Corporative Development

Makerspace in Library

By Library and Information Services Centre

Since the end of January 2014, a new hangout called the ‘Makerspace’ has been added to the Library’s Collaborative Space on level three. The Makerspace is a collaboration between NIE Library and the Translation and Development Unit (TDU), with the Library providing the footfall and TDU offering hands-on project ideas.

The Makerspace aspires to build a community where members share and collaborate to bring ideas to fruition. To this end, the Makerspace is equipped with a 3D printer for users to rapidly prototype their ideas (pictured below). A printed sample allows them to evaluate aspects such as aesthetics and ergonomics. Two DIY projects have been made available for users to build their own bristle bot and rubber band aircraft and learn about electronics and aerodynamics experientially. These will perhaps inspire them to incorporate electrical and mechanical parts in their designs. There are plans to showcase projects similar to those being done in schools so that our student teachers are kept updated. Currently, TDU is working with seven secondary schools in creating Makerspace in schools as well as exploring the use of 3D modelling and printing as part of the design process in the lower secondary Design and Technology curriculum.

A key feature of 3D printing is that it is less complex to use as compared to other methods like Computer Numerical Control (CNC) machining. It requires a mere desktop computer instead of more specialised equipment in a workshop environment. In the short time since the Makerspace was set up, success has been achieved in raising awareness on how easy it is to use a 3D printer. Users have printed handphone holders, ornaments and even flutes. Library staff have also hopped on the bandwagon, printing 3D bookmarks as giveaways for the Library Mini-Fair.

Do drop by at the Makerspace and discover the maker in you!

Quodlibetal Questions on Education 2014

By Associate Professor Jude Chua, Office of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning

In 2011, we saw the inaugural colloquium “Quodlibetal Questions on Education” (or Quodlibet for short) held at the Institute of Education (IoE), University of London. It was organised by Associate Professor Jude Chua Soo Meng, from the Policy and Leadership Studies Academic Group and the Office of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning, programme coordinator of the Dual Award Doctorate in Education (EdD DA) programme offered in collaboration with IoE. Since then, it has been attended by post-graduate students, academic staff of both the IoE and the National Institute of Education (NIE), Singapore, as well as invited friends. The colloquium is usually parked in the June doctoral research week at the IoE.

Invited NIE academics, who are involved with the IoE-NIE EdD (Dual Award) programme as course lecturers or supervisors, spend a week at the IoE under formal appointment as “Visiting Academics” and are attached to the Doctoral School. They meet with their IoE counterparts, participate in the IoE Summer Conference or work towards their publications. According to Assoc Prof Chua, the original intention when he pursued this visiting appointment programme for NIE staff with Dr Michael Hand (then postgraduate research director at the IoE), was “to intensify interaction and collaboration between NIE and IoE staff members.”

This year’s special topic of interest is “Education and the Visual (2014)”. Three of our NIE colleagues – Assistant Professor Wong Meng Ee and Associate Professor Noel Chia Kok Hwee, both from the Early Childhood and Special Needs Education Academic Group and Assoc Prof Jude Chua presented their respective papers at the colloquium on 1 June and were also appointed Visiting Academics at the IoE from 16 to 20 June.

Assoc Prof Wong gave the opening keynote and spoke on the “Network of Support Services for Persons with Visual Impairments in Singapore: Blinds Spots and Vantage Points of Service Delivery in Serving Students with Visual Impairments”. Assoc Prof Noel Chia presented a paper on “The Educological Framework of Inclusive Education for Students with Disabilities in Singapore: The V.I.S.U.A.L. Factor”; Assoc Prof Jude Chua considered “What Monroe’s Water Lilies Can Tell Us About Educating for Critical Thinking”, based on a piece co-written with Kristie Chen of the philosophy department of Raffles Institution, Singapore. Dr Karl Wall, a lecturer at the IoE, gave the closing keynote seminar, “Mail: sensory approaches to practical habituation training curricula (mobility, orientation and independent living skills) for visually impaired children and young people: making use of all the senses!”.

In addition, two of our Dean’s Award 2013 winning M.Ed (Special Education) graduates, Ms Saranya Elangovan (Pathlight School) and Mr Mohamad Shafuddin bin Yusof (Ngee Ann Polytechnic), also participated at the colloquium and presented their papers: “Harnessing Visual Literacy in the 21st Century Classroom for Students with Autism” and “Constructing the visual learning environment for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder” respectively. Ms Lim Weng Fong, a PhD student at the IoE, also presented her PhD research paper on “Special Needs Education for the Visually Impaired in Malaysia”.

Swan Song

By Public, International and Alumni Relations

Leaving the NIE community is usually a hard thing to do, especially when you have been a part of it for the last 10 years. For Dr Koh Chong Lek, the stage was set for him to bid a fond farewell to friends and colleagues. In a heartfelt email, he announced that he would be saying his leaving the NIE community is usually a hard thing to do, especially when you have been a part of it for the last 10 years. For Dr Koh Chong Lek, the stage was set for him to bid a fond farewell to friends and colleagues. In a heartfelt email, he announced that he would be saying his...

Thank you Dr Koh Chong Lek for all your years of hard work and contribution. We wish you a happy retirement!

Above (From Left): Ms Saranya Elangovan, Assoc Prof Noel Chia Kok Hwee, Assoc Prof Wong Meng Ee, Assoc Prof Jude Chua and Mr Mohamad Shafuddin bin Yusof presented key findings at the IoE Colloquium 2014

Research