



‘4 Angels’ to the Rescue

A little help from SITizens births new bursary for Occupational Therapy students at SIT

📅 04 June 2021

Mr LU Kee Hong had been leading an active lifestyle since 2008, running marathons for around 10 years and cycling regularly. Yet, on 5 January 2021, he was surprised by strong leg cramps, just as he was cycling on the Park Connector Network from Marina Barrage to home at the end of his ride.

He laid on the ground to rest and as luck would have it, other cyclists with just the right skills were there. Occupational Therapy students Ms Yao Xingyi, Ms Lim Xue Jun, Ms Felicia Woo Ying Yi and Ms Anita George from the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) saw Mr LU and stopped to render aid. With some experience in treating athletes, they were able to help stretch both his legs to relieve the pain, while getting him hydrated and sheltered from the sun. Other passersby asked if he needed help too, and Mr LU recovered after 30 minutes. He managed to cycle back home safely.

The four Year-3 students initially declined his request to inform their University. “The young ladies told me they didn’t need any recognition,” said Mr LU. “They only agreed after I explained that news of good deeds makes a difference during this period filled with negative news like COVID-19.”

Mr LU wrote to SIT to praise these “four angels”. Later, he met up with them again to express his thanks once more. Then, after gaining a better understanding of occupational therapy, Mr LU and his wife Ms Chan Haw Ngee decided to make an endowed gift to SIT to establish the 4 Angels and LU Kee Hong Bursary. The Bursary will support Occupational Therapy students at SIT, particularly those who give back through community service.

“4 Angels is part of the bursary name as I think people would be keen to know the story behind the bursary,” Mr LU said. “This bursary didn’t come about because of me; the primary driver was the four students. They are the ones who created this opportunity for me to know more about occupational therapy and contribute to the field.”

Said Ms Lim, “All four of us have different reasons for entering the course, but we’re all glad that we could use our knowledge to help Mr LU in his time of need. This encounter was a reminder of the impact my course mates and I can one day make, to help and guide patients to recover and perform daily activities they would otherwise take for granted.”



Mr LU Kee Hong (centre) and his “Four Angels”: (from left) Ms Anita George, Ms Yao Xingyi, Ms Woo Ying Yi Felicia and Ms Lim Xue Jun.

Preparing SIT Graduates for Future Uncertainties

Prof Chua Kee Chaing, Deputy President (Academic) & Provost, SIT, shares how the university is reviewing its curriculum to better equip its graduates with lifelong learning and work-ready skills

📅 04 June 2021



“Spoon feeding in the long run teaches us nothing but the shape of the spoon,” English writer Edward M. Forster once remarked. Indeed, mechanically preparing students to regurgitate class content does not adequately prepare them for their future careers. To prepare its graduates for future uncertainties, the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) is set to infuse interdisciplinary learning into its programmes. This will help students to integrate adjacent knowledge and skillsets and work across disciplines in light of increasing industry disruptions.

Interdisciplinary learning



Much of university learning today still occurs in neatly portioned silos, with individual modules targeted to impart subject-specific knowledge to students. However, the workplace is very different. Solving complex problems more often than not calls for teams with diverse backgrounds to put their heads together and come up with an integrated solution.

Companies are also facing increasing competition and need innovations to move ahead. And innovations usually happen at the interfaces of disciplines.

SIT’s interdisciplinary approach responds to these trends. Starting from its new academic year in September 2021, the university will be rolling out curated curriculum revisions, introducing modules outside of students’ major disciplines to give them a fundamental understanding of adjacent disciplines which they could add to later when required. The ultimate aim: for “about 15 to 20 per cent of students’ learning to be interdisciplinary”, notes Prof Chua Kee Chaing, SIT’s Deputy President (Academic) and Provost.

The university is also looking to offer team projects, which could span multiple years and involve students from multiple disciplines, to address either industry or community problems that require holistic solutions. Such projects also allow students to collaborate across disciplines and in the process, pick up valuable transferable skills such as teamwork, leadership and effective communication.

“SIT’s applied learning pedagogy already aims to nurture active learners through authentic learning problem sets and environments. The changes we are making will help to enable them to pivot in the face of disruptions in their industries, which will happen in their lifetime of careers,” Prof Chua comments.

Depth is still important

Today, SIT is known to offer specialised degree programmes that prepare its graduates to be professionals in their chosen fields of study. The new interdisciplinary elements will build on this strength, without compromising on a “deep disciplinary core”, Prof Chua explains.

Students will read modules from adjacent disciplines that are likely to impact or are already transforming their chosen professions. For instance, the hospitality industry will increasingly be disrupted by digitalisation and automation. Hospitality Business students will need to have a fundamental knowledge of relevant ICT and Engineering subjects to be effective in their roles and to deepen their knowledge of these subjects later when required.

Micro-modules for life skills

SIT is also expanding its repertoire of online micro-modules. These micro-modules straddle a wide variety of topics, from degree-specific topics to workplace practices and life skills.

In general, the micro-modules aim to equip students with “useful practical and life skills for them to succeed in the workplace and in life”, Prof Chua said. Topics from career management and interpersonal skills to intellectual property and non-disclosure agreements provide students with important skills and knowledge as they go into industry attachments or launch their careers.

SIT plans to eventually make its library of online micro-modules available to its alumni as well. More than 20 micro-modules will be offered next year, with about five new modules added each subsequent year. Access to these will “make lifelong learning easier and more effective for SIT graduates,” comments Prof Chua.

In their working lifetime, graduates will need to navigate numerous uncertainties. By adding interdisciplinary and life-skills learning to its specialised degree programmes and welcoming graduates back for further upskilling and reskilling, SIT is preparing its graduates to meet these challenges head-on.

This feature first appeared on [GovInsider](#).

Launched: UK-Singapore Universities Alliance for Entrepreneurship and Innovation

16 UK and Singapore universities including SIT join together to foster sharing of knowledge, as well as facilitate collaboration in commercialisation and innovation

📅 04 June 2021



The launch of the UKSAEI is proudly supported by the SG-UK Partnership for the Future.

The UK-Singapore Universities Alliance for Entrepreneurship and Innovation (UKSAEI) – the first of its kind to accelerate collaborations in entrepreneurship and innovation between the two countries – was launched on 8 April 2021. It was witnessed by H.E. Kara Owen, British High Commissioner to Singapore, and H.E. Lim Thuan Kuan, Singapore High Commissioner to the UK.

UKSAEI brings together world-leading universities from the UK and Singapore (please see box) to share knowledge and facilitate collaboration in commercialisation and innovation. Enabling knowledge exchanges on technology transfer and commercialisation, cross-border licensing of technologies, and training the next generation of entrepreneurs, the Alliance will boost efforts in accelerating ideas to market and value capture, and deepen cooperation between innovation ecosystems in the UK and Singapore.

UKSAEI Members
Universities from the UK: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bath• Coventry• Cranfield• Dundee• Edinburgh• Glasgow• King's College London• Newcastle• Nottingham• Manchester• Strathclyde
Universities from Singapore: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nanyang Technological University• National University of Singapore• Singapore Institute of Technology• Singapore Management University• Singapore University of Technology and Design

UKSAEI will aim to:

- Facilitate, share knowledge and co-operate in the respective efforts of UK and Singapore universities in the areas of technology transfer and commercialisation through active engagement with government and industry.
- Develop cross-border licensing of technologies and human capacity building as well as to support and encourage innovation.
- Act as the catalyst for commercialisation activities.
- Actively facilitate and enable collaboration between universities, public research institutes, Government and industry players in the innovation ecosystem in Singapore and the UK to co-create value.

H.E. Kara Owen, British High Commissioner to Singapore said, “Both the UK and Singapore are strongly committed to investing in R&D, innovation and enterprise, and recognise the importance of collaborating internationally in these areas to support economic growth. Congratulations to everyone on the launch of this Alliance. Collaboration in knowledge and education is a top priority for the SG-UK Partnership for the Future, with science and innovation at its heart. The Alliance builds on the extensive links between UK and Singapore universities to make a practical contribution to the role innovation and enterprise development will play in post-COVID-19 recovery.”

H.E. Lim Thuan Kuan, Singapore High Commissioner to the UK said, “I am honoured to be able to witness the launch of the UK-Singapore Universities Alliance for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Since the signing of the Singapore-UK Innovation & Research Partnership Agreement in 2014, Singapore’s collaboration on research, innovation and enterprise with the UK has been growing from strength to strength. I welcome this ground-up initiative and the aim of the Alliance to facilitate commercialisation and innovation among our Institutes of Higher Learning. I wish them every success. Congratulations to all involved on the launch of the Alliance!”

The Alliance is supported by the British High Commission Singapore, the UK Science and Innovation Network in Singapore, and the UK Universities in Singapore Network.

Honing Skills Through Competition

Aerospace Engineering students participate in the Singapore Amazing Flying Machines Competition 2021 for the first time, and share takeaways from their experience

📅 04 June 2021



(From left to right) Year 1 Aerospace Engineering students Mr Abednego Tan, Mr Kenny Ng, Mr Calvin Choong, Mr Ng Xuan Fu, and Mr Wilson Yik posing with their drone.

A team of Year 1 Aerospace Engineering students designed, built and flew a drone that can play the game Tic-Tac-Toe at the Singapore Amazing Flying Machines Competition 2021 held in April 2021.

The five-man team brainstormed to develop a prototype from scratch – drawing parts using SolidWorks, a computer-aided designed (CAD) software that they had learnt in Trimester 1 of their programme, and using machineries such as a 3D printer, laser-cutting machine and a computer numerical control (CNC) router to make and assemble the parts for various test runs. It was a race against time as the team decided to join less than three months to the competition.

Their prototype went up against 12 other teams in their category, where they had to fly the drone through obstacles to drop individual payloads precisely onto a Tic-Tac-Toe grid, while facing off against an AI in the game.



While the team did not make it into the top three, the competition proved to be a great learning experience for them. Mr Wilson Yik's main takeaway was leadership skills. He had to adapt to his peers' working styles, in addition to new responsibilities including logistical and administrative matters. "There were many instances where I felt extremely overwhelmed with stresses from both studies and competition, and my teammates were there to support me through it all," he said. "Overall, this endeavour has improved my capabilities to lead, be it for academic projects, or for a future competition," he added.

Fellow teammate Mr Kenny Ng said, "We bumped into a ton of problems during the building phase, but we did not give up, and that is what led to the completion of the drone in the first place. So, in whatever you do, perseverance is the key to success."

Assoc Prof Gianmarco Radice, Programme Leader, Aerospace Engineering, shared the benefits of participating in competitions. "It allows the students to put into practice what they have been learning in the classroom, giving a practical contextualisation of their theoretical knowledge."

"I hope this will be the first of many competitions our students get involved in. The activities and competitions provide a way for potential employers to assess a student beyond academic grades and performance," he added. "They can showcase aspects of a student's personality, as well as passion and commitment in what the student is doing; it may also show evidence of leadership and impact."

Bringing the Galaxy Home

The sky is the limit as SITizens spend an evening letting their inner artist soar

📅 04 June 2021



SITizens beaming with pride as they share their masterpieces for the camera.

On 24 and 25 May 2021, SITizens unleashed their inner artist, expressing themselves on the canvas at the Galaxy Mountain Art Jamming Workshop led by Ms Joie Tan from Artify Studio. They each received a set of acrylic paints, paintbrushes, a canvas, a toothbrush and a guided image of the Galaxy Mountain.

They began by priming their canvas black. Ms Tan then demonstrated the wet and dry brush techniques to blend different shades of blue to create layers, imitating the night sky. The finishing touch was to create the textures of snow on the mountains, and this was achieved with white paint, using the dry brush technique.

Food and Human Nutrition graduate Mr Fong Ming Hong said, “Art jamming together with the alumni virtually does bring out another kind of experience. Also, I have realised that art jamming can be really therapeutic. It is a good way of spending time with your inner self as well as tapping into one’s creativity.”



Under the guidance of the instructor, participants were able to achieve a similar outcome for their artwork by the end of the session.