

OPEN DAY

10-11 May'25

10am - 4pm

No 340 Jalan Macalister
 10450 George Town,
 Pulau Pinang

Week's Best Titles

- ❑ Industry Meets Classroom: DISTED Students Step into the World of Professional Communication at YPF 2025
- ❑ Leading with Purpose: Meet the Student Representative Council (SRC) Team 2025/2026
- ❑ Why Sleep Matters: A Wake-Up Call for Students
- ❑ Friendship: A Foundation for Growth and Support
- ❑ From DISTED College to Tech Entrepreneurship: Tyler Ho's Journey

Industry Meets Classroom:

DISTED Students Step into the World of Professional Communication at YPF 2025

From asking bold questions to meeting industry leaders, 23 communication students from DISTED got a front-row seat to the realities of public relations at the first Young Practitioners Forum in Penang.



Remarks from the President

Dato' Lim Si Boon
 - Interim President

Collaboration in Action: A Week of Engagement and Growth at DISTED

This week has been an eventful one at DISTED College. With the release of the SPM results, our Counsellors and Academic staff worked tirelessly to advise students exploring their study options—both on campus and at the Malaysian Education Fair held on 3 and 4 May. At the same time, the Cambridge A-Level examinations were underway, and we welcomed 40 students from Thailand to DISTED and our SPACE accommodations.

Across academic, non-academic, and student teams, we witnessed DISTED's Core Value of Collaboration in action. Seamless coordination across departments enabled us to deliver multiple programmes simultaneously, offering students a glimpse into real-world project management, teamwork under pressure, and adaptive leadership.

Our Thai guests enjoyed a rich, immersive experience that included historical and nature tours around Penang, engaging sessions in our Computing and Multimedia labs, and heartfelt interactions with our staff and students. These moments created opportunities for cultural exchange and for our guests to build confidence in their English communication skills.

As their week-long visit came to an end, we warmly wished them *Selamat Jalan and Kembali Lagi*. We hope to welcome many of them back as future DISTED students.

Thank you to all staff and students who contributed to these meaningful initiatives. Your dedication made a lasting impact.

"Great discoveries and improvements invariably involve many minds." – Alexander Graham Bell.

Cover Story

Industry Meets Classroom:

DISTED Students Step into the World of Professional Communication at YPF 2025

On 28 April 2025, a team of 23 students and academic staff from DISTED College's School of Communication, Arts and Multimedia participated in the inaugural Young Practitioners Forum (YPF) at the St Giles Wembley Hotel, Penang. Organised by the Public Relations Practitioners Society of Malaysia (PRPSM), this event marked the first of its kind in the northern region — and it was nothing short of a milestone moment for our students.



Over 300 communication students from across Penang, Kedah, and Perlis gathered for a full day of knowledge-sharing, networking, and reflection. The forum was officially opened by YB Dr Kelvin Yii, representing YB Tuan Steven Sim Chee Keong, Malaysia's Minister of Human Resources. What followed was a series of rich, eye-opening panels featuring some of the nation's most respected voices in media, public relations, regulatory affairs, law, and corporate communication.

The speaker lineup included Datuk Yong Soo Heong (Malaysian Press Institute), Dr Madhavan Nair (TalentCorp), Datuk Najmuddin Abdullah (former Malaysia Airlines SVP), and Ms Devi Annamalai (MCMC), among others. Collectively, they painted a vivid picture of what it takes to thrive in the communication world today — and why adaptability, credibility, and purpose-driven messaging matter now more than ever.

Nadia Jefri

HOS, School of Communication, Arts and Multimedia

From the Student's Eyes

Before entering the ballroom at St Giles Wembley, I had only a theoretical grasp of the communications field. Listening to real-world practitioners—those who manage crises and shape public discourse—made the subject come alive. A TalentCorp speaker's remark, "Artificial intelligence can provide us with information, but creativity is what gives it meaning," captured what we're encouraged to develop at DISTED: critical thinking, adaptability, and impactful communication. The forum offered an honest view of the industry—its high pressure, long hours, and the responsibility of public trust. Instead of being daunted, I felt reaffirmed in my career choice. The most powerful takeaway was a reminder that communication is not about performance, but connection—with facts, people, and purpose. This experience strengthened my aspiration to become a communicator who makes a difference, and it confirmed that DISTED is preparing us well for that role.

Reflection by Nur Erlia Nadhirah Binti Mohd Erwan
Student, Diploma in Mass Communication

A Shared Takeaway

Together, the perspectives of our faculty and students reflect what DISTED strives to do every day: bridge the gap between theory and practice, and equip learners not just with tools, but with the insight and integrity to use them meaningfully. The Young Practitioners Forum 2025 was a reminder that education does not stop at the classroom door. It lives in every question asked, every lesson absorbed, and every opportunity to learn from those who've walked the path before us. As we left the forum, one thing was clear, our students are not just preparing for the industry. They are already a part of it.





Leading with Purpose: Meet the Student Representative Council (SRC) Team 2025/2026

Meet the 2025/26 Student Representative Council — a passionate team of students dedicated to making DISTED College more connected, inclusive, and engaging. Each member brings unique strengths, fresh ideas, and a shared commitment to serve and represent the student body. Here's a quick look at who's who and what drives them.

President: Ooi Ker Min
(Diploma in Computer Science)

Hi everyone! Super excited to serve as your Student Council President this year. This role isn't about the title — it's about helping make our school more engaging, inspiring, and fun. Whether it's improving events, solving everyday issues, or bringing bold ideas to life, I'm ready. I love turning "what if" into "why not?" and I'm always here to listen — to your feedback, ideas, or concerns. Let's work together to make this year one to remember.

Vice President: Aldanish Aniq Bin Alsyukri
(Bachelor of Psychology (Hons))

Currently pursuing a Bachelor of Psychology (Hons) with a strong passion for understanding people and behaviour. As Vice President of the Student Representative Council, I work with an amazing team to create a more vibrant and inclusive student life. Always up for a conversation and a good laugh — don't be shy to say hi!

Deputy President: Lee Jia Sheng
(Diploma in Computer Science)

I am serving as Deputy President of the SRC and studying for a Diploma in Computer Science. Looking forward to organising activities that bring students together and make campus life more enjoyable and memorable.

Secretary: Muhammed Salim Sameera
(Cambridge A-Level)

Taking on the role of Secretary has been about more than just writing minutes — it's about helping shape a better student experience. Through this role, I've contributed to events and responded to student concerns. Most of all, I value seeing positive change in the community. Always open to hearing your ideas and feedback.

Treasurer: Nurkhairun Syahirah Binti
Mohammad Bilal (Cambridge A-Level)

As Treasurer, I manage the council's finances and make sure every decision is made with transparency and purpose. Numbers may not be flashy, but they make real change possible — and I'm here to ensure our resources serve the student community well.

Vice Secretary: Averille Tan
(Diploma in Computer Science)

As Vice Secretary of the Student Council, the goal is to ensure smooth communication between students and the school. Your voices matter, and I'm committed to making sure they are heard. We're working hard to create a more welcoming and responsive environment for everyone.

Vice Treasurer: Amber Ch'ng Xue Hui
(Diploma in Creative Multimedia Production)

Proud to support the Treasurer as Vice Treasurer by ensuring every expenditure aligns with student needs. With good budgeting, we can deliver better events, support more initiatives, and remain accountable in all we do.

Webmaster: Gabriel Ong Yu Ze
(Diploma in Creative Multimedia Production)

I am currently studying for the Diploma in Creative Multimedia Production. I am passionate about art and excited to bring creativity and visual storytelling to student life and council initiatives.

Public Relations: Lee Xin Yen
(Foundation in Science)

"We're all just figuring it out, aren't we?" That thought keeps me grounded. My focus is on building better connections — between people, ideas, and the voices that matter. I believe in listening, learning, and creating space where everyone feels heard. Looking forward to growing alongside all of you.

Why Sleep Matters: A Wake-Up Call for Students



Sleep is often overlooked by students who sacrifice rest to study late into the night. However, research shows that this habit is harmful to academic performance. A 2019 MIT study found a direct link between reduced sleep and lower test scores. Sleep not only aids memory retention and learning but also supports creative thinking and problem-solving—key skills for success. Beyond academics, sleep is vital for maintaining overall health and well-being. Neuroscientists recommend avoiding late-night snacks, caffeine, and screen time, while keeping a regular sleep schedule and dark sleeping environment. At DISTED,

students are taught that sleep is not a luxury but a necessity. Through wellness programmes and awareness campaigns, they are encouraged to prioritise sleep as part of a healthy and balanced lifestyle. Emphasising the importance of rest is one way the institution supports students in reaching their full academic and personal potential.

Nurshakirin Sulaiman
Lecturer, School of Pre-University Studies



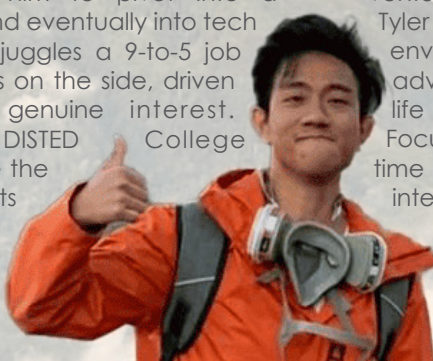
Friendship: A Foundation for Growth and Support

The School of Psychology conducted an interactive session on "Friendship" with 36 Peer Support Leaders at SMJK Perempuan China Pulau Pinang. The session began with a fun icebreaker, "Emoji Circle," where students expressed their ideal friendships through emojis. The talk covered the meaning of friendship, focusing on trust, respect and support, while also addressing challenges such as peer pressure and social media conflict. Our newly appointed Student Experience Counsellor and Lecturer Chew Yong Peng shared real-life reflections from his personal and counselling experiences, prompting students to think about the friendships in their lives. The session concluded with students writing personal pledges to become better friends. At DISTED, we strongly support initiatives that build emotional intelligence and nurture students as compassionate leaders.

Chew Yong Peng
Counsellor & Lecturer, School of Psychology

From DISTED College to Tech Entrepreneurship: Tyler Ho's Journey

Tyler Ho's career journey illustrates how following one's interests can lead to unexpected but fulfilling outcomes. Initially majoring in Actuarial Science, Tyler soon realised his passion lay in technology and data. This self-awareness pushed him to pivot into a data-driven corporate role, and eventually into tech entrepreneurship. Today, he juggles a 9-to-5 job while running his own business on the side, driven not by obligation but by genuine interest. His academic beginnings at DISTED College played a key role. Tyler chose the SACE programme for its flexibility, allowing him to focus on subjects like economics and psychology, which he found far more engaging



than a rigid science stream. These subjects not only aligned with his career goals but also nurtured critical thinking—particularly the insights into human behaviour that he applies in his entrepreneurial ventures today. Though his time at DISTED was short, Tyler fondly remembers the relaxed academic environment and meaningful friendships formed. His advice to students is simple: take ownership of your life and don't let others' opinions hold you back. Focus on what excites you, and you'll always find time to build something meaningful. Read the full interview on the DISTED College website and LinkedIn.

Parthasarathe Jayashanker
Student Editor, DISTED Discourse
Student of Cambridge A-Level

Some content in this issue was developed or enhanced using AI tools, with all material carefully reviewed and edited by our editorial team to ensure clarity, accuracy, and quality.

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