Excellence in Teaching Award

The University confers Teaching Awards to faculty members to recognize excellent teaching practices that enrich the learning experiences of students in NTU. EEE is proud to announce the 3 winners for 2005. One professor won 2 awards in the same year. Another winner is a lady professor who has won teaching and other awards and the 3rd professor is a naturally talented person. Let us meet them in the pages below.

Double Awards

The big Prizes go to former NTU graduate, Assoc Prof Teh Kah Chan for winning 2 awards: Excellence in Teaching Award (Year 4) and EEE Year 3 Teaching Award.

Many of the Assoc Prof Teh's students perceive the topics that he teaches to be difficult. However, thanks to his ability to simplify difficult concepts using a systematic approach, many students are able to grasp difficult concepts quickly. His students responded positively on his teaching and in volumes. A typical feedback from students:

"His lectures are well-organized so that it is easy to follow. He emphasizes that it is more important to understand the basic concepts rather than to memorize them. He tries to link the concepts to real-life applications thus enhancing our understanding. My friends and I are very impressed by how he taught certain topics like convolution in time domain. He is very good at explaining mathematical derivations.

In his tutorials, he encouraged us to look for alternative and the best solutions. He taught us how to learn and to appreciate the subject beyond the syllabus.

Overall, he deserves the Excellent Teacher Awards."

One student jokingly added that his loud and clear lectures kept him awake so that he could focus on the lesson and he learnt much.

As we can see, Assoc Prof Teh's task is not easy. In addition to difficult topics, he has to teach large groups of 500 - 1000 students at any one time. Neither was the teaching award easily won.

He did not start by being a good teacher. Since his undergraduate days in NTU, he aspired to be a university lecturer. He was taught well and he wanted to do the same for his students. He took steps to improve his teaching by taking the students' perspective and using feedback constructively as well as learning from his former NTU lecturers. Today, he is gratified and overjoyed at winning not one but 2 teaching excellence awards. All his efforts paid off. It is certainly an important milestone in his career.

However, this is not the end of teaching achievements. Assoc Prof Teh feels that there is still room for improvement. He wants to find ways to motivate students to learn. "My ultimate aim is that students attend my lectures not because they have to but because they enjoy my lectures and learn something useful to them," he said.

It is interesting to note that Assoc Prof Teh did not use powerpoint presentation during his lectures but 2 overhead projectors. So, it is not always necessary to use high tech equipment to make students understand. It is his clear delivery, enthusiasm, passion and patience that got the lesson across to many.

Congratulations, Assoc Prof Teh. You are certainly an inspiration to students and faculty.