

A FEW WORDS FROM THIS YEAR'S WINNERS...



A/P Lee Yuan Kun

Dept of Microbiology, ATEA winner

“How would you describe your approach to teaching and educating students?”

It is human nature to love story-telling and have a good laugh. That is how we have learnt through the ages and that is how I believe we can approach teaching. When we weave facts and theories into a coherent story and sprinkle in a bit of humor, they arouse our students' curiosity and they are motivated to acquire a greater thirst for knowledge, making learning an enjoyable and gratifying process for them. ■

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Dr Celestial T. Yap

Dept of Physiology, ATEA winner



“How would you describe your approach to teaching and educating students?”

Learning is fun. But learning that is structured mainly around passing examinations is neither fun for students nor for teachers. It is often challenging to extricate students from such a psychology that makes for a nasty experience in learning.

My approach has been to create learning around ‘play’, such as designing classes where students can ‘pretend’ to be part of a medical team, trying their best to understand what happened to their ‘patient’ and suggesting what to do. You can see the sparkle and thrill in their eyes when students step into their professional roles. I also encourage them to ‘play the teachers’ in tutorial sessions, allowing them to lead the discussion and cross-examine their peers. After all, to teach is to learn. How often have we wondered if work could be more fun if only work was really like a hobby and not just a set of tasks which we have to complete? I think we can make hobbies of learning and teaching too. That would make our days with students truly fun-filled. ■