

Weekly DisCourse

Vol. 7. Issue 05. 24 May 2024

Highlights

Ensuring Excellence: Significant Infrastructure Enhancements at DISTED College

Empowering Distributed Learning: The Advantages of Unity 3D for Students

Python Automation Workshop: Empowering Tomorrow's Tech Innovators

Maternal Marvels: Unravelling Genetic Influence and Celebrating Motherhood

Internship Experience: Excel Mastery and Communication Refinement

The Virtual Steps Event!

Celebrating Teacher's Day at DISTED College

Ensuring Excellence: Significant Infrastructure Enhancements at DISTED College



It appears 2024 has just begun, but we are already halfway through the year. Significant infrastructure changes have been implemented to ensure the college remains a premier institution that produces excellent student outcomes. Despite being located on a heritage campus, the College continues to renovate and invest in relevant infrastructure to meet current generations' teaching and learning needs. This process is ongoing as I write this piece.

Following the successful launch of Col²abz, our immersive technology learning hub equipped with Alienware computers, drone technology and a green-screen studio at the Crosby Building, we have continued to push the boundaries of innovation. The SMART IMAGO presentation application, now implemented in several tutorial and

lecture rooms and labs, allows our lecturers to focus on teaching, streamline the learning experience, keep a pulse on classroom dynamics, and elevate the traditional classroom experience to innovative future collaborative pedagogies

Our new Psychology Centre will be equipped with psychometric testing, eye-tracking, and the latest electroencephalogram (EEG) technology to measure the brain's electrical activity, showcasing our commitment to staying at the forefront of educational technology. Further, the recently opened the "Black Room" multimedia studio, equipped for broadcasting and video/audio recording, serves as a channel for the voice of DISTED, enabling us to podcast discussions and video production.

The science labs are scheduled for a major renovation in June to support the pre-university science programmes. In addition, the DISH Café has been transformed to provide food variety for our campus community, now offering sumptuous pastries and Western dishes. SPACE Residences, DISTED's hostel, continues to undergo renovations to provide a more comfortable living environment for our outstation and international students.

In short, DISTED College has revitalised the campus and continues to invest to benefit students and staff as we celebrate our 37th anniversary in July.

卓越提升：立达學院的基礎設施重磅升級

似乎2024年刚刚开始，但我们已经度过了一年的一半。为了确保学院仍然是培养优秀学生的顶尖机构，我们实施了重大的基础设施改造。尽管位于历史悠久的校园内，学院仍在不断翻新和投资相关基础设施，以满足当代教学和学习需求。当我撰写这篇文章时，这个过程正在进行中。

在Crosby大楼成功推出了Col²abz后，我们的沉浸式技术学习中心配备了Alienware计算机、无人机技术和绿幕工作室，我们继续在创新的边界上不断探索。现在已在多个辅导室、演讲室和实验室实施的 SMART IMAGO 演示应用程序，使我们的讲师能够专注于教学、简化学习体验、实时掌握课堂动态，并将传统课堂体验提升至创新的未来协作教学法。

于测量大脑电活动的最新脑电图 (EEG) 技术，展示了我们在教育技术前沿保持领先的承诺。此外，最近开放的“黑房”多媒体工作室，配备广播和视频/音频录制设备，成为立达的发声渠道，使我们能够进行播客讨论和视频制作。

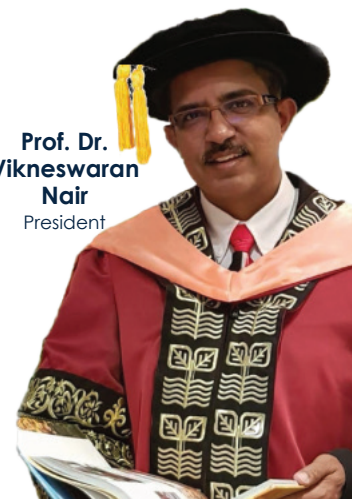
科学实验室计划于 6 月进行大规模翻修，以支持大学预科科学课程。此外，DISH Café已经改造，为我们的校园社区提供了食物选择，现在提供美味的糕点和西式菜肴。SPACE住宿，立达的宿舍，继续进行翻新，为我们的外地和国际学生提供更舒适的生活环境。此外，DISH 咖啡厅也进行了改造，为我们的校园社区提供丰富多样的食品，现在供应美味的糕点和西式菜肴。立达的宿舍 SPACE Residences 将继续进行翻新，为我们的外地学生和外国学生提供一个更舒适的生活环境。

总而言之，随着立达学院在 7 月庆祝建校 37 周年，学院通过翻新校园和持续投资为学生和教职员工带来裨益。

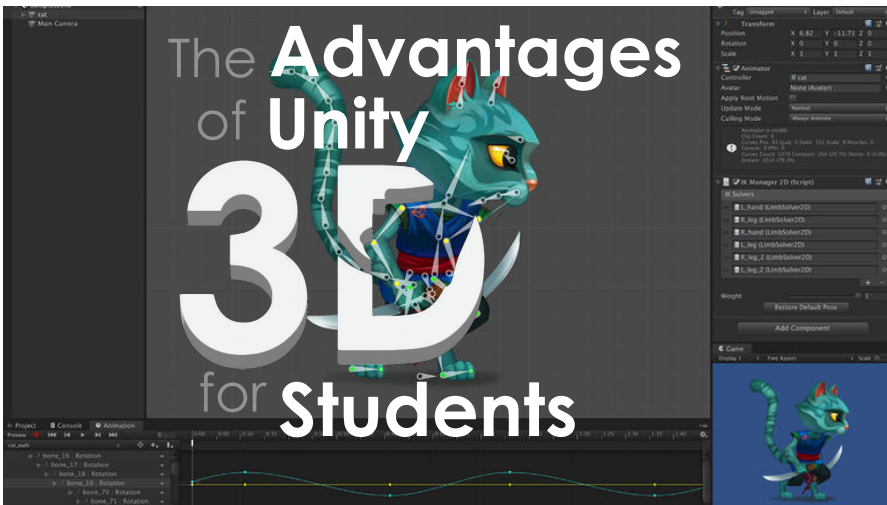
我们新的心理学中心将配备心理测量、眼动追踪以及用

(Mandarin Translator, Ms. Tan Pei Shi, Lecturer, School of Business and Hospitality)

Prof. Dr. Vikneswaran Nair
President



Empowering Distributed Learning:



Unity 3D, a prevalent game development platform, presents myriad advantages for students enrolled in distributed colleges. Its user-friendly interface and comprehensive resources cater to students across all proficiency levels, streamlining the learning process and allowing them to channel their energy into creativity and problem-solving.

Unity's cross-platform capabilities are not just a feature but a practical advantage for students in distributed learning environments. With Unity, students can develop games and applications

for a wide range of platforms, including PC, mobile, consoles, and virtual reality devices. This versatility prepares them for the ever-evolving technological landscape and encourages them to explore diverse platforms and audiences, enhancing their adaptability and marketability.

Moreover, Unity's Asset Store boasts a vast repository of pre-made assets, scripts, and plugins, empowering students to enrich their projects efficiently while acquainting them with industry-standard tools and methodologies. This resource facilitates rapid prototyping, fostering a focus on the imaginative facets of game development.

Unity fosters a supportive learning environment through its vibrant community and extensive documentation. Students can easily seek assistance from peers, engage in forums, and access tutorials and online materials. This robust support system promotes collaborative learning and knowledge exchange, making the learning journey with Unity a rewarding and enriching experience.

Furthermore, Unity's integration with other industry tools enhances students' educational journey. Seamless connections with popular software like 3D modelling tools and version control systems expose students to professional workflows and practices, nurturing technical prowess and essential soft skills such as project management and teamwork. This holistic approach prepares students for prosperous careers beyond academia.

DISTED School of Computing and Engineering lecturer, Mr Eng Yee Wei is currently completing to be a certified trainer for Unity-3D.



Navitha Gunalan
Lecturer, School of Computing
and Engineering

Python Automation Workshop: Empowering Tomorrow's Tech Innovators

The School of Computing and Engineering at DISTED College proudly presented the Python Automation Workshop on 5th May 2025, tailored for incoming students ahead of the April 2024 semester. Geared towards those enrolled in programmes like the Diploma in Computer Science, Information Technology, and Creative Multimedia Production, this workshop offered an invaluable introduction to Python.



Python, renowned for its user-friendly syntax and versatility, is an accessible entry point for novices and a robust tool for seasoned developers. Developed in 1991 by Guido van Rossum, Python prioritises readability and efficiency, enabling developers to achieve more with less code.

In the current technology-driven world, Python is a universal programming language used in diverse fields such as automation, web development, data analytics, and more. By engaging in hands-on projects like file renaming, video download automation, and document conversion, you will witness Python's practical applications first-hand, experiencing how it simplifies tasks to enhance productivity and foster innovation.

More than just acquiring skills, this workshop served as a catalyst to delve into Python's limitless potential and develop a profound understanding of programming. With this newfound knowledge, students will be well-prepared to excel academically and professionally, equipped with skills that extend far beyond the classroom.

Eng Yee Wei
Lecturer, School of Computing and Engineering

Maternal Marvels: Unravelling Genetic Influence and Celebrating Motherhood

As you've grown up, you've probably heard comments like "You've got cute dimples like your mum" or "Your curly hair is just like your dad's." These remarks hint at the fascinating world of genetic inheritance. With the help of scientific breakthroughs, we now understand that genes are the key players in this process. The term "genetic" was coined to explain how certain features are passed down from parents to children. But here's the twist: genetic inheritance is not as simple as a 50% split from each parent. It's a complex puzzle that we're still unravelling.

Most human traits result from a combination of several genes (polygenic). For instance, skin, hair, and eye colour, which span a broad spectrum, are influenced by polygenes. Some traits are exclusively transmitted from one parent, known as uniparental inheritance. Considering Mother's Day last week, let's continue celebrating and appreciating all the wonderful mothers by examining how a mother influences her child genetically.



One of the most intriguing discoveries is that intelligence inheritance is primarily maternal. This is because our brains contain an abundance of mitochondrial DNA, which is exclusively inherited from the mother. The X chromosome, which plays a crucial role in the development of the cerebral cortex, is another key player. Since mothers contribute two X chromosomes while fathers only contribute one, the intellectual X chromosome likely comes from the mother, especially in boys.

Dr Tan Sze Huey
Senior Lecturer, School of Pre-University Studies



However, it's important to note that environmental factors also play a significant role in shaping intelligence. So, let's take a moment to appreciate the unique role that mothers play in our genetic makeup.

Other behaviours linked to maternal influence besides intelligence include red-green colour blindness, signs of ageing, mental health, sleep patterns, height, and metabolism. A mother's roles as caregiver, chef, educator, and nurturing companion should be celebrated. Let's raise a toast to honour our mothers as real-life Wonder Women!



Excel Mastery and Communication Refinement

My internship at Motorola Solutions Sdn. Bhd. marked an exhilarating chapter in my professional journey. Over four months, embedded within the Finance Department's Accounting and Compliance Team, I transcended the mere application of existing knowledge, undergoing a transformative growth process that enriched my skill set in unforeseen ways.

One of the initial challenges I faced in my role was the extensive use of Excel, an area where I had limited prior exposure. However, I was determined to bridge this knowledge gap. With the support of Motorola Solutions and access to platforms like LinkedIn Learning, I embarked on a self-directed learning journey. This effort allowed me to master vital functions such as VLOOKUP, IF statements, and indispensable tools like Pivot Tables, which are crucial for robust data analysis.

My responsibilities at Motorola Solutions extended beyond technical tasks. I was also involved in aiding in audit sample preparation and refining my communication skills through clear and concise document requests. These requests spanned various departments and even international borders, showcasing my ability to work in a diverse and global environment.

Navigating within a supportive yet minimally supervised environment demanded resourcefulness and independence, especially during peak workloads. This hybrid work dynamic posed unique challenges, fostering my adeptness at managing tasks efficiently and addressing issues autonomously.

In retrospect, my tenure at Motorola Sdn Bhd was fulfilling and instrumental in equipping me with the confidence and competencies that DISTED College developed over the years, which are essential for navigating future career trajectories.

Unlocking Potential: My Internship Journey at Motorola

Rachel
Student of Bachelor of Arts (Hons) in Accounting and Finance

The Virtual Steps Event!

DISTED College is thrilled to announce 'The Virtual Steps Event', an event solely focused on walking! From 27 May 2024 to 23

June 2024, DISTED College invites all students, lecturers, staff and alumni to try and walk 10,000 steps each day.

10K STEPS SHOWDOWN DISTED COLLEGE

Date : 27 May 2024 - 23 June 2024
App : " Sweatcoin "

Register yourself now!!
Registration closes on 27/5/24

How can I track my progress?

- Open the Sweatcoin app daily to record your steps. The app will automatically log your activity, so you can focus on keeping up the pace.

How do I win the challenge?

- At the end of the event, DISTED College will announce the winner of The Virtual Steps Event. The participant with the highest average weekly steps will take home the grand prize.
- This event is not only a great way to stay healthy, but it also provides a chance to challenge yourself. Walking is a simple yet effective way to improve your health, destress, and enjoy some fresh air.

Celebrating Teacher's Day at DISTED College.

On 16th May 2024, we celebrated Teacher's Day at DISTED College. I extended my heartfelt gratitude to each of our teachers for their unwavering dedication, passion, and commitment to excellence in education. Their tireless efforts to inspire and nurture our students are the cornerstone of DISTED's success.

At DISTED College, we take pride in our community of educators who go above and beyond to ensure our students receive a holistic and enriching educational experience. Their creativity, resilience, and innovative approaches to teaching are vital as we navigate the ever-evolving landscape of higher education.

Teachers play a crucial role in shaping the minds and futures of our learners. Their ability to adapt to new teaching methodologies and integrate cutting-edge technologies into their lessons has significantly enhanced the learning

experience. Their dedication to continuous professional development ensures they remain at the forefront of educational advancements, directly benefiting our students.

As we celebrated this special day, we recognised teachers' profound impact on students' lives. Beyond academic instruction, they serve as mentors and role models, fostering an environment where students feel supported and motivated to achieve their fullest potential. Their influence extends far beyond the classroom, helping to build a foundation of knowledge, values, and skills that students will carry with them throughout their lives.

Let this Teacher's Day be a reminder of the incredible impact and our appreciation for the hard work and dedication of all teachers. Here is to celebrate you, our extraordinary educators, who are the heart and soul of DISTED College.

Prof. Dr Vikneswaran Nair
President

