“Through PaCE College’s continuing education programmes, Singaporean professionals, managers and executives can keep pace with the rapid technological changes rippling through today’s increasingly competitive economy and industrial landscape,” said Prof Ting to more than 100 alumni gathered for the Tête-à-Tête session at the NTU Alumni House at Marina Square on 18 January 2018.

A SMORGASBORD OF CHOICES

Founded on the belief that there should be many pathways to career success, PaCE College offers a wide variety of courses in different formats to cater to the working adult. Prof Ting highlighted five options: part-time Bachelor's degrees in engineering, semester-long courses, regional executive programmes, customised in-house training and short courses.

Whether you are looking for personal or professional development, the College has something to offer, he said.

“For example, the short courses are exploratory—you can use them to learn something for fun, or get a taste of a particular industry. At the end of it, there may still not be a clear professional direction,” said Prof Ting. “On the other hand, you have the semesters-long courses that are stackable toward specialist and graduate certificates. These have a very specific end point in mind: professional conversion.”

He cited how an individual who had graduated with a bachelor's degree in electrical engineering from NTU, after taking the specialist certificate courses on civil infrastructure at PaCE College, could convert their degree to a bachelor's degree in civil engineering. This individual would be fully equipped to take on the roles and responsibilities of a civil engineer.

REMOVING BARRIERS TO ENTRY

Despite the diversity of courses available, some alumni were concerned about course prerequisites and difficulty levels. Prof Ting allayed those fears by saying that there are ways to progressively navigate the courses. The short courses are generally broader in scope, whereas the semester-long courses provide more depth and detail. However, should a person insist on taking up courses for which he or she has no background in, Prof Ting’s stand is: go ahead!

“I already have someone taking civil engineering courses although his background is in IT,” said Prof Ting. “He has not taken courses in basic steel and basic concrete design, but he has some idea of it because he taught himself some of the basic concepts.”

“Am I the one to stop him from pursuing his goals? You must be kidding! I want these people, because they will make NTU great again!” he joked.

Prof Ting further noted that cost should not prevent anyone from studying in PaCE College, explaining the various tiers of subsidies available from SkillsFuture Singapore, the Employment and Employability Institute and the National Silver Academy. In addition, all NTU and NIE alumni have been issued S$1,600 worth of credits, which can be used at PaCE College.

Mr James Tan (EEE/2013) found Prof Ting’s talk very useful and was encouraged by the support provided by NTU. “Skills upgrading is important in this competitive job market. I now have a better idea of what courses are available at PaCE College.”

Study options available at PaCE College:

• Short courses
• Part-time degrees
• Semester-long courses
• Regional executive programmes
• Customised in-house training

Please visit http://copace.ntu.edu.sg/Pages/ Home.aspx for more information.