Engineer Your Life – 23 February 2013

It was a high-powered girls’ day out at NTU as prospective students gathered to attend the inaugural session of ‘Engineer Your Life’, an exclusive girls-only event organised for newly graduated Junior College students. The 3-hour long event saw the combined efforts of the 6 engineering Schools and College in engaging and educating the girls and their accompanying parents about engineering.
Gracing the event was a distinguished panel of female speakers, which included Er Dr Lee Bee Wah (MP and CEE alumnus), Ms Grace Chew (Co-founder and Technical Director of Hydroemission Pte Ltd and MSE alumnus), and Professor Paula Hammond (Visiting Professor from MIT). Together with Dean Janie Fouke, the panel was a veritable showcase of real-life examples of successful female engineers who have made their mark in the industry. The sharing was followed by a highly interactive and energetic Q&A session, where the girls voiced their concerns and queries about an engineering education and its future prospects. Gregarious faculty gamely took on the questions and encouraged the girls to explore the many engineering options available.

Later, as the parents continued with a campus tour, the girls moved on to the Nanyang Foyer for a round robin session of hands-on activities with the individual schools. Soon, foam planes were flying and graphic designers were blooming as the girls experienced
first-hand the diversity of our engineering programs. At the refreshments corner, chatter filled the space as the girls enjoyed one-on-one time with faculty members. Parents too, had the opportunity to converse with faculty over food and drinks. The event was capped off with a surprise lucky draw, where three girls found themselves the unexpected winners of a pair of tickets to Universal Studios and CapitaLand mall shopping vouchers.

Kudos to everyone who worked on this event to make it happen! We hope that attending the event has made an impression on these young girls and we look forward to seeing a new brood of female engineers rising to the challenge in the near future.

**Staff Appreciation Luncheon 2013**

The Staff Appreciation Luncheon 2013 held on 5 February was a well-deserved break for all administrative and technical staff. Held at the Nanyang Auditorium Exhibition Hall, it was organised to recognise staff and their collective efforts in supporting the College, thereby contributing to NTU’s remarkable progress in the world university rankings. College leadership members were also present to show their appreciation for their staff members.
While staff mingled over the sumptuous buffet spread, the emcee led several rounds of games, drawing much laughter and unveiling the unknown talents amongst the staff. Winners of the lucky draw also found themselves owners of a brand new electrical oven, an all-in-one DVD boombox and a multipurpose HDTV cum LED PC monitor, all in time for the new year. We would like to thank the organising committee for putting this lunch together and everyone else for their attendance and feedback. Here's looking forward to the Staff Appreciation Luncheon 2014!

CoE’s First Facebook App: Enginopolis

As part of the launch of its Facebook page last year, CoE developed Enginopolis, the first ever board game app to be developed on Facebook in Singapore. Besides being part of a fan-acquisition drive, Enginopolis served as a platform for prospective students to get acquainted with CoE and engineering in a fun and quirky way.
The game mechanics were simple: roll the virtual dice, and land on a tile that either had a fun fact about one of the six engineering schools, an interesting tidbit about a hot student hangout, or if you were lucky enough, contained a prize from McDonald’s, Old Chang Kee, Golden Village or the Fashion Fast Forward retail group. To keep playing the board game, every two successful friend referrals entitled users to another dice roll. Attracting over 3,500 participants over a period of 4 weeks, 5 determined users who completed the entire course of the board game came out tops to win the grand prize of an iPad Mini and four $50 H&M gift cards.

Enginopolis has come to a close, but fans can now look forward to another game app – Flip-Pic – a picture search game that will require fans to uncover tiles featuring the 6 schools in order to win a prize. Primarily targeted at prospective students, the game aims to continually engage with these students in the social sphere, especially during the current admissions period. Current students are also welcome to participate!
Graduate Studies Overseas Recruitment Activities

Every year, to incite the very best talent to join our research programs, talent-scouting takes place locally and beyond our shores. This year, emerging countries with an increasing emphasis on education were identified, prompting a series of college entrance tests and recruitment trips made to Sri Lanka and Kazakhstan for the first time.

In Sri Lanka, a delegation comprising of Professors Alex Kot, Thiru Sritharan and Subbu Venktaraman visited two public universities: the University of Moratuwa and the University of Peradeniya. The team held a discussion with the engineering Deans and faculty on research collaboration and student exchanges, and also conducted a recruitment talk for its students. Another talk was held in nearby Colombo as well.

Likewise in Kazakhstan, Professors Alex Kot, So Ping Lam and Kwoh Chee Keong toured and conferred with the Suleyman Demirel University, Kazakh-British Technical University and Kazakhstan National Technical University in Almaty city to understand Kazakhstan’s education system. The delegation was also hosted to a lunch with the President at Suleyman Demirel University.

As CoE continues to explore opportunities overseas, it is hoped that these first steps will build the foundation for strategic partnerships with these universities in the near future.

Priming the Ground for Research of Impact and Partnerships

Sowing the seeds of research and measuring its impact on the dynamic research landscape has been an on-going endeavour by the College. In the past year, CoE has worked closely with the Schools to identify and seed research of strategic potential, with about 20 projects attaining seed grants to further develop their research ideas. The requirement for the grant award is quite specific – the Principal Investigators (PIs) to
these seed projects are to submit proposals to major grant calls when the projects are completed.

Following the closure of projects from the last financial year, the PIs are gearing up to craft proposals for submission to the National Research Foundation's Competitive Research Programme Funding Scheme, MOE Tier 3 and other major grants calls. The seed grant programme was formulated to position CoE for the next big bang in research, with the hope that these proposals will come to fruition and break new ground in the engineering space.

Seeding research is a long term but necessary investment to grow research capacity and prowess. To support this process, the College will continue with the effort in the new financial year. We look forward to having our faculty actively scan for emerging research opportunities and share with us trailblazing research ideas and proposals.

To further inject competitiveness and innovation into our research, it is imperative that we pair up with other research players. This, along with the emphasis to deliver research of economic impact, has been highlighted in the Government's Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) 2015 Plan. As such, plans to rev up engagement with industry players are in the pipeline, through initiatives like the Industry Partnership programme and Industry Research and Innovation Grant scheme. As details of these initiatives are still being worked out, we welcome suggestions or ideas on plausible avenues of collaborating with the industry, especially new partners. Do drop us a note on your thoughts or let us know if you need the College's facilitation to link up with a new industrial collaborator. We would like to hear from you and together, make a difference in this technology transfer effort.