Our Hearts Take Them Further

In the first 30 days since the Faculty & Staff Giving Roadshow was held on 21 July 2022, 57 SIT employees have together made possible 35 SIT Bursaries for the new Academic Year, as well as supported the Student Relief Fund (SIT (COVID-19)) and Adventurist.

05 September 2022

On 23 July 2022, close to 200 SIT employees turned up at the Academic Plaza at SIT@Dover to support the Faculty & Staff Giving Roadshow. This was the first time that SIT faculty and staff were able to gather for the Roadshow since the pandemic restrictions were lifted. It was also an opportunity for them to meet with SIT Bursary recipients. Prof Chua Kee Chiang, President, SIT, was also present to show his support and speak to the recipients.

Delicious local treats like laksa, roti prata and ice cream sandwiches were served during the cozy lunchtime event and staff also delighted in playing childhood games like snakes and ladders, five stones and shophet.

SIT colleagues enjoying the beverages and the local delights during the event.

Final year Computer Science and Game Design student Chiang Jun Ming, who received the SIT Bursary in FY 2021/22, says the Bursary enabled him to pay for Internet access when he needed to study or work from home, cover everyday expenses such as food and stationery, and “study with no worries.” He adds, “I hope to be able to get a job I enjoy after graduation and repay my parents for supporting me.”

In the first 30 days since the roadshow, 57 colleagues had made gifts to support SIT students through the SIT Bursary, Student Relief Fund (SIT COVID-19) and Adventurist, a holistic student development platform aimed at helping students learn better. Thanks to support from faculty and staff, SIT will be able to award 50 SIT Bursaries (totalling $3,000 each) thus far to financially disadvantaged students in this Academic Year 2022/23 – and counting – while also providing support for the other two funds. A round-the-year-effort kicked off by the Roadshow, the Faculty & Staff Giving Initiative is ongoing.

SIT faculty and staff have been supporting the Faculty & Staff Giving Initiative at SIT since 2013.
Applied Materials Teams Up with SIT to Support a Future-Ready Semiconductor Workforce

The two will work together in continuing education and training (CET) and local ecosystem capability building.

05 September 2022

Applied Materials South East Asia Pte. Ltd. has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) to develop and implement continuing education and training (CET) programmes for Applied Materials employees. The initiative underscores the importance of building and maintaining a future-ready talent pipeline in Singapore to serve the global semiconductor industry.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Mr Brian Tan, Vice President, Applied Global Services and Regional President, Applied Materials Southeast Asia and Professor Chua Kee Chaing, SIT President, in the presence of Mr Tan Lee Sar, Managing Director, HR Business Regional Partner Lead, Applied Materials Southeast Asia and Mr Bernard see, Vice President (Industry & Community), SIT. SIT and Applied Materials will establish continuing education and training (CET) programmes for Applied Materials employees. (Photo courtesy of Applied Materials South East Asia)

Applied Materials and SIT will offer customised learning programmes related to Industry 4.0 concepts, such as artificial intelligence, data engineering, the Internet of Things, machine learning and smart factory. The curriculum and duration of the programmes are customised to the needs of Applied Materials employees and include both short and long courses as well as stackable post-graduate modules, delivered by SIT academic staff.

"The semiconductor industry requires constant innovation, and investing in the development of our workforce is critical to maintaining technology leadership," said Mr Brian Tan, Vice President, Applied Global Services and Regional President, Applied Materials South East Asia. "We are excited to work with SIT and provide our employees with advanced knowledge and skillsets to keep inventing the future, in alignment with Singapore’s Manufacturing 2030 vision of becoming a global business, innovation and talent hub for advanced manufacturing."

"Our collaboration with Applied Materials offers valuable opportunities for the company’s employees to equip themselves with knowledge of in-demand skills in areas such as artificial intelligence and the Internet of Things. The programmes will tap on SIT’s strengths in applied learning and research, and will contribute towards capability building in the local semiconductor industry and across its ecosystem. SIT is delighted to support Applied Materials in this important workforce initiative," said Professor Chua Kee Chaing, SIT President.

Key representatives from Applied Materials South East Asia and Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). (Photo courtesy of Applied Materials South East Asia)

With a workforce of more than 2,500, Applied Materials South East Asia is the largest employer in Singapore’s semiconductor equipment industry. Applied Materials established its presence in Singapore more than 30 years ago with a small sales and service office that has grown to become a major manufacturing and operations hub supporting nearly all of the company’s business units and corporate functions. In 2019, Applied Materials received the Distinguished Partner in Progress Award from the Government of Singapore in recognition of the company’s outstanding contributions and commitment to the country.

Please go to SIT’s Digital Newsroom for the full press release.
SIT Partners SP Group to Boost Engineering Talent and Advance Singapore’s Energy Sector

MOU signed at Energy Innovation 2022 seeks to upskill more engineering talent with strategic three-year collaboration to supercharge expertise in the energy sector

05 September 2022

The Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) and SP Group (SP) are collaborating to enhance the capabilities of the power engineering workforce in Singapore. Through a three-year endeavour, SIT and SP will focus on upskilling and reskilling of SP’s employees. Both organisations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 17 July 2022 at Energy Innovation 2022, organised by the Energy Market Authority (EMA).

As Singapore advances towards a sustainable energy future and its Smart Nation ambitions, it is crucial that local talents gain knowledge and skills to adapt and thrive in the evolving energy sector. To grow engineering talent pipeline and skillset for the energy sector, the SIT-SP partnership seeks to provide continuous skills upgrading pathways for SP employees through a full-time undergraduate degree in Electrical Power Engineering. Students will benefit from the Integrated Work Study Programme (IWSP) and Capstone Projects, which put theory into practice in real work situations. SIT and SP will provide students with workplace learning opportunities and innovation projects that address emerging needs of the energy industry.

Said Professor Chua Kee Ching, SIT President: “This MOU underscores SIT’s shared commitment with SP to upskill and reskill different generations of power engineers, to cater to new industry demands. As the demands of tomorrow continue to evolve, it calls for closer academia-industry partnerships with industry leaders like SP, and a work-study approach to better train work-ready professionals. As SIT continues to expand its footprint across industries to address these ever-changing needs, we welcome like-minded partners to join our efforts to upskill, reskill, and build the workforce of tomorrow.”

Group Chief Executive Officer of SP Group, Stanley Huang, said, “We are pleased to launch the work-study programme with SIT, to help our workers upskill and adapt to the changing energy landscape. It enables them to pursue an engineering degree course full-time, while continuing in work roles during the course of their study and applying the knowledge they gain. This is part of SP Group’s commitment to continuously develop our workforce for the needs of our industry and support our workers in contributing effectively.”

Mr Ngiam Shih Chun, Chief Executive of EMA, said, “As Singapore advances our energy transition towards a more sustainable future, we will need to ensure that workers are equipped with relevant skillsets to take on new opportunities. EMA is supportive of such academia-industry partnerships in building up Singapore’s manpower capabilities for the energy sector. We are heartened to note SP Group’s strong emphasis and commitment on upskilling its employees. We hope this collaboration between SIT and SP Group will be the first of many such partnerships to come, to build a future-ready workforce that will propel Singapore’s energy sector forward.”

As a start, a pioneer cohort of SP employees will undertake a full-time three-year Electrical Power Engineering (EPE) undergraduate degree programme at SIT, starting in September 2022. The degree programme, jointly offered by SIT and Newcastle University, is specially customised to provide students with a holistic approach to learning while experiencing hands-on industry-focused activities.

As part of this pioneer cohort in September 2022, five SP employees will be on-boarded as full-time students, where they will get to apply existing practices from the workplace, and hone their skills through actual work exposure made possible by SIT’s unique applied learning pedagogy. SP will be sponsoring their studies as they pursue their career aspirations and grow their engineering capabilities.

This MOU is an extension of the ongoing partnership between SIT and SP over the past few years – which currently includes SP’s investment in Singapore’s first experimental, multi-energy microgrid at SIT’s future campus in the Punggol Digital District, signaling a long-term commitment of both organisations’ collective efforts to advance the energy sector in Singapore.

For the full press release, please go to SIT’s Digital Newsroom.
Educators Who Inspire a Growth Mindset

12 outstanding faculty members who have gone above and beyond their roles as educators have received the annual SIT Teaching Excellence Award for AY2020/21. In the first of two features, 4 of them share how they have inspired SITizens to learn and grow.

The annual SIT Teaching Excellence Award (TEA) serves to value the importance of teaching and to recognise exceptional faculty members for their significant contributions. This year SIT congratulated 12 recipients of the SIT TEA for AY2020/21. These educators were nominated by SITizens and selected based on their excellence in teaching, dedication to student development, as well as adoption of innovation in their teaching and assessment methods.

One of the best forms of teaching is not to merely equip students with the necessary skills, but to cultivate in them a mindset for continuous growth and lifelong learning. The first of two features shines the spotlight on TEA recipients who have instilled in their students a growth mindset – to constantly challenge themselves not only to become better professionals in their field, but better people. Read on for the insights from Associate Professor Steven Tay (Engineering), Associate Professor Karina Dancza (Health & Social Sciences), Assistant Professor Teh L Ling (Health & Social Sciences) and Senior Professional Officer Joshua Chan.

For the full story, please go to SIT’s Digital Newsroom.
A Bundle of Colours

ST Alumni learn about natural dyeing and how to create unique and beautiful botanical patterns on silk scarves at this Alumni Leisure Network workshop

05 September 2022

ST Alumni gathered at traditional fibre studio Mithakum on Saturday, 31 August 2022 to try natural dyeing at the Bundle Dyeing Silk Scarf Workshop, led by Ms Autumn Brown. As the name suggests, natural dyeing uses dyes extracted from natural resources such as plants, herbs and even insects, resulting in beautiful colours.

Each of the 26 participants were given a silk scarf to dye in their own unique style. Ms Brown demonstrated how they could create speckled effects and other patterns, using the selection of dried flowers and various extracts.

Participants used plant and plant extracts including blue pea flowers, mangosteen and corn meal to create unique patterns and effects on their scarves, which would subsequently be boiled up and placed into aether for dyeing.

Physiotherapy alumna Ms Lee Han Nam had previously heard of scarf dyeing, but found the experience to be different from what she imagined (in a good way). “The workshop was interactive and fun! It allowed us to get our hands dirty and unleash our creative juices for the entire dying process.”

Ms Nor Syameema Binte Sazali, a Computing Science alumna, said, “I have tried normal painting but not dyeing using natural materials. Love how simple but unique the whole process was.”
ACEpiration: Inspiring Future Entrepreneurs

What kind of resources are available for aspiring entrepreneurs? SFITizens hear about that and more at this informational webinar.

05 September 2022

On Thursday, 4 August 2022, 31 SFIT alumni gathered online to attend ACEpiration – an Entrepreneurship Journey, a webinar organised by the SFIT Alumni Career Network. The participants were introduced to Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE), which is a key trade association representing the interests of startups in Singapore.

Led by Mr Alvin Chiang, Manager, ACE, participants learned about the importance of startups and their contribution to Singapore’s economy and growth as a regional innovation and entrepreneurship hub. The webinar also featured guest speaker Mr Foo Tuan Tong, co-founder of GelMetrics Pte Ltd, who shared his personal entrepreneurship journey and how he started his current business.

Mr Alvin Chiang shared about the work that ACE does and the resources and help it offers to aspiring entrepreneurs.

Besides learning about the resources available to them as aspiring entrepreneurs, the participants also had the chance to ask further questions in a Q&A session.

Computing Science alumnus Mr Soh Boon Khoang hoped to gain skills as an entrepreneur through the webinar. “My takeaways are that you have to believe in yourself and build a good capitol,” he said. “It was also interesting to hear from the guest speaker about his company and journey.”

Participants asked questions such as how to have confidence in business ideas and gain connections.
SIT Hospitality Business graduate Daniel Koh (Class of 2021) tells how he clinched the team bronze medal with his teammates at the 2022 SEA Games.

At the 31st Southeast Asian (SEA) Games this year, SIT’s very own Hospitality Business graduate and kayaker Daniel Koh, together with his teammates, secured Singapore a team bronze medal in the men's K4 500m heats. Having been relentless in his pursuit to seal a spot at the SEA Games since joining the national team in 2019, Daniel made numerous sacrifices before this victory, not to mention little sleep, long days, and lengthy commutes. Thrice a week, he would have to travel to morning trainings at Kallang before heading off for class at SIT@RP Building in Woodlands. His tight schedule and physical trainings saw his assignments and projects pile up incrementally, leading to shorter nights and much less sleep. “It was just really tough,” he spoke of those moments. “I cried myself to sleep on most weekdays and prayed (that) the next day would be better.”

Nonetheless, the single-minded determination of donning the Singapore flag on his chest kept him going. “I prayed a lot, ate a lot and slept a lot,” he recalled. “I’d sleep in between lessons or take naps on the trains and buses.” While sleep healed him physically, support from the university helped tremendously. His schoolmates would often check in on him, from asking about training to offering cups of coffee. They even arranged project meetings around his hectic schedule. “My SIT professors and friends were very supportive of me in chasing this dream,” and “credit goes to them for this success,” replied Daniel. For the Hospitality Business student who graduated last October, clinching that medal came as a moment of vindication after three strenuous years of juggling studies and sport. A goal that had been almost a decade in the making, winning at the SEA Games was “a dream come true” for him. And while he has secured his first SEA games medal in his debut, his competitive spirit still lives on.

Since graduation, Daniel has changed his mind from being a hotelier to a full-time athlete and part-time canoe coach. Citing “the competitiveness and adrenaline” from the events as a driving source of motivation, Daniel now feels ready to “do a lot more”. With his sights now set on bigger tournaments, such as the World Championships held in August, Daniel continues to rely on an invaluable trait he took away from his time spent at SIT and training – persistence.

For the full story, please visit SIT’s Digital Newsroom.
Go With the Liquid Flow

SITizens try their hand at an alternative form of acrylic pouring, creating unique decorations on a vinyl toy keychain.

05 September 2022

SIT Borneo stretch their creativity, combining a variety of colours to create unique patterns. After they’re done pouring, the keychains are air-dried before collection.

SIT Alumnus gathered in the cozy Eklater Du Reve studio for the Keychain Liquid Flow Workshop on Thursday, 21 July 2022. The unique art jamming session showed participants how to use paint and the acrylic pour technique to decorate a cute vinyl toy bear keychain.

The process was simple—choose your preferred colours, combine them in a scoop, and start pouring! While each person was given an 10cm tall bear figure to work with, participants also had the option to upgrade to larger sized figures ranging from 15cm to 23cm tall.

Bigger is better! Participants show off their personal style with the 15cm tall bear figures.

Food and Human Nutrition alumnus Ms Mariska Gomez liked how the paint pouring could produce unexpected results. “I didn’t think too much when I selected the colours, as the artwork could turn out different from what I envisioned,” she said. “Thankfully it turned out pretty nice, as well as all the other bears I saw during the workshop.”

Feeling good after a fun and relaxing art jamming session.
Fore! SITizens practise their golf swing on an indoor golf simulation course, a session organised by the SIT Alumni Sports Network.

05 September 2022

Just before the second half of 2022 kicked in, our alumni got themselves re-energised and warmed up on the 7th July by swinging some golf clubs at The Par Club! Out of the 40 attendees, a majority of them had their very first experience at this unique indoor golf club at Marina Square.

Before they began trying out putting greens against the virtual backdrops, the attendees had a chance to try out the driving range first before moving on to the golf course. Of course, a target sport involves more than just mere good hand-eye coordination. While the task might seem daunting, most of them eventually got into the groove, and soon found themselves swinging like pros!

Alumni practising their golf swings at the virtual stations.

Ms. Jolie Ho Pui Yi, a Marine Engineering alumna, found the overall experience "well organised and fun", and found herself making new friends along the way!

Beyond this event, there are plans to set up more Alumni groups based on interests, such as ultimate frisbee, circuit training and watch appreciation, so click here for more information!
Sands Hospitality Scholarship Comes to SIT

14 Hospitality Business students to be supported through Scholarship

05 September 2022

Talented students pursuing a full-time degree in the Singapore Institute of Technology’s Hospitality Business degree programme can look forward to the Sands Hospitality Scholarship. Valued at $30,000 each, the prestigious scholarship will be awarded over two years of study (for those who continue to meet the selection criteria) to 14 recipients with outstanding academic results and have made significant contributions to SIT or the larger community.

The Sands Hospitality Scholarship at SIT is part of the US$1-million Sands Hospitality Scholarship programme unveiled by Las Vegas Sands and Marina Bay Sands at a signing ceremony held on 29 August 2022 that was witnessed by Minister of State for Trade & Industry Alvin Tan.

The Scholarship programme is a bond-free initiative that will benefit more than 100 Singaporean students pursuing hospitality or tourism-related courses of study at six Institutes of Higher Learning (IHLs). Apart from SIT, the other IHLs are: Nanyang Polytechnic, Ngee Ann Polytechnic, Republic Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic, and Temasek Polytechnic.

Said Professor Chua Kee Chiang, President of Singapore Institute of Technology, “We thank Marina Bay Sands for making the Sands Hospitality Scholarship possible at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). This prestigious Scholarship, tenable for the recipients’ full course of studies, will enable SIT to nurture outstanding Hospitality Business talents. SIT’s Bachelor of Hospitality Business with Honours degree is the first and only Hospitality programme offered by an Autonomous University in Singapore. I am confident that the Sands Hospitality Scholarship will create a multiplier effect in our efforts to nurture passionate, competitive and forward-thinking professionals for the hospitality sector of the future.”

Mr Ron Reese, Senior Vice President of Global Communications and Corporate Affairs, Las Vegas Sands, said, “The hospitality industry’s greatest asset lies in its people, and developing hospitality talent is especially important as the sector undergoes rapid transformation. Singapore’s resilient tourism industry is expected to grow robustly with international travel resuming. By investing in education to help youth establish careers in hospitality, we are supporting the future of our industry and Singapore’s continued leadership as a top global travel destination.”

Said Mr Paul Town, Marina Bay Sands’ Chief Operating Officer, “As one of Singapore’s largest hospitality players, Marina Bay Sands has had the privilege of creating thousands of jobs and developing careers for our Team Members in diverse roles. We are always on the lookout for the brightest talents to join us in our next stage of growth, and the scholarship is intended to encourage more to chart their paths in this burgeoning industry.”
ENGIE and SIT Announce Partnership to Advance District Cooling Across Southeast Asia

Symbiotic collaboration will enable applied research, authentic learning spaces for SIT students, co-development of curriculum content, and knowledge sharing sessions for industry and community.

05 September 2022

ENGIE, a global leader in low carbon energy and services, and the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), Singapore’s first university of applied learning, have inked a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to jointly develop a district cooling centre of excellence in Singapore.

The ENGIE-SIT District Cooling Centre of Excellence will catalyse innovation in cooling solutions across APAC. Leveraging ENGIE’s local and global expertise in cooling, extensive experience in decarbonization, energy and climate change projects, and SIT’s applied learning and research approach, this initiative is aimed at cultivating a district cooling ecosystem in Singapore and the broader region. To this end, the partnership will include joint development and funding of applied research, as well as knowledge exchange projects between ENGIE South East Asia, ENGIE Lab Singapore and SIT. It will also cover local work attachment opportunities and commercial DCS development opportunities for SIT students with these ENGIE entities, through SIT’s Integrated Work Study Programme (IWSP).

“Well designed, District Cooling solutions have the capacity to save 30% or more energy consumption to cool Southeast Asia’s cities. Our relationship with SIT will not only allow us to train the future generation of engineers on this cornerstone technology for the region’s energy transition but also to perfect it through a joint applied R&D effort. ENGIE is proud to embark on this strategic partnership with SIT,” commented Thomas Baudlot, ENGIE CEO Energy Solutions and Country Head for Southeast Asia.

“WE are thrilled to be collaborating with Singapore’s premier university of applied learning, SIT, to create a test-bed for the development and pilot deployment of advanced district cooling solutions,” shared Loic Villlocel, Director of ENGIE Lab Singapore.

“SIT’s new campus will be a living lab for applied learning and research in the built environment and energy resilience. Working with leading energy solutions provider ENGIE will help us advance innovation in decarbonization and sustainability, and achieve our vision of constructing a green campus in Punggol. In addition to co-developing integrated and innovative solutions, the close, symbiotic partnership we enjoy with ENGIE will enable us to build a strong talent pipeline of work-ready graduates who will lead green transformations in industry and communities,” remarked SIT President, Prof Chua Kee Chiang.

Designed and built by ENGIE, SIT's DCS for its upcoming campus in Punggol Digital District is well underway. Once completed, the DCS facility will provide a teaching and training ground for students to learn about DCS and aspects of maintenance and energy efficiency in real-world conditions. The DCS will extend the Punggol campus' learning environment, complementing the collaborative research in cold thermal storage, air-side cooling distribution systems and cooling load management to be carried out there. As a result, SIT students will pick up skillsets in data-driven optimization, DCS decarbonization and predictive maintenance learning from the new campus' infrastructure. SIT's Punggol campus is expected to start operations in 2024 and will consolidate the university's distributed campuses into one fit-for-purpose yet porous campus that will foster interaction between academia, industry and the community.

For the full press release, please go to SIT's Digital Newsroom.
The Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Rotary Engineering to collaborate and explore joint efforts and projects in education, workplace learning and innovation for the chemicals and energy industry. The MOU was signed at Rotary’s 50th Anniversary Gala dinner on 22 July 2022, graced by Guest of Honour, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Senior Minister & Coordinating Minister for Social Policies. Rotary is a homegrown leading Engineering, Procurement, Construction (EPC) and maintenance service provider.

The collaboration will see both parties coming together to co-create training programmes to support Rotary’s staff with relevant workplace learning and upskilling opportunities, including specialised training programmes to support the EPC sector. One of the completed projects under this collaboration is the Rotary Management Programme (RMP), where Rotary project engineers undertake systemic training carried out in modules across the span of 16 months. The programme is curated by the National Centre of Excellence for Workplace Learning at SIT (NACE@SIT) and SIT’s Professional Officers Division to support the career development of the engineers. A team of SIT academic staff and in-house Rotary specialists co-designed and delivered the RMP, tapping on industrial best practices and integrating it with practical case studies and multi-disciplinary project work of Rotary. Over 140 Rotary engineers attended the programme since it began in 2020.

Under the MOU, both parties aim to advance students’ skills in the chemicals and energy sector by providing SIT students with internship and learning opportunities through SIT’s Integrated Work Study Programme (IWSP) and Capstone Projects. SIT students and faculty members will also participate in relevant innovation projects and deliver integrated solutions to address business challenges.

At the Gala dinner, Mr William Chia, Executive Director of Rotary, presented donations to support various initiatives that benefitted the poor and underprivileged. This includes the Rotary Engineering Bursary which will benefit SIT undergraduates. Four bursaries, valued at $5,000 each, will be awarded annually in Academic Years 2023/24 and 2024/25.

For the full press release, please visit SIT’s Digital Newsroom.