

Residential Colleges

*Teaching Excellence Award
Honour Roll*

Dr Tan Lai Yong

College of Alice & Peter Tan
University Town College Programme

Dr Tan Lai Yong is a seasoned and consistent award winning teacher. He is well known for his ability in nurturing critical reflections within his students through his carefully designed courses. His efforts have resulted in transforming his students' mindsets and in inculcating compassion within them towards the vulnerable people among our community. Lai Yong's volunteering and scholarly works in bringing awareness and helping the 'hidden communities' within Singapore and other parts of the world is a role model teacher not just for students, but for all of us to emulate. For having won the Teaching Excellence Award in the RCs three times for AY2012-2013, AY2013-2014 and AY2014-2015, RCTEC is pleased to award to Lai Yong the RCTEA Honour Roll in recognition of his sustained work in the Residential College living and learning environment.

Residential Colleges

Teaching Excellence Award

Dr Naviyn Prabhu Balakrishnan

Residential College 4
University Town College Programme

Thoughtfully designed modules, well-structured delivery and strong scaffolding of the student learning process underlie Dr Naviyn Balakrishnan's success as a learning facilitator. His students see him more as a mentor and coach rather than as a teacher. His high student feedback scores go along with comments like "always being there", "helpful" and "made me think". Despite having a very high teaching load, Naviyn shouldered the dual responsibility of Director of Studies and Student Life with outstanding dedication and outcomes. He played a critical role in setting up interest and hobby groups as well as a platform for intellectual exchanges at RC4. For embodying many essential attributes of teaching at NUS Residential Colleges, RCTEC is pleased to recognize Naviyn with the RCTEA for AY 2015-2016.

Dr Connor Clive Graham

Tembusu College
University Town College Programme

Whether it was for the Level 1000 Junior Seminars or the Level 2000 Senior Seminars, Dr Connor Graham had received numerous compliments from his students for stretching their thinking skills, for encouraging them to develop their own ideas, for providing prompt feedback, and for skilfully facilitating classroom discussions, amongst other positive comments on his teaching and classroom experience. The compliments coincide with Connor's teaching goals on helping his students to see things in new ways, in ways that are relevant to their lives, and to nurture their own intellectual interests. For his ability to effectively practise what he plans and to deliver on his teaching philosophy, RCTEC is pleased to recognise Connor with the RCTEA for AY2015-2016.

Dr Adam Staley Groves

Tembusu College
University Town College Programme

Dr Adam Groves credits his teachers across three countries who conveyed on him a wealth of experiences and memories. As he was inspired, so too does he seek to inspire his students. He champions the general education achieved through seminar-style learning at Tembusu College with a philosophy which combines the individual “student-centred” development with growth through “peer learning” facilitation amidst a diversity of undergraduates. In the classroom, Dr Groves weaves between student responses, allowing each a space and time to contribute and respond, whilst shepherding the discussion in the main learning direction. One reviewer regards this as part artistry. For the exploration he facilitates, the intellectual nurturing he provides and the encouragement to shrug off boundaries of students’ outlook, RCTEC is pleased to recognise Adam with the RCTEA for AY2015-2016.

Dr Jew Yun Hsien Daniel

College of Alice & Peter Tan
University Town College Programme

Dr Daniel Jew is a caring and inspiring teacher who takes a systematic approach to module design and classroom teaching. In his modules, he has successfully used evidence-based best practices such as constructive alignment, authentic assessment, active learning, and timely feedback. He also stands out for his strong commitment to self-review, leading to changes where needed – always in order to make his students' learning experiences as engaging and impactful as possible. In his role as Associate Director of Studies for CAPT, Daniel has also worked with others to champion constructive alignment and conversations about teaching and learning in the College. RCTEC is pleased to award RCTEA to Daniel in recognition of his significant contributions to students in the NUS Residential College community during AY 2015-2016.

Dr Lai Chiu Yun Joelle

College of Alice & Peter Tan
University Town College Programme

As a field biologist and environmental activist, Dr Joelle Lai deploys her knowledge and personal experiences to get students to link environmental awareness and active citizenship in a rapidly changing world. She runs well-regarded active classrooms with simulation games, news roundups, fieldtrips, and hands-on learning experiences. Students are encouraged to learn and think for themselves, and to participate in public discourse: twenty student letters on environmental issues were published in The Straits Times and Today Online in AY2015/2016. Joelle has further impacted students at CAPT through leading a reading group, and through the mentoring and advising of groups and individuals. For embodying many essential attributes of teaching in the Residential College community, RCTEC is pleased to recognize Joelle with the RCTEA for AY 2015-2016.

Dr Pang Tze Lin Kelvin

Tembusu College
University Town College Programme

Dr Kelvin Pang's work as an educator at Tembusu College makes a compelling case for RCTEA based on his innovative approaches in teaching senior seminars. Practices such as student case writing, "table-top" teaching and classroom discussions have made a deep impact on students' intellectual growth. Outside the classroom, he has helped students gain a variety of life skills including negotiation skills (through "Heart of Negotiation" workshop series put together with senior students and faculty at Tembusu) and be future-ready (through the "The Third Year Experience" platform). Kelvin's work neatly fits into NUS's vision of producing well-rounded, resilient graduates. Innovation in the classroom, creation of conducive learning environment and continuous improvement based on reflective practices set apart Kelvin to be a RCTEA recipient for AY 2015-2016.

Dr Tan Yuen Ling Lynette

Centre for English Language Communication
University Town College Programme

Dr Lynette Tan's facilitation of high quality student learning is the outcome of a clear alignment between her goals, methods and assessments. She engages in learning design that spans the entire "learning chain" – content, teaching methods, use of technology, multiple pathways for assessing students, and personalized feedback. No wonder that students use phrases such as "eye opener", "provides freedom to choose", "provides new perspectives", "productive consultation sessions", "offers good feedback", "enables critical thinking" etc. to describe the value she brings to their learning and development. She has also enriched out-of-classroom learning experiences for students most notably with the STEER programme. RCTEC is pleased to award RCTEA to Lynette in recognition of her significant contributions to students in the NUS Residential College community during AY 2015-2016.

Dr Walter Patrick Wade

Centre for English Language Communication
University Town College Programme

Dr Patrick Wade has amply demonstrated the kinds of learning facilitation and academic leadership that NUS seeks in its best educators. Besides the excellent qualitative comments and high percentage of student nominations for best teaching, peer reviewers of his teaching have high praise for Patrick's module design especially in the design of assessments that proceed from students starting with simple work and ultimately achieving sophisticated outcomes. Patrick has also developed rubrics for assessing critical thinking ability in students and shared it with colleagues teaching similar modules. In addition, he has also engaged in T&L research. RCTEC is pleased to recognize Dr Patrick Wade with the RCTEA for significantly contributing to NUS Residential Colleges through his excellent teaching, curriculum design, student mentoring and scholarship in AY 2015-2016.

Assoc. Prof Reuben Wong

College of Alice & Peter Tan
University Town College Programme

With the range of modules he teaches, A/P. Reuben Wong has shown not only his ability to span a spectrum of modules on European Politics but also delivering them in a manner that is warmly appreciated by students from freshmen to senior levels. Students find his classes to be “interactive”, “engaging”, “fun”, “spontaneous”, and mention that Reuben’s passion for the subject helps them to think and gain insights into difficult areas. He has helped CAPT build lasting bridges with communities and intellectuals around Singapore and has helped students blossom with out-of-class learning opportunities such as reading groups, STEER and field trips. For his ability to tightly integrate research, teaching and mentorship in a way that promotes student learning, RCTEC recognizes A/P. Wong with the RCTEA for AY 2015-2016.

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Teaching Commendation

Dr Patrick Bernard Gallo

Centre for English Language Communication
Ridge View Residential College Programme

Designing a new writing and communications module for students from different disciplines is already challenging enough, and yet, Patrick was involved in developing such a module that was taught over two semesters and taught in tandem with another module on sustainability at Ridge View Residential College. From the student feedback reports, Patrick's students recognise his passion for the subject matter, complimenting him on his ability to engage and encourage them, and to explain the concepts clearly. Patrick has articulated in his teaching portfolio that he seeks to create an environment that promoted learning, and the comments from the students showed that he was successful in doing so.

Assoc. Prof Sekhar Narayana Kondepudi

Residential College 4
University Town College Programme

Associate Professor Sekhar has a strong passion in helping students apply the knowledge that they have acquired in class into the real-world context. Taking up the challenge of teaching a module on the Internet of Things to a multidisciplinary student group is no easy task – Sekhar has made it interesting for students by using a hands-on, kit-based approach. He supplements the student experience by bringing in reputed guest speakers to his classroom and getting students know emerging trends. He is meticulous in class preparation and made conscientious efforts to share intriguing stories drawn from his extensive practitioner’s experiences, to engage his students in class.

Dr Kevin McGahan

College of Alice & Peter Tan
University Town College Programme

Dr Kevin McGahan credits a challenging student outside of university with igniting his adoption of non-traditional and creative pedagogical approaches to nurture the positive potential in each student. His classes are well-anchored in reality. He exposes academic theoretical concepts to rigorous investigations of real world situations, seeking connections with the individual and exposing students to practitioners, both officials and NGOs, who provide an intimate understanding of realities. His unique synthesis of theoretical and practical knowledge helps his students navigate the subject matter of migration and human trafficking which is weighed down by the grey areas between theory and practice.