Top of Their Class

Chow Tzu Hao
Institution of Engineers Singapore
Gold Medal
Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal
Matsushita Gold Medal
Motorola Book Prize for E440 Digital Systems
Motorola Book Prize for E441 Electronic Circuit Design

Liang Aik Kwan
Association of Consulting Engineers Singapore
Gold Medal
Avimo Gold Medal
Motorola Book Prize for E468 Robotics & Automation
NTU Alumni Prize
EEE Colour Award (Silver)

E³World: Between the two of you, you won 5 Gold Medals and numerous other prizes, how are you using your award / where have you put it?

Tzu Hao: I am currently working as a system engineer at Agilent Technologies. The work scope involves printed circuit board design for fiber optic products.

E³World: Have your awards had an impact on your life in any way?

Tzu Hao: The awards have been a very great motivation force for what I do. They are a sign of recognition for the hard work that was put in. It reinforces for me that if we put in hard work, the chances of achieving what we want would be higher. Although these awards bring tremendous amount of pride, I believe that what is more important is the knowledge that was gained during the course in achieving them.

Liang Aik Kwan: The cash award sits nicely in my bank account, I have no plans on how to use them just yet. As goes for the $300 book voucher I am thinking of buying Tom Clancy’s latest war thriller “Red Rabbit”. The medals, I have proudly displayed on the shelves in my bedroom.

Tzu Hao: I will most likely purchase some books mainly relating to management and science. As for the Gold medals, they are displayed in a glass cabinet at my house.

E³World: the awards given for your favorite subject?

Tzu Hao: The Matsushita Gold Medal and the Motorola Book Prizes are for the Electronics option subjects. As I am from that option, they are some of the more interesting subjects. Generally, I find that most if not all the EEE subjects have interesting parts. As such, I do not really have a favourite subject. However, I feel that if I am more interested in one, I would put in more effort and chances are the grades will be better.

Aik Kwan: Some of the awards came as a big surprise. I did not expect to top the cohort in the final year exams. Neither did I expect to get the NTU Alumni Prize! The only book prize I was awarded was in E468: Robotics and Automation, which was, ironically, my General Elective subject. But yes, it was one of my favourite subjects in the fourth year. Hence, getting the E468 Book Prize did come as a surprise, but probably my interest in it helped me to do well for that paper.

E³World: What are you doing now?

Aik Kwan: I am a Naval Engineering Officer with the Republic of Singapore Navy, charged with maintaining and operating the electronics ‘gadgets’ and weapons onboard ship.

Tzu Hao: I have been asked myself, “Have I gotten the most out of my life in NTU, or was it just a typical paper-chase quest?” My answer, Certainly the days in the Nanyang Campus were the most rewarding of all my years of study, and there I made friends whom I don’t think I will ever forget in my life.

E³World: What about the impact of EEE?

Aik Kwan: I doubt that the Navy is going to give me a pay raise on account of these awards. I also do not believe that my superior is going to perceive me differently. The impact of these awards has been on a very personal level. They have boosted my confidence in my academic ability and maybe attested to certain qualities I have displayed in the pursuit for self-enrichment throughout the past four years. They are like a big pat on the shoulder, saying,” Keep up the good work, you aspired and you have done it!”

E³World: Have your awards had an impact on your life in any way?