

SiTIZEN

Once a SiTizen, Always a SiTizen



Bi-Annual
July 2021

THRIVING IN ADVERSITY

SIT'S 4 Strategic Thrusts in an Era of Disruption

New Robotics Systems Degree Programme to Meet Techno Shifts

SITizens at the Frontline

4 Angels and a New Bursary





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Virtual Success

SITizens press ahead as key university events go swiftly online amid the pandemic

Celebrating the Class of 2020

Among those receiving their degree scrolls are the pioneer cohorts of Allied Health and Civil Engineering

SIT Launches Robotics Systems Degree Programme for AY 2021/22

New degree will position students to handle automation needs and technological shifts

Deepening Applied Learning for an Era of Disruption

Prof Chua Kee Chaing, Deputy President (Academic) & Provost on how four strategic thrusts are propelling SIT on its trajectory to be Singapore's premier university of applied learning

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DEAR READERS

SITizens Still Rise!

In the face of adversity, SITizens and their alma mater find new ways to thrive. The new *SITizen Bi-Annual* is just one example. Published every July and January, it looks at our university through a wider lens. This print publication complements *SITizen Buzz* – the monthly e-newsletter that was launched amid last year's safe-distancing measures to reach our alumni and friends with timely and bite-size updates on the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT).

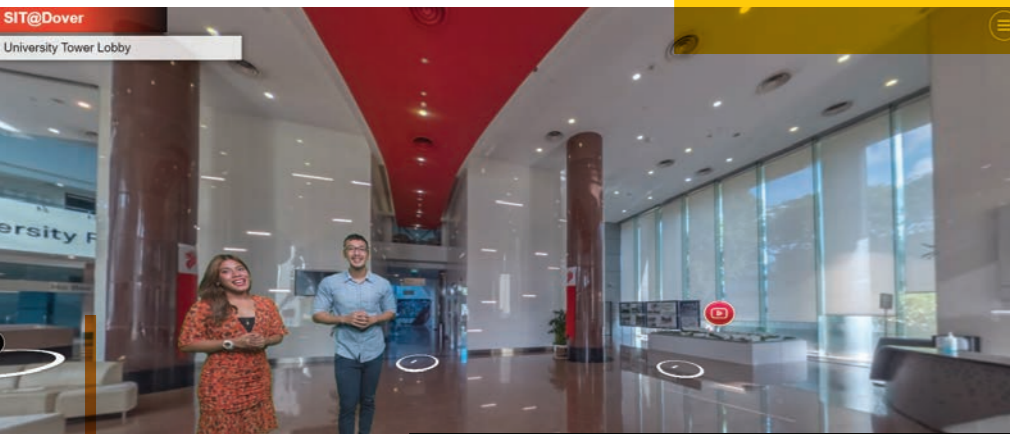
In this inaugural issue, you will find an interview with Prof Chua Kee Chaing, Deputy President (Academic) and Provost, on SIT's strategic thrusts to deepen applied learning and strengthen applied research in an era of disruption.

We also look back at how key university events such as the Student Orientation, SIT Open House and Career Nexus pivoted online in the past year, and how SIT went on to hold a physical graduation ceremony for the Class of 2020, being the first Autonomous University to do so since the outbreak. And how, as they stayed safely home, our alumni continued to enjoy and learn from interacting with their fellow SITizens, via a range of online workshops and webinars organised by the SIT Alumni Networks.

It is in these hard times that SIT's philanthropic partners are coming forward to nurture and support SIT students. Our SITizens, too, are stepping up and out to make their impact on the community. In the following pages, meet Ms Krithi Pushpanathan and Mr Ang Xu Kai, two SIT alumni at the frontlines who are helping migrant workers, suspected COVID-19 cases and others in need.

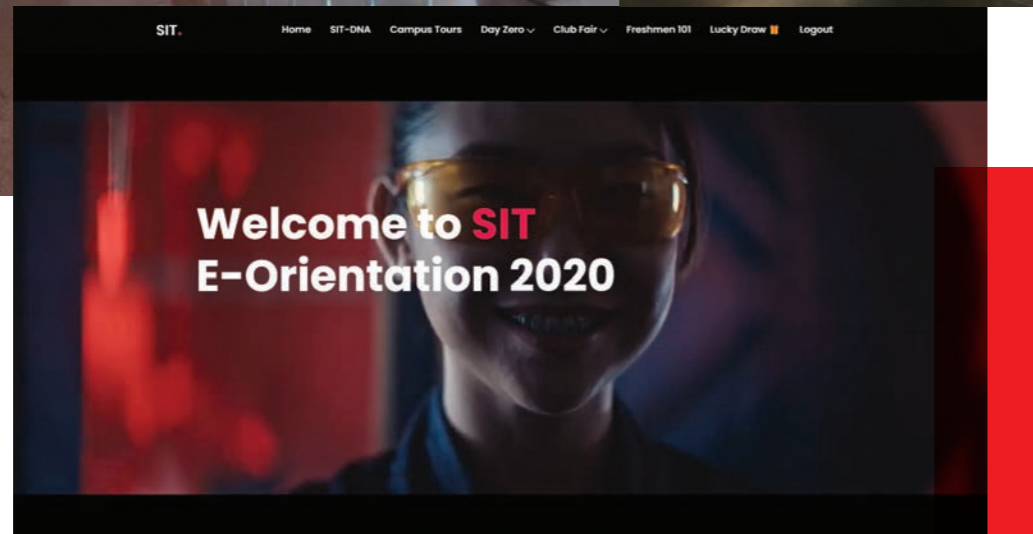
We hope you will enjoy reading these stories. In the meantime, do keep safe and healthy. Should you have any feedback, please drop us a line at Alumni@SingaporeTech.edu.sg

SIT Advancement & Alumni Division



SIT@Dover
University Tower Lobby

Student guides taking the user on a virtual tour around SIT@Dover campus on the e-orientation website.



A dialogue session on 'The Value of An Applied Learning Degree in this Disrupted World' during the SIT Virtual Open House 2021.



SIT and its partners such as Far East Hospitality set up virtual booths which participants could visit and interact with at the online SIT Career Nexus.



Virtual Success

SITizens continue to press ahead as key university events go swiftly online amid the pandemic

An Innovative Orientation for New Students

Restrictions imposed on physical events due to COVID-19 led the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) to innovate the SIT Student Orientation experience for incoming freshmen for Academic Year 2020. Conceptualised by Information and Communications Technology (ICT) cluster students and special interest student group SIT Geeks together with the Student Life Division (SLD), the E-Orientation website was a one-stop portal that allowed seamless and convenient access to Club Fair, Day Zero and Orientation at any time. It featured a virtual tour of all six SIT campuses. The new students

could also discover on it interesting facts about the university.

Zoom and YouTube Livestreams provided interaction and buzz for students during the Club Fair. Some student clubs hosted Zoom rooms to interest the freshmen. Others chose to stream their activities and lessons online for the new students to get a feel of the clubs' activities. Over 1,700 students attended these online events.

During the Orientation Week, the website saw over 2,150 students logging in, garnering over 117,000 pageviews and 85% attendance for Day Zero.

Fresh Bouquets from Freshmen

Loved the personalised feel of the website!

Everything was very well-connected.

E-Orientation was really helpful.

Webpage was designed to give freshmen an enhanced experience, as well as a better understanding of the different campuses and the culture here at SIT...

SIT's First Virtual Open House

In January 2021, prospective students and parents gained exclusive insights into the various programmes available for the upcoming Academic Year 2021 at SIT's first virtual Open House. A series of 30 talks was put together by various academic clusters, as well as the Admissions and Student Life Divisions. The event also featured a virtual campus tour.

One of the dialogue sessions titled "The Value of An Applied Learning Degree in this Disruptive World" delved into a deep discourse on how SIT prepares its students for the future workplace. Moderated by Mr Kelly Koh, Director of Admissions, the panel featured Prof Chua Kee Chaing, Deputy President (Academic) & Provost, Mr Skye Tan Zhikai, Hospitality Business graduate (Class of 2018) and Marketing Manager, Intercontinental Singapore, as well as Ms Devanshi Patidar, a Year 4 Diagnostic Radiography student.

Said Prof Chua, "It is important in today's world to practise lifelong learning because, as you know, technology changes very rapidly. For the current generation, you will have multiple careers in a lifetime, so you will have a lifetime of careers, rather than a career of lifetime, as was the case for earlier generations. It is therefore extremely important that we prepare you to be a lifelong learner."

SIT Career Nexus 2021: Networking in the New Normal

SIT Career Nexus went online on 27 January 2021. At the time, it was the largest-scale career event for the University. About 2,050 students from 23 degree programmes and over 160 companies (from both the private and public sectors) participated in the event. This annual platform enables employers to meet and hire the right talent, and at the same time allows SITizens to search for job opportunities or Integrated Work Study Programme (IWSP) positions.

Chemical Engineering student Kester Leung said he found the platform to be effective and user-friendly. "The resource panel has a display of all available job openings, and I can search for what I want easily. I am also able to discover more about lesser-known companies which are relevant to my degree programme," he said.

JFD Singapore Pte Ltd, one of the world's leading subsea operations and manufacturing companies and industry partner of SIT, views the IWSP as a good talent pipeline for both the university and industry. It also appreciates the fresh perspective that SITizens bring with them to the workplace. "We are offered bright, young and enthusiastic talents, who are willing to learn and contribute and bring with them fresh ideas," said Human Resource Manager, Ms Rusiatie Suryadi. "Conversely, we also learn from the students and faculty. This helps us stay relevant in our dynamic industry."



Taking a socially distanced photo with fellow graduates.

Then Minister for Transport, Mr Ong Ye Kung graced the main session of SIT's series of Graduation Ceremonies, held at The Theatre at Mediacorp.

Parents of graduates were able to attend the ceremony to witness the joyous moment.

Celebrating the Class of 2020

Among those receiving their degree scrolls are the pioneer cohorts of Allied Health and Civil Engineering

The Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) hosted its Graduation Ceremony from 23 to 27 February 2021, in celebration of the achievements of the university's Class of 2020. The main session, held at The Theatre at Mediacorp, was graced by Mr Ong Ye Kung, then Minister for Transport. SIT was the first Autonomous University to resume physical graduation ceremonies in more than a year.

Close to 2,200 graduates from 47 undergraduate and postgraduate programmes received their degree scrolls. This includes 783 graduates from SIT-conferred programmes, 524 graduates from SIT-overseas university (OU) joint programmes, and 882 graduates from degrees conferred by SIT's OU partners.

For Physiotherapy graduate Mr Gabriel Ou and his course mates, this was a happy reunion. "Most of us had not seen each other since our last class together. The graduation ceremony gives us the opportunity to recognise how we are

no longer students – but practicing physiotherapists now – and we get to celebrate our dream coming true together," he said.

Singapore's First Locally Trained Allied Health Professionals to Meet Demands of Healthcare Sector

The occasion marked the graduation of the first batches of Allied Health students from SIT's Diagnostic Radiography, Occupational Therapy, Radiation Therapy and SIT-Trinity College Dublin Physiotherapy programmes. A preliminary employment survey conducted by SIT found that 97% of the 211 graduates from these programmes were working as frontline healthcare workers and helping to meet the needs of Singapore's rapidly silvering population.

All of SIT's Allied Health students undergo curricula that were developed in consultation with Singapore's public and private

healthcare institutions. The Diagnostic Radiography, Radiation Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy as well as Speech and Language Therapy programmes are recognised by the Allied Health Professions Council (AHPC). Students are required to fulfil a 30- to 40-week Clinical Practice Education during their course of studies, where they are placed in a variety of clinical settings to hone their clinical skills.

Pioneer Batch of Graduates with Deep Technical Expertise in Civil Engineering

SIT also graduated its first cohort of students from the SIT-University of Glasgow Civil Engineering degree programme, which has strong relevance to the Built Environment and Construction Industry Transformation Map (ITM), one of the 23 ITMs identified by the Future Economy Council (FEC). Launched in 2016, this programme aims to address the sustained need for local Civil Engineers with the necessary professional qualifications.

The Civil Engineering degree programme had equipped all 48 of its graduates with the practical knowledge and skills to plan, design, construct, maintain and operate infrastructure such as roads, rail, buildings, and underground structures, as well as to rehabilitate ageing critical infrastructure in service. The graduates had also gone through an eight-month work attachment as part of SIT's signature Integrated Work Study Programme (IWSP).

SIT Graduates Highly Employable Amid Challenging Economic Climate

Based on SIT's preliminary employment survey, 91% of the respondents from the Class of 2020 had secured employment since the completion of their studies. Graduates from the Information and Communications Technology (Software Engineering), Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering (Land) and Marine Engineering programmes obtained a 100% employment rate.

Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, believes that this is a result of SIT's industry-focused curriculum, as well as the success of its IWSP, which is mandatory for all students of SIT-conferred and SIT-OU joint programmes. He said, "We are thankful to have received strong support from our industry partners, allowing SIT to maintain high relevance of its programmes through continual consultation, adoption of best practices, applied research projects and IWSP. With the duration of IWSP lasting between eight to 12

months with well-defined learning outcomes, students are assigned projects with a longer timeframe, and thus are able to learn more from this attachment and also make more significant contributions to the company."

Support Measures for Class of 2020

In line with its commitment to encourage lifelong learning, SIT has been offering its alumni, including the Class of 2020, \$2,000 worth of SITizens Learning Credits since 2019. The credits can be used for Continuing Education and Training modules offered by SITLEARN Professional Development, SIT's lifelong learning division. Some of these modules can be stacked into Postgraduate Certificates.

Made possible through the generosity of various donors, the Student Relief Fund at SIT (COVID-19) has been established to assist students at SIT who are facing financial hardship due to the pandemic. Eligible students may receive up to \$2,000 each to help them with their daily living and education expenses. More than \$2.2 million have been donated towards the Fund, benefitting 690 SIT students thus far.

As a host company of the **SGUnited Traineeships (SGUT)** programme, SIT has 17 of its divisions offering traineeship positions for graduates. SIT graduates have also taken up SGUT opportunities in various other companies, including the university's industry partners.

Exceptional Support for Exceptional Students

In Academic Year 2020/21, 13 new performance awards were presented for the very first time at SIT to recognise student excellence. Most of these awards were established in 2020 – amid the pandemic – with the support of corporate and industry donors:

- **AbbVie Outstanding Student Award in Pharmaceutical Engineering**
- **Amoy Street Dental Book Prize in Individual and Environmental Influences on Eating Behaviours**
- **Canon Medical Systems Asia Outstanding Student Award in Diagnostic Radiography**
- **Chong Yook Yin Book Prize in Principles and Practice of Population Health**
- **FARM Book Prize in Communication Design - Studio 4**
- **FARM Book Prize in Interior Design - Studio 4**
- **ISCA Book Prize in Business Capstone**
- **Kreston Ardent CAtrust PAC Book Prize in Accounting Information Systems**
- **Kreston Ardent CAtrust PAC Book Prize in Business Valuation and Analysis**
- **PARKROYAL on Beach Road Book Prize in Service Quality Management**
- **Rotary Club of Bugis Junction Commendation Award**
- **Samwoh Corporation Outstanding Student Award in Civil Engineering**
- **Taylor & Francis Asia Pacific Book Prize in Exercise Physiology**

SIT Launches Robotics Systems Degree Programme for AY 2021/22

New degree will position students to handle automation needs and technological shifts in the years ahead

Adding to its suite of specialised degree programmes, the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) has introduced a new programme, the Bachelor of Engineering in Robotics Systems (RSE), for the upcoming Academic Year (AY) 2021/22. Commencing in September 2021 with an initial intake of 40 students, the four-year programme focuses on the design and development of Service/Field Robotics Systems, with an emphasis on Systems Engineering.

Meeting Industry Demand for Talents in Robotics Development

As demand for automation goes beyond the confines of factories, field robots – mobile robots that operate in dynamic, unstructured environments – are sought after to perform tasks that are too laborious or dangerous for humans. Robots and automation are solutions that help improve productivity and efficiency amidst mounting pressures on Singapore's population growth and labour supply. According to the Ministry of Trade and Industry Singapore (MTI), over 4,400 industrial robots were installed in 2017, representing an increase of 72% from 2016, a testament to the increasing demand for automation.

Designed in consultation with key partners such as the National Robotics Programme (NRP) and Economic Development Board (EDB), the RSE programme aims to train engineers who are capable

of developing, deploying and maintaining field robots, thus fulfilling the anticipated demand for robotics engineers.

Said Prof Quek Tong Boon, Chief Executive, NRP, "Robotics is already widely used in manufacturing and we expect to see even greater adoption of industrial robots in the coming years. With advances in technology that enable robots to interact more naturally, intelligently and safely with humans in people-centric environments, there will be more robots expected in our service sectors and public spaces. We need to nurture more roboticists to support such increased adoptions, and NRP welcomes the setting up of the RSE programme to help grow our robotics talent pool."

Ms Fong Pin Fen, Vice President and Head, Advanced Manufacturing Strategy Group, EDB, said, "Robotics and automation are key focus areas for Singapore, creating new growth opportunities and enabling the transformation of our industries. Singapore has a growing base of robotics companies, system integrators and research institutes to design, develop and enable adoption of robotics solutions in the manufacturing and service sectors. The RSE programme will equip students with the right skillsets to tap into these opportunities, and develop new capabilities to enhance Singapore's competitiveness."

The programme focuses on the design and development of service/

field robotics systems, with an emphasis on the integration of multiple engineering disciplines via Systems Engineering. Students will be trained to deploy integrative elements, such as Software Engineering and Artificial Intelligence (AI), to connect multiple mechatronics elements together to form a complete robotics system.

Structured on a project-based and applied learning pedagogy, the programme incorporates a significant amount of learning activities that allow students to simultaneously experience Systems and Software Engineering, Project Management, as well as integration of knowledge from multiple disciplines. Students will go through a 12-month work attachment as part of their Integrated Work Study Programme (IWSP), a distinctive feature of all SIT programmes.

Prof Chua Kee Chaing, Deputy President (Academic) & Provost, SIT, commented: "SIT is constantly growing its suite of programme offerings that are targeted at growth sectors of the economy. Robots are no longer just operating in the factory shop floor, but are also required to work for, and alongside humans in various field applications. Through this new Robotics Systems degree programme, SIT will nurture talents who will make robots operate safely and effectively in the field to benefit industry sectors such as built environment, hospitality and healthcare."



Designed in consultation with key partners such as the National Robotics Programme (NRP) and Economic Development Board (EDB), the RSE programme aims to train engineers who are capable of developing, deploying and maintaining field robots.



New Offerings and New Names for the New AY

Additionally, the new Academic Year will see the joint programme in Bachelor of Science with Honours in Physiotherapy, offered by SIT and Trinity College Dublin, converted to a four-year SIT-conferred programme. Name changes for the following degree programmes will also take effect in AY 2021.

New SIT-conferred Degree Programmes	Previously Offered As:
Bachelor of Engineering in Robotics Systems	N.A.
Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy	Bachelor of Science with Honours in Physiotherapy – <i>joint degree programme offered by SIT and Trinity College Dublin</i>
Change in Degree Programme Names	Previously Offered As:
Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Engineering (Intelligent Transportation)	Bachelor of Engineering with Honours in Telematics (Intelligent Transportation Systems Engineering)
Bachelor of Engineering in Mechatronics Systems – <i>joint degree programme offered by SIT and DigiPen Institute of Technology Singapore</i>	Bachelor of Engineering in Systems Engineering (ElectroMechanical Systems) – <i>joint degree programme offered by SIT and DigiPen Institute of Technology Singapore</i>
Master of Science in Chemical Engineering	Master of Engineering Technology in Chemical Engineering
Master of Science in Civil Engineering	Master of Engineering Technology in Civil Engineering
Master of Science in Electrical and Electronic Engineering	Master of Engineering Technology in Electrical and Electronic Engineering

Deepening Applied Learning for an Era of Disruption

Prof Chua Kee Chaing, Deputy President (Academic) & Provost on how four strategic thrusts are propelling SIT on its trajectory to be Singapore's premier university of applied learning

Since 2020, the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) has been working on four strategic thrusts to strengthen its applied learning pedagogies. Prof Chua Kee Chaing, Deputy President (Academic) & Provost, SIT, says the move is in line with SIT's mission to nurture work-ready professionals and lifelong learners through the applied learning pathway. The four strategic thrusts are:

- **Deepening Applied Learning:** SIT has embarked on a programme harmonisation effort to introduce transferable skills and weave inter-disciplinary learning into the curriculum. These components are crucial in moulding highly employable and adaptable SITizens who are equipped with skills to work in adjacent sectors when necessary.
- **Pioneering Workplace Learning:** SIT will pioneer a competency-based workplace learning pathway and will pilot new degrees to admit professionals based on the competencies they have built during their course of work. These degree programmes will further equip them with knowledge and skills and enhance their career prospects.
- **Strengthening Applied Research:** SIT is pursuing applied research projects to address the needs of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and help them in their transformations. A plan is being mapped out where SIT can conduct applied research for SMEs, and identify partners and funding to leverage on.
- **Leveraging Living Lab:** SIT is developing a virtual SIT and a digital twin to support applied learning, applied research, as well as provide selected end-user services. These efforts will bring SIT closer to realising a campus that can inspire students and faculty to innovate and transform industry and the community. To make the Living Lab operational by 2024, plans in testing the operating model, curating inventory of applications and use cases, as well as developing the technology architecture are underway.



In the following Q&A, Prof Chua elaborates on how these efforts will differentiate SIT from other universities:

Q: How important are interdisciplinary learning and transferable skills in ensuring that our students are employable and future-ready?

A: Ensuring that our students have mastery of their disciplinary knowledge is extremely important as we are training them to be professionals. In fact, companies tell me that this is a given when they shortlist candidates for job interviews. Graduates who exhibit strong transferable skills will stand out as they will be more effective in working with others and more agile in handling different tasks.

Issues and problems at work are becoming increasingly more complex. Solutions to complex problems are never mono-disciplinary in nature, so the sooner our students get exposed to inter-disciplinary learning, the better they will be prepared for the real world. Inter-disciplinarity is not about opening up many modules from different disciplines for students to read, and leaving it to them to connect the dots. It is about curating relevant modules from adjacent disciplines that are (or will be) impacting the industry considerably. What we want is for our students to learn more deeply the adjacent disciplinary knowledge that might be needed at work later. We also want them to be comfortable working in multi-disciplinary teams. For this, we will create whitespace opportunities for them to work in teams of students from different programmes.

Q: How will the competency-based workplace learning pathway impact the way degree programmes are delivered?

A: It is an important initiative, given the drive for lifelong learning and the aspiration to gain a university degree. Both universities and companies must strongly believe that it is better for someone in full-time

employment to upskill, compared to the employee pursuing a part-time degree while working or doing a full-time degree. The university and company would need to work very closely to design and implement the programme to meet the needs of the company – without affecting the learning outcomes of the programme that define its quality, insofar as professional recognition is concerned. It is quite tailored, but scaling up is possible if we work with a trade association or chamber to cover an entire industry sector.

We are moving forward with this by leveraging our existing degree programmes. We create another pathway that uses competency-based assessments to develop workplace learning activities that can lead to the same learning outcomes of our existing programmes. Through this, we can also recognise prior competencies and award credits accordingly, enabling learners to complete their degree faster. Inevitably, there will be gaps that need to be bridged, either through having the learners return to campus for a day or two per week, or through online modules. This workplace learning pathway will run alongside the traditional on-campus pathway which will continue to cater to learners who prefer to study full-time.

Q: What is SIT's niche in applied research? What can we do to level up our competencies in this area?

A: As a University of Applied Learning, we position our research to bridge knowledge creation to utilisation. So this spans technology readiness levels (TRLs) 3 to 7. At TRLs 3-5, we do what we term as **translational research**, where we take the results of basic research (from other Autonomous Universities, A*STAR or our overseas university partners) a step closer to application. At TRLs 5-7, we focus on **innovation activities** and work with companies to develop prototypes that they can use and commercialise.

Our academic staff, comprising faculty and Professional Officers, is

quite a unique combination that is well suited to lead in our translational research and innovation activities, respectively. Our students, whether industry postgraduate students or undergraduate students, will be involved in our research and innovation projects with industry. They form the talent pipeline and catalysts for transformation that we hope will help move local companies up the innovation value chain.

For translational research, we have identified **five focus areas** (Energy Resilience, Sustainable Food Innovation, Field/Service Robotic Engineering, Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering & Maintenance, and Community Health Transformation), as well as **three horizontal enablers** (Cyber Security, Augmented/Virtual Reality, and Artificial Intelligence). For Financial Year (FY) 2021, we will focus on building up two areas – **Sustainable Food Innovation** and **Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering & Maintenance**. This means identifying potential partners and funding agencies that we can work with.

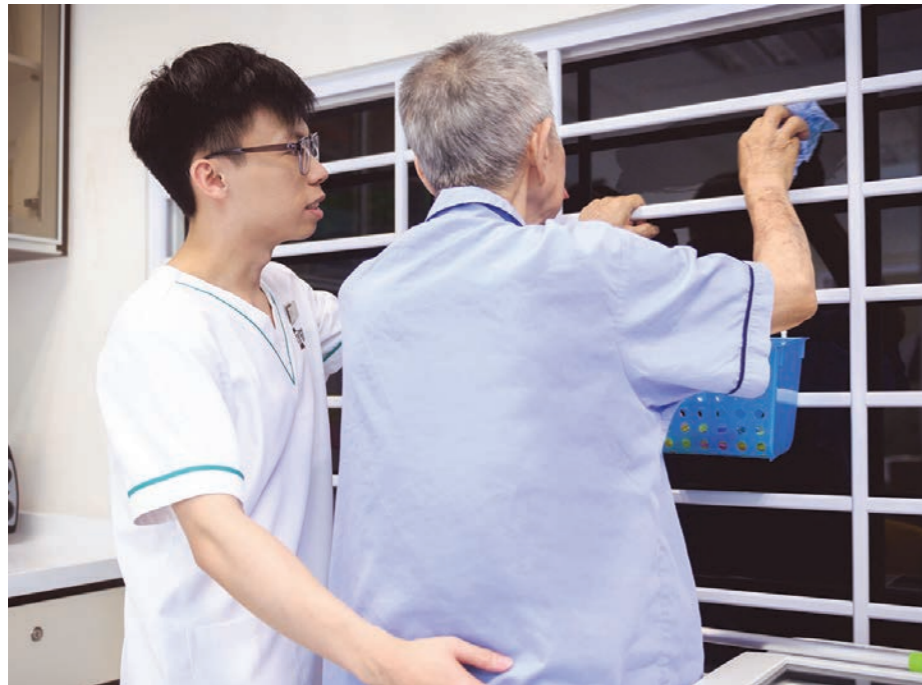
We will also put together the relevant pieces needed to support innovation activities, such as the RaPID Centre and Design Factory at SIT, in a holistic end-to-end innovation framework that includes **intrapreneurship** programmes to prepare our students for their role as catalysts for transformation.

Q: It is exciting that we are rolling out various digital initiatives such as VirtualSIT. How will it pan out in the next three years?

A: VirtualSIT is the online version of SIT. Just as we plan the future SIT campus in Punggol as a living lab, VirtualSIT will have a digital twin of the physical living lab. This potentially will allow us to have seamless interactions between the physical and virtual worlds of SIT. It will open up innumerable applications and services for all SIT stakeholders, whether in education, research or other future missions of SIT.

Stroke Survivors' Inactivity Not Just Due to Lack of Motivation

Survey by SIT students shows many other hindrances to physical activity - barriers that organisations and the public can help to reduce.



Most strokes are preventable through a healthy diet, regular exercise (of at least 150 minutes each week or taking 10,000 steps a day), and by avoiding smoking and drinking too much alcohol. For people with disabilities or chronic illnesses, the recommendation is to walk 6,500 to 8,500 steps a day. So why are stroke survivors in Singapore walking just an average of just 5,382 steps a day?

A team of SIT Physiotherapy students – led by Assoc Prof Kwah Li Khim, Health and Social Sciences, Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), and Dr Shamala Thilarajah, Principal Physiotherapist, Singapore General Hospital – have found out why by studying 38 stroke survivors from the Singapore National Stroke Association (SNSA), between June and December 2019. The survey finds that the stroke survivors face a host

of barriers to being physically active, the top three being:

- A lack of suitable exercises classes or programmes for stroke survivors at fitness centres
- A lack of assistance from fitness centre staff
- Feelings of tiredness or fatigue

Other significant factors include a lack of appropriate exercise equipment at fitness centres, high membership fees, motivation loss, and concerns about injuries and pains.

Said Assoc Prof Kwah, "Physical inactivity is a complex problem that goes beyond the individual. Other than feeling too tired to exercise, the lack of motivation, fear of injury and pain, we now know that there are many more barriers stopping stroke

survivors from being physically active. These are factors that organisations and the public can help with to make the environment more conducive for stroke survivors to be active."

Assoc Prof Kwah and Dr Thilarajah will be collaborating with SportCares - ActiveSG, Singapore National Stroke Association, and Republic Polytechnic to introduce MOTIVATE: a multi-modal training programme to promote physical activity after a stroke. The programme includes education and training resources for stroke survivors, caregivers, as well as healthcare and fitness professionals on topics like health screening prior to exercise, selection and modification of exercises using gym equipment and adaptive aids such as arm and leg straps.

MOTIVATE will also work on establishing a pathway to improve access and use of fitness centres for stroke survivors in Singapore. It is due for completion by the end of 2022.

Said Dr Thilarajah, "After a stroke, survivors' ability to perform activities of daily living may be impaired to varying degrees. Inactivity and reduced fitness have many consequences beyond increased risk of stroke. With the MOTIVATE programme, we hope to improve stroke survivors' access to fitness centres. This is a step towards an inclusive society where stroke survivors have the same access and opportunities to physical activity as the rest of Singapore's healthy population."



Team Paste Pods pose for a socially distanced photo to mark their victory as The Mapletree Challenge 2020 Gold Award winners. With them are Prof Tan Thiam Soon (second from left), President, SIT, and Mr Edmund Cheng (second from right), Chairman, Mapletree Investments Pte Ltd.

Reimagining Sustainability with The Mapletree Challenge

Close to 750 students learn job interview and presentation skills through The Mapletree Challenge; they also find out how to pitch innovative and entrepreneurial ideas

On 9 March 2021, the six finalist teams of The Mapletree Challenge 2020 Grand Final gathered at long last to present their innovative and entrepreneurial ideas in person at The Mapletree Challenge 2020 Prize Presentation Ceremony, hosted by Mapletree Investments Pte Ltd.

The Grand Final was held on 23 July 2020 but plans for the prize presentation had to be delayed amid the COVID-19 outbreak. Eight months on with safety measures in place, Team Paste Pods was crowned the winner of The Mapletree Challenge Gold Award at the Ceremony. The team had shown how seaweed abstracts can be used as alternative packaging to eliminate single-use plastic toothpaste tubes to reduce the carbon footprint of hotels.

The Prize Presentation Ceremony was the culmination of The Mapletree Challenge which comprised

Job Interview & Presentation Masterclasses, The Mapletree Innovation and Entrepreneurship Forum, Mentoring Masterclasses, as well as The Grand Final. Close to 750 students had taken part in the Challenge, which ran from September 2019 to July 2020. A total of 44 teams, comprising 152 participants, submitted their entries for The Mapletree Challenge.

All six finalist teams received their certificates and medallions, and winning teams in the fourth to sixth place each received a cash prize of \$1,000. Winners of the Mapletree Bronze award, Mapletree Silver award, and Mapletree Gold award received cash prizes of \$2,000, \$3,000 and \$5,000 respectively. Mapletree Gold award winner Team Paste Pods also received the Mapletree Gold Trophy.

Said Mr Edmund Cheng, Chairman, Mapletree Investments Pte Ltd, "Mapletree has always placed great emphasis on giving back to the communities in which we operate. In fact, we find great synergy with The Mapletree Challenge, organised by SIT and supported by Mapletree, because education and the environment are two of our four corporate social responsibility pillars."

Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, expressed pride at the winning teams' achievements in the year of pandemic disruptions, when even The Grand Challenge had to be moved to a virtual platform. "On behalf of SIT, I would like to express our appreciation to Mapletree Investments, for its steadfast support of The Mapletree Challenge – a platform that allows our students to learn, compete, and showcase their innovations," he said.



Some of The Ngee Ann Kongschi scholars (in red t-shirts) volunteering at the Teochew Cultural & Food Festival held at Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza in December 2019.

It Takes a 'Kongschi'

Since 2017, The Ngee Ann Kongschi has made an indelible impact on the lives of SIT students through its wide-ranging philanthropic support

Ms Saifoon Faheema had always wanted to pursue a career in Biology. Combined with her passion for building rapport with people, she eventually enrolled into the Diagnostic Radiography programme at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). She hopes to pursue a Masters in Radiography and ultimately to gain experience in the industry. All this has been made possible for her since her first year at SIT, through **The Ngee Ann Kongschi Scholarship**. "It means a lot to a me, especially as I was pursuing my degree after starting a family," says the scholar. "This scholarship gave me the strength and support I needed to continue my education. I've also made new friends with other scholars and we enjoy catching up at events and awards ceremonies."

Ms Saifoon is one of many students at SIT whose academic efforts and achievements have been supported

and recognised by the Kongschi. Since Academic Year (AY) 2017/18, the Kongschi has supported SIT students through The Ngee Ann Kongschi Scholarship and **The Ngee Ann Kongschi Gold Medal (For The Most Outstanding Graduating Student)**. More than 260 scholarships have been awarded since AY 2017/18, while the Gold Medal is awarded each year to a top-scoring graduating student.

Ms Sabrina Tan, who received the Gold Medal when she graduated from the Nursing programme in AY 2018/19, said that the recognition has given her more confidence to pursue leadership roles at work. She added, "It has aided me in my career progression as a nurse and I am hoping to use the prize to further my studies in the healthcare sector."

The 176-year old Kongschi (the word 'kongschi' means 'company' in

Teochew) has also been quick to support SITizens who were severely impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak, by making possible **The Ngee Ann Kongschi Emergency Relief Fund** at SIT in June 2020. Valued at \$500 each, 65 grants were awarded over three consecutive months to those of our students struggling with sudden financial emergencies as a result of the pandemic.

First formed in 1845, The Ngee Ann Kongschi has been a prominent supporter of educational and other charitable projects in Singapore. Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, said "We are truly honoured by the friendship and philanthropic commitment that The Ngee Ann Kongschi has shown to SIT and our students. The impact from the Kongschi's giving will be felt for many generations to come."

Empowering Future Leaders for the Community

Generous gifts from Mr Patrick Lee and the Yangzheng Foundation enable SIT to establish a new Scholarship, Bursary, as well as a Community Leadership and Social Innovation Grant



Mr Patrick Lee (fourth from left in the front row), with some of the Yangzheng Foundation Bursary recipients at a community event in 2018.

Undergraduates at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) who are passionate about contributing to the community can look forward to the new **Sing Lun Scholarship and Sing Lun Bursary** - thanks to a \$1 million endowed gift from Mr Patrick Lee, Chairman of Sing Lun Holdings Pte Ltd.

The Bursary and Scholarship recipients are encouraged to volunteer for at least 12 days during the academic year, and to continue to participate in meaningful community projects in the key areas of need.

At steady state, five scholarships and five bursaries will be awarded annually and in perpetuity. The Sing Lun Scholarship (valued at \$10,000 each) will nurture academically outstanding undergraduates at SIT, who have also made significant contributions to SIT or the community beyond their academic studies. The Sing

Lun Bursary (valued at \$5,000 each) will be awarded to financially disadvantaged students who have excellent community service records.

Formed in 1951, Sing Lun started as a textile trading company but has since successfully diversified into a privately-owned enterprise with a diverse range of business interests worldwide. The Group's key business interests include industry, investments, and real estate.

Said Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, "We are thankful for the unwavering support from Mr Patrick Lee Kwok Kie to help SIT's financially-disadvantaged undergraduates since 2013. His philanthropic leadership will greatly benefit our students, and support SIT's projects and community initiatives."

Mr Lee's friendship with SIT goes back to 2013 (in his capacity as President of the Yangzheng

Foundation) – the year when the Foundation made possible the endowed Yangzheng Foundation Bursary for SIT students.

The Foundation's latest gift of \$150,000 makes possible the **Yangzheng Foundation Community Leadership and Social Innovation Grant** to support programmes and projects under SIT's newly formed Community Leadership and Social Innovation Centre (CLASIC). The Centre's role is to nurture community leadership among SIT students.

The Yangzheng Foundation (formerly known as Yeung Ching Foundation), a privately funded charity, was established in 1990. The objectives of the Foundation are to promote, foster, develop and improve education in Singapore and to provide financial support for the needy students and other charitable bodies to aid social development of the society.



Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT (right), presenting a token of appreciation to Mr Patrick Lee Kwok Kie (middle) and Mr Mark Lee (left) on 13 November 2020.



A Glittering Gift from Prima Group

To commemorate its Diamond Anniversary, the homegrown international food company makes an endowed gift of \$3 million to make possible the Prima Group Applied Research Grant and Prima Group Scholarships at SIT

The Prima Group has made an endowed gift of \$3 million to the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT) to encourage Food Technology innovations and talents at the University. The gift will enable SIT to establish the **Prima Group Applied Research Grant** to support innovation projects focused on closing technological gaps in food manufacturing and processing, as well as the **Prima Group Scholarship** to nurture academically talented Food Technology undergraduates at SIT. At least three Scholarships will be awarded annually, and in perpetuity.

The Prima Group, led by Mr Primus Cheng Cih Kwong, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, is channelling its resources into education endowment and research funds to commemorate its 60th year milestone, in lieu of lavish celebrations. This tradition was

started by Mr Cheng's late father, Mr Cheng Tsang Man, who founded the Prima flour mill in 1961. Today, the Prima Group has grown to become an international food company, with manufacturing hubs in Singapore, Sri Lanka, China and Australia and a distribution network over 40 markets across five continents.

Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, accepted the cheque on behalf of SIT from Mr Primus Cheng at a ceremony held at the National University of Singapore (NUS) on Monday, 3 May 2021.

At the ceremony, Mr Cheng highlighted Prima's firm belief in education as the foremost fundamental enabler. He added, "For our diamond anniversary this year, we want to commemorate this milestone in a more impactful manner by supporting both universities' education and research efforts

(From left): Mr Bernard Cheng, Prima Group Executive Director; Mr Primus Cheng, Prima Group Chairman & CEO; Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT; Prof Chua Kee Chaing, Deputy President (Academic) & Provost, SIT and Assoc Prof Susanna Leong, Asst Provost (Applied Research), SIT.

in food science and technology which would in turn improve food quality and nutritional value as well as enhance the safety of food for societies at large. The enabling effect of education can only be maximised if people can also have adequate, safe and nutritious food. As a food conglomerate, it is our hope that our gift will provide more synergistic impact."

Welcoming the Prima Group's philanthropic leadership to encourage industry innovation and transformation in food technology, Prof Tan said: "SIT is focused on applied research and innovation to bridge knowledge discovery and application. SIT is honoured to partner the Prima Group, a global name in the food manufacturing industry, in this philanthropic initiative."

The Masonic Charitable Fund's First Endowed Gift to an IHL Goes to SIT

It makes possible a new bursary to support financially needy undergraduates from all fields of study

On 10 December 2020, a signing and cheque presentation ceremony was held at the SIT@Dover campus to establish the **Masonic Charitable Fund Endowment Bursary** at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). Dr Yeoh Sin Hock, Assistant District Grand Master, District Grand Lodge of the Eastern Archipelago, presented an endowed gift to Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, on behalf of The Masonic Charitable Fund.

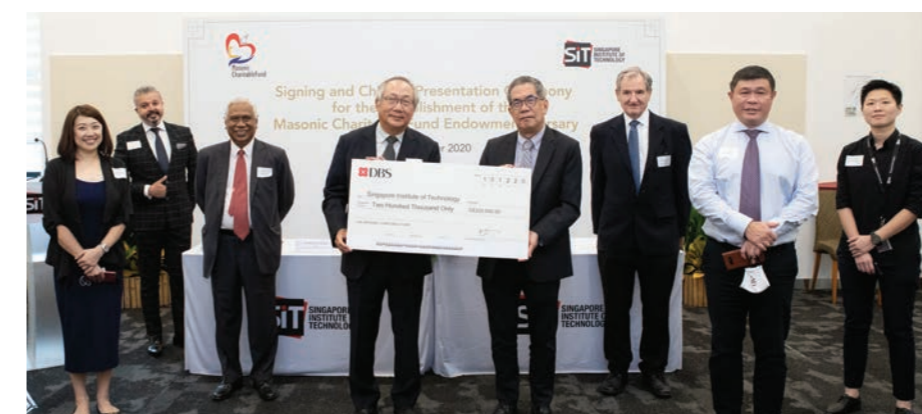
The gift marks the first endowed gift The Masonic Charitable Fund has made to an Institute of Higher Learning (IHL). It will enable SIT to support three Singaporean undergraduates with the Bursary

(valued at \$5,000 each) from Academic Year 2021/22 onwards, annually and in perpetuity. The Masonic Charitable Fund Endowment Bursary is one of the most inclusive bursaries at SIT, as it is applicable to financially disadvantaged students from all fields of study.

"SIT, with its unique positioning as the university of applied learning, gives Singaporeans access to a tertiary education that nurtures professionals who are highly relevant to the needs of the industry and the community. We are happy to support SIT in its mission and to see the Bursary enable students from less privileged backgrounds to make the

most of their university education at SIT. We trust that this Bursary will help create a positive multiplier effect in our industry and our community," said Dr Brian Shegar, Chairman, The Masonic Charitable Fund.

"The Masonic Charitable Fund was first established in Singapore in 1919, and it is very impressive how much support it has already provided to educational institutions in the past year. SIT is very proud to become one of your earliest beneficiaries, and we are especially honoured to be the first Institute of Higher Learning to receive an endowment to support our SITizens," said Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT.



Prior to the cheque signing and presentation ceremony, representatives from The Masonic Charitable Fund also toured SIT's facilities such as the Allied Health Labs.

New Bursary Uplifts Future Healthcare Professionals

Permanent support for Nursing and Allied Health undergraduates at SIT - thanks to a new endowed gift made by the Ti Sui Tsu Memorial Fund



Ms Ti Sui Tsu (pictured with children) was a pioneer in the nursing profession in Singapore.

In honour of Ms Ti Sui Tsu's 100th birthdate on 12 April 2020, the Ti Sui Tsu Memorial Fund made an endowed gift to the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT), to establish the **Ti Sui Tsu Bursary** in support of Nursing and Allied Health

students at the university.

The late Ms Ti was a pioneer in the nursing profession in Singapore and had a career spanning over 30 years. She was among the first batch of six local nurses who were promoted to Ward Sister at Singapore General Hospital in 1951, and retired as Matron in the 1970s. She was passionate about helping those in need, especially nursing students. After her passing in 1988, she bequeathed her estate to several charities including the Barker Road Methodist Church, which set up the Memorial Fund in her name. In accordance with her wishes, many financially needy students have been supported.

The Ti Sui Tsu Bursary, valued at \$5,000 each, will support deserving undergraduates in SIT's Nursing or Allied Health programmes. Seven

students have received the Bursary so far, and at least seven bursaries will be awarded annually and in perpetuity.

During a campus visit on 27 April 2021 by the Trustees of the Memorial Fund, Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, thanked the trustees for empowering Allied Health and Nursing students at SIT. "This thoughtful gift will generate a multiplier effect in Singapore's healthcare sector and the larger community for years to come, as SIT is the only Autonomous University that offers a full suite of degree programmes in Allied Health and Nursing. Our graduates from these programmes are equipped with the skills to run hospitals and nursing homes, and their work will be pivotal in our nation's efforts to increase not just the life span, but also the health span of the population. They are the healthcare professionals who are helping to make life more optimal for many of us – our seniors and those in their families as well," he said.



Trustees of the Ti Sui Tsu Memorial Fund Mr Loke Beng Fong (fourth from right) and Mr Bill Chua (far right), together with Ms Gina Tan from Barker Road Methodist Church (third from right), the Ti Sui Tsu Bursary recipients, Prof Tan Thiam Soon (fifth from right), President, SIT, and Prof Loh Han Tong (second from right), Deputy President (Technical Development), SIT.

The OUE Scholarship will nurture academically outstanding students who have excelled in their co-curricular activities and made contributions to the community.



Nurturing Talent, Inspiring Service

With an eye to community development, OUE Limited makes possible a permanent scholarship at SIT

Thanks to an endowed gift from OUE Limited, a new scholarship has been established at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). The **OUE Scholarship** nurtures academically talented students who have a proven track record as leaders, whether in their co-curricular activities or in community service. At least one and up to two scholarships (valued at \$10,000 each) will be awarded annually and in perpetuity, starting from the upcoming Academic Year 2021/22.

The OUE Scholarship is applicable to Singapore Citizens and Singapore Permanent Residents from all undergraduate programmes offered at SIT. Preference will be given to those who come from financially disadvantaged families.

Prof Tan Thiam Soon, President, SIT, said, "We are very grateful for this gift from OUE Limited, as nurturing graduates who can be catalysts of transformation in the community is integral to SIT's aspirations as a university. We trust that the OUE Scholarship will encourage the recipients to grow into their full potential as service leaders for the future."

OUE Limited is a diversified real estate owner, developer and operator with a real estate portfolio located in prime locations in Asia. It grows its business by leveraging its brands and expertise in developing and managing landmark assets across the commercial, hospitality, retail and residential sectors.

"We are very grateful for this gift from OUE Limited, as nurturing graduates who can be catalysts of transformation in the community is integral to SIT's aspirations as a university."

- Prof Tan Thiam Soon,
President, SIT

Making an Impact, the SITizen Way

Making a Difference in Higher-Risk Areas of Healthcare

Shortly after completing his clinical placement at Philips Healthcare in April 2020, Ang Xu Kai was asked by his employer National University Hospital (NUH) if he could start work earlier in May, just a few days after completing his Diagnostic Radiography studies at the Singapore Institute of Technology (SIT). Hospitals were struggling to

cope with the rising COVID-19 cases at the time, and radiographers were in high demand to perform chest X-rays for suspected cases.

When he commenced work as a Radiographer at NUH, he was deployed at higher-risk areas of the hospital which treated and housed suspected COVID-19 patients. He also manned portable X-ray machines in isolation rooms. The uncertainty of the pandemic did not deter Xu Kai. "I didn't mind it at all as my job is to help the sick

and those in need of care," he said. "During my studies at SIT and my clinical attachments, the best practices and standards of care were always advocated by our teachers. I felt well-equipped to adjust to the heightened measures in that period."

Xu Kai hopes to one day become an Allied Health teacher to inspire future students, similar to how his teachers prepared him for his role now. "Modules like Anatomy and Physiology helped me understand clinical diagnoses. During my clinical placements, I acquired both technical and soft skills, complementing my theoretical knowledge, which made the transition to full-time employment easier."

During his time in SIT, Xu Kai received the Canon Medical Systems Asia Outstanding Student Award in Diagnostic Radiography (2020), Fullerton Health & Radlink-Asia Yearly Performance Award for Diagnostic Radiography (2018), and the Radiology & Co. Book Prize in Clinical Radiography Practice 1 (2017).

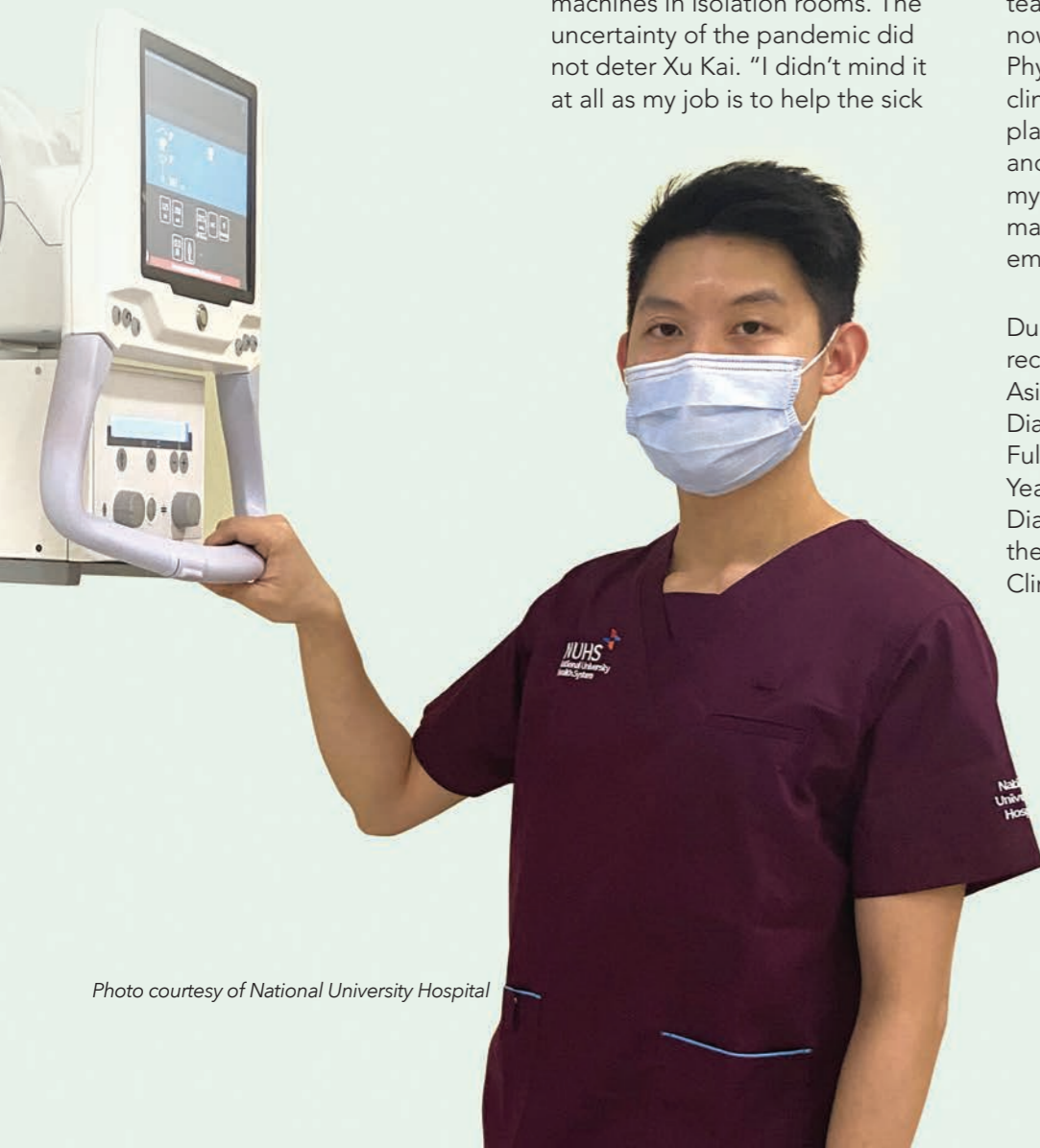


Photo courtesy of National University Hospital

Amid the pandemic, alumni Krithi Pushpanathan and Ang Xu Kai spend countless hours at the frontlines to assist migrant workers, suspected COVID-19 cases and other groups in need

Bringing Necessities, Easing Anxieties

During the circuit breaker period, Krithi Pushpanathan volunteered with Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2) five times a week to help migrant workers affected by the lockdown. She worked with the Small Essential Needs team, contacting workers stuck in the dormitories and bringing them daily necessities to help them cope with the anxiety of their situation. Krithi helped with case work as well, assisting them to write to the Ministry of Manpower if they had work issues requiring intervention.

The Class of 2020 Pharmaceutical Engineering alumnus has also been tutoring primary school children at Cheng San Family Services Centre for the past four years. When asked why volunteering is such a big part of her life, Krithi replied that she used to feel that she had been living life mostly for herself instead of others. "The basic commitment with TWC2 and tutoring was just one time a week each. I also had a friend who told me stories about what migrant workers were going through, and I felt I wanted to help this vulnerable group of people. So I just tried it, made friends with fellow volunteers who are very passionate, and didn't look back."

Krithi is a SINDA Excellence Award 2020 winner, SIT Scholar and recipient of the AbbVie Outstanding Student Award in Pharmaceutical Engineering (2020). She is currently working as a Research Engineer in SIT, exploring potential methods of bringing down the cost of expanding T-Cells through development of serum-free media. She will be going to Imperial College London later this year to pursue a Master's degree in epidemiology.



Photo courtesy of SINDA

A Therapeutic Match

The SIT Alumni Mentoring Programme concluded its successful inaugural cycle in March 2021. We catch up with a trio of participants from the Health & Social Sciences cluster to find out how their mentoring journey went



After months of only communicating via text messages and Zoom calls, mentor Sharifah (clockwise, first from left), and mentees Marcus (clockwise, sixth from left) and Darren (clockwise, seventh from left) finally met in person at the mentor-mentee dinner, together with pairs from other clusters.

The SIT Alumni Mentoring Programme had a rather rocky start. It launched amidst the COVID-19 pandemic, meaning its participants would mostly only be able to meet virtually, not the most ideal situation for a mentoring relationship. Nevertheless, the programme is currently mid-way through its second cycle – and gaining traction among SITizens.

Among the SITizens who joined the programme looking to learn from each other through their academic and professional experiences are

Alumni mentor Ms Sharifah Rawiah and her two Student mentees, Mr Darren Lim and Mr Marcus Oon.

Sharifah, an Occupational Therapy alumnus, decided to take on the role of a mentor for the first time through this programme. Her interest is in grooming future therapists and sharing real-life experiences about working in the healthcare industry, such as the difference between working in a hospital setting and the social service sector. "Back when I was in school, we could only have



such candid conversations with therapists in the workforce during clinical rotations. But that can be stressful as you are being supervised, or you simply may not have the time," she explained.

She was matched with Darren and Marcus, both Year 2 students in the Physiotherapy degree programme. Sharifah recalled that the mentees were initially worried that her being in a different discipline would limit the learning experience. However, the difference between the two professions actually helped them better understand how physiotherapists and occupational therapists can work together.

Sharifah has also learned to be a better communicator through her mentor role. "My mentees have very different personalities and I had to be mindful of being adaptable in the way I communicated with each of them."

Darren said he was thankful to have a senior open his eyes to the workings of his future career. "My mentor is very nurturing, and I appreciate that apart from academics, she also taught me important soft skills as a Physiotherapist," he said.

Marcus said the programme has given him a deeper understanding of the healthcare industry. "I got to learn more about the different healthcare settings available and whether it would fit my career goals. I found that Intermediate and Long-Term Care is a good fit for me," he said.

The trio has plans to keep in touch through social media and messaging apps, now that their mentoring cycle has concluded. And it appears that the SIT Alumni Mentoring Programme has found legs beyond SIT: Having been inspired to use her newfound mentoring knowledge, Sharifah has started a mentoring programme at work within her team, where new therapists are paired with seasoned therapists. She also supports them by facilitating reflection sessions throughout their mentoring journey.



Alumni mentors and Student mentees met each other in person for the first time at specially arranged dinners in February 2021. This was also a chance to network with mentors and mentees from other clusters.

*All activities pictured were carried out in accordance with Phase Three of the Singapore Government's guidelines in February 2021.



The SIT Alumni Mentoring Programme

This is a six-month long programme bringing together SIT alumni and students to foster personal and professional growth, as well as exchange knowledge and skillsets through mentorship. Organised by the SIT Advancement & Alumni Division and supported by SIT Student Life Division, the programme's first cycle was officially launched in September 2020.

A total of 43 Alumni mentors were matched with 52 Student mentees in Cycle 1, where each mentor could choose to take on one or two mentees. The programme will soon be completing its second cycle in August 2021, where 45 mentors were matched with 50 mentees. As many as 10 mentors have joined the programme for the second time since the first cycle.

Their Very First Time!

Debating as a competing Cluster at SIT ICG 2021, SIT alumni bag 1 Gold, 3 Silvers, and a Bronze



Competition heats up as alumnus (in grey) shields the ball from his opponent's advances.

Held from 27 February to 13 March 2021, ICG 2021 tested the athletic and mental prowess of participants in Bowling, Badminton, Basketball, Cue Sports, Floorball, Futsal, Chess, Chinese Chess, as well as e-Sports such as Counter-Strike: Global Offensive, FIFA and Mobile Legends: Bang Bang. The Games stretched over two weeks due to COVID-19 safe management measures.

The Alumni Cluster was created after heeding feedback from participants of past ICGs. Said Accountancy alumnus Mr David-Mark Lim, a first-time ICG participant, "I think having an Alumni Cluster for ICG gives us an identity. It's a good initiative that allows different generations of alumni to meet and have meaningful exchanges."

Ms Cheryl Boey, a representative of the Chemical Engineering and Food Technology cluster in Floorball since 2016, said it felt surreal to be able to return to SIT@Dover campus to play Futsal for the Alumni Cluster "despite the COVID-19 restrictions". "I'm glad that the committee was still able to organise Futsal 3v3 matches," the fifth-time ICG alumni participant added.

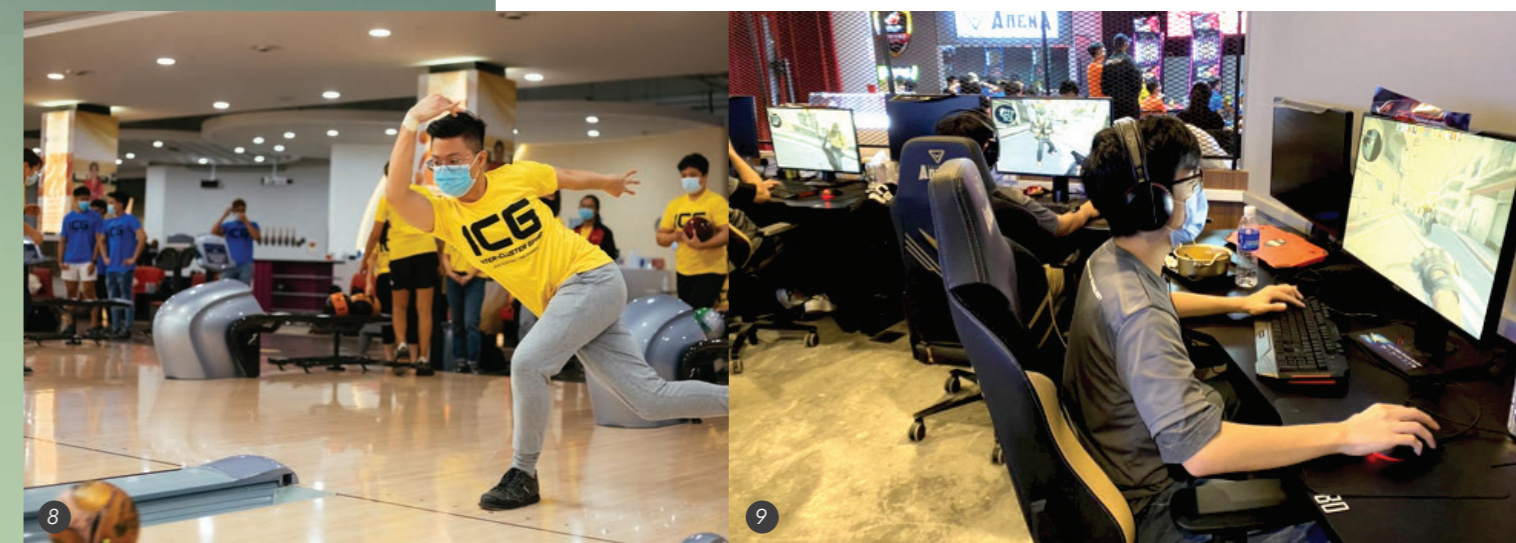
At ICG 2021, the Health and Social Sciences Cluster emerged overall champion, prying the title from the InfoComm Technology Cluster.



- 1 Alumni team wins Gold at Counter-Strike: Global Offensive.
- 2 Alumni team takes home the silver medal at Cue Sports.
- 3 Alumni participants proudly donning their Silver Medals for Badminton.
- 4 SITizens strategise their moves to seal the victory in the game of chess.
- 5 Alumni defending a move from their opponents.
- 6 Chemical Engineering and Food Technology (CEFT) representative (in yellow) taking a swing to lead the ball away from the rink.
- 7 Alumni participant attempts to sink the ball into the pocket.
- 8 Participant from the CEFT cluster aims for a strike!
- 9 The alumni participants work in unison to win the top spot at Counter-Strike: Global Offensive.



The SIT Inter-Cluster Games (ICG) 2021 was the first-ever ICG where alumni pitted their skills as a cluster against the five academic clusters – and went on to make a very good first showing for themselves. They bagged the gold medal for Counter-Strike: Global Offensive, silver medal for Chess (Males, Individual), silver medal at Badminton, silver medal at Cue Sports, and bronze medal at Futsal.



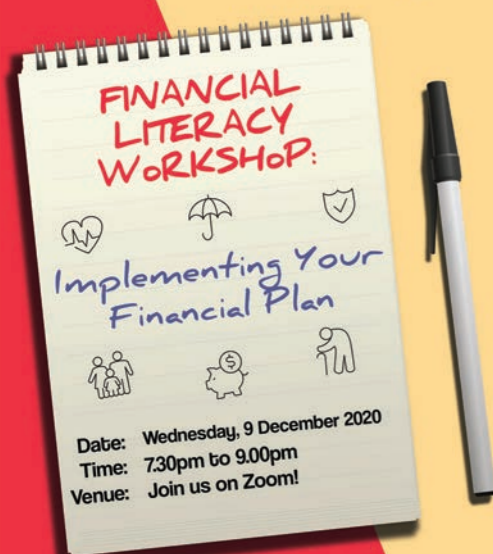
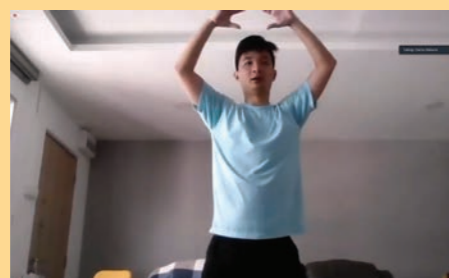
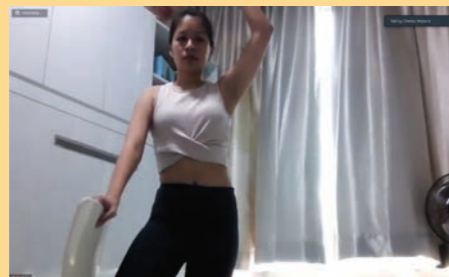
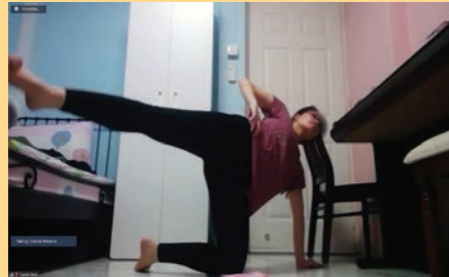
Staying Safe, Connected - and Delighted!

Fun online workshops keep alumni together, while the Class of 2020 gets a special delivery

When plans for physical gatherings had to be put on hold due to the ongoing safe-distancing measures, SITizens were still able to join in the fun at a myriad of online workshops and webinars organised by the SIT Alumni Networks, all from the comfort of their homes.

Implementing Your Financial Plan | SIT Alumni Career Network 9 December 2020

Held in collaboration with the Institute for Financial Literacy, this Zoom webinar shared with SITizens how to put together a good financial planning roadmap. One of the key principles is that a good financial plan covers three areas: Save, Protect, and Invest. SITizens learnt how to decide on how much insurance coverage one should get, and general principles for making investment decisions.



When Celebration Comes in a Special Delivery

Like most other key events on SIT's university calendar, the tradition of holding the annual SIT New Alumni Welcome Party to welcome newly minted graduates was disrupted amid social distancing measures. Still, the celebration must go on, and a warm welcome was delivered in a box to new alumni from the Class of 2020, right to their doorsteps.

The pack contained a packet of customised rock candy, a handcrafted soap bar from Rough Beauty founded by alumnus Ms Chew Jia Tian, a fabric mask with a pouch, and stickers as well as stick-on patches featuring the winning designs by SITizens from the Sticker-Patch Competition held in September 2020.

Diagnostic Radiography graduate Ms Jolene Tan was looking forward to receiving her New Alumni Welcome Pack as many of her friends had already received it before she did. "I definitely enjoyed unwrapping and exploring the items in the pack, I thought it was very thoughtful especially in times like this. I like that the mask had a small design at the side and I have stuck the patches onto my room display as a memento," she said.

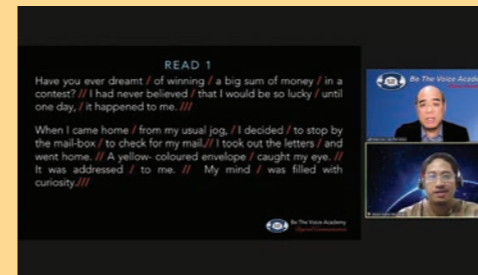
Barre Fundamentals | SIT Alumni Sports Network 19 December 2020

SITizens get a taste of Barre, a high-intensity fitness class combining ballet techniques, yoga and pilates.

The Zoom photos may not show all participants in great clarity (or entirety), but the contorted bodies tell the story of how SITizens were trying their very best – and having great fun – at high-intensity movements such as mountain climbers, tricep dips and plié exercises commonly executed by ballet dancers. While ballet dancers normally do plié exercises with a barre as support, the participants used the back of a chair or a table instead.

I exercise regularly, but Barre is still difficult for me as it uses different muscles from the ones I'm used to. The instructor also made sure to correct our posture so we could feel the stretch.

Ms Hilary Lim,
Accountancy graduate



Effective Public Speaking and Presentation Skills | SIT Alumni Career Network 28 April 2021

At a Zoom webinar guided by Mr Brian Lee from Be The Voice Academy, participants learnt to harness the power of their voices.

A key concept introduced during the talk was the importance of word stress and speaking fluently. The stresses contribute to the clarity and meaning of one's speech so that one is easily understood. Good speakers also have the power to influence others with their voice.

Wooden Jewellery Workshop | SIT Alumni Leisure Network 26 - 28 January 2021

All that glitters is not gold – in fact it may be wood, which can be used to make jewellery – and SITizens learned how to at this workshop. Led by Ms Lyn Ng from wood-crafting studio Studio MU YU, they created wooden earrings, necklaces and bag charms. Although not a wearer of accessories, Information and Communications Technology alumnus Mr Chong Hiu Fung enjoyed learning how to customise something for himself rather than buying an already finished product.



"I have always wanted to try similar projects," he said. "I have worked mostly with plastic material, so it's fun learning about how to handle wood and the different ways to treat wood products."

Resin Cheeseboard Workshop | SIT Alumni Leisure Network 24 and 25 March 2021

Resin pouring is one of the latest ways for people to flex their creativity. SITizens at this workshop were provided with an Art Experience kit that included a wooden cheeseboard. To create the resin for pouring, they had to mix clear epoxy resin with hardener, which would become solid plastic once it is set. The resin was then combined with



inks to create unique colours.

Galaxy Mountain Art Jamming Workshop | SIT Alumni Leisure Network 24 and 25 May 2021

SITizens unleashed their inner artist, expressing themselves on the canvas at this workshop led by Ms Joie Tan from Artify Studio. They each received a set of acrylic paints, paintbrushes, a canvas, a toothbrush and a Galaxy Mountain image to follow.

They began by priming their canvas black. Ms Tan then demonstrated 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.



Celebrating SITizen Volunteers

In appreciation of SIT's Student Hosts and SITizen Ambassadors

Volunteers' Appreciation Gathering

It is almost impossible to imagine the world of SITizens without the Student Hosts, who give their support so generously to SIT's Advancement & Alumni (A&A) events. From 19 – 23 March 2021, 21 student hosts past and present were finally able to gather in small groups amid the pandemic, at Holey Moley in Clarke Quay for the Volunteers' Appreciation Gathering. Hosted by A&A, this annual event should have been held in 2020, were it not for the COVID-19 circuit breaker.

The student hosts have supported many SIT Alumni Network events over the years, including a range of activities launched in 2019 such as Night @ The Projector, The SITuation Room, and friendly alumni sports sessions like Basketball and Captain's Ball. Their roles included event management and engaging with alumni through networking and outreach.

Among the former student hosts who turned up at the event was Sustainable Infrastructure Engineering (SIE) alumnus Mr Shawn Koh, who is now working in facilities

management at JTC Corporation. He said, "I haven't met my fellow student hosts since my graduation, so it was great to finally hang out."

Said Year 3 Diagnostic Radiography student Ms Seah Zhi Xuan, "The atmosphere and the company were awesome, and I enjoyed playing mini-golf together!"



Student hosts enjoyed catching up over food and playing mini golf, together with staff from the Advancement & Alumni Division.



Edsel (back row, second from left), together with his fellow SAs, represented SIT at university events organised by different divisions. In this photo, they were at SIT Open House in January 2020 to engage with the public.

SITizen Ambassadors

Being a SITizen Ambassador is another way that students are contributing to SIT. The SITizen Ambassadors (SAs) programme was launched in 2019 by the Student Life Division to develop students who are deeply passionate about SIT and embody the SIT spirit and DNA to represent the University and engage with key stakeholders. After a successful pilot run, a new batch of 67 Ambassadors was installed in October 2020.

The SAs have been a key part of several A&A events, including the SIT Alumni Mentoring Programme, where they help to facilitate meetings between Alumni mentors

and Student mentees. They have also contributed to SIT in their roles as photographers, emcees, as well as playing hosts to community leaders and SIT donors at University events.

Mr Edsel Li, a Hospitality Business student, who was among the pilot batch of SAs, describes his experience as "fruitful, beneficial, and eye-opening". "I had the privilege to meet different people, connect with like-minded peers and be exposed to professional settings," he said. "As university is the last lap of my academic life, I am extra grateful to pick up life skills and strategies to help me understand how to differentiate myself to be an effective person."

*All activities pictured here were carried out in accordance with Phase 3 of the Singapore Government's guidelines in March 2021.



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.

'4 Angels' to the Rescue

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

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."

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