



Moving On

An annual
publication of
inspiring stories
from ITE
2019

Editor's Note

If you're familiar with Instagram, then this magazine is a treat for you! Follow our current and past students' stories through the Q&As and get to know them better via the photo wall. You can even watch videos of some of them by scanning the QR codes.

Take your time to swipe. Find a story that speaks to you. Everyone has a story to tell and you can start creating your own, right here at ITE.

Shannon Ong

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STUDENTS' Voices

Asli Robin Rufo & Muhammad Ali Akbar,
Higher Nitec in
Electronics Engineering,
Year 2



Robin

“ Coming to ITE, I realised that there are many opportunities and courses available here. I wanted to do digital media but it wasn't offered under DPP (Direct Entry Scheme to Polytechnic for Normal (Academic) students), so I took up photography as my CCA. ”

Ali

“ ITE is worth it, and it prepares me for Poly. Our lecturers are good too. During lessons they will project images to help us understand better and everyone in class will pay attention. In my course, we learn programming languages like C and Python, which involves some coding and it's quite fun. Our college is also a vibrant place. We will often go to the Student Activity Centre to play foosball or Aptitude to play PS4, darts or board games with our friends. ”

Robin

Elaine Teoh, Shanton Soh & Bryan Lum,
Nitec in Visual
Communications,
Year 2

“ In our first year, we did things like pottery and print making on silkscreens. I got to create my own designs, make ink and print it on tote bags! ”

Elaine



“ I like it that we have a mega campus and the blocks are well categorised. My CCA is called Japanese Pop Culture Research Club. I belong to the cosplay group as a photographer for the cosplayers. ”

Shanton

“ My lecturer, Mr Kenny Chan, goes the extra mile to help us. He's strict but approachable and friendly. ITE is different from secondary schools. ITE's campuses are big, the subjects you'll be learning are specialised too. The teachers will set deadlines for assignments and you can't be lazy. ”

Bryan



DURGGA D/O MURUGAIYAN

Service Banker / Citibank Singapore	School of Business / Singapore University of Social Sciences	Diploma in Business Management / Singapore Polytechnic	Higher Nitec in Banking Services / ITE College Central	Nitec in Office Skills / ITE College East	Serangoon Garden Secondary School
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Since young, Durgga D/O Murugaiyan's dream was to be a banker, and she took the first step at ITE. With a big bright smile that lights up the room, Durgga is now enjoying every bit of her role as a Service Banker at Citibank Singapore!



Scan QR codes to watch the videos

Dream career came true

Why did you choose to do a Higher Nitec in Banking Services?

This course allowed me to learn about banking in-depth and I got to be a step closer to my dream job. In one of our modules, we got to role-play actual working situations with our classmates. My lecturer, Ms Christine Lim, taught us how to engage with our 'clients' and carry out various banking transactions, which was really helpful for me. In another module, we learned from Ms Sheryl Tang about exchange rates and currency charges calculation. One of my best experiences was interning at Citibank Singapore for four months!

You have a really great smile! How do you maintain a smile and stay upbeat when you encounter nasty customers or an unpleasant experience?

Everyone has their good and bad days, and as a customer service representative, I do not take nasty encounters personally. I focus on providing great customer service to my clients and to change their frowns into smiles. This would be my greatest accomplishment for each day.

Is there anything else that you'd like to share about yourself?

I've worked really hard to be where I am today and I'm truly grateful for all the opportunities given to me. When in doubt, I will draw a mind map so that I can have a clearer view of the paths that I can take to reach my goals. I strongly believe in making my dreams come true and I will keep working towards my goal. It's not easy to be positive all the time, but being positive will make a change in your life, just like it did with mine!

What's your proudest ITE moment?

My ITE lecturers invited me back to the College as a motivational speaker. I went class by class to speak to the Business Studies students, sharing with them my ITE journey and how I was balancing working and studying now. I'm proud to be a role model and an inspiration to my juniors.

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DURGGA'S PARENTS

'F' stands for Durgga's father and 'M' stands for Durgga's mother.

What are your best memories of Durgga growing up?

F: She's a very bright girl who is always very helpful and a fast learner since young. We're very fascinated by her positive attitude and we're confident that she will achieve greater heights in life.

M: At a very young age, Durgga has been very helpful and responsible in everything she does. She makes careful life decisions. She has always been a very responsible girl.

Do you think Durgga has made the right choice coming to ITE and why?

F: ITE has given her a lot of opportunities to enhance her knowledge and also made her dreams come true.

M: Durgga was given a lot of opportunities when she decided to study at ITE. She had a chance to further her studies and has a good career as well. Therefore, I must say Durgga has indeed made the right choice going to ITE.

What advice would you give to parents who are concerned about their children joining ITE?

F: I would like to tell parents not to worry much as ITE provides a great foundation for students to further pursue their studies. My daughter had completed both her Nitec and Higher Nitec at ITE. She had obtained a polytechnic diploma and is pursuing a degree now. Believe in your child and they will indeed do their very best to make you proud.

M: As parents, we must be supportive of our children and the decisions they make in life. ITE has given a lot of opportunities both in our children's studies and careers, and Durgga is a good real life example of it. What truly matters is that they are determined to work hard and achieve their goals.



ZHUANG HONGYAO

Assistant Area Service Manager, **Volvo Construction Equipment**

Technical Engineer Diploma in Automotive Engineering, **ITE College West**

Nitec in Automotive Technology (Light Vehicles) Traineeship Programme, **ITE College West**

Bartley Secondary School

At first, Zhuang Hongyao avoided joining ITE as he wasn't sure what he could do here. Thankfully, he had a friend who urged him to find out more about the courses offered by ITE after discovering his deep love for cars. The idea clicked for Hongyao and led him to take up a *Nitec* in Automotive Technology Traineeship Programme. He further deepened his skills with a Technical Engineer Diploma in Automotive Engineering. This is a classic story of how the all-round ITE education fulfilled a student's passion and paved the road for a successful career.



Scan QR code to watch the video

Career progression made possible

What started your fascination with cars?

When I was a kid, I lived on the third floor overlooking the street. I used to stare out of my window and always see this car being parked at the same lot almost every day. My dad kept repeating "BMW" and till this day I still remember fondly the colour and the interior trim of the car!

As an Assistant Area Service Manager, what are your roles and responsibilities?

I look after a network of dealers in Southeast Asia and my job is to ensure that they perform. For example, we will set targets in the beginning of the year and I will help them achieve their goals. This could mean anything from ensuring that they have competent technicians or that they have followed the procedures Volvo Construction Equipment sets for them. My job scope is actually very wide, making this job so interesting for me.

What makes your job fulfilling and rewarding?

Being able to travel around Southeast Asia, experiencing different cultures and people from different walks of life. This gives me the chance to meet and make new friends from around the region.

If you are not in this career, what do you think you will be doing now?

Honestly, that would be unthinkable. At that point in life, it was difficult to get into a course I liked in the polytechnics. I knew I wanted to do something related to the automotive industry but I felt lost when it came to the academic choices. A National Service platoon mate who had graduated from ITE with a *Nitec* in Automotive Engineering then guided me to consider the ITE route. He showed me the door and after I walked through it, I have never looked back!

What are your interests outside of work?

As a petrolhead, my interests revolve around cars. Since 2001, I have been interested in go-karting. As I own a race kart in Malaysia, I usually go there every Saturday to race. If budget and time permit, I would take my car to the racetrack in Sepang to burn some rubber. If not, I would be mountain biking with my mates in the trails as I need to keep my stamina up and weight down!

Are you still in touch with your ITE lecturers and friends? What did you all do to keep in touch?

Yes, of course! With technology and social media, it's so easy to stay in touch. My ex-class advisor and lecturers still connect with me through WhatsApp or Facebook Messenger. I even met one of them during a track day in Sepang.

What's your proudest ITE moment?

Probably representing ITE College West in the inter-ITE Volleyball competition.

Send >



KEVIN NG

Lead Production Specialist,
Shell Pulau Bukom Manufacturing Site

Diploma in Applied Science /
Singapore Polytechnic

Nitec in Chemical Process Technology /
ITE College East (Pasir Panjang)

Ping Yi Secondary School

On a good day at his workplace, Kevin Ng is blessed with a spectacular view of the sparkling sea and the surrounding islands. He works at Pulau Bukom, a small island located 5.5km southwest of Singapore, and home to petroleum giant Shell. Kevin has remained and progressed in the same industry since graduating from ITE in 2000!



Scan QR code to watch the video

Learning a skill for life

How do you get to work everyday?

My workplace is located offshore. So I have to travel to my workplace at Bukom by ferry. Each ferry trip takes about 10 minutes. During my journey on the ferry, I use the time to prepare myself for the day. Working offshore is a plus point because I can have the greatest view of Singapore.

Why did you choose to take up Chemical Process Technology and how long have you been working for Shell?

I found this course interesting as compared to the other IT or engineering courses and it helps that my dad was also working in the Oil and Gas industry previously. This year will be my 13th year at Shell.

As Lead Production Specialist, what are your roles and responsibilities?

My role is more of an operational person who leads, guides and coaches a team of around 12 people who not only need to fulfil their individual tasks and targets given to them, but are also required to plan ahead for any improvements or shut down activities.

What makes your job fulfilling and rewarding?

Working well with my team members, getting the job done and going home safely to our loved ones.

What are your interests outside of work? How do you juggle your time?

My interest may bore you guys, but it is being able to spend quality time with my family as sometimes we are required to work till the wee hours. Most important is to have good time management where there's proper planning and mitigation plans if your first option fails. Lastly, it helps to have an understanding family which also understands your kind of work.

Where do you see yourself now and in five years' time?

Currently, I'd like to excel in my current role and to train successors, which will require three to five years of business planning. I hope to be given more exposure and responsibilities in future.

Is there anything else you'd like to share about your experience?

It's not just the end that matters. It's the journey. We may take a longer path but with determination and hard work, we will get to our goals.

What's your proudest ITE moment?

Being able to represent Shell and ITE in the latest ITE publicity campaign.

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NICHOLAS OOI

Co-founder,
CEO, **bantu
Workspace**

Bachelor's Degree
in Information
Systems,
**National
University of
Singapore**

Diploma in
Information
Technology,
**Ngee Ann
Polytechnic**

Nitec in
Information and
Communication
Technologies,
**ITE College West
(Balestier)**

Assumption
English
Secondary
School

When he was eight years old, Nicholas Ooi first played *Red Alert* (a military strategy game) and was intrigued by the game. It made him curious to find out what computing was all about. He pursued his curiosity and discovered many things that he could do with computing and technology. Twenty years later, Nicholas graduated with a degree in Information Systems. His skills spurred him to start-up bantu Workspace, an online platform created to help social enterprises automate their volunteer management system. Needless to say, his parents, who had been very supportive throughout his education journey, are very proud of his achievements today.



Competing on a level playing field

What is bantu Workspace and how does it work? What does bantu mean?

'Bantu' means 'help' in Malay. In bantu, what we envision as a technology start-up and social enterprise is to drive technology innovation into the social sector for the 21st century and beyond. In particular, we have built a modern cloud-based engagement and data analytical platform known as the bantu Workspace. bantu Workspace is a powerful online cloud system that helps social purpose organisations manage volunteer information, as well as engage and communicate with them more effectively. It is packed with powerful features such as automated scheduling of emailing / SMS messages, publication of volunteering opportunities, volunteer rostering, roles & skill matching, and data centralisation.

What skills and knowledge did you tap on most as you were starting your company?

I tapped on various skills, a few of which are in this order: Team Communication, Programming, Market Research, System Thinking, Event Planning, Public Speaking, and Investment.

Now that your start-up is up and running, what are you focusing on now?

My focus is always to speak and listen to social purpose organisations to understand their challenges and how to help them improve themselves using technology innovations. Also, software development will always be my day-to-day work — finding the best possible solutions to resolve organisational challenges. Lastly, strategic planning for objective key results and team coordination are what I do on a constant basis.

What's your proudest ITE moment?

My proudest ITE achievement was to win the Java Jive Regional Challenge 2008 competition with my team. Back then, we were seen as the underdogs as we were the youngest and the only *Nitec* team competing among *Higher Nitec*, final year poly and final year university students. Many did not expect us to win and represent Singapore on the international stage. It was my happiest moment when my team and I had the chance to showcase what we did to over 400 executives during the grand finals. It was an exhilarating experience when you get to see the system you built being showcased to the masses and solving business challenges.

What's your advice to students who are still not sure of the next steps to take after graduation? What should they do to get started?

1. Stay positive when you face challenges. A challenge is an opportunity to overcome.
2. Seek resources that are critical to you. For instance, if money is critical at your point of time, find ways how to obtain it legally and ethically.
3. Don't be afraid of failures. Calculate the risk, face the consequences, stay moderately safe, and try!
4. Go for events, participate in activities or even volunteer for causes that you believe in and make new friends. You might find people there that can help you progress further in life.
5. Balance between being humble and gracious, yet at the same time, being confident and assertive.
6. Lastly, help others when they are in need and seek help from others when you are in need.

Time is limited, it is one thing that you cannot control. So, create something useful and memorable for the world.

To what extent did ITE education play a part in your success?

ITE has given me the opportunity and freedom to learn what I am passionate about and how I can grow further in my domain knowledge. In particular, ITE lecturers gave me good feedback for personal development and future progression in my endeavours. ITE also opened up opportunities for me to participate in events such as hackathons, talks, and other activities.

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CHARMAIN LEOW LIJUAN

Diploma in Aviation Management & Services / Temasek Polytechnic

Higher Nitec in Passenger Services / ITE College Central

Peicai Secondary School

Charmain Leow chose to join ITE after completing her O-Level exams in 2016, and she has not looked back since. ITE has helped this once-shy girl develop her confidence through a leadership development programme called ACE. She became more outspoken and actively participated in activities to improve on her communication and presentation skills. Through her internship experience, Charmain gained valuable insights into the aviation industry and is better informed of the various career choices available to her.



An internship experience broadens her view of the aviation industry

While at ITE, you did a five-month internship at WingsOverAsia, a private aviation company that provides flight concierge and aircraft maintenance services. On the scale of 1 to 10, how relevant is your internship training as compared to what you learned in school and why?

I would give it an 8.5. ITE education equipped me with the skills and knowledge that prepared me for the industry. However, when I stepped in to the workforce, I realised that there are certain things that textbooks cannot teach you. You have to experience it to know and learn. Internship really helps to add it all up together!

In school, there were many projects and assignments that tested us based on practical skills. For instance, I had to create a travel itinerary for a group of backpackers and present it to my lecturers, who would act as the "passenger". I also had to try to market and sell a product to my lecturer. These projects made me more comfortable and confident in presenting myself to people. When I was having my internship, I was thus able to build a rapport with the flight crew and passengers. During my internship, I also picked up and learned new skills such as Aircraft Marshalling and Ground Handling.

What made you so sure about a career in the aviation industry? Typically, many young people have dreams of becoming a pilot or an air steward, but why did you choose such a different role?

Through the internship at WingsOverAsia, I discovered another side of the aviation industry, one which looked at flight operations and ground handling. The experience was nothing short of amazing. I enjoyed the balance between hands-on and paperwork administration. When I had the opportunity to communicate with the Air Traffic Controller (ATC) as a Towing Assistant, I knew I had an interest in being an ATC. I asked my manager about the job and that was how the whole company got a trip to the Seletar Tower! It was an eye-opener to be in the tower and see how they operate and communicate with flight crews. I was also inspired to be a Flight Dispatcher by my manager and supervisor who were in the Flight Operations Team. I gained better appreciation of the work put into ensuring the smooth flow of operations in Changi Airport, and I would very much like to be part of it.

Tell us about your interests outside work.

I took up Modern Dance as a CCA when I was in Primary 4. Soon after, my friends influenced me to get into Korean Pop and I joined an audition. Although I was not selected, I was scouted by a dance instructor and joined a Dance Academy (guess it was a blessing in disguise). I learnt Street Jazz and Girls Hip Hop, and other dance genres, allowing me to grow as a dancer. Now that I have adapted to poly life, I've returned to the Dance Academy and have regular dance training every Friday.

Tell us something you wish people knew about ITE.

For me, ITE is just the beginning. I did not expect to be given so many opportunities and platforms for me to grow and develop as an individual. At ITE, it's more than just learning from textbooks, it's about getting ready for the workforce. I wish people knew that ITE has excellent lecturers. My lecturers have deep knowledge and passion for the subjects that they teach. They are friendly and approachable and I felt comfortable talking to them and asking them questions. They would go the extra mile just to help us. I am thankful for all my lecturers from Passenger Services.

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LIM WEI WEN

Coach,
Blade Club Singapore

Nitec in Automotive
Technology (Light Vehicles),
ITE College West

Kuo Chuan Presbyterian
Secondary School

Lim Wei Wen is best known as the first Singaporean athlete to win an Asian Games Fencing Medal in 2014. He stumbled into the sport while watching his schoolmates play and decided to take it up seriously as a CCA. While representing ITE in an overseas competition, he caught the eye of Singapore's then national fencing coach Alexey Karpov, who took him under his wings. The best reward came when Wei Wen shocked everyone by being the first in his team (and in Singapore) to win a Bronze medal in the 2007 Thailand Open! This experience opened the floodgates to winning many more medals at overseas competitions in the following years.



What started out as just a CCA became a professional pursuit

What did you hope for after all that training? Did it come across your mind then that one day you will actually win a medal?

I believe in controlling your situation to do the things that you really want to do. The most important thing is to believe that you can do it, even if people don't believe that you can. Give your best and leave no regrets. Fencing is my passion and I don't have any expectations going for training at first, I just hope to put in my best effort and enjoy the sport.

When I started fencing as a CCA in ITE, I definitely did not expect that I could enter the national team. After entering the national team, I wanted to be able to do my nation proud by winning competitions.

If you were not introduced to this sport, what do you think you would be doing right now?

When I don my fencing suit, I am serious and focused. But outside of it, I am outgoing and I love to meet and get to know people, to joke around and enjoy life. If I weren't fencing, maybe I would have explored tennis or be a martial artist, like Donnie Yen, because I am a very active person.

What's your advice to youths who have gone through tough times before?

During tough times, always remember that life has better things to offer. Look around you, and you will realise that there are people around you who care. Always look on the brighter side and do not let the negativity pull you down.

Do you have a mentorship programme in place?

I am a coach in fencing as well as a personal trainer. During my sessions, I always like to share my life experience in hope to inspire others.

What are your positive habits?

Whenever I am feeling happy, I like to dance around and enjoy the moment. When you are positive, it will form an energy around you that attracts positive things.

How do you push through your worst times?

Everything happens for a reason. Even if you are going through a rough patch in life, eventually things will get better and you will emerge stronger. A quote by Diane Frolov and Andrew Schneider says, "A person has three choices in life. You can swim against the tide and get exhausted, or you can tread water and let the tide sweep you away, or you can swim with the tide, and let it take you where it wants you to go."

I believe that everyone has a path in life that they have to take. Just keep moving, and see where life takes you.

What's your proudest ITE moment?

In a short span of time, I managed to enter the national team and even won a medal. My friends and teachers at ITE were really supportive of me.

My lecturers were more understanding when I was late for classes because I had to attend training sessions. Sometimes, they gave me extra time to complete my assignments because of my hectic training schedule. When I missed classes due to competitions, my classmates will share their notes with me so that I could keep up in class. Their words of encouragement also motivated me to push on.

Send >



MOHAMAD HARDI B YA'ACOB

Maintenance Chargehand /
Damen Shipyards
Singapore Pte Ltd

Nitec in Electrical Technology
(Power & Control) /
ITE College West
(Part-time course)

After completing his *Nitec* in Electrical Technology, Mohamad Hardi B Ya'acob left his job of 15 years to pursue a career in the marine industry. Hardi enjoys working with ships and heavy-duty machinery, and delights in the challenges of troubleshooting machine faults so that he can make things work again!



Bridging the gap

Why did you decide to do a *Nitec* in Electrical Technology after working for so many years?

Before taking this *Nitec* course, I was equipped in handling only the mechanical side of things. I found it necessary to upgrade to have additional skills to troubleshoot electrical and electronic faults, which happen often with new machines. This course helped me bridge the gap as I could identify and service, for example, electrical motor problems, quickly. Being able to see the full picture of an equipment failure and knowing which electrical component can or cannot be fixed was challenging yet exciting at the same time.

Not long after completing the *Nitec* course, you received a job offer to work at your current company. How did your career progress from there?

I joined my current company with a promotion and a better salary. Over here, my focus is on preventive maintenance where I combine both my mechanical and electrical skills. I was tasked to start a project on preventive maintenance operations and I'm proud that we managed to achieve an ISO award after a few months! My routine now is to schedule and assign maintenance tasks to different teams, as well as to attend to machinery or building and facility breakdowns.

What's your dream career?

I've always wanted to work with ships and I'm happy where I am now. My father used to work at Jurong Shipyard and I followed him to his workplace as a child. I've been fascinated with ships since then.

Who motivates you?

My wife. When I used to work long hours, she took care of our six children. I have a better work life balance now and I'm happy to be able to spend more time with my family.

What are your career goals five years from now?

I'm committed to stay in the marine industry and hope to be promoted to Foreman in a few years' time.

What's your advice to those who are looking to upgrade their skills?

Learning is never too late for you. If you have the opportunity to upgrade, do go and take up part-time courses. It's for your own benefit and it will help you on a regular basis with your current job as well.

What does ITE mean to you?

ITE has trained me well and I apply those skills in my daily work. I believe the set of skills I have right now are really useful and in demand across the board.

Send >



NOOR RASHIKIN BINTE MOHAMED RASHID

Diploma in Child Psychology and Early Education / **Ngee Ann Polytechnic** (Current)

Higher Nitec in Early Childhood Education / **ITE College Central**

Pei Hwa Secondary School

A few years ago, Noor Rashikin Binte Mohamed Rashid had not thought of returning to full-time studies after dropping out of a polytechnic course. But she knew all along that she wanted to teach and inspire children, so she took a leap of faith and signed up for ITE's *Higher Nitec* in Early Childhood Education. Shikin was awarded the ECDA (Early Childhood Development Agency) Training Award (ITE) and eventually graduated top of her course. She is staying on track to become an Early Childhood Educator so that she can lead and inspire children and fellow teachers alike!



Learning from a special group of educators while learning to become an educator



Can you remember an incident that planted the idea of a teaching career for you?

The most recent incident that led me to pursue a teaching career was when I was working in the theatre industry. I was freelancing as a dresser and the work was enjoyable. However, I knew that this was not my long-term career. Once, I worked on a production with young children and there was an activity after every show where we got the children to do some colouring. It was at this point that I knew I wanted to work with children. After a year of researching, I applied for and was given the opportunity to take up a *Higher Nitec* in Early Childhood Education at ITE.

In your opinion, what makes a good pre-school teacher?

I feel that a good pre-school teacher is someone who is curious and keen to learn and teach. As teachers, we need to adapt to changes and discover the different personalities of our children. This is important because we will need to design lessons that will suit our children's learning needs. Not every class is the same and not every child is the same. Children learn through play, so we will need to construct learning opportunities in every way we can, and be curious ourselves because learning is a continuous process.

You are active in community work and have volunteered at multiple events for MENDAKI. How did you get involved with it and what makes volunteering most fulfilling for you?

I was initially involved with MENDAKI because they have volunteering opportunities with children, and this experience will boost my portfolio as an educator. Also, I was nominated by my teacher Ms Vino for the National Youth Achievement Award (NYAA) in 2016, and doing community service is part of the criteria where we need to clock in hours as well. Shikin graduated from ITE with NYAA Gold in 2018). However, over time, I find joy in volunteering with this organisation and even pulled some friends to be a part of it. I choose to continue to volunteer as a youth mentor now because I feel that I'm giving back to the community.

What is your vision for children under your care and why?

My vision is for children to accept who they are and be the best versions of themselves. Every individual is unique and I want them to believe that no matter how different they are from society or if they have failed, they should never give up on themselves.

Are you still in touch with your ITE lecturers?

Yes, definitely. ITE has given me a second chance to pursue my passion and I have built a close bond with my lecturers and friends. Occasionally, I will visit my school to catch up with my lecturers and ask if they need my help in any way. I volunteer to help because I feel that I can help my juniors realise their passions in some ways too.

ITE lecturers are well-known to be a special group of educators, and many of our students feel grateful to them. What is it like learning from an ITE educator while training to become an educator yourself?

It's like having more mothers and older sisters in a family. They are technically my role models in this industry. They are the experienced adults and I am the young one learning to be like them. It is a great privilege to know them personally and bond with them on another level. They are like my life-long mentors and I know that if I struggle in any way, they can give me advice and guide me to the right path.

Is there anything else that you'd like to share about yourself?

I feel that I have taken the longer route to get where I am today but the journey has taught me many valuable lessons. When I began my journey working freelance as a camp instructor, I realised that I not only had passion to teach young children but older children too. I have taught students aged 16 and below and gained many experiences that helped me understand what teaching means to me. Currently, as a youth mentor working with students under the MENDAKI Tuition Scheme, I am given the opportunity to mentor a group of students and be a role model to them. For me, I take every opportunity I get to make a difference. Just like the President's Challenge initiative by ECDA for preschool children, I believe that we just have to "Start Small, Dream Big"! All of the small differences that I have made will surely create a big impact someday.

Send >



NOORAINI SHAH SIKKANDER

Production Manager, Original Production / HBO Asia	Master of Mass Communication / Nanyang Technological University	BA Honors in Film & Diploma in Film / LASALLE College of the Arts	Nitec in Digital Media Design / ITE College West (Ang Mo Kio)	Yuan Ching Secondary School
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Nooraini Shah started out with a Nitec in Digital Media Design at ITE. She had the opportunity to try out different types of media before finally deciding on filmmaking. Later, she went on to The Puttnam School of Film at LASALLE College of the Arts. Most of Nooraini's works could be seen on local TV channels, as well as local and international films and TV commercials. It's no surprise that one of her projects actually includes Hollywood hit, Crazy Rich Asians!



A place of opportunities



What inspired you to pick out Digital Media Design at ITE?

I had an interest in media but did not know exactly what I wanted to do. Digital Media Design was a brand new course back then and we got to try all kinds of media, such as graphic design, 2D and 3D animation, photography, video editing and web design. I remembered I had great interest in one of the video-related modules. I scored well in that subject and could actually come up with a lot of creative ideas. My lecturer, Ms Gek Li San, gave me an internship opportunity to work on *18 Grams of Love*, a short film by Boku Films. I was an art intern for three months, assisting the art director. I really wanted to know how films are made and I learned a lot in those three months. After graduating from ITE, I applied to study filmmaking at LASALLE as I was interested in making documentary films.

You were a production coordinator for Crazy Rich Asians. What did you have to do in that role and how was it like being part of such a big Hollywood production?

Actually, Crazy Rich Asians was my fourth Hollywood production. Previously, I'd worked on Agent 47, Equals and Marco Polo Season 2. My job as a Production Coordinator was to run the office in Singapore. I worked closely with the Production Manager and Line Producer on logistic arrangements and hiring of crew members. I knew the expectations of this project since I had prior working relationships with the Executive Producer, Tim Coddington, and the Unit Production Manager, Jelena Blazic.

It can be very stressful working on a film production. There are a thousand and one things to coordinate and you are always pressured by time. How did you deal with things that do not go accordingly?

Every job trains you to handle situations differently. No matter how well you plan ahead, there are always challenges during a film production. While working on Crazy Rich Asians, I was faced with a challenging task of hiring a helicopter during the Christmas period, where most offices were closed due to the public holidays. I was under a lot of pressure to meet the deadline but we learned to build great working relationships along the way. We met people from agencies who guided us through the paperwork, and many people with the right resources came along and helped us. It was a very good experience and I'm proud that we managed to complete this in a very short period of time.

Is there anything else that you'd like to share about this industry?

Having an education is important but at the same time, you learn more being on set working with different people. It's been 13 years since I started freelancing. Every job teaches you something and you have to be open-minded and willing to learn. You'll definitely face challenges along the way, all you need to do is to grab onto those opportunities and keep a positive mindset.

What does ITE mean to you?

A place of opportunities! It is a place where I can explore and excel in many ways.

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RICHARD CHAI HENG CHEE

Applications Marketing Manager, **TechSource Systems Pte Ltd**

Specialist Diploma in Data Science (Artificial Intelligence), **Singapore Polytechnic** (Current)

Nitec in Technology - InfoComm Technology (Networking & Systems Administration) **ITE College West**

Bachelor of Business, **Nanyang Technological University**

Richard Chai Cheng Hee is not your usual ITE graduate. With a business degree, he started his career in IT Sales and later ran his own video production business. A few years ago, he felt that he needed to learn a new skill, so he began looking for courses that could help him fulfil his need. His requirements for the course were simple too – the learning must be hands-on and useful. After considering his options, Richard signed up for a part-time *Nitec* course in Technology – InfoComm Technology. He is now an Applications Marketing Manager and leads a team of applications engineers and marketing executives.



The perfect place to start for a mid-career switch

What motivated you to do a mid-career switch? What plans did you make for yourself in case things did not work out the way you wanted?

The realisation that after years of working in sales, I had lost touch of my technical skills. Once I made up my mind to do something, I put in 100% effort even if I had to attend classes in between meal breaks or before night shifts.

You went back to school after being in the workforce for almost 20 years. Does working experience help you connect better with the theories taught in class, and vice versa?

Yes, it does. When I was young, I frequently wondered why the teacher asked us to learn this and that, and it seemed so boring. But after I started working, then I realised how the things we had learnt in school were used in the workplace. In the case of my *Nitec* in Technology – InfoComm Technology, my lecturers incorporated many real-life scenarios and hands-on laboratory work. It was actually quite fun! When I started as an IT Technician, because of my training at ITE, I could already hook up a simple network to a router, switch, a few end devices and configure them on my very first day of work. ITE's training is very practical and they spend a lot of time understanding what the industry wants. That's the reason why I chose ITE, no one forced me to come.

As an Applications Marketing Manager, what are your roles and responsibilities?

I spend a lot of time understanding my customers' requirements for their projects be it 5G, IoT (Internet of Things), Robotics, Motor and Power control etc. My customers are researchers, scientists and engineers. Then I work with my marketing team to craft campaigns which bring relevant information to my customers. I have to ensure that my application engineers are trained on the right tools and are able to help our customers.

What's your advice to students who are not sure of what to do after graduation?

It's ok not to know what you want when you graduate, in fact, it's perfectly normal. Try out a few jobs but attempt to stick to each one for at least a year and try to settle on a career path within the first 3 to 5 years. While it's good to try, it's not good to keep wandering from job to job for too long as you wouldn't have the chance to build competence in a career path which you can only get from on the job experience. Always have confidence that the skills (both hard and soft) that you get from ITE will help you to handle anything that comes your way. Build on what ITE has taught you and never stop learning new things.

What's learning like at ITE as an adult?

Very pleasant. In my class, everyone was a working adult. Some were from F&B, Security and IT industries, but all of us had the shared goal of wanting to upgrade our skills to stay relevant in the future economy.

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CHLOE WEN QIAN MICHAUD

Nitec in Business and Services /
ITE College Central Kent Ridge
Secondary School

Chloe Michaud was Vice-president of the Student Council at ITE College Central, and one of Halogen Foundation Singapore's Top 9 finalists for the National Young Leader Award 2018. The award recognises youth leadership and entrepreneurship development. She is only 18, but she's already looking out for other people's needs above her own.



Learning that leadership means helping others to excel

How does it feel knowing that what you do in and outside of school is making a positive change in people's lives?

It feels great knowing that I can help people. This is what I want to do - help people know their capability and importance. I want to inspire people to learn and not be afraid to fail. It took a while for me to understand that failure is acceptable. When I was able to pick myself up and charge on after some failures, I started to see it as a motivation to learn and excel.

What were your responsibilities as Vice-president of student council? What sort of qualities are needed to be a student councillor?

I had to make sure that my fellow student councillors are doing well in school. Student Council is a platform where student leaders are exposed to many types of opportunities for them to grow and develop themselves.

The positive qualities that we are looking for: Team Player, Communication Skills, Good Attitude, Commitment, Good Social Skills. We have workshops and projects that will help them develop in these areas.

What type of people are you most passionate in helping?

I am inclined to help the elderly. I appreciate them very much because they have been through thick and thin. They deserve our respect. I have befriended seniors by visiting their homes and they would share with me their personal struggles. They have met tough situations, but they did not give up. As President of the School of Business & Services Club, I worked with a Community Centre to invite 40 senior citizens to our campus at ITE College Central. We taught them how to use apps such as WhatsApp and the Healthy 365 app on their mobile phones!

Who motivates you and why?

My mother is my source of motivation. She is always by my side and she is very supportive of me. When I was a child, I lacked confidence due to dyslexia, a learning difficulty. I struggled with my school work as I needed much more time than an average student to study. She was there to journey it through with me. My results were never proportionate to the time taken for my preparation. I could be disappointed with myself but she did not make me feel worse. She is always very patient with me. She always tells me that attitude and effort are far more important than the results.

What are your positive habits?

My 'never say die' attitude. As a student, I always give my best. I am open to suggestions, keen to learn and quick to adapt. My ITE teachers saw that in me and challenged me with several 'impossible missions'. I am proud of myself that I did not disappoint them. I would be glad to help my juniors realise their positive habits and potential as well.

Is there anything else that you'd like to share about yourself?

Being brought up in an environment where I received love, encouragement and comfort, I grew up to be a person with my own opinions, who makes my own decisions and deals with my own difficulties and challenges. I am thankful to my teachers and mentors who saw the potential in me and nurtured me. I'm definitely very grateful to my mother too.

Your proudest ITE moments?

I scored all As in the first semester of my first year. This is the first in my life as a student. Realising that I'm capable of excelling in my studies boosted my confidence. I began to push harder in my studies and it made me want to help others too. In a Small Business Management module that I took, I had to form a team with three other classmates to sell a product. My Section Head, Ms Katherine Heng, recommended a company who kindly sponsored us with water bottles to sell. One of my teammates has special needs, so we had to help one another out. We made a profit of \$200 and split it among ourselves.

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LEE HUI LING

Nitec in Travel & Tourism Services /
ITE College West

Hospitality Services /
Crest Secondary School



Lee Hui Ling is a bubbly girl who likes to try out many different things. She is determined to pick up Floorball at ITE, as she has never done a sports-related CCA before. Learning hospitality skills at Crest Secondary School has sparked her interest to learn all things related to the industry. Right here at ITE, Hui Ling hopes to gain a full hands-on experience in housekeeping, customer service, food and beverage service, travel & tourism management and more!



At first a skill, now a passion

Why did you choose to study at Crest Secondary School?

My father recommended Crest to me when he heard about the hands-on learning style. He thought it was suitable for me. There are different modules to choose from and I chose Hospitality Services and learned things like housekeeping and food and beverage services. I tried cooking Western food for half a year too! Everyone is technically-inclined in this school, so it is less stressful and I began to open up more.

What are your best memories of Crest?

My friends and teachers! My teachers were very caring. They looked at my abilities and helped me become better. At first, I didn't know my strengths and weaknesses but my teacher, Ms Karen Ho, would sit with me to go through my results and responsibilities. She encouraged me by setting targets for me to achieve.

One of my highlights as a Crest student was to be able to travel overseas with my schoolmates. We visited secondary schools in Hong Kong and Bangkok, and an orphanage in Myanmar where we taught young children arts and crafts.

You were a Head Prefect at Crest. What were your responsibilities and how was it like being one?

As Head Prefect, I took care of all the prefects who were given different duties to do, such as patrolling, gate duty and taking care of the after-school Student Activity Room. I looked at their plans for the day, the problems they faced, and tried to give them suggestions to solve their problems. We are like the guardians of the school.

I was given a lot of opportunities to learn leadership skills and to communicate better with my teachers and friends.

What are your interests outside of school?

I don't play computer games or things like that. I like going out with friends and watching movies. I also love spending time with my family. If a place of interest is offering a promotion or discounted tickets, I'll tell my dad about it and he will take all of us there together with our relatives. This happened not too long ago when a big group of us visited Gardens by the Bay. Going to these places as a guest is useful for me as I get to see how their customer service is like and how guests are being served.

Who motivates you and why?

My father pushes me to do well. He will go through with me my results and encourages me to set my goals further. He always reminds me that while I'm still young, I should work hard so that I can enjoy my rewards later!

What's your dream career and how can ITE help you achieve it?


I do not have a specific career in mind yet. Hospitality is a skill that I have learned and that is what I want to do. But I also want to try out different areas of this industry to see what suits me best. I have an interest in travel and tourism, which is why I chose to pursue this Nitec course. After this, I would like to do a Higher Nitec in Hospitality Operations to learn back of house (kitchen and housekeeping) and front of house (customer service) roles, and then decide what my dream career will be.

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FROM ENGAGING MY STRENGTHS TO ENGAGING THE WORLD

At ITE, we believe in preparing you for the workforce from the get-go. With a world-class learning environment and passionate staff, we equip you with the right skills to become a confident member of society, consistently resilient in attaining your goals and being a part of your industry's transformation. To help you make a difference to the world, we start by making a difference to yours.

By equipping you with the right skills...



"With such dedicated and patient lecturers, it was easy for me to excel in my studies and hone my skills to be where I am today."