Lim Doa Hin Scholarship to Nurture Budding Leaders at SIT

The Estate of Lim Doa Hin widens its support for SIT undergraduates with the new endowed Scholarship

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In 2017, The Estate of Lim Doa Hin made possible the Lim Doa Hin Study Grant at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) for talented undergraduates in financial need. Last year, The Estate has widened its support for SIT students by making possible an endowed Scholarship for Singaporean undergraduates pursuing any programme at SIT.

The Scholarship will nurture academically talented students who have demonstrated involvement in meaningful community projects and demonstrated leadership qualities. At a steady state, six Scholarships (each valued at $10,000) will be awarded annually and in perpetuity.

Said Mr Quek Mong Hua, Executor, The Estate of Lim Doa Hin, “Many SIT undergraduates have come through the polytechnic route. It will be a burden for those whose families are not well off to continue supporting them for another level of tertiary education after polytechnic.”

Mr Lim Teck Kheng, an Executor of The Estate of Lim Doa Hin, said that his father, the late Mr Lim Doa Hin, believed in higher education as a means to changing the financial circumstances of a family in need. “With the Study Grant and Scholarship, we hope these young students can focus their energy on their schoolwork, do well in their studies and contribute to society in the future,” he said.

The late Mr Lim was born in China and travelled to Singapore after World War II and despite unfavourable conditions, rose to become a successful and reputable businessman. Mr Lim always remembered the need to contribute to society, especially by assisting students who needed financial help to pursue their education.
Caring for the Mind

Nursing alumnus Rae Wong received a special mention during the 2020 Nurses Day celebrations for helping migrant workers at the dormitories on top of her work at the Institute of Mental Health.

Rae Wong, Class of 2019, Bachelor of Science with Honours in Nursing, is a Staff Nurse at the Institute of Mental Health (IMH). She was recognised for volunteering to support the fight against COVID-19 through facilitating testing and providing care at migrant worker dormitories earlier this year.

Rae Wong’s choice of a nursing career at the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) had roots in her childhood. Growing up in a neighbourhood near IMH, she and the community around her regularly encountered patients passing through the area, and as a kid, she would often greet and talk to them. Her neighbours would also go the extra mile, buying food for them to eat.

This familiarity with mental health patients strongly influenced her decision to be a Staff Nurse, working daily with doctors, therapists, social workers and allied health professionals to provide holistic care to IMH’s patients. Rae cares not only for the patients’ physical well-being (helping them cope with diabetes or hypertension, among other conditions), but their mental well-being as well. "Sometimes, patients come to us saying they feel troubled or sad, and that’s when we counsel them,” she explains. "A special part of being a nurse at IMH is that beyond providing care, we are also the therapeutic tool for patients. We are there to allay our patients’ anxieties, forge relationships with them, and establish trust, so we can help them get better and go back to their lives.”

Because each relationship is different, patient care of this kind can go beyond traditional ways of showing support. Rae recounts an example: "I once brought a long-stay patient to a medical appointment outside IMH. She had not been outside for a few months. I wheeled her wheelchair to a full glass window so that she could see the scenery. She said, ‘So nice! But I miss home.’ While waiting for the doctor, she got bored and started singing Hokkien songs to herself. I then searched for Hokkien karaoke videos on YouTube and played them on my phone. She became very happy and started singing along. Although a small gesture, this moment will always have a place in my heart because I had built a deeper understanding with my patient.”

2020 also brought Rae new and meaningful encounters. At the height of the COVID-19 coronavirus outbreak, she volunteered to help with testing and providing care to migrant workers at the dormitories. "It was a great experience because deployment let me witness a different aspect of nursing. It was good to be able to help a different community with a separate set of challenges to tackle. It was nice to interact with the foreign workers and I also learnt some Bengali and Thai words to engage them better as well.”

Even after graduating, Rae finds that the SIT-DNA remains relevant to her calling. “In particular, I remember to Learn, Unlearn and Relearn. Hospital policies can differ from the school curriculum. Hence, I have learnt to humble myself to relearn everything that I need to know. My involvement in IMH and the COVID-19 deployment is an example of me staying grounded in the community. After obtaining a degree from SIT, I still want to serve and give back to society.”
SIT-lead Project Uses Technology to Help Preserve An Integral Part of Singapore’s Heritage

Faculty and students from Specialised Design Businesses cluster carry out interviews with Lorong Buangkok Kampung residents to preserve the essence of the last kampung

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A team of faculty from SIT’s Design and Specialised Businesses cluster came up with ‘Nostalgic Futures’ Design Kampung Lorong Buangkok (KLB) competition to document the oral history of Kampung Lorong Buangkok (KLB), the last kampung on mainland Singapore. Due to urban redevelopment of the area, there are plans for the kampung, which has been untouched since 1956, to be replaced by a three-lane bi-directional highway, a primary and secondary school, and a public park. The competition was launched on 2 June 2020 and six entries were received.

Ass Prof Intan Azura Mikhtar led the charge as Principal Investigator, and worked together with students from the Glasgow School of Art (GSoA) Interior Design and Communication Design programmes, on a challenge to produce viable, feasible and desirable proposals for KLB through speculative design. Industry and community partners JIA Studios Pte Ltd, FXMedia Internet Pte Ltd and Hui Yih Community Centre were roped in and the initiative was further boosted by an igniton grant of $150,000 from SIT.

The project team proposed to preserve the kampung in three ways — by documenting the oral history accounts and personal narratives of the residents, retaining the layout of the kampung in the form of a 3D physical model as well as capturing the memories and daily life in the kampung through an immersive virtual reality platform. The Immersive virtual reality platform is currently being developed with a VR company, targeted to be ready in the first quarter of 2021. “We hope that our project outputs and outcomes can be shared with the general public in Singapore one day, as we plan for community exhibitions,” said Ass Prof Intan.

Year 3 Interior Design students Mr Adisak Chiew and Mr Brian Long put forth an interesting proposal, where the highway under the URA Master Plan could be integrated with education centres and a public park, to retain the kampung fabric. One of their recommendations was to integrate the kampung into Singapore’s park connector network, transforming KLB into a park, and with it the opportunity for greater traffic and awareness. Another idea was to eventually introduce activities like nature walks and communal farming at KLB.

A resident of KLB shares anecdotes of life in mainland Singapore’s only remaining kampung with Ass Prof Intan Azura Mikhtar.
Freshmen Orientation at SIT Goes Online In Response to Pandemic

The freshmen orientation experience remains uncompromised by COVID-19 and was a hit among the students.

Restrictions imposed on physical events due to COVID-19 led SIT to innovate the orientation experience for the incoming batch of freshmen. Working with a team of ICT students and special interest group SIT Geeks, the Student Life Division (SLD) Division conceptualised and developed the E-Orientation website. Current students were involved as much as possible in the planning and development of the website to ensure views of students were duly represented.

The E-Orientation website was a one-stop portal that allowed freshmen to seamlessly access Club Fair, Day Zero and Orientation information at their own time and convenience. One of its features include a virtual tour of all six SIT campuses, where students could click around to explore their future campuses. Students could also discover interesting facts about the university.

Zoom and YouTube Livestreams were utilised to provide a sense of interaction and buzz for students during Club Fair. Some student clubs hosted Zoom rooms to interest freshmen about their clubs, while others chose to stream their activities and lessons online for freshmen to get a feel of their club activities. Over 1,700 students attended these online events.

Many students commented that they "loved the personalized feel of the website" and that "everything was very well-connected". A lot of them also mentioned that "E-Orientation was really helpful" and that they enjoyed the "website that was designed to give freshmen an enhanced experience, as well as a better understanding of the different campuses and the culture here at SIT".

During the Orientation Week, the website saw over 2,190 students logging in, garnering over 117,000 page views and 85% attendance for Day Zero.

Behind the scenes of a Club Fair live-streaming session.
Downstrokes, Upstrokes, Circles and Stones

SITizens slow down and find inner balance through the art of watercolour painting and calligraphy

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On Saturday, 12 September 2020, SIT alumni learned how to create their own watercolour paintings and calligraphy artwork. Organised by the SIT Alumni Leisure Network, the workshop was held over two sessions in the morning and afternoon, led by Ms Phyllene Cheng from Med Kärlek Inc.

The participants were provided with a watercolour paint set, consisting of a watercolour palette, paintbrush set and paper. They started with a short exercise where they thought about what aspects they were currently trying to balance in their own lives, then painted using circles and visualised them as “balancing stones”. This also helped with playing with space in their artwork.

Ms Cheng guided them on differentiating “warm” and “cool” colours from their palette, as well as different methods to draw circles and create gradients. They were mostly encouraged to go with their “feeling” and not worry too much about precision.

For the second part of the workshop, the participants practised faux calligraphy on scratch cards, a technique used to imitate the look of real calligraphy. The participants could refer to a guide sheet to help them imitate thin upstrokes and thick downstrokes commonly seen in traditional calligraphy. This technique is useful for beginners to practise as well as to create calligraphy on alternative materials such as acrylic and wood.

Once they had familiarised themselves with the strokes, they then proceeded to add their own personalised calligraphy to their watercolour artwork. The final touch was adding of splatter of paint with a brush.

Besides being a form of therapy, Ms Cheng also stated that this kind of artwork can reveal information about one’s personality and state of mind. For example, some people prefer more structure and precision in their artwork, while others don’t mind being messier and more fluid.

Ms Evania Wong, Food and Human Nutrition alum, said “I learnt about colour composition and using different materials to create an art piece involving calligraphy writing. My favourite part of the workshop is when I get to explore and play with different colours, turning it into a piece of artwork.”
Viral Food Trends

The COVID-19 period meant people were staying home with not much to do – except jump on to the bandwagon of viral food trends. The viral trend that most of our SITizens tried? You guessed it, Dalgona Coffee!

Dalgona Coffee Trend

During the COVID period, the Dalgona coffee trend (making a drink out of instant coffee powder, a MPS and hot water whipped together till it becomes creamy and wavy) was the one most followed by SITizens, according to our poll. However, an overwhelming proportion of 80% of respondents ultimately felt it was overrated.

What’s your favourite meal to eat at home?

While Dalgona Coffee was a fun thing to try, SITizens have their own favourite dishes they like to prepare.

Some unique suggestions included Dhalakuka with a side of shredded sourdough, a good steak with sharing sides, and even a healthy Sessions-Berries milkshake. Some like to keep it more simple with instant soup, Fish-moo soup, or the classic ‘Yung Fau Pau’.

There’s so much we can enjoy at home, but as per the poll, the best, “Any home-cooked meal by my mum.”

Cooking at Home versus Food Delivery or Eating Out

According to our poll, the most preferred dining option is Cooking at Home, followed closely by Eating Out. Ordering food delivery was the least desirable choice.

Reasons were given by users who favour eating out over food delivery included:
- Food just tastes better when served to you individually.
- It’s Cost cheaper.