Teaching is a form of *nurturing*

# **Newsletter** from DLTC

## DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONIC AND INFORMATION ENGINEEIRNG
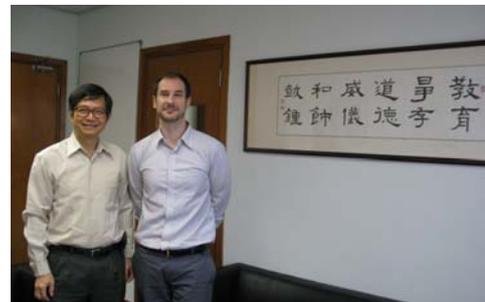
**Dear Colleagues**

The Departmental Learning and Teaching Committee (DLTC) has continued the practice of inviting colleagues to share their good teaching and learning practices, and disseminating the sharing through the "Newsletter from DLTC". This time, Dr Benjamin Carrion Schafer has been invited to shed some light on his good teaching and learning experience.
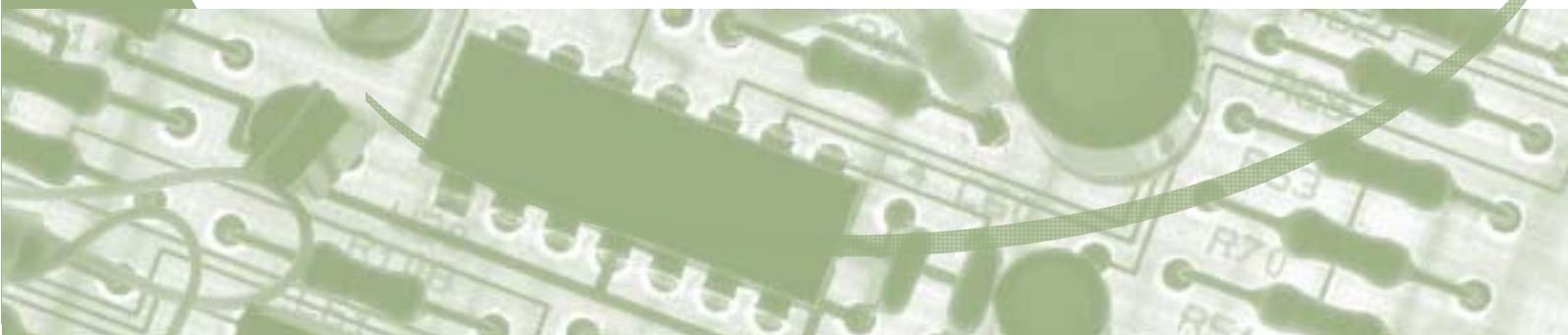
Benjamin taught "EIE3361 Computer System Fundamentals" and "EIE4110 Introduction to VLSI and Computer-Aided Circuit Design" in 2013/14 Semester 2 (and in 2014/15 Semester 2 as well) and the latter subject received many positive comments from students.

EIE4110 is an elective subject. Benjamin felt that students taking the subject were really interested in the subject matter. A majority of the students were particularly hard-working and motivated because they thought they could learn something tangible out of this subject.

In EIE4110, students were required to form groups of 3 to complete a group project. The project was designed to be challenging, and yet it was still manageable for the students. Benjamin gave adequate instructions about how to create a game with specific features. It turned out that students welcomed the design of this group project.

Benjamin mentioned that he would explain the expectations of the laboratory work in the lectures. When students did the practical work at laboratory, they were given lab sheets and were asked to fill in some information which helped them follow the procedures. After completing the practical work, Benjamin would give a de-briefing on the lab work done and provide feedback to students so that they could know how well they had performed and see the link between lectures and practical work.

Benjamin would also hand out articles and show students videos which introduced them to the latest technology in the field. Students appreciated the real-life examples reflected in these articles and videos.

From Benjamin's experience, we found that the following might have contributed to the positive feedback from students:

(i) Designing a project/assignment which is practical, challenging and yet manageable by students so that they can have a sense of success and achievement;

(ii) Explaining the expectations of the laboratory work in the lectures, providing guidelines for laboratory work, giving a de-briefing on the lab work done and providing feedback to students so that they are sufficiently prepared, know their performance and see the link between lectures and practical work; and

(iii) Showing videos or articles to students which enthuses them with the latest advanced technology in the field and real-life examples.

The DLTC will continue to identify good learning and teaching practices for sharing. If you have any teaching practices and experience that you want to share with colleagues, you are welcome to send us your views anytime.

Dr Daniel Lun

Chairman, Departmental Learning and Teaching Committee (DLTC)

Department of Electronic and Information Engineering

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