

Signal

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The Singapore
Association
For The Deaf
新加坡聾人协会



MICA(P) 147/10/2014

Apr - May 2016

First Meet-the-Deaf session



Singapore Sign Language Research takes off!



FREE Haircut Day!



INSIDE
First
Deaf Priest
in S.E. Asia
Pg 6

Contents

3 EDITORIAL

4 ANNOUNCEMENTS

- SAdDeaf Executive Council Members

6 FEATURE!

- Father Roland Yeo – the first Deaf Priest in Southeast Asia
- A Day in the Life of...
- Of illustrations, relationships and stories
- More than straight As

11 SPECIAL FEATURE!

- What we learnt at the TISLR12 (and no, it's not about quantum physics)
- The significance of the MOU between SAdDeaf and Nanyang Technological University to the Deaf Community in Singapore

13 EVENTS

- Hands-on experience in Fire Fighting for the Deaf
- Sungei Buloh Nature Appreciation Trip
- Gifts from the heart from IBM team Singapore
- Mavis Tutorial fulfils students' wish list
- Meet the community session with SAdDeaf President
- CCA Walkaton and Fair
- A second honeymoon in Taiwan, thanks to EU Holidays!
- NTU Riders Club vroom in... for a good cause
- Project B.O.U.N.T.Y. @SAdDeaf
- Lunar New Year spring cleaning
- Talk on Understanding the Ageing Eyes
- We are hosting the WFDRSA Events 2016!



Editorial Team

Alvan Yap
Ranee Govindram
Tan Lizhen

Contributors:

- Elizabeth Khoo
- Low Jarn May
- Charlotte How
- Grace Tang
- Timothy Ong
- Nancy Teoh
- Barbara Bernadette D'Cotta



It's my honour and pleasure to be penning this issue's editorial. I'm Sylvia Teng, the new Executive Director who was appointed on 1 March 2016. First, I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Executive Council (Exco) for their trust and confidence in me, and to all staff members who had been giving their all despite the absence of an Executive Director for some time.

I started volunteering with the association in June 2015 as a way of paying it forward. I had been given opportunities by my ex-employers to advance in my career on the basis of meritocracy. This has motivated me to strive to create similar opportunities for my team and the Deaf and Hard-of-hearing community during my term.

Briefly, I would like to share my key goals for SAdDeaf.

Staff Engagement

Our staff are an important asset to our organisation. They provide much needed expertise to serve our clients and community. As such, I aim to orientate SAdDeaf into a strength-based organisation which values talent, and will be reviewing our human resource practices towards this goal.

Members

In the coming months, we will look into enhancing our membership benefits, including roping in more merchants to offer discounts to our members. In addition, we will be reviewing the design of our membership cards, as well as streamline the application and renewal processes.

Clients

We will work towards more client-centric programmes, such as providing an in-house job matching service.

In the pipeline are a collaboration with FoodBank to distribute food items to our needy clients, as well as working with a food

Editorial

truck operator to serve cooked food to them. To encourage community bonding, we will be inviting fellow members and clients to volunteer their time to help with distribution during such occasions.

We have also heard your feedback during our first "Meet the Deaf" session in January. Among our exciting projects are the launch of a Business Communication course on 2 April, sourcing of visual doorbells from Honeywell, setting up support groups for Children Of Deaf Adults and the Deafblind community, and more!

The Exco team, including myself, will also continue with quarterly home visits which first started after the Chinese New Year.

Volunteers

Volunteers are integral part of SAdDeaf. We will be exploring how to engage and involve our volunteers better, and cultivate a sense of belonging among them to the association.

Please feel free to drop me an email at sylvia@sadeaf.org.sg if you have any feedback on our services, programmes, membership, or other matters.

Last but not least, I'm looking forward to meeting new people and making new friends as it looks set to be a meaningful work experience, and with SAdDeaf being a second home to me.

Executive Director's Corporate Profile

Ms Sylvia Teng was an ex-banker with Standard Chartered Bank (SCB). During her stint with SCB, she held two portfolios - Branch Network Strategy and Service Performance. Her responsibilities included spearheading and project managing the Qualifying Full Banking* (QFB) project (a full banking licence awarded by the Monetary Authority of Singapore) which involved the implementation of a US\$15-million project throughout its branch network and Service Performance of SCB's counter staff; responsibilities included recruitment, training, appraise and counselling of 133 bank tellers.

She has previously held senior and management positions with Singapore Airlines (leading stewardess), and a listed company Builders Shop Pte Ltd (senior manager), was a director of several local SMEs, and most recently founded a social enterprise in 2014.



For feedback, comments and suggestions on **Signal Newsletter**, you can email ca@sadeaf.org.sg or mail to **The Singapore Association for the Deaf, 227 Mountbatten Road, Singapore 397998.**

SADEAF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL MEMBERS

(For the term 2015 to 2017)

PATRON

Ms Ho Ching

PRESIDENT

Ms Irene Yee Choy Peng (Deaf)

VICE PRESIDENTS

Mr Chang Wah Weng

Chairman, Community Services Committee

Ms Tan Keng Ying (Deaf)

Chairman, Deaf Access Committee

Mr Gregory Wee Chong Yeow

Chairman, MVS School Management Committee

Mr Marini Martin Vincent

Chairman, SSD School Management Committee

HONORARY SECRETARY

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HONORARY TREASURER

Dr Zahabar Ali

HONORARY ASSISTANT TREASURER

Ms Helen Lee

COUNCIL MEMBERS

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Mr Steven Lee Chee Phat

Mr Neo Hock Ping (Deaf)

Ms Valerie Tan Kian Wah

Ms Tay Lay Hong (Deaf)

Mr Tan Eu Chong Sean

Ms Loh Yee Chen (Deaf)

[Co-opted member with effect from 28 January 2016]

Mr Lim Chin Heng (Deaf)

[Co-opted member with effect from 28 January 2016]

Ms Claire Nazar

[Co-opted member with effect from 1 March 2016]

Ambassadors for the Deaf are our cherished partners who believe in, and are committed to, playing a part for the Deaf and hard-of-hearing community in Singapore. Together, we work to raise public awareness of deafness, support our fundraising activities and provide employment opportunities. Please contact Corporate Affairs Manager at ca@sadeaf.org.sg to find out more.



Ambassadors For The Deaf

ABC Tissue Hearing Express
 AV-Science Marketing Pte Ltd
 Barclays Technology Centre Ltd
 ERA Singapore Pte Ltd
 Field Catering and Supplies Pte Ltd
 Fraser and Neave, Ltd
 Grid Synergy Pte Ltd
 Hengrich Pte Ltd
 Integrated Supply and Trading, BP Singapore Pte Ltd
 Kentucky Fried Chicken Management Pte Ltd
 Marina Bay Sands Singapore Pte Ltd
 Merrylin Holdings (Singapore) Pte Ltd
 Ms Valentane Huang Ti Xiang
 Mun Siong Engineering Ltd
 Natural Cooling Holdings Ltd
 Select Group Ltd
 Sivantos Pte Ltd
 The GoodWater Company Pte Ltd
 The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Ltd
 Vobis Enterprise Pte Ltd

DEAF-initely Day



STUFF TO GRAB!

YES, DEAF-INITELY

FREE

**DAY IS BACK AGAIN THIS YEAR
DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND!**

**ALL REGISTERED CLIENTS OF SADEAF ARE INVITED TO ATTEND
THE DEAF-INITELY FREE EVENT ORGANISED BY SADEAF.**

**FOR THIS EVENT, WE ARE COLLECTING AND GIVING AWAY
PRE-OWNED HOUSEHOLD ITEMS, STATIONERY, CLOTHINGS,
BAGS, ACCESSORIES AND MANY OTHERS TO YOU!**

**BE AMONG THE FIRST TO GET THESE ITEMS - CONTACT
JAMES ONG AT EOPVC@SADEAF.ORG.SG OR 9688 5073
(SMS ONLY) FOR MORE DETAILS.**

**Saturday, 25 June 2016
12.30 to 3.00pm at SADeaf**



**INTERESTED DONORS ARE WELCOME TO CONTACT JAMES ONG TO PROVIDE MORE
DETAILS ON THE ITEMS THEY WISH TO DONATE.**

YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL BENEFIT THE DEAF COMMUNITY TREMENDOUSLY!

Father Roland Yeo – the First Deaf Priest in Southeast Asia

Barbara Bernadette D'Cotta
on behalf of the Singapore Catholic Deaf Community



As I witnessed Father Rowland Yeo's ordination on 28 November 2015, by Catholic Archbishop William Goh, in a serene and poignant ceremony at the Church of St Mary of the Angels in Bukit Batok, the quote *"Deaf people can do anything hearing people can do, except hear"*, ran through my mind. These were the words spoken by the first Deaf president of Gallaudet University in 1988 after his election.

With the ordination, Father Rowland Yeo is now Southeast Asia's first Deaf priest and one of only 22 such priests in the world.

The ordination of Father Rowland is a major milestone in the history of the Singapore Catholic Church as well as the Singapore Deaf community. An alumnus of the Singapore School for the Deaf, where he completed his primary education, Fr Rowland went on to Mount Vernon Secondary School, and shortly after transferred to the Vocational School for the Hearing Impaired (now known as Mountbatten Vocational School). This was because there were no resource teachers at Mount Vernon and he found it

difficult to lip-read teachers who constantly walked around the classroom.

Born into a family of five sons, he was introduced to Catholicism by a friend at the age of 15 and became a Catholic when he was 21 years old. As he then embarked on his journey to realise his dream of becoming a priest, he found the path hard going. But he was fortunate to have the help of several mentors along the way. One was a Deaf priest from the United States, Father Tom Coughlin, who encouraged him to pursue his studies and secured a sponsorship for him from the House of Studies for Deaf Priests to study philosophy.

Father Rowland's road to priesthood took him to Gallaudet University to study philosophy, followed by theological studies at the St Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, New York. After his return to Singapore in 1997, he joined the Franciscan friars and made his solemn profession in 2003. For the next ten years, he continued to do work at the ministry of the Church of St Mary of the Angels while persisting in his goal of becoming a priest.

His calling was fulfilled when he was sent to Quezon City in the Philippines to study theology and do missionary work. After being ordained a deacon in 2014, he finally became a priest a year later.

"I am very happy. I thank God as I've been waiting for this day for a long time," said Father Roland on his 30-year journey to make his dream come true.

With pure determination and grit, he did it.

Heartiest congratulations to Father Roland Yeo from all of us at the Singapore Association for the Deaf!

A Day in the Life of ...

Ranee Govindram Corporate Affairs



Audiological Manager Lai Siu Fai is one of the longest serving staff at SDeaf, having been with the association for over 14 years. Well-liked by all, Siu Fai is the person who can add

decibels to your hearing and bring on a smile on the faces of many members of the deaf and hard-of-hearing community. Read on to know more about him!

How long have you been with SDeaf?

I joined SDeaf in 2002 as a Programme/Volunteer Coordinator and worked my way up to become the Audiological Manager in 2013.

How did you come to know of SDeaf or come to join SDeaf?

Prior to joining SDeaf, I was working as an Ophthalmic Technician in the Eye Clinic under NUH. I was interested in working for a VWO and when I saw the SDeaf advertisement for a Clerical Officer, I decided to apply for the job. I started to learn sign language when I joined SDeaf so that I am able to communicate well with our clients and serve them better.

Previous experience with or exposure to Deaf community?

I did have a basic understanding of sign language before joining SDeaf as I had learnt the sign alphabet during my secondary school days. I found it to be unique and also another way to communicate with my friends by using sign language during my school days.

What does your job involve?

My day-to-day work involves providing consultation, hearing assessments, home visits, taking ear impressions for ear moulds,

sales of hearing aids, batteries and other accessories as well as giving a listening ear to the clients who seek my advice on which hearing aids to purchase. I also conduct outreach programmes for the elderly.

Do you find your work fulfilling and meaningful?

It definitely is a fulfilling job. It makes me feel very happy when a client says that he or she can hear the birds singing or able to hear the rainfall with their newly acquired hearing aids. I feel a sense of joy to know that I have helped someone hear better.

Any memorable case or incident at work that you wish to share?

I remember when a boy came to my centre to acquire a pair of hearing aids as his parents were concerned about his studies and his quiet nature. After putting on the hearing aids, he became more active and started to communicate better with peers and teachers.

What are your hobbies?

I enjoy outdoor sports like soccer, basketball, table tennis, swimming. I also like to listen to classical music.

What about your dreams?

My dream was to become a fighter pilot. But unfortunately, I wear glasses! However, helping others to hear is a fulfilment of a dream too!



Sui Fai testing hearing aid for a client

Of illustrations, relationships and stories

Alvan Yap
Corporate Affairs



You might not realise you have seen Chen Ziyue's illustrations around – on postcards, magazines, colouring posters and books. Ziyue is a freelance illustrator whose works have been commissioned by clients ranging from brand names such as McGraw Hill, Simon and Schuster Books, as well as the Ministry of Education and local publisher Epigram Books. She even has an American agent and clients from the United States!

Thriving in the arts field in Singapore is no mean feat, but the reason for Ziyue's success seems straightforward. After being awarded a Media Education Scholarship from the Media Development Authority (MDA), she attended the prestigious Ringling College of Art and Design in Florida and graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honors. Such a simplistic narrative, however, belies the long and arduous path she had to take to be where she is now.



Ziyue with her mother,
Mrs Chin Ngo Kay Thye

This is her story.

When Ziyue talks about how she got her start in the world of art, she radiates a certain quiet passion and vivacity – of the kind seen in her illustrations. Her mother, Mrs Chin Ngo Kay Thye, had not wanted Ziyue to feel different from other children because of her deafness. So she gave Ziyue opportunities to explore and enjoy different art forms such as music, dance, and drawing.

Ziyue recalls her primary school days when she happily played with crayons and scribbled on the walls at home. Whenever she felt down or unwell, making art together with her mother was her solace. When she felt isolated, art became a form of self-expression and means to flee, temporarily, from the real world. Memories which were not as happy, however, were

her struggles in her studies – she took two years to complete primary 6. But with the help of her teachers, especially Miss Han (whom she wants to give a special mention to), she managed to enter the Express stream in secondary school. She largely stopped dabbling in art during this period though.

It was after her O levels that Ziyue reached a crossroad, having to choose between junior college or polytechnic. She eventually followed her heart and opted for a digital media design course in the latter, as it was art related. After graduation, she worked on a children's TV programme as an animator, and later did freelance animation and design work.

Ziyue then decided to pursue her interest in this area and applied for an art and media course at a local university, but was rejected. This was a blow as her polytechnic peers had successfully entered the course. Encouraged by her brother Kevin, she sent her portfolio to overseas schools. When she was accepted by Ringling College, she was astonished, delighted and worried – because her family could not afford the fees. When Kevin advised her to try applying for a scholarship, she was not confident. His response: "How do you know if you don't try?"

The rest is happy history. Ziyue charmed a 10-person MDA interview panel and won the scholarship amid intense competition. From 2009 to 2013, she was studying hard in Florida. Her art project on her childhood memories with her mother evoked particularly raw emotions in her and touched viewers as well. Her school submitted it to the Society of Illustrators and it was selected for an exhibition in New York City. This gave her valuable exposure to fellow artists and networking opportunities. Upon graduating, she took a leap of faith in venturing to the Big Apple to seek a job, and managed to find freelance and part-time work as a show coordinator and graphic artist with Charles

Hively, Creative Quarterly Journal and 3x3 Magazine. Incidentally, she also ended up enduring one of the coldest winters ever recorded during her one year there!

Ziyue then decided to return to sunny Singapore to be with her family. Unfortunately, shortly after she came back, her mother suddenly became ill and passed away. She was devastated.

Earlier this year, Ziyue started a new venture called "Little A" to teach art to children. She regards it as a tribute to her mother who had inspired her in her artistic ventures. Just as her mother had passed on a love for art to her as a child, Ziyue now wants to do likewise for other children. She also wishes to give back to society at large, after having been the recipient of so much help and support from others.

As Ziyue reflects on her journey, "It is not simply a love of art for its own sake. I learnt that relationships are the most important things in life. Our stories and the telling of these stories, in whatever forms, are as valuable too."

Check out Ziyue's works at www.ziyuechen.com and find out more about Little A at <http://littlea.asia>.



An illustration Ziyue did for her mother titled "A Closer Walk With You"



Graduation photo with parents

More than *straight As*

Alvan Yap
Corporate Affairs



Brendan Lau Zhon Pin is, academically and literally, a young man going places. An alumni of the Singapore School for the Deaf (SSD), Brendan was recently featured in the mainstream media due to his feat of emerging among the top students in Millennia Institute - after notching 5 As for his A level subjects.

By turns reflective and philosophical, Brendan shares his thoughts on how his deafness has shaped his outlook in life and in his studies, and also takes us through the memorable incidents of his schooling years.

He recalls with gratitude those who had helped him along the way, among whom was his primary one form teacher, Miss Jennifer Tang. "She accompanied me in my lessons on an ad-hoc basis for a year after leaving full-time teaching at SSD. This was the first ever time someone outside of my family had shown me care, concern, and devotion to such an extent. We have sadly since lost contact, but her gesture is never something I will forget."

Some of the challenges he encountered made for interesting reading indeed: "Part of my A-level English Literature studies involved aural imagery, that is, figuring out the hidden meanings in a literary work using the sounds made when the words were pronounced. To cope, I had to prepare a special reference sheet detailing the different types of sounds that could be found in a typical poem. This helped immensely. One moment of pride for me was when some of my classmates actually asked me to help them improve their literary analysis of sounds!"

School also provided opportunities for him to take on leadership roles: "When I became the vice-chairman of my CCA (the Young Diplomats Society) in Millennia Institute, I was initially apprehensive, as I was unsure if the members would take me seriously since soaring oratory was not one of my attributes. However, this changed after I had to enforce discipline within the group and seeing the resulting reaction from my peers; I later learnt from my chairman that my presence in fact carried

a lot of weight with them. They had regarded me as a diligent and effective leader despite my disability."

On his deafness, Brendan feels it has, in some ways, been an asset: "I think my disability mainly served to push me on, because it helped institute in me the 'do or die' mentality - do your best with what you are given, because the alternatives are almost never easier. He also lets on that he had experienced negativity and even hostility from a few peers who seemed discomfited by his academic success, but he refuses to be downcast by such incidents and feels "it is more important for us to define success on our own terms".

In fact, he was inspired by a fellow student who was taking the exams with him; she was blind and was using a special laptop to sit for the papers. He says, "There is little use in pitying ourselves, because all of us have our own challenges, even non-disabled students. Her situation also made me realise that comparison is only ever useful if it helps remind us of where we still have strengths and talents lurking within ourselves, waiting to be exploited, and never useful if such a comparison makes us feel inferior in some way."

Though Brendan seems an idealist with his goal of "contributing to the ongoing endeavour for social equality in Singapore", he is also - due to his own his experiences as a student with hearing loss - a hard-headed realist with more than an inkling of what it would take to achieve that.

He hopes to read political science at the National University of Singapore, work toward at least a master's degree, and ultimately forge a career in the social service field, where he aspires to be of service to "not just those with disabilities, but also those who may be disadvantaged in other ways, such as former inmates and the working elderly".

Here's looking forward to seeing Brendan around in the years to come as part of our local social service community!

What we learnt at the TISLR12 (and no, it's not about quantum physics)

Together with Jessica Mak, SAdDeaf's SgSL Development Officer, we were among the 300 participants at the 12th International Conference on Theoretical Issues in Sign Language Research (TISLR12) in Melbourne, Australia from 4 to 7 January 2016. Hosted by La Trobe University, it was the first time that the TISLR conference was held outside the United States and Europe.

Sign Language teachers, researchers and academics from around the world presented their varied findings. Topics covered ranged from morphosyntax and psycholinguistics to phonetics and phonology in visual languages. One of the more interesting presentations and keynote addresses included the opening lecture by Dr Nick Enfield from Sydney University on "What is NOT Language", in which Dr Enfield proposed theories behind cultural transmission of languages.

He hypothesised that some features could either be borrowed or inherited or internally innovated to blend in with the evolution of the environment. He suggested that there should be a common understanding of the ontology of language systems.

The official languages used in the conference were Australian Sign Language (Auslan), American Sign Language (ASL) and English (spoken and captioned).

What next?

The trip was a fruitful one for Jessica and I. We were certainly awed by the sheer amount of research going on in various universities

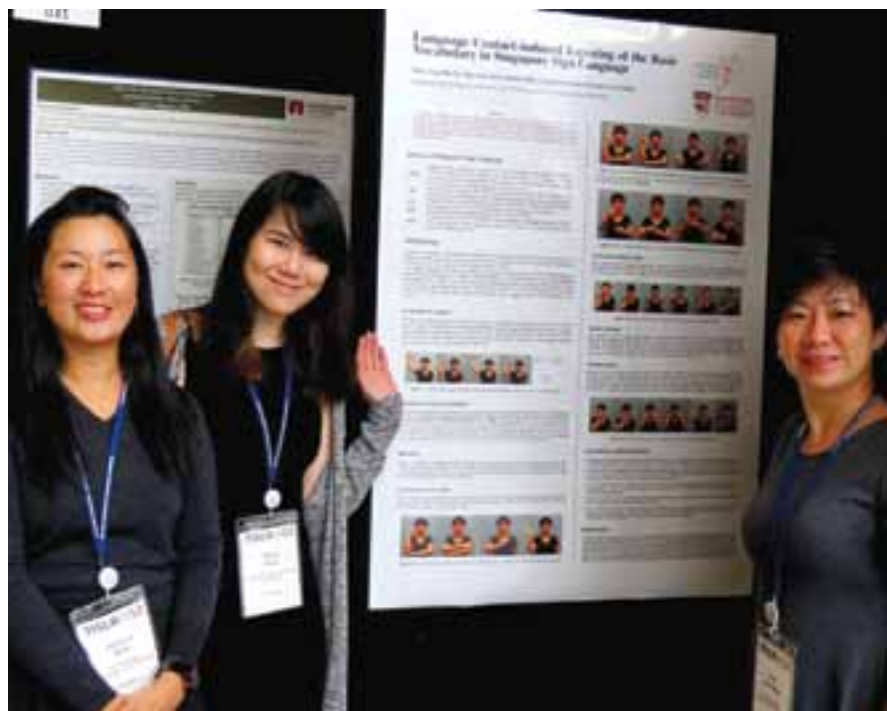
Low Jarn May

Chairperson of Linguistics Sub-Committee

worldwide. It was also a vivid reminder to us that despite being fairly new to this field in Singapore, we had embarked on this project and must keep at it to ensure further progress.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Dr. Frantisek Kratochvil of Nanyang Technological University for his dedication to the work we have started in Singapore and his guidance on our poster presentation; also to Mary Ang, Wang Li-Sa and Jessica Mak who have dedicated their time to SgSL research.

We will be having a sharing session on 11 June 2016 from 3pm to 5pm at SAdDeaf. If you would like to know more about our research work, please contact Jessica at jessica@sadeaf.org.sg to register your interest.



At the TISLR12 (from left): Jessica Mak, Mary Ang, Low Jarn May

About TISLR

TISLR originated in University of Rochester in June 1986 and was initiated by Dr. Susan Fischer, then-Professor at University of Rochester. With like-minded research fellows, she had concerns about the lack of cohesion among the researchers on sign language research. Since then, 11 conferences have been held, mainly in America and Europe.

The Conference aims to bring together academics, researchers and teachers to discuss and enhance skills in comparative research on sign language and language acquisition. It was designed to unite the researchers and establish a platform for dialogue and discussion on Sign Language research.

The 13th conference will be held in the University of Hamburg, Germany, in July 2019. The bid to host the 14th conference was successfully won by National Institutes for the Humanities in collaboration with the National Museum of Ethnology and would be held in Osaka in 2022.

The significance of the MOU *between SDeaf and Nanyang Technological University to the Deaf Community in Singapore*

The Singapore Association for the Deaf (SDeaf) and the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) signed a Memorandum Of Understanding (MOU) on 9 December 2015. This MOU provides a platform for promoting cooperation between SDeaf and NTU in the advancement of Singapore Sign Language (SgSL) research and ensuring coordination on issues of common interest. The signing of the MOU is welcomed by our SDeaf Linguistics Sub-Committee which had been working on it for a year.



Why is the study of SgSL important to the Deaf Community and Linguistics Department in NTU? Firstly, it helps researchers understand the nature of our local Deaf language and culture. Singapore Sign Language is very different from our local spoken languages, and understanding it adds to the pool of knowledge on the diversity of languages found in Singapore.

Having a deeper understanding of how our local signed language is structured will also improve the sign language fluency of sign language users as we translate research findings into teaching and learning materials. This will benefit sign language interpreters, instructors in deaf education

programmes as well as educators for Deaf children in bilingual-bimodal programmes.

Signed and spoken languages are very different; the study of sign languages is pivotal to understanding both the shared and the varied aspects of human language. With more funding, we hope to be able to explore the nature of language variation such as dialects, language change over time and how sign language is processed and acquired at different stages.

Hands on experience *in Fire Fighting for the Deaf*



Introduction by the Changi Airport Fire Station Staff

Elizabeth Khoo
Community Services

It was all hands on deck for a group of 30 deaf and hard-of-hearing participants, including three children, when they visited the Changi Airport Fire Station on 19 December 2015.

On arrival at the Fire Station, they saw an amazing range of vehicles used in fire safety and rescue operations, such as ambulances, motor boats and fire engines, all lined up and ready for action. The event began with a talk by Staff Sergeant Muhd Afiq Sharhan Shariff on basic fire safety information, such as different fire safety devices available in and around Changi Airport, and how his team worked to ensure the highest fire safety standards across Changi Airport. He occasionally gave his speech in sign language on the do's and don'ts during a fire outbreak.

The SADeaf visitors were given the opportunity to roleplay being firefighters and emergency officers for the day by donning firefighting outfits. "Wow! Aren't these costumes really heavy and thick?" gasped one of them.



Explanation of the functions in a fire truck



All on board!



How does it feel like to be a fireman?

The group also saw a “live” demonstration of a rescue operation and was given hands-on experience in handling fire extinguishers. They also had the chance to feel the weight of the heavy hose and learnt the correct way to lift a person weighing 80kg! The most exciting segment of the day was when they climbed into the fire engines and went on a joyride around the fire station – an unforgettable experience for many of them. While on the fire engine, they saw it blast out tonnes of water while on the move.

The trip to the Changi Fire Station has definitely made everyone appreciate the dangerous and hard work of all our firefighters. We would like to thank Operation Commander Mr Toon Jieyao, Fire Safety Duty Officer Mr Bai Zhong Yang, and Staff Sergeant Mr Muhd Afiq Sharhan Shariff. Hats off to the firefighting team at Changi Fire Station! Our thanks and appreciation also to our two sign language interpreters Hanna Omar and Teo Zhi Xiong.



Joy rides in the fire truck!



Support an 80kg mannequin!



Valuable learning experience at the fire station!



NParks Guide Jonathon showing the map for the trail from Visitor Centre to Wetland Centre



NParks Guide Swee Meng explaining the wetland plantations to a Deaf participant



Group Photo - Start of Walk @ Sungei Buloh



Participants enjoying themselves during the trip

Sungei Buloh

Nature Appreciation Trip

Nancy Teoh
SADeaf Igniters Volunteer



Winners of the quiz with the organising committee!

A group of members from the Deaf community took a break from the concrete jungle of the city and headed to the natural reserves of Sungei Buloh to learn more about the flora and fauna found in Singapore.

The nature appreciation trip on 12 December 2015, was organised by Igniters, a team of dedicated SADeaf volunteers comprising both deaf and hearing, in collaboration with NParks.

Accompanied by two NParks guides as well as volunteer interpreters, the group took the trail from Kranji Visitor Centre to the Wetland reserves, stopping at various spots to snap shots of the breath-taking sceneries and wild life found at this unique wetland reserve. For many, it was their first visit to Sungei Buloh and they were amazed to discover the nature side of Singapore that one hardly sees anymore. The trip was also a good opportunity for the deaf and hearing community to bond and communicate through sign language and gestures.

To make the visit interesting, participants had to do a quiz as they went along the trail walk, with prizes offered to the top two winners at the end of the trip. The NParks guides were also presented tokens of appreciation for their support by SADeaf staff James Ong, who had accompanied the group for the trip.

Gifts from *the heart from* IBM team *Singapore*

In a show of support for SADeaf, staff of IBM Singapore teamed together to grant wishes of our needy students at MVS and SSD. Armed with a wish list and hearts of gold, the IBM well-wishers went on a shopping spree and bought items such as backpacks, cardigans, baseball jacket, powerbank, watches and bicycles.

Altogether 64 MVS and SSD students benefited from this special gift-giving gesture. In appreciation for the gifts, the students sent a "thank you" card to team IBM.



Thank You IBM!

Mavis Tutorial *fulfils students' wish list*



The students with their wish gifts

Excitement, joy and laughter filled the SADeaf School Hall when over 100 teachers and administration staff from Mavis Tutorial Centre, led by its CEO Mr Melvin Ng, came a-calling, laden with gifts for all the students of Mountbatten Vocational School (MVS) and Singapore School for the Deaf (SSD). The gifts, ranging from backpacks and bicycles to designer T-shirts and watches, were from a wish-list for the 85 MVS and SSD students who were also treated to

a sumptuous lunch. The event, held on 29 October, was organised by Mavis in celebration of its 30th anniversary.

Besides bringing gifts for our students, Mavis also agreed to raise funds for SADeaf by placing our donation boxes at its 12 tuition centres island-wide until December 2016.

Thank you Mavis for putting smiles on the faces of our students!



Students gleefully tear open wrappings of their gifts

Meet the community session *with SADeaf President*

SADeaf President Ms Irene Yee Choy Peng and the former Honorary Secretary Ms Sylvia Teng (now Executive Director) joined deaf clients and members in at the first "Meet the Deaf" and yusheng session on 30 Jan 2016, Saturday from 3 pm to 6 pm at the SADeaf AVA room.

This inaugural event provided a good platform for deaf clients and hearing members to share their views and concerns over matters such

as employment, membership, accessibility, elderly care and education. President Irene Yee assured all that their feedback will be raised to the executive council.

The session ended with everyone present receiving a hamper each containing goodie items kindly sponsored by Fish Sh-nack, Fun Toast Pte Ltd, Nestle Singapore (Pte) Ltd, and Qian Yi Pte Ltd.

Irene and Sylvia ended the evening programme by joining Principal Case Manager Wong Ai Ling on two home visits.



A group photo for the album!

CCA Walkathon and Fair

Tan Li Zhen
Corporate Affairs

The annual Walkathon cum Christmas Fair event, organised by the Children's Charities Association, (CCA) was held on 5 December 2015 at the Ngee Ann City Civic Plaza. In line with the theme "Sporty Christmas", the event kicked off at 9am with a walkathon along Orchard Road followed by a Christmas Fair that offered a variety of food, games and handicraft stalls set up by the six VWOs under the umbrella of CCA, with strong support from sponsors, well-wishers and volunteers.

Close to a 1,000 people from all walks of life came by to soak in the carnival atmosphere and lend support to the charity event which was graced by First Lady Mrs Mary Tan, the Patron of CCA.

The annual event is held to raise funds for the six charity organisations which are SDeaf, Singapore Children's Society, Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore, Association For Persons with Special Needs, Cerebral Palsy Alliance Singapore and St Andrew's Mission Hospital for Children.

We like to extend grateful thanks to all our partners, SIM iCare students from the Singapore Institute of Management University, SDeaf Igniters (formerly known as Youthbeat) and many more dedicated volunteers for their time and effort in helping us to raise funds.



SDeaf supporter Madam Koh Puay Hiang and her family members, who have been supporting the event since 2009, set up a food stall with proceeds donated to SDeaf



SDeaf Ambassador Mun Siong Engineering Ltd set up 2 stalls to raise funds for SDeaf



A Song-Signing performances by MVS students and volunteers



CCA Patron Mrs Mary Tan visiting one of the SDeaf handicrafts stall

A second honeymoon in Taiwan, thanks to EU Holidays!



Having fun in Taiwan!

wishes to take this opportunity to thank EU Holidays for its generosity.

In March 2016, the lucky couple used their winning tickets to book a flight to Taiwan, where they embarked on a 6-day tour and celebrated a second honeymoon too!



The Laws said, "We would like to acknowledge the efforts by Miss Tay Lay Hong and her 60th anniversary dinner organising committee, and would also like to thank EU Holidays and its staff, especially the boss Mr Wong, Ms Vicky Tan and Miss Cammie Poh for ensuring we had a wonderful time in Taiwan. Last but not least, we like to express our deepest gratitude to our Taiwan tour guide, Miss Su Su Fen, for being such a wonderful and friendly lady and made our honeymoon trip a truly memorable experience. We will definitely visit Taiwan again."

NTU Riders Club vroom in.... for a Good Cause



Group photo of the NTU Riders Club members

Over 20 bikers from the Nanyang Technological University Riders Club vroomed into the compound of SADeaf on the morning of Saturday 30 January 2016 for a good cause – to carry out a Charity Car & Bike Wash to raise funds for the association.

Tan Li Zhen
Corporate Affairs

The bikers, all members of the NTU Riders Club, then spent the day from 9am to 6pm to offer car/bike wash services and raised almost \$3,400 for SADeaf.

This is the second consecutive year that the NTU Riders Club has organised the Charity Wash to raise funds for SADeaf.

Our heartfelt thanks to the members of the NTU Riders Club, the drivers and bikers who came to support the event, as well as to all the sponsors. Here's looking forward to next year's bikers' event!



Waiting for their bikes to be washed



The Riders Club volunteers washing bikes



Working hard for charity

Project B.O.U.N.T.Y. @SADeaf



Group photo of participants

Grace Tang & Timothy Ong Student-Teachers from Pelangi (NIE)

A service-learning group comprising NIE student-teachers (affectionately known as “Pelangi”, the Malay word for rainbow) conducted a 2-day workshop for deaf participants to galvanise communication between the hearing and the Deaf community. The workshop, held in November 2015, was entitled “Project BOUNTY” which stood for “Bridges Of Understanding and Trust for Youth” and covered numerous topics such as Events & Strategic Planning, Conflict Management and Decision-making Skills.

Over the course of both days, NIE team interacted with the Deaf participants, teaching and equipping them with skills through team-bonding games, creative activities and role-plays. There were also ample opportunities for reflection through various technological platforms. In addition to the learnings gleaned from the workshop, many friendships were forged as well. Both facilitators and participants shared meals together over the two days. This allowed us to share hearty laughs, reflective moments and undoubtedly deepened our understandings of one another.

Before the workshop, the NIE team had a brief lesson on sign language which helped the group to communicate with the Deaf participants, armed with notepads/iPads to write or type out complex phrases and questions that were beyond “signing” proficiency. The participants were also kind enough to teach us many new signs, as well as help us create our own sign names!

All of us from Pelangi found it a very meaningful and enriching

experience. For many, it was their first time interacting with members of the Deaf community.

“Through this workshop, not only were we able to share with the Deaf participants important skills, but they were also in turn able to give us much insight into Deaf culture. We learned much about SEE (Signing Exact English) and SgSL (Singapore Sign Language), the educational opportunities afforded for the Deaf in Singapore, and many more other activities offered,” said one Pelangi representative.

The workshop ended with many having forged new bonds of friendship and a greater desire to learn more about Deaf culture and sign language.

We hope that just like us, the participants also found it a unique and enriching experience, and that they were able to take away valuable nuggets of learning from the workshop. All in all, Project BOUNTY truly served as a bridge that opened up more opportunities for both communities to learn by working together, and it is our hope that there will be many more such opportunities in the future.



Deaf and Hearing participants bond over a game



Deaf and Hearing participants bond over a game of 'Musical Chairs'

Volunteers from SDeaf Igniters (formerly known as SDeaf Youthbeat) teamed up with members of the Deaf community on the morning of 23 February to conduct a spring cleaning activity at the SDeaf premises. Hearing and Deaf participants got together as one to freshen and clean up SDeaf to usher in the Chinese New Year.

The event started off with some icebreaker games, giving the participants the opportunity to bond. It was truly an eye-opening experience, as we had to use our other senses apart from our sense of hearing to play the games. Who knew musical chairs could be played with the Deaf?

After that, we divided into two groups to start the cleaning work. The first group cleaned



Group photo before the start of Spring Cleaning activity.

Lunar New Year Spring Cleaning

Charlotte How
SDeaf Igniters Volunteer



Spring cleaning of the classroom windows and corridor.

mainly windows and reception areas, while the second group got to work in the classrooms and along the corridors. It is unimaginable the amount of dust that could accumulate over time! We were slightly disorganised in the beginning, with a literal language barrier, lack of experience in cleaning, and an unbalanced ratio of cleaning supplies to manpower. However, we managed to overcome these challenges and worked hard to finish the laborious task. Even the sudden downpour of rain did not dampen our spirits!

The day ended with a prosperity lo hei toss session to celebrate. I guess hard work does pay off in the end as we got to reward ourselves, not just by gaining back the lost calories, but also by giving back to the community.



Prosperity Toss session

Talk on Understanding the Ageing Eyes

Elizabeth Khoo
Community Services



Ms Tee explaining the ageing process

How often have you come across the saying "Eyes are the windows to the soul"? Our eyes are our vital organs which help us see, and it is important that we keep them healthy at all times, especially as we get older. Ageing eyes can be very worrisome and we have to take good care of our eyes no matter how old we are.

To increase awareness about this topic, SADeaf invited Ms Teresa Tee, a lecturer at Singapore Polytechnic, to give a



All eyes on the speaker

talk on Ageing Eyes on Sunday 12 March 2016. It was attended by over 65 deaf participants.

Topics covered included understanding the symptoms, causes and risk of ageing eyes. The talk was an eye-opener for many of the participants as they learnt many new facts, such as most eye ailments being treatable or preventable if proper care is taken.

Following the talk, Ms Tee received a token of appreciation from SADeaf Executive Director, Ms Sylvia Teng.

Charity Haircut by 1939 Academy Pte Ltd

Wong Ailing
Community Services



Volunteer hairstylists at work!

On 12 January 2016, a group of seven professional hairstylists from 1939 Academy Pte Ltd were at SADeaf hall to offer complimentary haircuts to our students, clients and members.



All together now!

Some 40 participants eagerly waited for their turn and many went home satisfied with their chic new hairstyles. They also had the bonus of looking fresh and trendy, and ushering the Year of the Monkey with a new haircut.

Last but not least, SADeaf wishes to thank the good-hearted folks from 1939 Academy Pte Ltd for their community spirit!

We are hosting the *WFDRSA Events 2016!*

For the first time ever, Singapore Association for the Deaf (SADeaf) is hosting these WORLD FEDERATION OF THE DEAF REGIONAL SECRETARIAT FOR ASIA (WFDRSA) events as follows:

- 8th WFD RSA Youth Camp 2016 from 4 to 10 October 2016.
- 28th WFD RSA Representatives Meeting from 10 to 13 October 2016.
- 5th WFD Asia Conference 2016 from 14 to 16 October 2016



8th WFD RSA Youth Camp 2016

To qualify for the youth camp, you must be Deaf or Hard of Hearing between 18 and 35 years old. There is a selection process via participation in the 2nd National Deaf Youth Camp (NDYC) in Singapore from 20 to 22 May 2016. Eight participants from the 2nd NDYC will be selected to represent Singapore at 8th WFD RSA Youth Camp. For more information, please email youthcamp@wfdasia2016.sg



28th WFD RSA Representatives Meetings

The 28th WFD RSA Representatives Meetings consists of: Representatives Meeting, Youth Section Meeting and Sign Language Interpreters for Asia Meeting. Delegates from 17 National Deaf Associations in Asia will gather in Singapore to discuss ways to improve the development of Deaf communities in Asia. These meetings are strictly by invitation only.



5th WFD Asia Conference

The 5th WFD Asia Conference is open to everyone in Singapore. It aims to attract delegates from Asia and around the world to share insights on deaf education, sign language issues, as well as matters related to deaf communities and development in Asia. About 550 delegates are expected to attend the Conference. To register, please visit www.wfdasia2016.sg.

Volunteer Opportunities

Are you interested to volunteer at one of these WFDRSA events? You can register online at <http://www.wfdasia2016.sg/volunteer>. Interviews for volunteer selection will be conducted on 28 and 29 May 2016.

See you there!



SADeaf

Family Day 2016

Wild Wild Wet, Pasir Ris

Saturday, 4 June 2016

9.30am - 7.00pm

Fee:

Adult : \$15

Senior : (60 yrs and above) - \$8

Child : (4 to 12 yrs) - \$8

Toddler : Age (0 - 3 years) - FREE

Wild Wild Wet Admission ticket including All Rides

Telematch

Lucky
Draw

Goodie
Bags

Many
more surprises
along the way

Stage
Game

Lunch
(Halal)

Organized by:



If interested, please sms Elizabeth Khoo @ 97917566 or email elizabeth@sadeaf.org.sg