Lifelong Learner Story Series

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What motivated you to choose the NTU Part-time Bachelor Of Engineering Programme?
I chose to major in computer science because it allowed me to explore both of my passions: solving problems and producing creative experiences. Throughout the programme, I generated ideas that solve user-specific problems, designed and ideated possible compute solutions, and executed them during my full-time day job. I feel that the line of structured thinking between all three overlaps in pretty similar ways. Furthermore, the professors of the department have great published research papers that I can refer to, and they went out of their way to dwell on the subject matter that made the entire learning very interesting.

Why do you think there is a need to pursue further studies beyond your polytechnic diploma?
I had no clue what I wanted to do after graduating from Nanyang Polytechnic, much less which discipline to focus my education on. Even so, I dreaded the thought of becoming just another programmer monotonously coding all day and playing the dismal role of just another cog in the machine - surely that was one of the many reasons I chose to enrol myself at NTU and as a result of all these pretty fortunate events, here I am today.

How did you manage your studies, family and working life?
While the programme can be challenging, the Computer Science (CS) faculty were invested in students’ success and willing to give the support they need to succeed. I love the process of learning, where each student was responsible for his/her learning at their own pace. The tutorial classes were small and conversation was promoted. This way, I got a better understanding of the topic and asked insightful questions. Such sessions were a great place to not only facilitate the information taught in class but also to meet and collaborate with other like-minded individuals to form teams to apply our knowledge while working on real-world assignments.

How did the programme help you in your career?
I was given multiple opportunities to lead the engineering team and held key engineering roles in the public sector. All these will not transpire if I choose not to further my studies. I am highlighting this experience because the skills I learnt put me in a position as a Lecturer at Republic Polytechnic teaching DevOps.

Would you encourage your friends to embark on the NTU Part-time Bachelor Of Engineering Programme or even pursue their lifelong learning journey with NTU?
The experiences I have had studying CS at NTU have been transformative and have fed into my curiosity about the computing world. Thanks to the professors in the department, I discovered my passion for CS and feel eager and well prepared to pursue deeper studies into other subjects of computer science. Just like what I encountered during my first year, you will find yourself continuing to work and learn within those moments and before you know it, they turn into memories.