IEM Yearbook
Information Engineering & Media

Voices
Events
Achievements
Gallery

Anson Cheng
Li Ruixue
Zhao Bing
WANG XIN LING

I was luckily to be part of the organizing committee of IEM Reunion Party. I found the fun of being in this small community. We have chance to get connected to our profs, coordinators and seniors, which is quite exciting and fruitful moments. EXPECTATION: I want more gatherings! Or just workshops or something like that, to make our meet more often.

LIU QING HUA

To be a part of IEM is an amazing experience. I never expect myself to be both an engineering and art student. All people from other school described us the “all-in-one” major, and that just sounds super cool. Since IEM is a small cohort, all the students know each other well, international students are well integrated and mixed with the local students, even the professors have a lot of

YEE MIAO LING

I knew that I wanted a multidisciplinary education since secondary school. IEM programme has courses I am interested in - engineering, art and media. Every lecture and tutorial is always a fun and enriching experience.

CHEW SIEW MOOI

I have always wanted to develop the artistic side of me, but my stronger interest in scientific courses precluded any pursuit of that interest until now. This programme, with its fusion of art and media with engineering, is the perfect answer for me. It has made it possible for me to express myself creatively and artistically through engineering. “Although this is a course just as competitible as others, I feel more friendships than competition,

ZHAOBING

I’m really enjoying the life in IEM. Exposure to different perspectives and viewpoints at IEM has helped me to think more creatively and out of the box. And being in IEM-Econs double degree programme definitely boosts my employability in the future since the programme trains me to be an all rounded person.

SITI FATIMAH

I recommend this course to those who are considering their options after polytechnic as it gave me a sense of belonging in the school and the drive to succeed no matter what the odds are.
Event
A day of fun, games and friendship kickstarted university life for the freshmen.

This year’s orientation theme was ELEMENTEM, ‘the simplest component of a complex substance’.

It is a metaphor for how every person comes together to make up the IEM family. The freshmen were split into 6 groups, Abyss, Aqua, Cosmos, Plasma, Pyro and Tempest, corresponding to the elements of space, water, earth, energy, fire and wind respectively.

An exciting race was held around the central and south areas of Singapore. Groups were tasked with missions such as taking themed photos with tourists, challenged to 20-second speed drawings, and they even re-enacted scenes in paintings!

Teams were also pitted against each other during competitive games in Sentosa.

Although it rained the better half of the day, our spirits were not dampened. The orientation ended on a high note with each group promoting their elements in a skit.

Freshmen and seniors alike forged strong bonds that will bring them through their time in NTU IEM.
Field Trip to Asian Civilisations Museum

Professor Joan Kelly

The students are now in the process of using the activity of drawing practice to train hand coordination with the eye and imagination.

The terracotta Warriors are the perfect subject in form for the exercise. While the students are acquiring technical facility we have broader goals for them.

At the same time we want the students to be making connections between seemingly disparate events and diverse cultures, and bridging boundaries that produce deeper insights.

The depths of historic significance the figures hold, armies of the First Emperor Qin Shi Huang and how this is portrayed through the costume, body gestures, hairstyle and facial expression is studied through this thoughtful practice as a way of knowing and understanding. Lastly we are always thinking of ways to invigorate the classroom.
I took the Alias Autodesk course early into my first semester. Having heard about the amazing capabilities of the Autodesk, I had high expectations for the course. I wanted to learn how to sketch 3D models, I wanted to know how to create real models out of just mere imagination. I wanted to know just how the professionals do it. The lecturer was very patient, wanting the class to progress together, and keeping in check that all our possible doubts were clarified. I would say, even though this was only a one day course, I had picked up the basic fundamentals that would enable me to create a simple 3-d image. It was certainly a course worth...
Chinese New Year is a time for celebrations and reunions. On the 3rd of February, IEM students across all years came together to catch up with each other and with the professors. Sporting students competed with each other at CNY-themed games, including Guess the Number of Oranges, Peel the Pomelo, and Orange Stacko. Multi-talented IEM students put up performances for their fellow coursemates. Before the sumptuous buffet dinner, everyone gathered to toss yusheng, a traditional Chinese New Year activity that brings prosperity and luck for the new year. The NTU Lion Dance Club was also called in for a performance, and that brought the event to a new high! Many newly-graduated IEM seniors from the first batch also came to share their working experiences, and to mingle with each other and their juniors.

It was an enjoyable break from the school curriculum, as we look forward to the new year!
IEM Reunion Party 2011

IEM Year 1 Student, Wang Xinling

On 23rd September 2011, the SRC Clubhouse witnessed another memorable event for the IEM students — IEM Reunion Party. As the name suggests, it is a reunion for IEM undergraduates, alumni and professors.

This year, the number of attendees has reached a new cheering high of over a hundred. Besides students, some VIPs and advisors from the school also took part in this reunion party. They are: Professor Cheng Tee Hiang, Assoc Prof Teh Kah Chan, Assoc Prof Guan Yong Liang, Assoc Prof Chua Hock Chuan, Assoc Prof Chen Lihui, Assoc Prof Lin Zhiping and Assoc Prof Yap Kim Hui.

The party began with several ice-breaking games hosted by our emcees, Wong Ding Jie and Teo Ying Ying. Guests had fun interacting with each other. Soon, the entire SRC lounge was brimming with fun and laughter. The annual IEM Design Competition also took place on the same day. The IEM family enthusiastically voted for their favorite designs as submitted by our very own students.

Following up closely, Associate Professor Chua Hock Chuan gave a briefing about DIP/IA/IO Programmes to better prepare our fellow coursemates for their academic life ahead.

While enjoying the tasty barbeque food, students, alumni, professors shared experiences with each other, caught up with old friends and made new ones. The highlight came with the cake cutting ceremony. A baby-face-shaped cake decorated with a mortar board surrounded by 16 mini-cakes of same design was presented to the guests, signifying the unity between the graduate alumni and the IEM family. After the cake sharing, guests were entertained by a series of musical and dance performances. The winners of design competition were announced.

This party is a true reflection of the IEM tradition. It is also our unique way of integrating our freshies into the family.
Congratulations to Winning Teams

We are pleased to announce the following winners of 2011/12 IEM Design and Innovation Project (DIP) Competition:

1. Project No: P003
Title: The Wheelson
Supervisor: A/P Chen Li Hui

2. Project No: P006
Title: Smart Shopping Directory
Supervisor: Asst/Prof Andy Khong Wai Hoong

We would like to thank the following staff for their precious time and hard work contributed to make the IEM DIP Competition a successful one!

Chief Judge: A/P Gan Woon Seng (Head-IE Div)
Judges: Asst/Prof Andy Khong; A/P Chan Kap Luk; A/P Chen Lihui; Asst/Prof Yuan Junsong; A/P Mohammed Yakoob Siyal, A/P Chua Hock Chuan

Congratulations to the winning teams and all the Year-2 DIP students for the successful completion of their DIP projects!

2011/2012

IEM DIP Competition

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<th>Project No.</th>
<th>Project Title</th>
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<td>P001</td>
<td>Kinect-Controlled Home Entertainment System</td>
<td>Asst Prof Andy Khong Wai Hoong</td>
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<tr>
<td>P002</td>
<td>Kinect Applications</td>
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<td>P003</td>
<td>RC car obstacle course game with Camera and Infra-red Checkpoints using Android and Arduino</td>
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<td>Smart Shopping Directory</td>
<td>Asst Prof Andy Khong Wai Hoong</td>
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<tr>
<td>P007</td>
<td>Kinect controlled Music Mixer</td>
<td>A/P Chen Lihui</td>
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Winner Project "The Wheelson"

Winner Project "Smart Shopping Directory"
Profile

20th NTUSU Vice-President - he founded the Union Shop, the official NTU merchandise outlet which has since become a highly successful start-up business. For his contributions to the university, he was honored the NTUSU Gold Award of Service by the Associate Provost (Student Life) in 2011.

He was an ASEAN scholar, a yearly awardee of the Dean's List.

Chong Yang was also a co-author of 3 research papers. Chong Yang first developed a passion for research under the URECA Research Programme. He has since won the First Prizes twice in the URECA Research Exhibition and Competition, in 2010 and 2012, respectively.

He will pursue his PhD under full scholarship at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Chong Yang was awarded with EEE Excellence Award 2012 and will receive Koh Boon Hwee Scholars Award in the coming Convocation 2012.

Could you tell us more about yourself

I’m from Penang, Malaysia. I came over to Singapore in 2008 to study.

Do you have any hobbies and interests?

Photography is one of my main interests. In my free time I also play badminton. And I also go swimming, although not as frequently as I’d really like to. Other things that I do include watching movies. I also read quite a lot of blogs, and sometimes magazines on technology and science.

What is your personal motto?

Because I’ll be pursuing my PHD, so for myself, what I really do value is that I can make actual contributions during the course of my phd studies or perhaps at the end of my phd studies when I publish a thesis. So if there’s going to be something that resembles a motto, it would be along the lines of to be able to make contributions to the knowledge field that I’m majoring in, and to be able to solve some problems of practical interests to the society.

One thing about such a thing about motto and personal goals is that they can change with life. And hopefully this will be the last so-called guidelines that I will live by. Of course you want to do something really significant, focus is very important. So you can not afford to change from time to time.

Then what about your definition of success?

Same as the motto that I mentioned just now, my definition of success has also been changing over the years. Not too long ago, maybe when I was in first year, like many of the juniors, what I would consider, what I would thought of defining success is mainly by personal achievement. And I believe many young people will also do that, like how much you have accomplished for yourself, awards, certain recognition and things like that. But that is slowly changing and I realize that obsession of this kind of recognition really doesn’t carry you very far in life, so over time I have already sort of acquired a new understanding. I changed the definition of my own perception of what is being successful. Now it would be something along the lines of being able to make certain positive impact to the world. At any level, whether it’s to your loved ones, friends, family, or even to the whole society at large. So that’s how I would consider being successful, being able to make some changes to people around you.

You have many accomplishments in your life. Which are the accomplishments that you’re most proud of?

To be honest I don’t really consider myself as having any true accomplishment yet. At least according to how I define success as being really making tangible, meaningful impacts to different levels of society. But if you want to talk about personal achievements, it’s more like looking back my entire life. Since I was born until I came here to Singapore. I wasn’t born in a very wealthy family. I was from quite a modest family. Then the opportunities available to me may not be as many as some of my peers, ever since I was in Malaysia. So I have tried very hard to change my circumstances, so for example coming to Singapore on a scholarship. I wouldn’t be here if I hadn’t won a
scholarship. I mean, my family has already told me if you don’t have scholarship, you cannot come because we cannot afford it. So I have managed to change all the circumstances which didn’t really favor me, and tried to put myself in a position where I’ll have more chance to do what I really want.

What is the most difficult adjustment you ever have to make?

If there’s one adjustment that I can remember having tried very hard to make, it would be public speech, or speaking in front of people, crowd, presentations, that sort of speech. Honestly if it were like seven years ago, during my secondary school years, it would have been impossible for me to participate in an interview like this one. I just couldn’t do it, whether in English or even in my own native language, my own mother tongue Mandarin. Just to give you some stories, when I was back in my secondary school, we had English oral test. Each one of us was supposed to prepare a topic and just go in front of the class and present. So for myself, I also prepared a speech, and when it was my turn, I couldn’t speak one sentence. I just go there, and after a few words, I couldn’t continue for five minutes, and the whole class was looking at me.

So how did you overcome this?

There’s one more story that makes me feel really determined that I was going to change this. It was during the end of my secondary school. I was shortlisted for a government scholarship interview. And again I knew that this is the worst thing that is in store for me. I just couldn’t do interviews. So I went there again, we are supposed to prepare some response to questions. I did drop down a few notes, but when it was my turn to speak, I really couldn’t finish one sentence. It was extremely embarrassing, in the front of the officers, and other students. So after that I was devastated, because that opportunity that you work hard for, and the possibility for you to go overseas on a scholarship, is totally gone. I just felt very very devastated, and determined that I have to change this slowly. I did, at least better now, at least not as bad as I used to be.

What are the most rewarding experiences in IEM?

I would say those project mostly, especially DIP. And for myself I also participated in URECA project so I think those projects really taught me a lot of things. Not only about the technical stuff like we learned in courses and so on. For example, DIP, you actually learn to work with a fairly large team of people and communicating with supervisor and things like that. I learned quite a lot of things during that period of time when we did the DIP.

In terms of leadership, you are the 20th NTUSU vice president. How would you describe that experience?

Actually I thought quite a long time before I decided to run for this position. Mainly because I thought it maybe too time consuming for me. So I did make a lot of effort in the beginning to try to adjust to the job scope and expectations of the role, but later on I became quite comfortable with it. And even quite enjoyed it. So being the vice-president I was actually in charge of five different departments, and the total headcount of the people who I have to manage is in the range of around 200. so for any person that would be a really great challenge. Looking back I would say that I also learned the most from this experience. Some of the projects which I would remember for many years to come include for example the union shop that was one of my projects which I felt really made a difference. I led a team of five people in the whole committee, and we started to sort of coming up with a proposal, and we talk to many different departments in the school, we convinced the student counsel to give us money to do this, and we came up with financial proposals about how we’re going to run the business and what to do if it’s not doing well. So after about 6 months of planning and research and surveys and stuff like that, we managed to convince the university administration. We were quite lucky that there’s a new administration and they are quite open to this kind of ideas. So we managed to get the funding, the support from the university to start this business. And now it’s doing very well. And the business is still growing. I just felt that it’s a very satisfying experience, and especially this kind of projects that outlast yourself. Even after I graduate, this thing will be there, and it will go on. So these are the things that make me feel very satisfied about joining the NTUSU.

Many graduates have actually stop at degree in university, but you have decided to take on the PhD, what actually motivates you in this further studies?

I actually haven’t decided on pursuing higher studies until I was in 3rd year. It’s a bit late, but I just totally changed. When I came to university I never expected that I would study beyond bachelor’s degree. I was planning to work afterwords. In fact I just couldn’t wait to work. But when I actually went for the IA, I realized that I wasn’t really enjoying it. Even though it was quite a good environment, I was put in there, I have met many good colleagues, people who are also supportive on my decision to pursue my higher studies. It was during that period that I really reflect on what I was doing and whether or not it’s suitable for me. And I realize that I’m much more interested in learning more about what I have learned so far, and I’ve developed a very strong passion for research as well through the URECA program. So it came to me that research is something which I’m very comfortable doing, and when I do that I’m extremely motivated. So I decided that I have to further my studies. That was the suitable path for me. So I applied and fortunately got the choice I wanted.

Do you have any word of advice for your juniors in IEM?
There are mainly 3 things. I want to leave with you guys. First thing is about what I heard people are worrying about their degrees. Am I in the right degree program and thing like that. If there’s one thing that I learn over the past few years, what you have done matters far more than any paper certification says about you. So just focus on doing actual work and spend less time worrying about the relevance of your degree. If you have the necessary skills, the background, and you’re able to show that convincing me through that your past works, there’s no reason that you cannot get into any industry, or even, if you’re studying, a university that you want. So that’s the 1st piece of advice that I have.

And the 2nd thing is about how we value GPA. Of course this matters so much to so many people, and it deserves a lot of reflection about what it really means, how it matters to you. Of course it’s quite inconsequential if you really think really far ahead in your whole life, but for now this is how I look at it. If you have a high GPA, don’t let it be your only advantage. But if you have a low GPA, don’t let it be your biggest obstacle. So the bottom line is that you have to always try to make your strength important and your weaknesses irrelevant, so that’s the whole point of it. And either way, either you’re doing very well in your studies or not, there’s always many ways to make up for or even to enhance yourself. So don’t worry too much if you’re not in the position that you really desire. But of course provided that you have already tried your best. Another thing about how I look at it is undeniably GPA has a lot of its own importance and value when you’re going for job hunting and also pursuing higher degrees. But I see it as more of a key that opens certain doors, not all doors, than the destination yourself. So gap is not the destination, it’s just a key that opens certain doors. But sometimes you don’t even need to use this key: that’s when your other skills come in, for example networking. So all in all a number with two decimal places can’t adequately define any person, so that’s the point.

The last piece of advice. Many people I’ve seen have given up becoming the best possible version of themselves. Sounds a bit dramatic, but it’s quite true. And instead they settle for what is really good or secure. In my opinion this actually reflect a condition in Singapore at large. People tend to go for security and what is considered good instead of what they’re really passionate about. For example I know a lot of people who really have love to be an engineer and they really enjoy what they are doing up until now, and end up becoming a manager in a bank. A lot of people are like that, especially very good students. Because banks hire some of the best engineering students and they pay a lot. So a lot of so souls got snatched away by the banks. But if you’re in IEM, chances are that you’re not this type, because those people who favor security, would have avoided choosing an unusual, weird sounding course like iem. So I just challenge you to stay true to yourself, for at least through the next few years. And you’ll be surprised that how satisfying you’ll be if you can actually hold on to your passion.
What is the reason for starting up this company?

Before I entered year 4, I was doing my internship in Beijing. When I was there, my grades weren’t very important to me. It was expected. As long as I am diligent and hardworking. During that time I had a lot of free time. So I decided to do something fun. That’s when I met the co-founder of the current company. We did not start off as our current company instead, we started off with F&B. In china, food is very affordable. However the western food that we wanted to make needs to be bought from special places.

Where do you get your inspirations?

A: My co-founder, Wilson, and I had a conversation one day about things that interest both of us. That was when he brought up about his year 2 project where he did his DIP using green technology. It involved using fingers to light up LEDs by touching a material. I was really interested in it when he showed me the material. Unfortunately, during that time of the sharing, it was the end of our internship. But while we were back in Singapore, there was an upcoming business case competition organized by NTC. So we participated in it and submitted our business proposal. And guess what? We entered the competition using the piezo green technology idea. We made it to the top 15th position and was awarded with 15 grand. That sum of money was our starting point to get serious and achieve something out of it.

Did you consider returning to your F&B business?

Food business? I think I’m better off as a food consumer. It was very tough. We started off by going to bazaars in some schools to sell food. Unfortunately for my partner and I, we did not have a vehicle. So transportation was a big problem. We had to either get a cab or use the public transport.

How about your lessons that falls during those bazaars?

We skip them all. That's why we are bearing the consequences now. I would say it was a really tough period when we did our F&B business. Physically and mentally. And I think that really prepared us for setting up this current company.

What was the initial idea?

The initial idea was to convert kinetic energy to electrical energy. So we thought of having a floor tile that can store energy from footsteps and help to power up nearby appliances. The whole idea is to have a floor tile that produces electricity! How the consumers want to use the electricity stored is absolutely up to them.

We do not need battery for that, do we?

Yes you do not. It's self-sustainable. We have actually experiment with a few types of materials. The idea of converting kinetic to electrical energy is done by a particular material called piezo. We tried a few versions of this material and discovered that only 1 of them is reliable because it produces enough electricity to be used. But that piece of material is very expensive. For a size no larger than 5cm by 5cm, it costs about $150. Not too expensive for a research. But imagine making them into multiple floor tiles!

Where do you see your company 5 years down the road?

At least there's one thing. When people mention about VOsensor, they would have known that it has already benefited some people using it. Which also means there is awareness of our product. I am hoping that in 5 years, there would be VO sensor in the corner of every tertiary institute because our current plan is to introduce our product into schools for project based and school events.

What does VOsensor do?

It uses QR code and NFC. All you need is a camera in the phone and VOsensor will work. What we are doing now, is to encode videos into QR code and NFC. So we are using these 2 coding language to play videos on people's mobile phones. Hence people question us, "How is that green technology?" The main thing about these 2 technologies is their sustainability. Both QR code and NFC are helpful to a certain extend and most importantly, they do not require any power to function. In the nutshell, they are good technologies that should be promoted. Hence we have our mission stated as sustainable technology so that it does not reach out to only green technology. As I was sharing before, this concept of play a video on your phone is to reduce the wastage of resources used for advertising purposes. Rather than spending thousand of dollars to air some video clips on a plasma TV that no one watches, the school could use VOsensor to promote the videos on people's smart phone! VOsensor is a product that fits into everything that we are trying to achieve.
What is your company’s mission and vision?

Vision: Advocation green in a creative style. Green to me is very significant because I am a green advocate. I want to do things that can encourage the use of sustainable technology and encourage people to change their current lifestyle to a more sustainable one. So that their comfort will not be enjoyed at the expense of other things like the depletion of resources.

Mission: Developing media and sustainable technologies as an interactive platform to encourage green lifestyle. We do not just restrain ourselves to green technology, we also want to have a sustainable one.

What about your tagline?

Our tagline, Ecoviro, live green, is what we believe in. This is very important especially for me because it is what keeps me going. Without this in mind, the company is just a moneymaking machine. It is not healthy and sustainable in terms of personal growth for the members of the company in the long run.

What would like to share with your juniors about IEM?

I think IEM is a very good course because it is an integration between technical and artistic studies. This really contribute a lot for us to brush up our skills when we go to work. Whatever we learn in the course such as coding and media designs, I feel that they are life skills that can be used in wherever we work in future. So I think IEM is a very practical and handy course that I really benefited a lot from it. One good thing about IEM is network. We get to meet great people from various places cause we do have courses in ADM, WKW and Engine Faculty. There are many opportunities for us to exchange our skillsets.

Engineer and Artist, in a Different Way

-Interview with Thomas Ng

Profile

Thomas and friends Low Song Chuan, Michael Lim Chung Sion, Ong Chi Hi, clinched the Top Prize in 48Hacks National Hackathon 2011 and subsequently given a chance to set up a kiosk to demonstrate their winning project at the event Demo Asia 2012.

Tell us more about yourself and why you chose IEM?

I’m just an ordinary boy who wanted to be an artist in a different way. That’s the reason why I choose IEM. I may have an engineering background, but I don’t do so well in painting or drawing. Yet it’s something that I want to touch on. I want to be able to create things.

What do you like to do during your free times?

I like to watch movies, hit the clubs, hang out with my friends, read, exercise, train my muay thai and jujitsu, and walk my dogs. I love my dogs for the record.
Tell us more about your experience in the 48 Hacks Competition.

My team of 6 took part in this hacking marathon a year ago. We were supposed to create something within the 48 hours with given requirements. We took part once in the previous year but the time limit for that competition was 24 hours. Due to some unpleasant experiences, we didn't manage to win it. However, we were really determined to win the competition because we feel that we could have won it if it hadn't been for some mistakes we made. So we entered the 48 Hacks Competition the following year and we won it. The very first time we took part in the competition 2 years ago; we did it amidst our ongoing DIP project. It was a platform for us to push our capabilities further, gain some motivation as well as meet people who can provide us with advises regarding our project. And the 48 Hacks competition was simply for us to prove our capabilities.

Tell us about your experience in the SITF awards.

I took part in the competition alone despite other teams having an average of 3 people. Even so, I was still able to win a gold award. It wasn't just a competition; it was also a networking platform. For me, the main purpose of joining was to get feedbacks on my project, Virtual Musical Instrument Online Studio, from the industry experts.

What is Virtual Musical Instrument Online Studio about?

At this current stage, it as a game, a game which I am trying to create and it features the core experiences of virtual musical instruments. By using motion sensors, this online studio would allow kids to explore a wide variety of musical instruments there are in this world. It also includes non-mainstream instruments from Hawaii, China and South Africa etc; instruments that people don't usually hear and is very difficult to access. There're plenty of benefits to this game, but the big picture is about getting children to be exposed to musical instruments. Moreover the game would cost way much lesser than trying to get all the instruments for the children just so that they can try it. Kids can use this as a stepping-stone to discover their liking and talent for certain instruments.

What is your top priority as a student?

To become an engineer. The one that creates thing and make some people feel good about the creation. An excellent GPA is not something that I strive for. Life is full of choices but there's only 24 hours in everyone's daily life. With such, there is a limit to the number of things I can do and achieve every day. My goal is to nurture myself to become a great engineer, not a scholar. Hence I do what I need to and scoring a high GPA doesn't even come close to that equation.

What advises do you have for the IEM students?

IEM is an awesome course. But it may not be the right course for everybody. Afterall this course has a large percentage of engineering mods. I am really grateful that I didn't choose info comm over IEM. But I also know many friends who regret joining IEM. The problem doesn't lies with IEM. It lies with students and engineering. Put these people in IEM, EEE or Civil Engineering and they will have the same feelings too.
Interview with Goh Chong Yang

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ArtwOks
ZhengWei’s Exchange Story

Host University: Lulea Tekniska Universitet (Lulea, Sweden)
Exchange Period: 2 August 2011 – 2 January 2012

Travelling around the world has always been a dream of mine and this dream became a reality when I got selected for the GEM Explorer Exchange program (formally known as INSTEP). It was a big step towards independence and self-realization. I had to plan for the entire trip – sourcing of Host University, courses to take, flights, accommodation, applying for student visa, travel insurance and many more.

It was not easy for IEM students to find universities that offer Art, Media and Engineering courses – all in one package. However, I was lucky enough to be enrolled into Lulea Tekniska Universitet (Sweden) and cleared the 9 courses worth 27 academic units in total. For students who are planning to go for Industrial Orientation (10 weeks), they can actually graduate one semester earlier or have ample of time to perfect their Final Year Project (FYP) during the fourth year.

Therefore, I encourage all IEM students to apply for the global exchange program if given the opportunity. It is a good cultural experience for students to get exposed to the education system and living conditions from two different countries.

Through this trip, I get to understand myself better, know what I want to do in future and appreciate life to the fullest.
A group shot of all the exchange students during that semester – with friends from Australia, China, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Italy, Mexico, Poland, Singapore, Slovakia, South Korea, Spain, Turkey, USA, UK

Orientation Dinner – with students getting together and going wild. The University organized a series of activities and trips to engage and help the exchange students adapt to the Swedes’ way of living.

The University also has a night bar for students to chill out and party after school. I happened to be in one of their featured photos during the Halloween Night. (taken from STUK Facebook page)
Tutorial is being conducted in a much different way from NTU's. Class participation makes learning more interesting as students get involved and share their thoughts with the rest of the class. It is more about gaining knowledge rather than earning grades. If I were to choose which education system is better – definitely it will be LTU's.

During my vacation, I went backpacking in nearby countries - Italy, France, Norway, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Belgium, The Netherlands and United Kingdom. I have met many different kind people throughout the trips and I was again thankful that I made the right decision to opt for the exchange program. The world is big and there are just too many places for us to explore.
Norway trip - with friends from Singapore, Hong Kong and Spain. Instead of taking planes and trains, we chose to drive our way through the mountains and experience the beauty of Norway’s countryside.

In Rome – with newfound friends, Brody from USA and Anais from France. Met them in the hostel and we toured the city together.

Ate and tried many different kind of food during my travel. One of the Curry Wurst Express outlets in Berlin, Germany.