

● MESSAGE FROM HEAD OF PILLAR, PROFESSOR RICKY ANG

Dear EPD family,

A huge welcome to our Term 4 and new graduate EPD students! This term promises exciting site visits, the inauguration of a new Node as well as the much-anticipated toolkit for Term 4 students. The Pillar also welcomes student suggestions for any activities and visits, so don't hesitate to write to our Pillar staff with your ideas.

● ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Congratulations to Associate Profs Joseph Fitzsimmons and Foong Shaohui** who have been recently promoted to **Associate Professor with tenure**. Associate Prof Joseph Fitzsimmons is currently in the Science and Math cluster but continues to be affiliated to EPD.
- **Professor Kristin L. Wood**, EPD's Founding Pillar Head, has received the **ASME Design Theory and Methodology (DTM) Award**, the top award in this field. Congratulations to him!
- **Assistant Professor Soh Gim Song** also led his TL@SUTD robotics team to win **Best Paper** during the annual ASME IDETC in Quebec, Canada.
- A round of applause to **Tan Chee How (EPD PhD student), Emmanuel Tang (EPD Senior) and Kenneth Chow (EPD Sophomore)** who came in fourth place in the recently concluded NIARC in Sydney, Australia. They were the only team to represent Singapore in this year's competition and their robot features a unique structural PCB which provides mechanical support for it and also an electrical conduit for the system. Well done!



FEATURED: Tips for Applying to Graduate School

PRESENTED BY: CHEN YIDAN, CLASS OF 2018

Chen Yidan is one of our alumni from the class of 2018. She pursued the Material Science track while at EPD and graduated with a Summa Cum Laude. She is currently a research officer at SUTD.

In the recent Term 6 Welcome Event, Yidan shared some things that Term 6 students should prepare for if they are interested in applying for graduate school. She emphasized the importance and advantages of preparing and applying for graduate school in this term.

In Term 6, interested applicants to graduate school should have a good academic standing – otherwise they should speak to their professors or EPD mentors about how to improve their GPA. Yidan also highlighted the importance of amassing two or three strong referral letters from your professors. These can be your academic mentor, course leads, UROP advisors or any other faculty advisor who is aware of your field of interest and able to evaluate your performance in this field and personal characteristics. This is the time to establish the relationships which will get you a good recommendation letter.

Term 6 is also a good time to start thinking about your personal statement and motivational essay for applying to graduate school. There are many sources online which you can refer to and you can also seek help from the SUTD Career Development Centre for this. You should also prepare a convincing portfolio or application package which includes supporting materials such as awards, UROP/UTOP certificates, GRE, TOEFL/IELTS exam scores.

Of course, Yidan's tips do not only apply to Term 6 students. They can also be extended to Term 4 students as well – it is never too early to start preparing for your future!



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