Central Times is a bi-annual newsletter published by ITE College Central

THEREHROUGH YOUR EYES

Right Choice. Right Here.

FEATURES

Where Lives Take Flight
ITE College Central’s Official Opening
Lecturers Shaping the Future at ITE College Central
Know Your Student Leaders

Right Choice. Right Here.
To many of us, the mega campus of ITE College Central looks magnificent and grand. Some may be amazed by its vast size, and others impressed by its modern and state-of-the-art facilities. Regardless how you view it, ITE College Central campus has not only become the talking point for our students and staff, but also won the admiration from many visitors and members of the public. Through the eyes of our students and staff, we present to you the more endearing side of ITE College Central.
On 25 and 26 August 2013, ITE Fiesta, the ITE-wide Open House was held at ITE College Central. This was the third instalment of the annual event, and for the first time, it was held at the new ITE College Central campus in Ang Mo Kio (AMK). We received overwhelming support from the general public and secondary schools for this event, welcoming close to 10,000 public visitors and some 3,060 secondary school students from 46 secondary schools.

ITE College Central was buzzing with activity throughout the two days, with a great variety of project booths and carnival stalls set up to appeal to every taste. These interactive booths and stalls showcased the various trade areas of ITE courses. Free workshops, that included areas of interest such as floral arrangement, baking of pineapple tarts, clay modelling and business entrepreneurship, were conducted on Day One for public members. Those who attended the workshops would have caught a glimpse of the types of skills that our students would acquire from ITE.

Day Two was planned specifically to attract Secondary School students to understand ITE better. Students were given the opportunity to view some of our state-of-the-art training facilities including our Aerospace Hub, Design Excellence Centre, Games Galleria and Retail Training Centre. Students were also given free time to explore the project booths and carnival stalls, relax and have some fun.

Overall, the ITE Fiesta was an enjoyable event filled with fun and games for everyone, while allowing both the public and students alike to learn more about what ITE has to offer. We look forward to seeing you at the next ITE Fiesta that will be held at ITE College West in August 2014.

As part of the ITE Fiesta activities, we partnered with the community (AMK GRC and Sengkang West SMC) to have ITE College Central as the venue host for the end point of the One Community Walk. The walking contingent was led by the Grassroots Advisers from AMK and Sengkang West – Dr Lam Pin Min, Mr Ang Hin Kee, Mr Seng Han Thong and Dr Intan Azura Mokhtar.

Following the end of the walk, the Grassroots Advisers toured some of the ITE Fiesta activities, which included the ITE Skills Competition finals (for secondary school students), project booths, Motorsports Carnival (jointly organised with Singapore GP) and CSR activities for needy elderly members from the AMK and Sengkang West community. They were also invited to participate in the creation of a new Singapore record by placing the finishing bricks on our “Largest Logo Made of Lego Bricks”. 32,256 LEGO bricks were sponsored by Duck Learning (Exclusive Distributor of LEGO Education in Singapore) to construct the logo, and some 3,000 ITE College Central students and community members were involved in putting it together.

Creating a Record and Walking with the Community - All in a Day’s Work.
On 8 November 2013, over 3,000 students, staff and guests gathered at the new mega campus of ITE College Central to witness the Official Opening of ITE Headquarters & ITE College Central. Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong was the Guest-of-Honour for the evening.

The new ITE College Central provides rich opportunities for students to engage in multi-disciplinary, cross-level training, and holistic development. These facilities provide learning opportunities for the launching of students into meaningful careers, and chart new paths for lives to take flight. Hence, the theme of celebration: ITE – Where Lives Take Flight. To signify the special occasion, more than 6,000 paper aeroplanes were launched in unison by students, staff and guests. These paper aeroplanes represent the hopes and dreams of students and guests for ITE.

One of the highlights of evening was a solo performance by Rahmat Bin Suwarji, a Higher Nitec in Mechatronics Engineering student from ITE College Central. The performance, titled “Soaring High in ITE”, was jointly produced by ITE’s School of Design and Media, and ITE’s Centre for Music and the Arts. The item showcased ITE College Central as a college of Creativity and Innovation, through a blend of animation with live performance in a creative and lively format. It also mapped the journey of a student as he enters and progresses through ITE, and captured the essence of ITE’s unique ‘Hands On, Minds On, Hearts On’ education philosophy.

The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page

– St Augustine

ITE offers students a holistic education using various platforms. One of which is through our Global Education Programme. With a variety of overseas experiential opportunities, students are exposed to new skills, global mindsets and perspectives, as well as acquire better understanding of cultures and lifestyles in other countries.

In order to increase awareness for the Programme, ITE College Central’s Student Development Department and Photography Club collaborated to organise a two-day Global Education Programme Photography Exhibition in November 2013.

The photographs featured at the exhibition were contributed by students and staff who participated in the Global Education Programme in 2012 and 2013. All images that were exhibited told a story each. Students experienced hardships on a humbling Overseas Community Services Programme. New friendships were found on the Overseas Student Exchange Programme. New skills and knowledge were gained through the Overseas Industrial Attachment Programme and Overseas Cultural & Sports Programme.

As they say, to travel is to live. ITE College Central encourages students to proactively seek out opportunities that can be found under our Global Education Programme to enrich their learning journey with ITE and to be prepared for the global economy.

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There’s a world out there and I wanna be in it
I got a life and I’m gonna live it
Don’t tell me the sky’s the limit
There’re footprints on the moon
I wanna do my walkin’ down the road less travelled
Sew my dreams where they won’t unravel
If you play it safe you won’t get nowhere
I can’t stay in here when there’s a world out there

~ Paul Brandt

Mr. Kenny Tan, Lecturer, Nitec in Electronics (Microelectronics), is one passionate Lecturer. He wrote us the above lyrics from a song by Paul Brandt. He firmly believes in these words. He says that there are plenty of opportunities for ITE students to fight for and discover their full potential. Mr. Tan also believes in giving back to the society and making a difference. Judging by his quiet demeanour, you would never have guessed that he was once an ITE (formerly VITB) student. He believes the VITB education he received not only gave him sound technical skills, but also good values that will stay with him for life.

Mr. Kenny Tan was Class Advisor to ITE College Central’s student, Audrey Ping, who won the National Young Leader Award in 2013.

Mr. Kenny Tan (KT): Why did you decide to teach at ITE?

Central Times (CT): Why did you decide to teach at ITE?

Mr. Kenny Tan (KT): Well, life is a journey, not a destination. I wanted to write a meaningful chapter in my life. I believe every child has a talent and ITE students are no exception. I would like to help each student discover their talents and focus on developing them. I am positive every student can shine bright, just like a diamond that needs shaping and polishing before it becomes a luxury jewellery item.

CT: What are some of the challenges you faced in teaching?

KT: At an impressionable age, students look for identity. In search for this identification, people around them play a vital role. Teenagers are often tempted by influences, regardless of positive or negative. Positive influences and effective guidance would help them discover their strengths and achieve their goals. As an educator, I hope to have more time to spend with students who may need special guidance and coaching. Although this is not always possible, I do my utmost best, with whatever time and resources that I have, to help the students realise their dreams.

CT: How do you bond with your students? What makes them appreciate you as a lecturer?

KT: Sincerity is the key to that gate of separation, so whatever I do to help and motivate my students, I make efforts to do it sincerely – speak their language, keep myself updated with the latest craze and trends, treat them like my friends and give them space to express themselves. Most importantly, do not be judgemental. Instead of spoon feeding them all the time, I guide them along with my opinions and let them make decisions for themselves. With mutual respect and trust, the teacher-student bond will no doubt grow stronger with each passing day.

Students get bored easily, so sometimes we take a short break in between lessons to chat about life in general, the latest K-POP trends and even fun facts in money management. I find that sharing my personal story and inspiring them with stories of successful ITE students, will motivate them to reflect on their lives and work hard towards their goals.

CT: How do you inspire your students and make lessons interesting?

KT: If you play it safe you won’t get nowhere. I want to keep them on their toes. It makes it much more interesting than having a monologue usually takes place.

The Retail Training Centre at ITE College Central is a good example of an authentic training facility, created to replicate a real retail outlet. This is where students from Nitec in Retail Services course learn not only the retail-related skills, such as how to use the Point-of-Sale systems, store operations and visual merchandising skills, but also soft skills such as customer service skills, personal grooming and etiquette. We do a lot of role-play, group discussions and project work here. We also have a little runway and grooming studio where personal grooming workshops are conducted for students. All these contribute to the fun-factor of our lessons and our students are never bored.

CT: What do you enjoy most about teaching?

Ms Christina Chung (CC): I enjoy watching students blossom in the classroom. Teaching involves setting a good professional example for their students.

CC: Through the four years of teaching at ITE, I have witnessed the transformation of students, from wide-eyed, bushy-tailed first year students to confident graduates who can carry themselves very well. It is very satisfying to know that the students I have taught share the same values and professional beliefs as me by the time they graduate. Knowing that they will contribute to the Retail industry, providing the absolute best services in Retail, motivates me to strive even harder in nurturing these students.

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Central Times (CT): Why did you decide to teach at ITE?

Ms Christina Chung (CC): I see teaching as an opportunity to share my industry knowledge and nurture young bright minds. Embarking on a teaching career with ITE is one of the best decisions I have ever made. I truly appreciate the educational philosophy that ITE preaches – Hands-on, Minds-on, Heart-on. I believe in making all-round education available to all students regardless of their academic aptitude, and providing the platforms to develop the individual strengths and talents, which is equally important.

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“As a kid, I disliked studying and was always getting into trouble,” Kevin confessed. “Coming from a humble background and watching how his parents put in so much hard work and efforts to raise him and his siblings, Kevin knew he had to do something about his life to repay his parents. He decided to study hard and get the grades needed to progress to higher education.

When he progressed to ITE, he did well to achieve the Eagles Award and Good Progress Award, and is an active Bridge Leader at ITE College Central. At ITE, he has gained not just new technical skills and knowledge but also leadership skills which he never knew he was capable of.

“I have met many amazing people in my journey with ITE College Central. The lecturers are awesome and some very humorous. Lessons are never boring here.”

“Shamirul was one of the crew members behind the Official Opening of ITE Headquarters and College Central. “It was a highlight of my learning journey and College Central. “It was an event that I look forward to every day, as I know I am going to learn something new about lights and sounds. We are fortunate to be able to train in this huge campus with a wide range of performing venues such as Black Box, Theatre and Amphitheatre.”

“Going to ITE College Central, helping to organise Blood Donation Drive activities both in the College Central seems like the perfect opportunity for me. I am able to express myself freely and am constantly challenged by my lecturers to produce artwork pieces to my best ability,” Clarissa said with a wide grin.

She is appreciative of the comprehensive and modern training facilities available at the new ITE College Central. “It is a conducive place to study. I like the layout of the campus and the greenery surrounding us which makes it look clean and fresh.”

The sky is never the limit for Clarissa. She believes it is up to the individual to make the best out of every situation in life.

“Kahairul cannot wait to start his career in the Marine industry. He said, “I want to chase my dreams.”

“My lecturers were previously from the Marine industry and every day, I look forward to their lessons as they truly speak and teach from their experiences. Lessons are always insightful and make me wish I can start working in that shipyard, like now!”

“I have met many amazing people in my journey with ITE College Central. The lecturers are awesome and some very humorous. Lessons are never boring here.”

In line with ITE’s all-round education philosophy, The Centre for the Music and The Arts (CeMTA) plays a key role in our students’ character and attitudinal development through providing creative programmes as well as leadership opportunities. It aims to promote student activities both in the performing and visual arts across all three Colleges, as well as to create culturally vibrant College environments through arts platforms and facilitate active participation by both students and alumni of ITE.

Performing and Visual Arts members under CeMTA represent the pinnacle of ITE arts and will enjoy ample opportunities for arts development and performances at ITE, community, National and International platforms. It also recognises and rewards students’ contributions and achievements in terms of Edusave Awards for Achievements, Good Leadership and Services (EAGLES), ITE Arts Excellence Awards, ITE CCA Medals and CCA GPA points.

CeMTA’s diverse arts platforms provide accessibility to different genres of art forms catering to artistic and popular interests of the ITE community. Currently, there are eight performing and visual arts groups under CeMTA, namely, That A Cappella Group, ITE Show Choir, ITE Concert Band, ITE Jazz Band, ITE Chinese Orchestra, ITE Contemporary Dance, ITE Jazz Dance and the ITE Theatrical Ensemble.

CeMTA also produces ITE arts events across five areas of interests – Drama, Dance, Vocal, Band and Visual Arts. For instance, several musicals have been produced, including A Midsummer Night’s Dream (2002), Grease (2009), West Side Story (2011) and Fame (2013). In Visual Arts, the biennial ITE Arts Show, inaugurated in 2012, is produced to showcase the diverse creative visual art talents of our ITE students, as well as to promote life-long interests in arts amongst the students. The upcoming 2014 ITE Arts Show, themed LAYERS, will be held in ITE College Central in August 2014.

In Dance, CeMTA put together the first Dance Concert, titled “Emblazon” in 2013. It was held over two days at a full-house audience, and featured seven dance groups from the three ITE Colleges. The purpose of “Emblazon” was to develop ITE’s dance talents by providing a platform for them to learn from each other as well as the professionals.
When you can’t make them see the light, make them feel the heat.

— Ronald Reagan

When you wish to do great things in the future, you need to start small by building up essential skills and discipline right now. At ITE College Central, plenty of opportunities are given to students who are willing to step up and serve the student community as leaders. Student Councilors, Bridge Leaders and Student Icons are three main student groups that recruit and groom potential students with leadership qualities. Find out what each student group does and why you should consider joining them.

STUDENT ICONS
THE AMBASSADORS OF ITE COLLEGE CENTRAL

Are you a graduating Secondary School student deciding on your next move? You have come to one of the major crossroads in your life and it is important that you have the information you need to make the right choice. When considering your options, it may be helpful to know what life might be like at ITE College Central. Student Icons are a group of dedicated students specially recruited to represent ITE College Central as liaisons between the College and prospective students, families and visitors. While carrying out their ambassadorial duties at various College and community events, Student Icons would provide realistic insights into student life at the College. As part of the promotional efforts for ITE College Central, Student Icons conduct campus tours for visiting Secondary School students and teachers. Prospective students can count on Student Icons for appropriate and unbiased advice so that they are aware of the choices open to them, and what learning experiences ITE College Central can offer to them.

STUDENT COUNCILORS
THE GUARDIAN ANGELS

With a student population nearing 10,000, you may feel like a small fish in a big pond at ITE College Central. How do you get your voice heard? Join the Student Council!

The Student Council represents and speaks for the student body in areas of student welfare, concerns, needs and interests. To be able to serve the student body effectively, Student Councilors gain feedback from the student community and work as a team to provide concrete and tangible benefits for them. Through organising College and student events such as Orientation and Graduation Ceremonies, Student Councilors are given ample opportunities to hone their leadership, communication and social skills.

BRIDGE LEADERS
THE BRIDGE BUILDERS

Imagine – You step into a campus that is as large as fifteen football fields on your first day of school. The faces and voices are all unfamiliar. Feeling overwhelmed and apprehensive, would you have appreciated if someone lent you a helping hand? ITE College Central’s Bridge Leaders are here to help. Like its name, Bridge Leaders are the bridging connections between new students and the College. They actively engage with new students who need help in the transition of their learning journey in ITE. Through fun campus activities such as “Know Your Campus” tour during Orientation Week, providing peer support and playing mediator role in their classes, Bridge Leaders are the friends whom you can look up to if you need support in adapting to the College’s environment and ITE’s system.

Today is practice for tomorrow. If you wish to do great things in the future, you need to start small by building up essential skills and discipline right now. At ITE College Central, plenty of opportunities are given to students who are willing to step up and serve the student community as leaders. Student Councilors, Bridge Leaders and Student Icons are three main student groups that recruit and groom potential students with leadership qualities. Find out what each student group does and why you should consider joining them.

For description of new courses, please refer to next page. Check out our website: http://central.ite.edu.sg for more details.
NEW COURSES @ ITE COLLEGE CENTRAL 2014

Exciting new courses await you at ITE College Central. Find out more on the courses and entry requirements on our website: http://central.ite.edu.sg

Higher Nitec in Human Resource and Administration

Employees are the heart and soul of an organisation. There is increasing focus on the people they recruit, resulting in the evolution of the Human Resource profession. It is no longer an administrative role that hires and fires people but a Human Capital Management role that determines the success of any organisation.

The Higher Nitec in Human Resource Administration course will provide students with relevant skills and knowledge to support a wide range of Human Resource functions in an organisation. It covers topics in recruitment and selection, pre-boarding, on-boarding and off-boarding processes, training and payroll management.

There are plenty of career opportunities as graduates of this course can be employed by various organisations in all industries. So have you dreamt of becoming an entrepreneur one day? If you have, then acquiring the fundamentals to understand business operations in the ever-changing business environment is very important. You can take the first step to fulfilling your dream by joining the Nitec in Business Services course.

You will learn to organise business events, make travel arrangements, schedule meetings and process office documents. With these new skills and knowledge, you will discover how to deliver the “Wow” service in a business setting through efficient information processes and good records management.

There are excellent job opportunities for graduates of this course. You can be employed by all sectors of the economy in roles such as Administrative Assistants, Executive Assistants and Customer Service Representatives.

Nitec in Business Services

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The new two-year course will provide students with necessary skills and knowledge to perform a range of challenging financial tasks to support the operations of an organisation. In addition, students will learn oral and written communication skills in a business environment, produce office documents using common software packages and handle office procedures.

With the skills you acquire, you can be employed by companies across the entire economy, including both public and private sectors.

Nitec in Finance Services

Are numbers your cup of tea? Does the balancing of financial statements thrill you? If you say yes to these questions, the Nitec in Finance Services is the course you are looking for.

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A token of appreciation for Minister Lim Swee Say

Audric Ping (far right) with 4 other finalists, including fellow ITE College Central student Lye Zhang Bin (third from right)

A FUNDRAISING FEAT BY ITE COLLEGE CENTRAL GRADUATE

As a student, hunger was a constant companion to 37-year-old Bruce Tong, an ITE College Central graduate. He hopes nobody will experience what he had gone through. So to give back to his alma mater and raise funds for financially-disadvantaged students, Bruce ran a million metres in a fund-raising endeavour, jointly organised by National Youth Achievement Award (NYLA), Gold Award Holders’ Alumni (GAHA) and Institute of Technical Education (ITE).

The journey that Bruce took during the run was a nostalgic one, where he ran past 14 former ITE campuses as well as the 3 new mega ITE Colleges. He ended his run at ITE Headquarters and College Central in Ang Mo Kio on 3 November 2013, to much fanfare from the ITE students and staff. Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education, presented him a plaque in recognition of his effort.

ITE COLLEGE CENTRAL STUDENT WINS NATIONAL YOUNG LEADER AWARD 2013

18-year-old Audric Ping, won the inaugural National Young Leader Award (NYLA) in 2013, beating 4 other finalists. The finalists of the Award, which recognizes exceptional young leaders who contribute actively to society, are chosen from 49 applicants from various schools, including Secondary Schools, ITEs, Polytechnics and Junior Colleges.

Despite facing difficulties at home, Audric reaches out to his schoolmates and gets them to volunteer with him in helping the elderly and intellectually disabled. A member of the national karate team, he also spends time coaching karate for free at schools. Audric’s resilience and drive is truly an inspiration for all.

ITE COLLEGE CENTRAL, AS BUSY AS A BEE

2013 was an eventful year for ITE College Central. Since our new mega campus began operations on 7 January 2013, ITE College Central has been the focal point for many significant events, from ITE Musical, National Day Rally, ITE Fiesta to the Official Opening Ceremony. Our students and staff, through their hard work, achieved many “firsts” in these exciting and joyous moments. The College will continue to pursue excellence in technical education so that our students can shine bright like a diamond.

Here are some 2013 highlights:

- A FUNDRAISING FEAT BY ITE COLLEGE CENTRAL GRADUATE
- ITE COLLEGE CENTRAL STUDENT WINS NATIONAL YOUNG LEADER AWARD 2013
- A token of appreciation for Minister Lim Swee Say