



SIT Student’s Space Illustrations Draw NASA’s Attention

When NASA sent Digital Communications & Integrated Media student Jarrod Chua a direct message on Instagram, that was the start of great things to come

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Mr Jarrod Chua is a Year 1 Digital Communications and Integrated Media (DCIM) student at SIT.

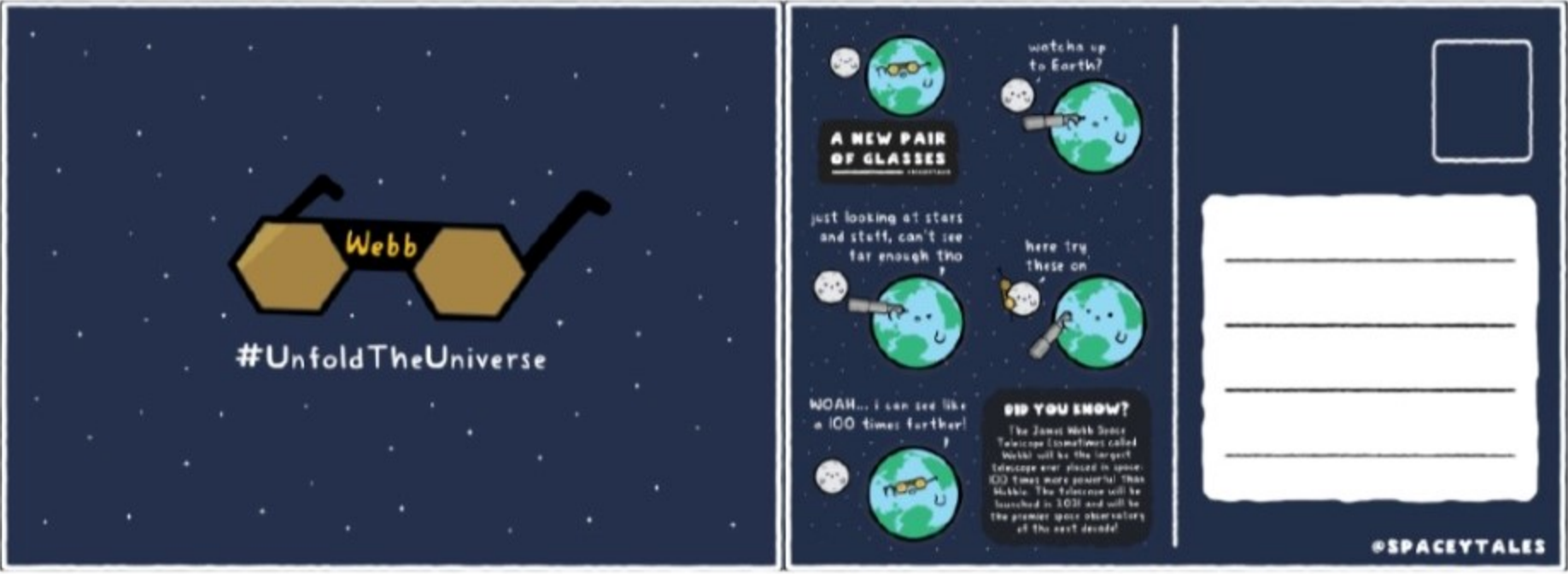
As a young boy, Mr Jarrod Chua was intrigued by space but did not know how to put his interest into practice because science was not his strong subject. He eventually decided to make use of graphic design skills that he picked up in Singapore Polytechnic. “I thought maybe I can create a comic about space. So I combined the skills I had with my interest and ‘spaceytales’ was born,” he said.



Screenshot of a post from Jarrod’s spaceytales Instagram account

The Instagram account ‘@spaceytales’ was created to display his space designs in June 2020. Cute, witty and informative, readers can browse a variety of posts to learn something new about space. The account attracted 1,000 followers within a month and 8,655 followers by end 2021.

He was later contacted by famed space institution National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), saying they were impressed with his work. Mr Chua’s design was used for the launch of the James Webb Space Telescope in December 2021, the largest and most expensive telescope ever placed in space, worth US\$9 billion (S\$12 billion).



Designed by Mr Chua, the SpaceyTales “#UnfoldTheUniverse” James Webb Space Telescope Postcard is [available for download](#) on NASA’s website.

He stresses that his collaboration with NASA wouldn’t have succeeded without SIT, saying that the university has helped him cultivate his skills in photography, storyboarding, animation and advertising, and given him the ability to grow spaceytales into a bigger art brand. “When I was learning the Digital Advertising Branding Campaigning module, we were at the execution phase of the project and my lecturer helped me to better understand the different media aspects involved in advertising,” he said.

Mr Chua now hopes to one day work for NASA in the public outreach or design department and share more knowledge about space. “While I can’t personally contribute much in the physics or astrophysics department of space, I hope to inspire the next generation to look up to the skies and work to become the future astronaut or physicist so that we can make progress within the space industry.”

Ms Angela Ng Shueh Ching, Senior Lecturer, DCIM, believes he has room to unlock his full potential. “Now is the time for Jarrod to build a portfolio that will attract the interest of international clients. Jarrod is imaginative and I see him pushing his creative boundaries. There is room for personal growth in terms of skill sets and exposures, and he has the potential to grow into a great graphic designer as long as he keeps harnessing his imagination,” said Ms Ng.

To read the full story, please go to SIT’s Digital Newsroom: <https://www.singaporetech.edu.sg/digitalnewsroom/sit-students-space-illustrations-draw-nasas-attention/>

The Ngee Ann Kongsi Formalises Intention to Donate S\$25m in Support of Library and Emergence Fund at SIT

The donation – the biggest that SIT has received to-date – has made possible The Ngee Ann Kongsi Library and The Ngee Ann Kongsi Emergence Fund at SIT

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An artist's impression of The Ngee Ann Kongsi Library in SIT's future Punggol campus.

The Ngee Ann Kongsi has formalised its intention to make a generous endowed gift of S\$25 million to the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) – S\$2.5 million will be disbursed annually over a duration of 10 consecutive years – in support of the development of its library, as well as the establishment of **The Ngee Ann Kongsi Emergence Fund** to nurture students through a range of learning opportunities.

In recognition of this generous gift – the biggest donation that SIT has received thus far – the university has named the library at its future campus in Punggol, as well as the library at its interim campus at SIT@Dover **The Ngee Ann Kongsi Library**.

The naming ceremony for The Ngee Ann Kongsi Library took place on 4 February 2022 at SIT@Dover, Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education, was the Guest of Honour at the event. Also attending were Mr James Teo Wee Wee, President of The Ngee Ann Kongsi, Mr Jamie Teo, Vice-President and Chairman of the Donation & Charity Sub-Committee of The Ngee Ann Kongsi, as well as Members of The Ngee Ann Kongsi's Committee of Management.

This leadership gift will support The Ngee Ann Kongsi Library in scaling up its efforts to build SIT students' capabilities in Information, Digital & Media Literacy which is most important in the information, data and technology world today. At SIT's future Punggol campus, the Library is designed to facilitate the interaction of people and ideas and meet students' diverse learning needs.

It will have technology-enabled collaborative learning spaces where students can get hands-on exposure to state-of-the-art digital equipment and technologies, and learn collaboratively to enhance their learning outside of class time. For example, the Library will house discussion pods for group consultations, rooms to rehearse and record presentations, digital hives equipped with higher-end computers with specialised software, as well as an immersive media studio.

It will also be a testbed to support projects that students can work on as part of their practical learning. The Ngee Ann Kongsi Library will continue to create purposeful programmes and projects to bring together students, faculty, industry partners and community members from all disciplines to learn together. It will develop larger scale programmes to enhance student competencies, such as a distinguished speaker series featuring industry practitioners and community leaders. Its location in Punggol will allow it to play a role in the building of strong communities, by enabling service learning for SIT students through their engagement with the Punggol community.

The Ngee Ann Kongsi Emergence Fund will support a variety of learning projects such as coaching for students to learn about leadership or other soft skills such as confidence, emotional intelligence, and public speaking. It will enable financially challenged students to access experiential learning opportunities, such as overseas exchange and internship programmes, and provide support for applied research projects with student participation.

Professor Chua Kee Chaing, President, SIT, said, "On behalf of SIT, I would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to The Ngee Ann Kongsi for its generous and wide-ranging support of SIT students through the years. Since 2017, the Kongsi has been supporting a scholarship, a gold medal, and an emergency relief fund for our students. Now, with this transformative gift, it will offer our students access to more exciting learning opportunities – through an emergence fund and a library for the future – to help them hone their capabilities for the knowledge economy. One of SIT's cherished aspirations is to nurture graduates who are passionate about serving the community, and we are very grateful for this gift."

Said Mr Jamie Teo, Vice-President and Chairman of the Donation & Charity Sub-Committee, The Ngee Ann Kongsi, "We are very honoured by the naming of The Ngee Ann Kongsi Library at SIT. The Ngee Ann Kongsi firmly believes in empowerment through education. We hope this gift will help widen the access to a range of learning opportunities for SIT students."

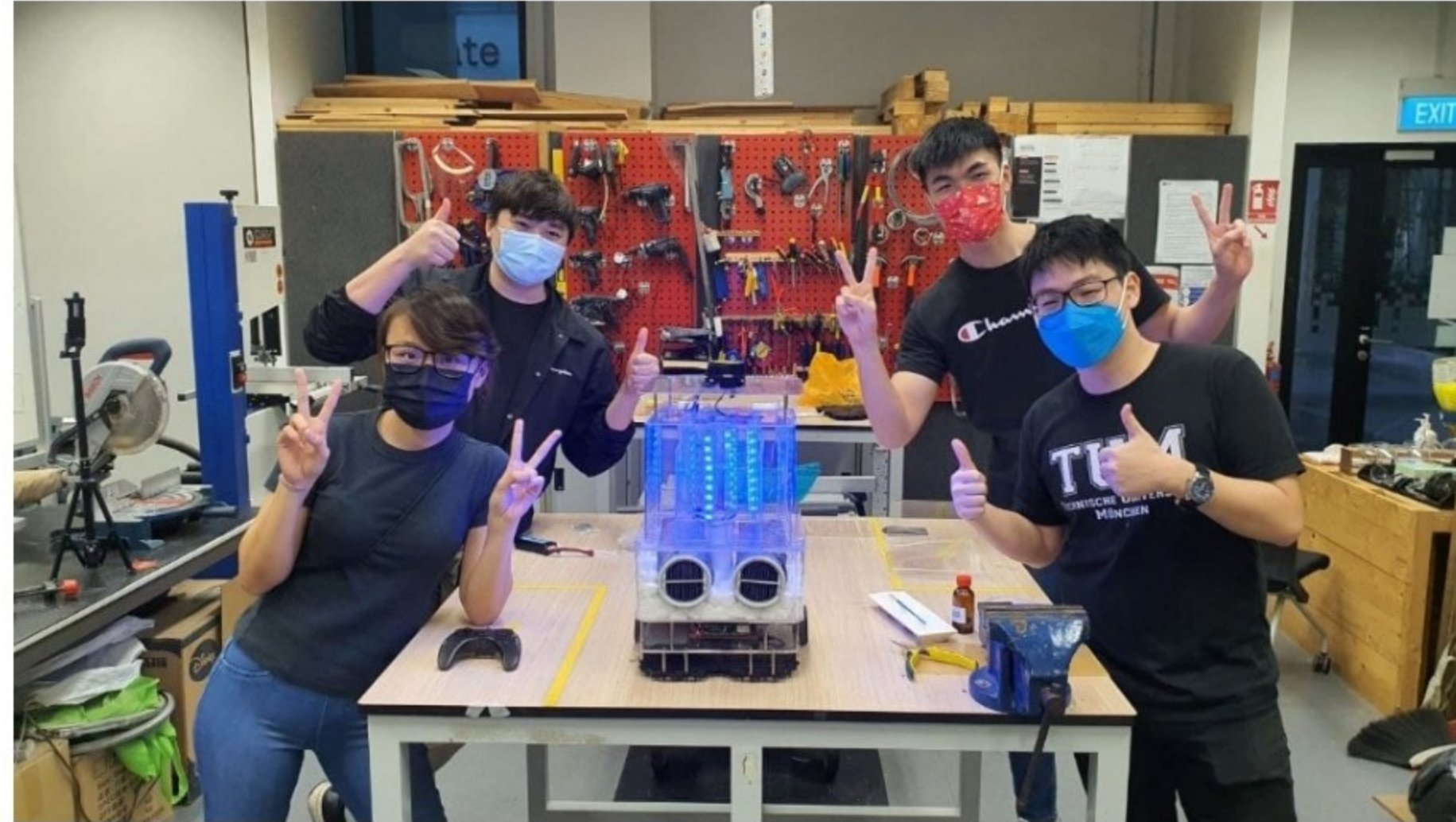


At the MOU signing were (From left): Mr James Teo, President, The Ngee Ann Kongsi; Mr Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Education; Mr Jamie Teo, Vice President & Chairman of the Donation and Charity Sub-Committee, The Ngee Ann Kongsi; Prof Chua Kee Chaing, President, SIT; Mr Ng Yat Chung, Chairman, SIT Board of Trustees, and Chief Executive Officer, Singapore Press Holdings; Prof Tan Thiam Soon, Institute Professor, SIT.

Winning through Hard Work, Tenacity, and Grit

SIT undergraduates snag Merit Award despite strong international competition at the Engineering Innovation Challenge 2021

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To commemorate National Engineers Day 2021, the Institute of Engineers of Singapore invited undergraduate students from local and overseas universities to take part in the Engineering Innovation Challenge (EIC) Competition. This exciting international competition enables the next generation of young engineers to showcase their latent talents.

Competitors had to use their skills and imaginations to create a prototype that demonstrated innovative applications of ionising radiation in industry, sustainability, healthcare, food and agriculture, or transportation. The competition period lasted from 13 July 2021 to 20 November 2021, after which teams had to present a prototype to a panel of judges through a Zoom interview.

SIT's team of undergraduates from the pioneer batch of Electronics and Data Engineering (EDE) course made it to the finals where they had to 'face-off' with 16 other teams.

The team consisting of Mr Lim Zhuo Rong James, Ms Tan Su Wei Suzy, Mr Lau Jia Wei, and Mr Goh Yi Li, wanted to address the challenges that the pandemic created. At the time, there were no robust measures implemented in the transport industry. Hence, the team members decided to develop a robot utilising ultraviolet-C (UV-C) radiation to clean the surfaces in public transport, namely buses and MRTs.

Said Mr Goh Yi Li, "Due to unpredictable social distancing measures, it was challenging for us to work around everyone's busy schedule and to book facilities. We also experienced delays when we were building the prototype. Most of us were quite new to the process, so we went through a series of trial and error. But in the end, the process made us more resilient!"

They snagged the Merit Award in the Universities category for their prototype.

To read the full story, please go to SIT's Digital Newsroom: <https://www.singaporetech.edu.sg/digitalnewsroom/winning-through-hard-work-tenacity-and-grit/>

A Sweet Appreciation for Prof Tan Thiam Soon

Close to 160 staff received their ‘golden tickets’ to attend the intimate affair in-person and express their heartfelt thanks to Prof Tan for dedicating nine years of service as SIT’s President

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A Memorable Trip Down SIT Lane

Prof Chua Kee Chaing, President of SIT, paid tribute to Prof Tan’s many achievements during his tenure as president. Chief among those was Prof Tan’s strategic push for SIT to be a university of applied learning. The strong industry partnerships forged are a testament of Prof Tan’s dedication to SIT’s mission of developing individuals who innovate with industry and impact society.



Prof Chua also shared that Prof Tan, now SIT’s Institute Professor, is a warm host, as well as a food and wine aficionado. Indeed, as evidenced during a special video montage, Prof Tan’s smiles were the cheeriest when the holy trinity of good food, better company and excellent conversation were present. The video – with contributions from divisions across the university – was a poignant trip down memory lane, highlighting key events during his tenure as President from 2013 to 2021.

A Measure of a Leader

Echoing Prof Chua’s sentiments were testimonies from faculty and staff, all of whom described a leader who would not hesitate to get down in the trenches with them.

Ms Loi Su Min, Assistant Director, Office of the Deputy President (Academic) & Provost, shared about some memorable quotes by Prof Tan that had touched her personally, as an average student who had graduated from a polytechnic during a time when opportunities were limited. “Prof Tan said, “SIT can make a difference by taking in average students and equipping them with skills and knowledge to become professionals in their choice of career,” she recounted.

“Prof Tan’s words gave me hope that if my child puts in the effort to pursue his dreams and passion, there is a university that is ready for him when he is ready. So thank you Prof Tan, for giving your time to SIT, and the hope that you have inspired in the average person, and parents to the average children.”

Ms Emily Woo, Lead Professional Officer, Professional Officers Division, shared how students from the Hospitality Business degree programme were in a state of uncertainty during the height of COVID-19. “Our students poured out their concerns, but Prof Tan patiently answered each question thoughtfully. That interaction showed me the care, commitment and consideration Prof Tan has not just for our students, but all the stakeholders involved,” Emily said.

Of the many conversations Ms Maryam Malek, Senior Manager, Advancement and Alumni had with Prof Tan, she walks away inspired and uplifted each time. “Over the years, I have had the privilege of listening to you speak with our donors. Anyone who hears you speak will understand why we do what we do at SIT and how much difference that makes to our students.”

Closing a Chapter, Not the Book



Just before senior management and staff gathered over a scrumptious bento lunch to close the event, Prof Tan received a few mementos from staff and management. Mr Gerry Wee, Director, Estates presented Prof Tan with a pencil sketch of our Punggol campus. The sketch was masterfully done by Ms Ong Hooi Ling, Assistant Director for campus development.

[Click here to watch the highlights!](#)

Ask Me Anything (AMA) with Prof Tan:



Prof Tan takes questions from the audience in an AMA, moderated by Mr Kelly Koh, Director, Admissions

Q: I have two questions. In the last 9 years or so, what was the one thing that gave you the greatest pleasure?
A: In all honesty, it is seeing the people here who are committed to SIT’s mission. They are willing to go through extraordinary lengths to achieve our objectives, even when operating under constraints. The people here have made all the difference.

Q: Prof Chua earlier described you as a strategist, a warm person and a foodie. I would add a fourth, as one who is grounded in the community. Given all these qualities, would you consider running as Singapore’s President in 2023?
A: Wow. It is the most unique question I have received in the last nine years! (A member of the audience quipped, “Say yes first!”) That is a different ballgame. Thank you for thinking so highly of me, but I am not sure I am the right person for that job.

Q: What was your most memorable meal during your tenure as SIT’s President?
A: I had a Chinese New Year tradition where I’d invite my senior management team and their spouses to dinner. Many of those meals were highlights. It is not just about the food, but the company enjoying themselves too. I believe that when you have an environment where everyone can work together as a family, you come to know each other outside of work too.

Q: What do you do in your free time?
A: I love walking and I walk with my family a lot, especially to discover new good food and nature. I would often walk until I reach a place that looks interesting, then I would take a Grab back to my car. This is how I discover interesting food places from Tanglin Halt to Tampines.
One thing I am looking forward to is getting back to my professional work and providing solutions to technical problems. I enjoy knowing that my suggestions work for the engineers and the issue is resolved.

Q: Would you describe yourself as a competitive person?
A: Yes, I am competitive for my students. I am not concerned about the backgrounds of where the students came from. But when the ‘product’ goes out, I want companies to say they are as good as or better than what they can get from other places. On a personal level though, age has mellowed me.

The Promise of VR for Patient Rehabilitation

The university's Virtual Reality (VR) Mobility Training project aims to explore ways in which VR can help patients with mobility constraints relive meaningful daily experiences

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The SIT team spearheading the development of the Virtual Reality Mobility Training include (from left) Assoc Prof Benjamin Soon, Health and Social Sciences; alumnus Mr Lim Zhiliang, Mechanical Engineering; and Assoc Prof Alfred Tan, Engineering.

A forward-thinking project by Assoc Prof Benjamin Soon, Health and Social Sciences, SIT, aims to combine VR technology and an omni-directional platform to improve rehabilitation efforts for patients with mobility constraints, by allowing them to relive meaningful daily experiences, such as grocery shopping in a supermarket, in a safe and pleasant virtual space.

The omni-directional VR treadmill, also known as the Kat Walk system, provides a platform for the user to walk on while waist-strapped for safety. In addition, users can rely on handlebars for support instead of roaming freely around in a room.

Different from traditional rehabilitation methods where patients are expected to walk or run on a conventional treadmill, the Virtual Reality Mobility Training (VRMT)'s treadmill platform allows the user to decide whether to walk, run, sit or even squat.

The VR element allows users to immerse themselves in a virtual environment familiar to them. The system comes with 360° pre-recorded videos of real-life surroundings that simulate a realistic environment. Using the VR goggles, users will be able to see scenes of a recorded environment that move, according to their walking pace.

"The system will help train the muscles used in walking and standing balance. The VR element may even get users to go out and motivate them to use the system rather than lie in bed," said Assoc Prof Soon.

The Virtual Reality Mobility Training (VRMT) is a collaboration between faculty and students from SIT's Physiotherapy and Mechanical Engineering programmes; the Infocomm Technology cluster; the university's Professional Officers; and physiotherapists from Ng Teng Fong General Hospital (NTFGH).

To date, the VRMT prototype has been tested on a total of 35 individuals, of whom eight are professional physiotherapists.

To read the full story, please go to SIT's Digital Newsroom: <https://www.singaporetech.edu.sg/digitalnewsroom/the-promise-of-vr-for-patient-rehabilitation/>

Running Smoothly, from One Cycle to the Next

As the SIT Alumni Mentoring Programme's Cycle 3 participants enjoy one of their last networking sessions over drinks, the mentors and mentees of Cycle 4 get ready for a new start at a Meet-&-Brief session

04 March 2022



Despite limitations due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the SIT Alumni Mentoring Programme has been proceeding smoothly. Cycle 3 saw a total of 63 mentors and 82 mentees joining the programme, with 34 mentors and 20 mentees returning from previous cycles.

Meeting Up with Cycle 3

On Saturday, 19 February 2022, mentors and mentees from Cycle 3 of the programme gathered at Projector X to catch up and share their mentoring experience with their peers before the current cycle concludes.

First-time mentor Mr Jenson Seah, who graduated from the Hospitality Business programme, felt the programme has given him an opportunity to stay connected with SIT and concurrently exchange knowledge and experience with his mentee. “We instantly clicked and I was able to provide academic and career guidance, and give her assurance and encouragement during her internship programme,” he shared. “I also enjoyed the meetup as it allowed us to have interaction in person.”



Mentors and mentees spending a leisurely afternoon together with some valuable face-to-face conversation

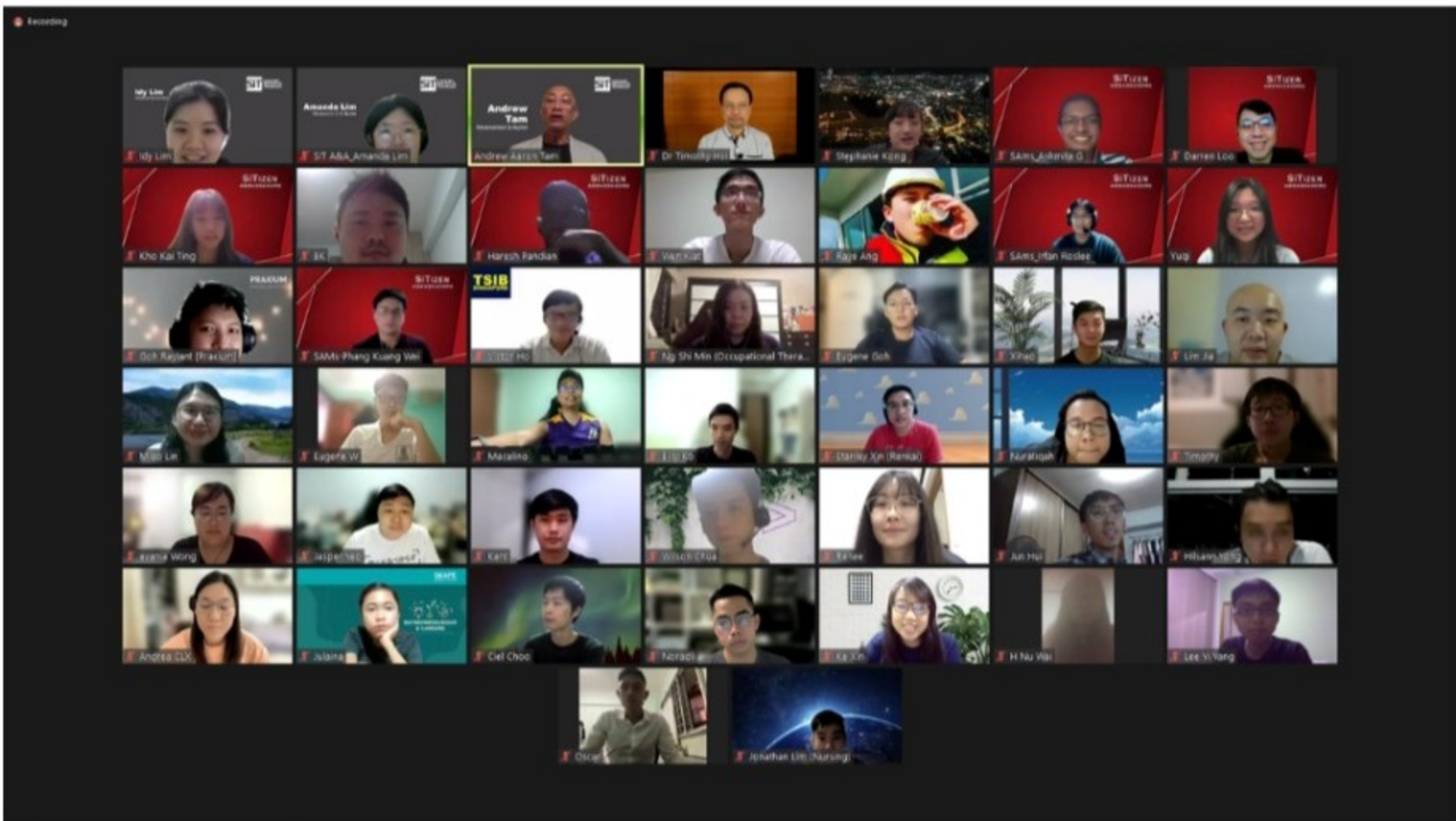
Kicking off Cycle 4

As Cycle 3 wraps up, the programme is getting into the swing of Cycle 4. A total of 40 alumni and 37 students participated in a Meet-&-Brief session on 21 and 23 February 2022, which provided them with a guide on what to expect in their upcoming roles as mentors and mentees.

The alumni and students will next be matched into their respective mentor-mentee pairs when Cycle 4 officially commences in March 2022.



Mentors and mentees participated in group discussions at the meet-&-brief session



Alumni Mentors are all ready for Cycle 4!