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DISTED College marks its 37th Anniversary and 32nd Convocation with a ceremony recognising outstanding graduates and unveiling new academic programmes for future growth.

DISTED College Celebrates Convocation Class of 2024 Expands Academic Horizons



As President of DISTED College, it is always an honour to preside over the convocation ceremony and witness our graduates and future leaders prepare to make meaningful contributions to the world.

To the Class of 2024, Eleanor Roosevelt's words resonate profoundly: 'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.' Here at DISTED, your dreams and aspirations have taken root, laying the foundation for a future filled with boundless potential. This year's convocation is especially meaningful as we celebrate DISTED's 37th Anniversary and, for the first time, host the ceremony on campus, surrounded by the environment where these graduates' academic journey began.

DISTED's legacy of excellence is built on adaptability and innovation. We continue to grow, introducing new programmes in partnership with HELP University, expanding paths for student success. Our enhanced facilities demonstrate our commitment to providing an exceptional educational experience.

For our graduates, the education you've received here is only the beginning. As you enter new opportunities, embrace challenges, take risks, and pursue your passions. Balance personal growth with professional goals and remain curious. As Ratan Tata once said, 'I believe in work-life integration—make your work and life meaningful, and they will complement each other.'

Today, you leave DISTED equipped not only with knowledge but also as future leaders. Go forth, forge your own paths, and leave a lasting impact. We believe in your potential and eagerly anticipate the positive change you will bring to the world.

Congratulations, Class of 2024!

Remarks



from the

President

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
President

Cover
Story

DISTED College Celebrates Convocation Class of 2024 and Expands Academic Horizons

DISTED College celebrated its 32nd Convocation Ceremony and 37th Anniversary at Heritage Hall, Penang, on 26 October 2024. The event honoured the Class of 2024, with Professor Dr Vikneswaran Nair, the college president, leading the ceremony and encouraging graduates to embrace new challenges and carve unique paths. Prof. Nair highlighted DISTED's academic growth, including three new degree programmes in partnership with HELP University in Accounting, Marketing, and Communications (Media Studies), along with an upcoming Information Technology (Data Analytics) programme launching in January 2025, pending approval by the Ministry of Higher Education and Malaysian Qualifications Agency. The college also introduced a Diploma in Mass Communication earlier in the year, underscoring its commitment to offering diverse educational pathways.

Recent upgrades at the college include a modernised immersive learning hub, science labs, media studios, recreational facilities, and upgraded accommodations at SPACE Residences downtown, reflecting DISTED's dedication to providing a well-rounded educational environment.

In session one, YB Joshua Woo Sze Zeng, a distinguished alumnus and State Assemblyman, delivered the guest address. He shared his experiences at DISTED and congratulated the graduates and faculty for their contributions to community outreach in Penang. In the afternoon, alumnus Tham Shien Hong from Moore Malaysia inspired graduates with a message on the transformative power of education. The ceremony highlighted outstanding graduates, including Valedictorian Chuah Shu En from the Bachelor of Arts in Accounting and Finance. Top students were presented the Chairman's Award, President's Award, and Moore Malaysia book prizes for the top accounting students.

With a global alumni network of over 15,000, DISTED College continues to prepare graduates for impactful contributions, reinforcing its standing as a leading educational institution in Penang.

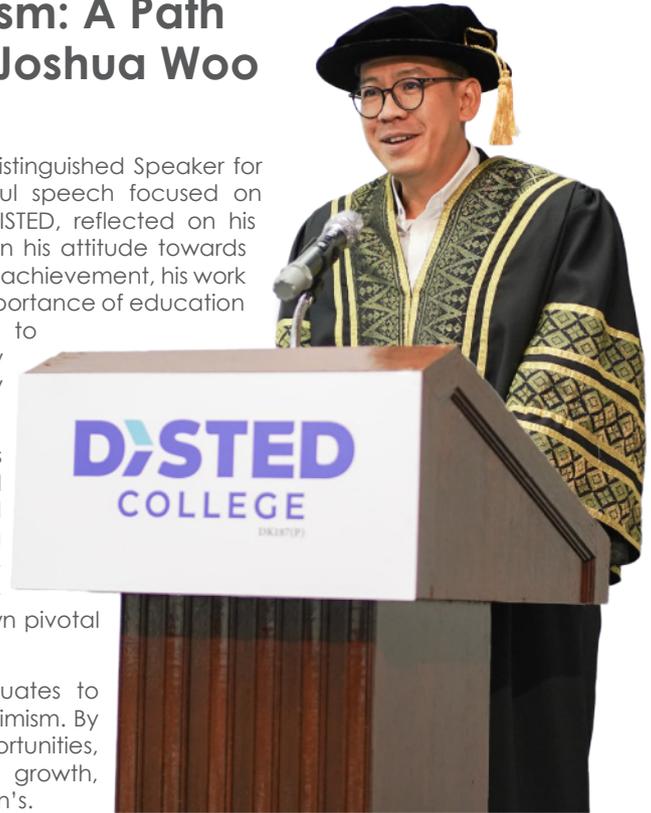


“Embracing Resilience and Optimism: A Path to Success and Purpose”, Urge YB Joshua Woo to Graduates

YB Joshua Woo Sze Zeng, State Assemblyman for Pulau Tikus and Distinguished Speaker for DISTED College's Convocation Class of 2024, shared an impactful speech focused on resilience, education, and optimism. YB Joshua, an alumnus of DISTED, reflected on his academic journey, marked by early struggles and a turning point in his attitude towards education. Though he initially underestimated the value of academic achievement, his work across Hong Kong, Australia, and Singapore taught him the critical importance of education in expanding career opportunities. YB Joshua advised graduates to approach their studies earnestly, highlighting that while gig economy roles may offer immediate income, higher education paves the way for long-term success and fulfilment.

YB Joshua emphasised optimism as an active approach to life's inevitable challenges. Recalling his decision to leave an established life in Singapore and return to Malaysia, he shared how he felt called to help his homeland confront significant national issues, including political scandals and economic crises. His return in 2015, despite uncertainties, was driven by a commitment to contribute to positive change, making him a relatable figure for graduates facing their own pivotal decisions.

Closing with a powerful message, YB Joshua encouraged graduates to confront life's negativities not with resignation but with hope and optimism. By adopting this mindset, he believes they can turn challenges into opportunities, overcome setbacks, and create lives filled with purpose and growth, embodying the resilience needed to shape their future and the nation's.



“Embrace Resilience, Integrity, and Curiosity”, Tham Shien Hong's Message to DISTED's Class of 2024



Distinguished speaker, Tham Shien Hong, Partner, Audit & Assurance at Moore Malaysia and DISTED alumnus, began by expressing his gratitude for the opportunity to share in the celebration of DISTED College's Class of 2024. Having graduated over two decades ago, Tham noted that standing here today felt like attending the convocation he missed years ago, filled with nostalgia and pride.

Reflecting on his time at DISTED in 2002, Tham recalled studying under the South Australian Matriculation (SAM) programme, a foundational course that prepared him for further studies in Australia. Though SAM has since evolved into the SACEi programme, he expressed confidence in its continued rigour. He shared how his experiences at DISTED shaped him beyond academics, imparting valuable life lessons from dedicated lecturers like Mrs. Allen, whose lasting impact has influenced generations of students, including his own family.

Tham also highlighted the college's remarkable transformation under Dato' Lim Si Boon's leadership. DISTED's facilities, like the updated computer lab, the new drone lab, and the basketball court, reflect a forward-thinking approach, catering to evolving student needs and promoting holistic development.

As a partner from Moore Malaysia, Tham had the honour of presenting the Book Prize Award to two outstanding students from the Diploma in Accounting programme, recognising their achievements and commitment to academic excellence.

Addressing the graduates, he emphasised that this day marks a significant milestone as they step into new ventures, whether continuing their studies or entering the workforce. He encouraged them to carry forward the resilience, integrity, and curiosity nurtured at DISTED, values that will guide them through future challenges and opportunities. He urged them to embrace lifelong learning, stay humble, and strive to make a difference.

DISTED Excellence Award for the Class of 2024

These awards, presented at Convocation Class of 2024, highlight the recipients' dedication, academic success, and potential as future leaders in their respective fields.

Chairman's Award

Wayne Chan

Wayne Chan was awarded the Chairman's Award for his exceptional performance in the Bachelor of Psychology (Hons.) programme, which was conducted in collaboration with HELP University. This award reflects his dedication and academic excellence.

President's Award

Goh Jian Yu

Goh Jian Yu is the recipient of the President's Trophy, honouring his accomplishments in the Diploma in Computer Science programme. His commitment to his studies and contributions have distinguished him among his peers.

Awards



Chairman's Award

Rachel

Rachel was awarded the Chairman's Award for her outstanding achievements in the Bachelor of Arts (Hons) Accounting & Finance programme, which was conducted in collaboration with Staffordshire University, UK. She demonstrated excellence and commitment throughout her studies.

Moore Malaysia Book Awards

Dashna and Kierthika Krishnan, of Diploma in Accounting, received the Moore Malaysia Book Award as the top two accounting students.

Embracing the Journey

A Valedictory Reflection by

Chuah Shu En



About Chuah Shu En

Chuah Shu En, the Valedictorian for the Class of 2024, shared a heartfelt message filled with gratitude and pride, reflecting on her journey at DISTED College. As she addressed her fellow graduates, Shu En recalled her excitement and apprehension upon first entering DISTED, uncertain of the path ahead but eager to find her place. Over time, she discovered that what initially seemed like an individual pursuit transformed into a deeply shared journey with her classmates, shaped by friendship, support, and shared growth.

One of the most transformative experiences of her college life was her involvement with the Student Representative Council (SRC). Initially viewing college as primarily about academics, Shu En was surprised by the doors that opened when she joined the SRC. Organising memorable events like prom night and the Hunger Maze adventure game brought fun and connection to the student body and taught her essential skills such as leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving. Serving as the president of the SRC was both a privilege and a responsibility that Shu En credits with preparing her for life's challenges.

She expressed heartfelt gratitude to those who guided her along the way, whose steadfast support and advice were invaluable. Shu En also acknowledged her fellow SRC committee members, whose dedication and creativity made every project memorable. Her lecturers received special thanks for going beyond their roles as teachers. They believed in her and inspired her to exceed her expectations. She credited the School of Business and Hospitality for giving her a platform to grow by participating in competitions like the Dell Business Challenge, where she honed her resilience and sense of excellence.

Above all, Shu En acknowledged her mother, who sat proudly in the audience, as her greatest supporter. She dedicated her achievements to her mother's unwavering love and sacrifices, expressing that this accomplishment was as much hers as it was her mother's. In her closing, Shu En offered advice to her classmates: to embrace life's uncertainties, remain curious, uplift others, and find joy in the journey. She reminded them that setbacks and failures are not roadblocks but essential parts of the journey toward growth.



Chuah Shu En successfully completed her Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Accounting & Finance through a distinguished 3+0 programme in collaboration with Staffordshire University, UK. She embarked on this academic journey in 2021 and has since demonstrated exceptional dedication and academic excellence, graduating with First Class Honours. Currently, Chuah Shu En applies her knowledge and skills in the financial sector as an Insurance Agent at Great Eastern Sdn Bhd, where her diligence and passion have already led to significant career advancement. She is on track to be promoted to the role of Sales Manager, a notable achievement within just one year of joining the industry. Beyond her professional success, Chuah Shu En is deeply committed to helping others navigate their financial futures. With a passion for wealth planning, she intends to enhance her expertise by enrolling in the Life Planning Advisor Program, aspiring to guide individuals and families toward financial security and success. Her dedication to both personal growth and service to others exemplifies the values of leadership and responsibility, making her a deserving recipient of the valedictorian honour.

DISTED College Class of 2024: Celebrating Legacy, Achievement, and Inspiration

Here are some key facts and figures about DISTED College and the Class of 2024, drawn from all the speeches at the ceremony:

College Legacy and Milestone:

- Celebrating its 37th anniversary.
- Hosting the 32nd Convocation Ceremony for the Class of 2024.
- Penang's oldest private college with a legacy of excellence in education.
- Over 15,000 alumni to date.

Graduation and Ceremony Details:

- A total of 113 students are graduating in the Class of 2024.
 - 50 students completed their Diploma studies.
 - 63 students earned their Bachelor's degrees.
- The ceremony is held on campus for the first time, creating a more personal and memorable event.
- The ceremony is divided into two sessions:
 - Morning session for business degrees (in collaboration with Staffordshire University, UK).
 - Afternoon session for psychology degrees (in collaboration with HELP University) and DISTED diploma programmes.

Academic Achievements:

- 35% of students in the recent Cambridge A-Level May/June 2024 examination achieved straight A grades (A* & A).
- 30% of SACE International programme students attained an ATAR score between 80-89% in 2024.
- Pre-university graduates have progressed to prestigious institutions like the University of Western Australia, University of Nottingham, Queen's University Belfast, and leading universities in Malaysia, including DISTED College.

New Programmes:

- Recently introduced three new degree programs in partnership with HELP University:
 - Bachelor in Accounting (Honours)
 - Bachelor in Marketing (Honours)
 - Bachelor of Communications (Media Studies) (Hons)
- Launching an Information Technology (Data Analytics) programme for the January 2025 intake, pending final approvals from MOHE and MQA.
- Added a Diploma in Mass Communication to its offerings in 2024.

Facilities and Learning Environment:

- Upgraded facilities include:
 - Immersive learning hub at Crosby Hall
 - Modern science labs, media broadcasting studios, and recreational centres
 - Newly upgraded student residences at SPACE, downtown

Student Achievements in Sports:

- Notable achievements by Psychology student Delwina Cheah, who won two bronze medals in Judo at SUKMA 2024 and was recognised on the President's List for academic excellence.



DISTED President with Professor Ts Dr Yap Eng Hwa, Associate Vice Chancellor, Wawasan Open University

These points reflect DISTED College's commitment to academic excellence, growth, and support for student achievements both academically and in extracurricular achievements.

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Inspiring Quotes from the Convocation Class of 2024 Speeches

1. "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

2. "I don't believe in work-life balance. I believe in work-life integration. Make your work and life meaningful and fulfilling, and they will complement each other."

3. "Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

4. "Success isn't just a destination but a journey shaped by every friendship, lesson, and stumble along the way."

5. "True leadership is about lifting others as you rise, sharing each victory and challenge."



6. "Embrace uncertainty; the paths we never planned often lead to the most rewarding destinations."

7. "Each step, whether forward, sideways, or backward, contributes to the person you're meant to become."



8. "Find joy in every moment, for life's beauty lies not only in milestones but in the journey itself."

9. "Hope is not blind faith or passive waiting; it's how you make decisions despite uncertainty and thrive in the face of difficulty."

10. "Optimism is not naivety; it's the attitude that overcomes life's negativity."

11. "When you face negativity, don't surrender to it. Fight with hope and optimism—there is no other way to emerge victorious."

12. "Your future is yours to discover and create; approach it with resilience and purpose."

13. "Education isn't just about knowledge—it's about building character, values, and lifelong skills that will shape your future."

14. "Stay humble, stay curious, and let every experience be a chance to learn and grow."

15. "Success isn't defined by titles or achievements; it's the impact you make and the person you become along the way."



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