
Newcastle University

### CEI OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD IN MECHANICAL DESIGN AND MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING

**Aloysia Han Ming Xuan**

Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Mechanical Design and Manufacturing Engineering  
Newcastle University

### CHOO CHIAU BENG OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD IN NAVAL ARCHITECTURE

**Liu Yongsheng**

Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Naval Architecture  
Newcastle University

### ZICOM GROUP OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD IN MECHATRONICS

**Kwong Wai Keat**

Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Mechatronics  
University of Glasgow

### CA TRUST PAC BOOK PRIZE IN TAXATION

**Lim Hui Min**

Bachelor of Accountancy with Honours  
Singapore Institute of Technology

### DELOITTE & TOUCHE BOOK PRIZE IN AUDIT PROCESS

**Lau Chee Guan**

Bachelor of Accountancy with Honours  
Singapore Institute of Technology

### PKF BOOK PRIZE IN CHANGE MANAGEMENT

**Teo Jia Yi**

Bachelor of Accountancy with Honours  
Singapore Institute of Technology



Some made it a bigger celebration by also bringing along friends, relatives as well as family members.

### ARDENT BOOK PRIZE IN BUSINESS VALUATION AND ANALYSIS

**Mok Swee Jin Jasper**

Bachelor of Accountancy with Honours  
Singapore Institute of Technology

### DELOITTE & TOUCHE BOOK PRIZE IN FINANCIAL ACCOUNTING

**Lee Jing Shi**

Bachelor of Accountancy with Honours  
Singapore Institute of Technology

### PwC's FINAL YEAR ACCOUNTANCY STUDENT AWARD

**Sean Ooi Cheng'en**

Bachelor of Accountancy with Honours  
Singapore Institute of Technology

### LOH CHIA HENG ACCOUNTANCY AWARD

**Mok Swee Jin Jasper**

Bachelor of Accountancy with Honours  
Singapore Institute of Technology

### BAKER TILLY TFW OUTSTANDING STUDENT AWARD IN ACCOUNTANCY

**Sean Ooi Cheng'en**

Bachelor of Accountancy with Honours  
Singapore Institute of Technology



Joy showed in nearly every face at the graduation ceremony.

## Aiming for the Stars and Beyond

*The annual Reach for the Stars celebrates achievements of SIT's scholars and acknowledges the sponsorships and bonded scholarships provided by industry partners*

Close to 500 scholars, guests, SIT Senior Management, faculty and staff attended Reach for the Stars on 8 March 2017 at the Raffles City Convention Centre. An annual event, it serves as a platform to celebrate the achievements of SIT's scholars and show appreciation for industry partners who have provided sponsorships and bonded scholarships for our students.

The evening kicked off with a welcome address from Prof Loh Han Tong, Deputy President (Academic) & Provost, SIT. He thanked SIT's industry partners for their support and endorsement of SIT's focus on applied



Students had the opportunity to mingle with faculty and also thank their sponsors who were present at the event.

pedagogy, demonstrated strongly through the Integrated Work Study Programme (IWSP). He said that "the support leaves lasting marks on our ... students, in their pursuit of becoming the experts in their respective professional fields." He also reminded the scholars that despite coming from different backgrounds, they all have one thing in common – they are all SITizens who have been imbued with the SIT-DNA.

Mr Tengku Muhammad Khalaf bin Tengku Zainal Shah, from the Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering (Land) degree programme, was awarded the Public Transport Scholarship from the Land Transport Authority and Singapore's public transport operators and will be graduating this year. The 27-year-old who is currently on his IWSP with SMRT managed to meet with colleagues from SMRT who were also present at the event. He said, "I am thankful for this scholarship as I was set on securing a career with SMRT. I'm glad that I've managed to secure a job prior to graduating".



Guests were entertained by student performers from SIT Dancesport (above) and Muzeka.

## PSA and SIT Sign MoU to Strengthen Systems Engineering Expertise at SIT's Career Nexus

*Collaboration to build knowledge in advanced port technologies and develop manpower for engineering and infocomm technology disciplines*

PSA Corporation Limited (PSA) and Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in March to collaborate on strengthening systems engineering expertise and knowledge for PSA employees, and for SIT students to gain exposure to automation and other advanced port technologies.

SIT's continuing education unit, SITLEARN, will also offer a 16-month part-time training programme to equip PSA engineers and Infocomm Technology (ICT) professionals with the competencies to design, develop and maintain complex integrated systems which are vital for PSA's new generation of intelligent container terminals.

As part of the MoU, PSA specialists will also deliver guest lectures at SIT on port technology and operations. In addition, PSA will offer scholarships to students and provide Integrated Work Study Programme (IWSP) positions to students in selected Engineering and ICT programmes at SIT.

The MoU was signed on 10 March at this year's Career Nexus – a platform for SIT students to get information about career opportunities from prospective employers. At the event held at Suntec Singapore Convention & Exhibition Centre, selected alumni shared career experiences and industry professionals spoke on career-related topics that included the concern on many a student's mind: 'Will Machines Take Over My Job?'

In his talk, Mr P. Mukkesh Kumar, who graduated in 2015 with a Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Chemical Engineering (Newcastle University) degree, shared how he applies the SIT-DNA in his learning journey as a Clinical Data Reviewer at A\*STAR. He said, "In the spirit of being able to learn, unlearn and relearn, I dug in, embraced the new and the unfamiliar, and mastered the basics of analysing clinical data."

He also talked about his hopes of contributing to Singapore's advancement of science and innovative technology and to act as a catalyst for transformation in making insightful research analysis.



From left: Prof Loh Han Tong, Deputy President (Academic) & Provost, and Prof Ho Yew Kee, Assoc Provost (SkillsFuture & Staff Development), SIT; Mr Ng Kok Cheong, Head of Human Resource, PSA Corporation; and Mr Ong Kim Pong, Regional CEO, Southeast Asia, PSA International.



Altogether, 486 SIT students and 95 companies took part in this year's Career Nexus.

# SIT's New Partnerships with Industry

*A series of MoUs and Collaboration Agreements in early 2017 brings SIT and its students closer to industry*

## DSM Collaborates with SIT to Support Next Generation of Food Technologists

16 February 2017

Royal DSM, a global science-based company active in health, nutrition and materials, signed a Collaboration Agreement with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) to develop commercial and scientific opportunities for students in the food technology sector.

This three-year collaboration will grant SIT's Food Technology undergraduates and staff access to DSM's expertise as well as its state-of-the-art Nutrition Innovation Centre (NIC) in Singapore. The establishment of an Industry Lab will also expose students to the prototyping and product development process. This includes time at a UHT pilot plant for food fortification, a sensory lab to create desired flavour profiles, and climate-controlled chambers to establish stability under different environments.

By developing the next generation of food technologists, DSM is also supporting the government's drive to develop Singapore into the leading food and nutrition hub in Asia.



From left: Assoc Prof Susanna Leong, Cluster Director (Chemical Engineering & Food Technology) and Prof Loh Han Tong, Deputy President (Academic) & Provost, SIT, with Mr Pieter Nuboer, Vice President, Human Nutrition and Health, and Mr Gerald Ng, Regional Finance Director Control, Asia Pacific, DSM.



From left: Assoc Prof Ivan Lee, Vice President (Industry & Community), and Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, with Dr K. Iwasaki, President, and Mr K. Orihara, Managing Director, Kiso-Jiban Consultants Co., Ltd

## SIT and Kiso-Jiban Establish an Industry Lab

21 February 2017

A Collaboration Agreement (CA) signed in February between SIT and Japanese engineering consulting firm Kiso-Jiban Consultants Co., Ltd will see undergraduates from the university's newly launched Civil Engineering degree programme benefit from an applied learning platform and early industry exposure, through the establishment of an Industry Lab (I-Lab).

Leveraging off the Soil and Rock Laboratory situated at Kiso-Jiban Singapore's premises at Kallang Pudding Road, the I-Lab will support SIT's teaching and research in soil investigation, geotechnical instrumentation and laboratory testing. The CA was signed at the 'Recent Developments in Geotechnical Site Investigation' technical seminar, jointly organised by SIT and Kiso-Jiban.

## SIT, LTA and INCOSE to Build Railway Engineering Capabilities

23 February 2017

SIT, Land Transport Authority (LTA), and International Council on Systems Engineering (INCOSE) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to develop skilled manpower in Systems Engineering to support local public transport manpower requirements. The three parties will develop applied learning curricula to prepare Systems Engineering graduates to be industry-ready.

LTA will share its expertise and work with SIT on rail systems research and development and SIT will plan and deliver Systems Engineering training to professionals from LTA and other organisations.

The signing of the MoU took place at the launch of Singapore Rail Academy (SGRA) at SIT@Dover, and the opening of the Transportation Systems Lab and Systems Engineering Lab which will be used by students from the Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering (Land), Systems Engineering (ElectroMechanical Systems) and Telematics (Intelligent Transportation Systems Engineering) programmes. The Railway Engineering Simulator software from the London Underground at the Transportation Systems Lab will enable



Transport Minister Khaw Wan Wan (centre) interacting with students while touring the labs at SIT.

students to design rail networks and be exposed to various signalling operations and simulations.



Prof Loh Han Tong, Deputy President (Academic) & Provost, SIT, and Dr Armin Bruck, President and CEO of Siemens Pte Ltd sign the MoU which will see both organisations working closely to train engineers for Singapore's future economy.

## Siemens Partners SIT for Training in Digitalisation and Advanced Manufacturing

13 April 2017

Siemens and SIT recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to train future engineers and strengthen collaboration between industry and SIT in the areas of digitalisation and advanced manufacturing.

The MoU will ensure that SIT's academics and/or professional officers will undergo the Siemens Mechatronic Systems Certification Programme (SMSCP) Level 3 instructor certification course in Germany. SIT instructors will be the first in Southeast Asia to receive such a certification. The SMSCP is a comprehensive training programme in which students learn about the complexities of the mechatronic system in a holistic fashion.

Under the MoU, Siemens will also provide 70 licensed software and maintenance of these software to SIT, for use in relevant degree programmes such as the Mechanical Design and Manufacturing Engineering, and Systems Engineering degree programmes, exposing students to the concept of Advanced Manufacturing and experience in using the same software utilised by leading manufacturers. Siemens will also offer one mid-term scholarship to an SIT student in a relevant degree programme.

# HSS Triumphs in First Inter-Cluster Games

*Spirits were high despite the rain; champion HSS will enjoy bragging rights till next year's ICG*

More than 300 SIT students and faculty members gathered at SIT@Dover on 4 March 2017 to pit their skills in five sports in the inaugural SIT Inter-Cluster Games (ICG). The Health & Social Sciences (HSS) team came out tops to win the Provost Cup, beating the Chemical Engineering & Food Technology (CEFT), Design and Specialised Businesses (DSB), Engineering (ENG) and Infocomm Technology (ICT). The weather could have been better but everybody had a great time.

As the DSB Cluster Sports Manager, Ms Lydia Tan Xiao Xian, from the Early Childhood Education programme (Wheelock College), had much to do and was unable to compete in the games. She said, "Seeing my cluster participants having loads of fun and making new friends was very heartwarming."

Assoc Prof Alfred Tan Cheng Hock, a member of the ENG Futsal team, believes that ICG also allows faculty and students to get to know each other better through sports. He added, "I never knew some of my students are so good in running and I bet they also didn't know I can only dribble the ball like I've two left legs. I had lots of fun training and competing with them. They really sprang around like rabbits!"

*Photos courtesy of Ms Goh Qian Hui and Ms Nur Syathirah binte Adi Sunaryo from the Bachelor in Science (Physiotherapy) degree programme (Trinity College Dublin), and Mr Xavier Chen Lingqing from the Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Electrical Power Engineering degree programme (Newcastle University)*



*They kept on dribbling even while it was drizzling.*



*After a fiercely fought game, handshakes to thank each other for a good match.*



*Teams went all out and showed great determination.*



*Non-stop action kept the floorball players on their toes.*



*Racing to the finish line.*



Recipients of The Singapore Ireland Fund Overseas Immersion Programme Grant enjoyed tea with Dr Stanley Quek, Chairman, The Ireland Funds Singapore (back row, middle), along with Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT (back row, extreme left) and Assoc Prof May Lim, Programme Director, SIT.

## Not Just a Change of Scene

*Recipients of The Singapore Ireland Fund Overseas Immersion Programme Grant gain new perspectives and deeper understanding on how to apply the knowledge they've learnt*

Ms Sharifah Rawiah binte Matnor, 24, has fond memories of weekend travels around Ireland when she was on her Overseas Immersion Programme (OIP) as a student from the Bachelor in Science (Occupational Therapy) degree programme. But more than that, the holistic nature of rehabilitation programmes in Ireland has provided her with new perspectives that remain beneficial even after graduation.

"When I started work, I was able to share about the various programmes that I saw in Ireland and provide suggestions to improve on our current programme structure," said Ms Sharifah, who is now working as an Occupational Therapist at SPD to help rehabilitate adults who have suffered a stroke or spinal cord injuries, so as to reintegrate them back into the mainstream workforce.

She added, "My knowledge with regard to the theoretical aspects of occupational therapy has improved, and I am able to better explain concepts or ideas to my colleagues. With the OIP experience of seeing how some theories have been applied to programmes that have been running for some time, I have gotten a better picture on how to improve my own interventions with my clients."

Ms Sharifah was able to benefit from these experiences after receiving The Singapore Ireland Fund Overseas Immersion Programme Grant, which provides support to academically promising but financially disadvantaged undergraduates for their OIP in Ireland.

The Grant was established at SIT in 2013 with an endowed gift from The Ireland Funds Singapore. Valued at \$6,000 each, it has been awarded to 10 deserving students since Academic Year 2014/15.

On 28 February 2017, five of these recipients including Ms Sharifah were able to express their personal appreciation to Dr Stanley Quek, Chairman of The Ireland Funds Singapore.

Dr Quek was invited to tea at the SIT@Dover campus with the grant recipients alongside Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, as well as SIT faculty and staff.

Ms Shilin Lim, another grant recipient, said getting to chat with Dr Quek was a great experience. "I don't come from a well-to-do family and the Grant has helped to alleviate some of the financial burden my family faced," she said, adding, "I felt fortunate to be able to get the grant and I really appreciate the motivation for The Ireland Funds Singapore for establishing the OIP Grant."

Currently still on her OIP, Ms Lim is scheduled to return to Singapore only in early June. In the meantime, SITizen received a text message from her, in which she shared the excitement of her learning journey. "During the attachment, we had the chance to see surgery performed in the operating theatres – something that we don't get to do in Singapore!"



Ms Sharifah Rawiah (first row, extreme left), who received The Singapore Ireland Fund Overseas Immersion Programme Grant, with her classmates at the Trinity College Dublin campus.

# SIT Plays Cupid for SITizens

Whether it's meeting for the first time at alumni events, or working on a group project together, more and more SITizens are finding love with their fellow alumni and undergraduates

It turns out that SITizens are getting more than just an education and a degree at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) these days – they're also finding their life partners!

Mr Tan Juan Hui, 29, who graduated from the Hotel Administration programme and Ms Dephne Chea, 29, a graduate of the Marine Engineering programme, are just one of these couples. Having first met at orientation, they went on to their first date at a Thai restaurant. He liked it that they shared the same vision in life and she liked the family man she saw in him. One thing led to another, and finally he took the initiative to pop the question. "I invited her and her close friends to a KTV room, and I proposed to her there, with a guitar," said Mr Tan. They were married in 2015 and the happy couple are now the proud parents of a one-year-old son.

Said Mr Gary Wong, who graduated from the Offshore Engineering programme, "We talked to our friends and realised more and more of our schoolmates are getting together with each other." He is, in fact, a part of this trend – he and fellow SITizen Tui Sze Sze are preparing for their wedding banquet later this year (see story below).

Assoc Prof May Lim, Programme Director, SIT who first alerted this newsletter to the fact that SITizens are pairing up to get married, is simply delighted with this new development.

She said, "University is an exciting time for young people, for them to learn, to grow, to have fun and to build relationships. For some students who find their lifelong partners at SIT, I feel heartened and happy that they meet the right SITizen that they like to spend the rest of their lives with."



## Mr Trevor Jow (T), 28 & Ms Chalene Goh (C), 26

Both Ms Chalene Goh and Mr Trevor Jow graduated from the Bachelor in Science (Occupational Therapy) degree programme in 2013. They held their wedding on 18 February 2017 at Orchard Hotel. They had just returned from their two-week honeymoon in Japan to catch the Sakura season when SITizen met with them:

### How did you meet?

T: We actually met through the Occupational Therapy course in Nanyang Polytechnic. Even though we were classmates during the four years, we never really spoke.

C: He hung out with his clique, and I had my own clique so we didn't really mingle. Then at SIT, we were in the same group for our last module so we got to work closely with each other.

### What was your impression of each other?

C: My impression of him when we were in polytechnic was that he was a playboy, always flirting with girls.

T: I thought she was nerdy because of her thick, frameless spectacles and she looked as though she didn't like to have fun.

### What did you do on your first date?

T: We had lunch at Sakae Sushi since we both needed to cool off after a group meeting about our project. We were all really stressed at that point.

C: He had a motive!

T: After the lunch, I thought I wanted to go out with her some more. So instead of being direct, I said, "I'll pay for this time, and next time you pay."

C: When I was on the train home, he texted me and sent me some music that he likes.

### How did things progress?

T: I had already planned to ask her to be my girlfriend six weeks after we had first gone out. But before I could do it after our date to the Night Safari, she had already asked me in the car on the way there "Where do you see this going?". My reply was, "All the way, lah!" It was super awkward for me.

C: I'm a bit impatient and I don't like to be coy about things – I needed to be sure of his direction since we had been dating for six weeks. I was wondering if he had just been toying with me. That's why I asked.

### How did you propose?

T: I planned a trip to Boracay – the ultimate romantic destination with white sands and clear blue waters. I thought about a helicopter ride but in the end booked a sunset cruise on a yacht which came with wine and canapes. I told Chalene that we were going snorkelling. When the operator arrived, it was on a rubber dinghy and I got quite scared.

C: I didn't know where we were going exactly, and on the rubber dinghy, I was holding on for my life. I was a little seasick on the day – and I thought it was the worst experience until I saw the yacht and went "Wow." He tried to kneel down but he couldn't do it as the boat was shaking.

T: I was a bit scared that I would drop the ring.

C: With us, it seems that anything romantic will become quite comical.

### What does the other bring to the relationship?

C: He's able to tolerate my short temper, and that also makes me want to change and be more patient. He makes life more interesting. And he's also a joker so life is not that boring.

T: I'm very forgetful, and she helps me get my life in order. With her, I see a purpose to carry on and start a family. She makes me want to be a better person, to her and to others.

C: So we make each other change, for the better.



Mr Gary Wong (middle in back row) and his friends photobombed Ms Tui Sze Sze (front row, fourth from right), her friends and TCD faculty at the 2013 New Alumni Welcome Party at AQUANOVA. Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT (second from left) got to witness this by-now historic moment in the couple's life.

## Mr Gary Wong (G), 34 & Ms Tui Sze Sze (S), 30

Sharing a love of the outdoors, water sports like snorkelling and kayaking and seafood, Mr Gary Wong, from the Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Offshore Engineering (Newcastle University) and Ms Tui Sze Sze, Bachelor in Science (Occupational Therapy) registered their marriage in September 2016, and will be holding their wedding banquet in August this year:



### How did you meet?

G: At the 2013 New Alumni Welcome Party at Aquanova. She was at the next table with the rest of her Occupational Therapy classmates. We studied at different campuses, and I didn't usually attend events outside of class.

S: If not for this event, I would have never met him.

### What was your initial impression of each other?

G: When a lot of people were on the dancefloor, I saw Sze at her table moving to the music so I went to talk to her group. I thought she was the decent type.

S: He asked for my number and I thought that he must be a player. I gave him my Facebook contact instead so I could block him in case. He was a complete stranger, so who knows?

### What did you do on your first date?

G: We went to a Mexican place in Holland Village.

S: That night we talked about our Overseas Immersion Programme. He laughed at his own jokes and I didn't really get his jokes. When the bill came, I asked whether he wanted to split the bill and he said, "Yes!" I took that as a signal that he didn't really want to meet again.

G: I wanted to try a different approach and see what Sze was like.

S: We were judging each other on these small things.

### How did things progress?

G: In my case, it was a gut feel that she could be someone I could have a long-term relationship with. I wrote her a long passage explaining why I liked her. I had started working,

I would have to reschedule after arranging to meet, often at the last minute. Initially, she was understanding but after awhile it does take a toll.

S: We had a lot of discussions 2-3 months in, really getting to know each other. I spoke to my family about this, and my family pointed out that he's straightforward and honest to me. They said that it takes courage for him to tell me about his issues, and to want to solve problems in the relationship.

### How did you propose?

G: I collected the ring the day before we flew off to Tasmania where I planned to propose. There, I had identified a nice little cove in our earlier days. When we reached there, I realised that the ring was still back at the lodge. It was only the next evening after dinner – and I told her I had a surprise for her.

S: I thought it was something that I hadn't bought. And I was surprised he had proposed – in beautiful Tasmania. He did it in bed, right before we went to sleep. He didn't even kneel!

### What do you think the other brings to the relationship?

S: I feel very safe when I'm travelling with him. Last year, one day after our ROM in September, we wanted to get our diving certificate. We were trying to get out of the water as a storm was coming. He had a huge wound and wasn't aware of it until I told him. His Scout instincts kicked in and he asked me to place a pair of goggles over the wound to stop the bleeding. He is very quick to use anything to problem solve.

G: She is caring – I think she represents the heart. She's quite independent and has a wide range of skill sets which will be useful when we start a family. I know that we can work together to manage the household.



Mdm Wong Mah Jia Lan (fourth from right) and Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, (fourth from left) with several SIT students and alumni during the Charity Dinner.



SIT students, Ms Dhyllis Lim (left) and Ms Lovevin Chia (right) with Mdm Wong Mah Jia Lan at the opening of the Charity Exhibition.

## When Support Comes Full Circle

A group of undergraduates and alumni from the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) recently volunteered at a charity exhibition opening and dinner, which were organised by the Nanyang Confucian Association and The Kongzi Culture Fund Ltd on 20 April 2017 and 22 April 2017 respectively. Both were held in honour of notable philanthropist Mdm Wong Mah Jia Lan's 80th birthday.

Mdm Wong had in 2014 made possible the endowed Wong Kwok Leong Bursary to nurture financially disadvantaged students at SIT in perpetuity. A total of seven Wong Kwok Leong Bursaries have been awarded since it was established.

Both events were held at the Singapore Chinese Cultural Centre and included the sale and auction of finger painting and various artwork and items from Madam Wong's private collection to raise funds for various charitable causes. SIT

**Philanthropist Mdm Wong Mah Jia Lan auctions off her artworks to raise funds for charities – with some assistance from SITizens whom she has helped**

students and alumni, some of whom were recipients of the Wong Kwok Leong Bursary, assisted with the exhibition opening, helped welcome guests and supported the stage ceremonies during the dinner.

The guest of honour for the exhibition was Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth & Ministry of Trade and Industry whereas Mr Heng Chee How, Senior Minister of State, Prime Minister's Office was the guest of honour at the dinner. Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, also attended the charity dinner.

"Helping out at these events was especially meaningful for me. It was inspiring to see how Mdm Wong's philanthropy seemed to know no bounds as she donated all the red packets she received from the dinner guests to charity," said Mr Jeremy Wong, an alumnus from the Marine Engineering programme and a recipient of the Wong Kwok Leong Bursary.



Thank you, Mapletree! Prof Ng Siu Choon, Assoc. Provost (Students), SIT (extreme right), and the recipients of the Mapletree Bursary present a sweet treat to Mr Hiew Yoon Khong, Group CEO, Mapletree Investments (second from right).



The visitors from SIT also toured Mapletree Investments corporate headquarters.

## Mapletree's Firm Friendship Empowers Young Talents

**Corporate donor's forward-thinking philanthropy makes it possible for its bursary recipients at SIT to flourish and achieve their dreams**

At one point during her undergraduate studies, Ms Ailin Ng had contemplated leaving school altogether to take up a full-time job so that she could support her family. But thanks to the Mapletree Bursary, which she received in both Academic Years 2015/16 and 2016/17, Ms Ng can now persevere with her university education. "I no longer think about dropping out of school," said Ms Ng, who is now in her final year in the Accountancy programme.

Ms Ng was one of the recipients who were invited by Mapletree Investments to a tea session at their corporate headquarters in Pasir Panjang on 29 March 2017. The

company had made possible the endowed Mapletree Bursary in 2014, and to date a total of 22 Mapletree Bursaries have been awarded to 15 recipients.

Prof Ng Siu Choon, Associate Provost (Students), SIT, who accompanied the students on their visit along with SIT faculty and staff, remarked that Mapletree's willingness to support financially disadvantaged undergraduates from all fields of study and to continue nurturing deserving students for more than one academic year is "especially wonderful and far-sighted".

Pursuing a degree in Game Design, Mr Chua Kok Tung, another bursary recipient, said that it has always been his dream to work in the game industry or even start up his own studio as games had inspired him when he was young.

"The Mapletree Bursary has allowed me to spend more time working on my game project that will one day be a crucial part of my portfolio when I enter the workforce," added Mr Chua.

# SIE Students Tour Samwoh Innovation Centre

*Students from SIT's Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering programme learn more about sustainable construction at the Centre*

On 14 March 2017, a group of 11 SIT students from the Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering (SIE) programmes, accompanied by SIT faculty and staff, visited the Samwoh Innovation Centre in Kranji Crescent. Mr Eric Soh, CEO, Samwoh Corporation, had invited the group, giving them the opportunity to tour the company's facilities where new construction recycling technology is tested and researched.

The group included the four recipients of the Samwoh Bursary, which is open to students from the SIE (Land) programme. The Bursary was made possible by a gift from Samwoh Corporation in 2014.

Mr Lee Xiang Han, a Bursary recipient who is from the SIE (Land) programme, had never been to a Research & Development facility and found the visit to be "an eye opener". Said Mr Lee, "I learnt that it is important to innovate and find creative new ways to keep ourselves sustainable in the field of civil engineering and construction. One interesting thing was learning about the recycled rubber material they used to construct the floor of playgrounds now."



*SIT students get a hands-on learning experience at the Samwoh Innovation Centre where they had the opportunity to study recycled materials that can be used for construction projects.*

Mr Nathaniel Soh, a student from the SIE (Building Services) programme echoed this sentiment. He said, "It was inspiring to learn about the innovations by Samwoh. Learning how Samwoh recycles and reuses demolished construction materials has broadened my view of recycling techniques and available materials."

Earlier this year, Samwoh decided to nurture even more students at SIT by making a new gift to support the Samwoh Corporation Global Immersion Study Grant and the Samwoh Corporation Outstanding Student Award in Civil Engineering. Samwoh has also deepened its relationship with SIT through a Collaboration on Agreement to establish an Industry Lab.

## Meeting of Minds

*Baker Tilly TFW treats SIT's Accountancy undergraduates to a visit to the firm, a delicious lunch, and nutritious insights into the Accounting industry*

On 16 March 2017, Baker Tilly TFW hosted a small group from the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) to a small ceremony at their office and a sumptuous lunch at a Chinese restaurant at the Intercontinental Hotel, which included its scholarship and award recipients for Academic Year (AY) 2016/17 as well as Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT.

The firm has been a strong supporter of SIT's Accountancy students since 2015 when it made gifts to establish the Baker Tilly TFW Scholarship and the Baker Tilly TFW Outstanding Award in Accountancy. Six Scholarships have been awarded since AY 2014/15 to academically promising Accountancy students and the very first Baker Tilly TFW Outstanding Award in Accountancy was presented to Mr Sean Ooi in February 2017 at the SIT Graduation Ceremony (see pages 2-3 for more on the Graduation Ceremony).

Mr Ooi, who was present at the lunch, said he was "definitely honoured and humbled beyond words" to have been awarded this accolade. The 24-year old, who will start work as an Audit Associate at a Big Four firm in June 2017, added, "I am grateful to Baker Tilly TFW for this award and hope that it too can be an inspiration for my juniors to strive for excellence."

Ms Ng Kai Lin, who received the Baker Tilly TFW Scholarship this year and is expected to graduate in December 2018, said, "I used to work part-time in my polytechnic days but since university started I couldn't find the time to work, as the workload was quite heavy. Therefore, with this scholarship I was able to focus more on my studies."

She also found the lunch fruitful as the partners from Baker Tilly were very generous in sharing more about the firm and other issues surrounding the accounting industry with the undergraduates. She said, "The different conversation topics during lunch such as quality assurance in educational institutions really helped widen my view about how encompassing this field is."



*(From left) Partners from Baker Tilly TFW, Ms Susan Foong and Mr Khor Boon Hong; Baker Tilly TFW Scholarship Recipients, Ms Ng Kai Lin and Ms Jasmine Chiang; Mr Sean Ooi, recipient of the Baker Tilly TFW Outstanding Student Award and Mr Sim Guan Seng, Managing Partner, Baker Tilly TFW.*

# Rave Reviews for Alumni Movie Nights

Audiences give thumbs up for signature events of the SIT Alumni Leisure Network

On 9 March 2017, SIT alumni were treated to the blockbuster movie, Logan. Then on 9 May 2017, they got to enjoy the superhero sequel Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2. Alumnus Evania Wong Shu Fang, a graduate from the Bachelor of Science with Honours in Food and Human Nutrition programme (Newcastle University), attended both screenings.

She liked that there was a buffet spread, then a drink and popcorn for the movie, as well as a lucky draw. "Overall, the movie night is also a fun way to connect to SIT and my former classmates. I hope that there will be more of such events in the future," she said.

At the May event, alumnus Wesley Yeo had the opportunity to chat with Prof Loh Han Tong, Deputy President (Academic) and Provost, about SIT's move to Punggol. Mr Yeo, who graduated from the Real-time Interactive Simulation programme (DigiPen Institute of Technology), said, "I found myself feeling a lot closer to SIT."

## Alumni Movie Night: Logan



Alumni Movie Nights are just too good to miss.

For Ms Theodora Hui Wai Ching, a graduate from the Bachelor of Fine Arts in Digital Art and Animation (DigiPen) programme, Guardians of the Galaxy was her first alumni movie treat. She said, "The whole evening was very enjoyable. The movie also involved animation and that is related to my work as a free lance artist. If my schedule permits, I'll be there at the next Alumni Movie Night."

The next screening is being planned for November.



A feast before enjoying Hollywood's latest hit with popcorn and a drink.



Friendly student hosts ever ready to keep alumni up to date on the latest happenings.



All eyes on the big screen as alumni follow Logan's adventures.



Collecting popcorn and drinks for the entire gang!

## Alumni Movie Night: Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2



Ample time to bond as they queue to enter the cinema hall.



Collecting movie tickets at the registration counter and dropping off their namecards for a chance to win at the lucky draw.



Mr Chan Wing Leong, Deputy President (Administration) & Chief Financial Officer, SIT, (left) in conversation with an alumnus.



Asst Prof Benjamin Soon (extreme right) catches up with some of his ex-students.



While waiting for the movie to start, eager attendees filled up their feedback forms.

## Making good use of stress

Different optimising strategies for various personality types

Stress is commonly perceived as debilitating but there are ways to turn it into a positive force by understanding what the stressors are for various Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI) preferences and how each "type" can cope with stress. Mr Charles Sng, who is a certified MBTI practitioner, advised participants to view stressful events as challenging opportunities rather than as threats at the Personality Application Workshop: Optimising Stress on 18 February 2017.

Mr Nur Hidayat bin Tajap, an alumnus from the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Naval Architecture (Newcastle University) programme, was among the 20-odd alumni and graduating students at the session. He said he will adopt the strategy of "turning to friends and colleagues to come up with new solutions" when faced with stress.

At the end of the 4-hour session, Mr Chng Bing Han, a graduate from the Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) in Chemical Engineering (Newcastle University) programme, realised the benefits of not "erupting like a volcano" when confronted with a problem. He said that the workshop taught him "how to react to stress appropriately".

Organised by the SIT Alumni Career Network in Marina Mandarin Singapore, this was the second Personality Application Workshop to take place in a series of personality workshops that kicked off in 2015.



Lean on me – these alumni figure out a way to balance with their eyes closed, which was one of the activities Mr Charles Sng had them do to find out how they cope with stress.



Thumbs up for a fruitful afternoon!

# Thanks for the Support!

Student hosts treated to appreciation brunch



Making the 'V' sign – for 'volunteering' perhaps.

More than 20 students turned up for a brunch on 25 February 2017 hosted by SIT's Advancement & Alumni Division to thank them for helping to organise SIT events – such as the New Alumni Welcome Party in November last year and the Recognition of Excellence held last October.

Among those present at Caffe Pralet in trendy Tiong Bahru was Ms Hazel Lim, a Year 2 student in SIT's Bachelor of Hospitality Business with Honours programme. "Being a student host for alumni events has been very beneficial and enriching, providing a versatile platform for me to contribute back to SIT in different ways," she said, adding, "Also, it enabled me to expand my

network of connections, and foster new friendships."

Mr Chad Lester Chen Xuan, a Year 3 student from SIT's Bachelor of Accountancy with Honours programme, helped out at the New Alumni Welcome Party in November last year.

He said, "It's amazing to be able to reconnect with friends who have graduated and celebrate with them as they start the next stage of their lives."



Good company, good food – all that's needed for a memorable brunch.



## SIT Pioneer Accountancy Beanfeast\*

\*Dated British term for a happy celebration or party

Exclusively for SIT Accountancy Class of 2017

To register, call 6592 2013 / 6592 1137,  
or email Alumni@SingaporeTech.edu.sg



**Date:** Friday, 28 July 2017  
**Time:** 6.30 pm to 9.00 pm  
**Venue:** To be revealed  
**Cost:** Token fee of \$8 incl. GST  
(Buffet & Free flow of beverages)

 Enjoy root beer, ginger beer, plain ol' beer and more, with a savoury buffet.

 Meet your peers, SIT faculty members, and top accountancy professionals.

 Plus a panel discussion on **Ensuring Your Future Readiness** in the accountancy profession.



She is in an excellent position to score and her opponents know it.



Alumni and students got to 'rock and roll' on the futsal pitch.

# Futsal Fun

## Alumni and students got together on a Saturday afternoon for some friendly dribbling

Thankfully, the rain stopped and about 50 alumni and current students took to the pitch at SIT@Dover to show off their futsal skills on 25 March 2017. From about 4 pm to 5:30 pm, the teams tried their best to outdo their opponents. Goals were celebrated with high fives. Near-misses were agonised over.

Mr Muhammad Naim bin Manan, who graduated last year with a degree from the Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Mechanical Design and Manufacturing Engineering programme (Newcastle University) came to

meet former classmates. He said, "Since the futsal session was organised by SIT, it made it easier for us to get together as we all knew about it in advance."

Like many, Mr Loh Chee Oon came to the Alumni Futsal Session to make new friends and to get some much-needed exercise. When asked if the 2016 graduate of Newcastle University's Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Mechanical Design and Manufacturing Engineering programme is looking forward to the next alumni event, he said, "Yes, because I'm sure it will be fun!"

## SIT Alumni Card Benefits

### A Better Florist

- 20% off total bill at [www.abetterflorist.com](http://www.abetterflorist.com)
- Key in the code 'ABFSIT20' at checkout
- Valid until 16 Aug 2018

### AngelFlorist Services

- 10% discount with a minimum purchase of \$80
- Key in the code 'SIT2016' at [www.angelflorist.com](http://www.angelflorist.com)
- Valid until 31 July 2017

### Bi Bing Korean Dessert Café

- 10% off total bill
- Valid until 1 June 2017

### Charles & Keith

- 10% off regular items
- Use code: **SIT10OFF2017** at checkout
- Participating outlets: All except Changi Airport Terminals 1, 2 & 3
- Valid until 31 December 2017

### City Music

- 15% off all regular priced items
- Valid until 9 October 2017

### Clubvivre

- \$50 off on all online bookings
- Key in the code 'CVSIT2016' at [www.clubvivre.com](http://www.clubvivre.com)
- Valid until 15 July 2017

### ContactLens.sg

- 15% off all contact lens with a minimum of \$40 spent
- Use code: **SingTech2017** at checkout
- Valid until 31 December 2017

### Contiki Holidays

- Additional 5% off to be used with standard Contiki brochure discounts
- Use code: UNISIT5
- Valid until 30 June 2017

### Crunchie Cookies

- \$2 off every \$30 spent for cookies
- Valid until 1 October 2018

### DOJO

- 50% off second burger set
- Valid until 31 December 2017

### Dr. Chen's Tea Products

- 10% off all Dr. Chen's products
- Free delivery to designated places for purchases above \$100
- Valid until 7 December 2017

### Eye Look Good

- 10% off total bill with no minimum spending at [www.eyelookgood.com](http://www.eyelookgood.com)
- Valid until 31 October 2017

### Floral Garage Singapore

- 10% off total bill at [www.floralgaragesg.com](http://www.floralgaragesg.com)
- Key in the code 'SIT010'

### Gifts Less Ordinary

- 5% off any purchase at <http://giftslessordinary.com>
- Valid until 1 June 2017

### Glacier Frozen Yogurt Café

- 10% off on all food products
- Valid until 1 June 2017

### HipVan

- 10% off bill at [www.hipvan.com](http://www.hipvan.com)
- Use code '10SIT' at checkout
- Valid until 1 June 2017

### Intune Music

- 10% off course fees for first 3 months
- Waiver of administrative fees
- Valid until 1 April 2018

### KF1 Karting Circuit

- \$22 (non-peak)/\$28 (peak) for 30kph
- \$28 (non-peak)/\$35 (peak) for 50 kph
- Book at <http://kf1karting.com/kf1-events/>
- Valid until 31 December 2017

### Kitchen Capers

- 10% off bakeware tools/packaging needs/books/DVDs
- 5% off food/ingredients

### KK Day

- 5% off KKDay travel experiences
- Use code: KKDAY SIT 5 prior to checkout
- Valid until 31 December 2017

### Mad About Comedy

- \$10 per entry for monthly events

- Location: 69 Circular Road
- Valid until 31 December 2017

### QQ Rice

- 10% off on Oat Rice, Rice Roll, Snack Rolls, Wholemeal Sandwich, Bento Box
- \$5 Value Set for Oat Rice/Rice Roll + Standard Drink
- \$6 Value Set for Bento Box + Standard Drink
- Valid until 31 December 2017

### Sharetea

- 10% off all regular priced items
- Valid until 15 June 2017

### ShopBack

- \$10 Benefit
- Up to 18% Cashback when shopping with selected partners
- Visit [www.shopback.sg](http://www.shopback.sg) for more details

### Sunlife Durian Puffs & Pastries

- 10% off total bill
- Participating outlets: Causeway Point Shopping Mall, 333 Coffee Shop (Blk 136 Bedok North Avenue 3)
- Valid until 31 July 2017

### The Braces Practice

- Discounted rates for various braces options
- Valid until 14 June 2017

### THHG

- 20% off across 3 THHG properties on all room types
- Key in the discount code "SITreats20"

### Totally Hot Stuff

- 10% off total bill
- Valid until 30 April 2018

### Xorex Press Pte Ltd

- \$8 for A2 poster with mounting
- \$16 for A1 poster with mounting
- Valid until 1 March 2018

\*Please present your SIT Alumni Card prior to making payment. Terms and conditions apply. Please refer to <http://sl.singaporetech.edu.sg/Welfare/SITreats.aspx> for detailed terms and conditions.

Presented by:  
Advancement & Alumni Division



## The central graphic features the year "2017" in large white numbers. The "0" is replaced by a silver, reflective disco ball. A black graduation cap is positioned to the left of the "2". The background is a vibrant red and purple gradient with abstract patterns of musical notes and speakers. Below the year, the text "New Alumni Welcome PARTY" is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, slanted upwards from left to right. The word "PARTY" is significantly larger than the other words.

Date: Early November 2017 | Time: 7pm to 11pm  
Location: T.B.C | Dresscode: Smart Casual  
Cost: \$18 incl. GST (Dinner & Free flow of beverages - soft drinks, beer, wine & spirits)

Contact Us:  
SIT Advancement & Alumni Division  
6592 8483 / 6592 2013 • Alumni@SingaporeTech.edu.sg