Congratulations on winning the Excellence in Teaching Award! How does winning the award make you feel?

**Assoc Prof Rusli:** I feel very happy and honoured, and would really like to express my heart-felt gratitude to the students who have voted for me.

**What are the three or four most important aspects of teaching/learning for you?**

**Assoc Prof Rusli:** It is important to be prepared for every lecture and tutorial and deliver it with enthusiasm, clarity and creativity. We should also enjoy our teaching as much as we wish students to enjoy their learning. In this way, lessons can come alive, students can be engaged and active learning can be accomplished.

I believe that all our students have a natural potential for learning. I quote George Evans, “Every student can learn, just not on the same day, or the same way”. Therefore, be patient and kind with students, empathize with them and be willing to listen to their problems and offer them assistance. This will help create a positive environment where learning can be enjoyable for everyone and flourish naturally. ‘Have a heart that never hardens, and a temper that never tires, and a touch that never hurts.’ Charles Dickens

**What motivates you in your teaching?**

**Assoc Prof Rusli:** Sharing my knowledge with students gives me a sense of satisfaction. I derive joy from being able to make students understand difficult concepts and expand their horizons. I find satisfaction in seeing the excitement in their eyes and the nodding of their heads when they understand my explanation in class; the smiles and sense of fulfillment on their faces when their queries have been answered each time after consultation; and the words, “Thank you”, have been the best reward and motivation in my teaching.

**What motivated you to become a teacher/academic?**

**Assoc Prof Rusli:** Initially, I applied to work in NTU as I am someone who enjoys thinking about and researching problems, scientific and otherwise. Though I understood that teaching would form a central part of the position as an academic in the university, I had no idea then whether I would be able to teach or not. One thing for certain is that I enjoy learning and sharing my knowledge, and hence teaching can’t be too far away from my desire.