A Few Words From This Year’s Winners…

“What has helped you to sustain your passion for teaching?”

Mr Ng Wee Seng
Dept of Mathematics, ATEA winner

Seasoned teachers might find it challenging to sustain enthusiasm and passion for their job, especially if they are often required to conduct many lessons of the same content on a weekly basis, or teach the same subject many times over the years. After all, familiarity breeds boredom. I advocate that the key to solving this conundrum is to inject novelty into teaching by constantly making appropriate changes. With this belief in mind, I am always prepared to adjust my teaching technique and fine-tune my teaching content so as to adapt to the changing profile and needs of my students. I will also think of ways to add variations to the otherwise mundane classroom activities like weekly tutorial classes. For example, I design different in-class exercises for students in different tutorial groups and assign students from different classes to present different problems. In preparing the course notes, I make reviewing and revising the content an ongoing activity. When I come across an interesting concept or problem that is relevant to a module I am teaching, I will incorporate it into the course in the form of a lecture example or a tutorial problem. If I realise that students have difficulty understanding the concepts behind a difficult topic, I will rewrite the relevant part of the notes and try out a new approach to explain that same topic more thoroughly. In addition, sometimes I will take the liberty of including one or two new and smaller topics of practical importance to the syllabus.

In summary, I view teaching as a scientific experiment in which I have to continuously invent and improve. This perception of teaching helps make teaching akin to being a little adventure for me.