

## **Assoc Prof Winston Goh**

*Department of Psychology*



Assoc Prof Winston Goh is a passionate and committed teacher who places great emphasis on getting his message across in a clear and relevant manner; and making classes lively and interactive for students. He is a strong advocator of 'going beyond textbooks' to achieve 'conceptual understanding'.

The above principles are borne out in the modules he teaches. Students have consistently praised his clear and concise delivery. They note that he makes difficult and complex concepts easy to understand, and that he is able to able to captivate student interest even when the subject matter is dry and technical. They find his use of concrete examples to 'give flesh' to theoretical ideas very

effective.

Assoc Prof Goh also emphasizes interactive learning and engagement. Alongside classical lab experiments, he conducts informal in-class experiments with pairs of students working together as experimenter and participant, respectively. Engagement with the topic and lively interaction between students are thus achieved. Student feedback indicates that his teaching methods have been highly effective: the most consistent feedback pertains to his memorable experiments in lectures and the way concepts/ideas are brought across with passion and precision.

His assessment tasks are also aimed at relevance and application. He demands that students apply what they have learnt in class to real world situations and research problems. It is clear that much thought has been invested into devising scenarios to which students are expected to respond critically (project assignments). The learning goals and assessment criteria are also clearly spelt out to students in order to ensure congruence between instructor-intention and student-output. For PL2132, for example, he sets various assignment tasks posed as research problems/scenarios, which students are expected to solve systematically, creatively and thoughtfully, using the research methods they have been introduced to.

Assoc Prof Goh displays flexibility in his teaching range. In 2007/08, he taught two Level 3000 modules (with enrolments of 19 and 147) and a Level 2000 module with 140 students, in lecture, tutorial and laboratory settings, with content ranging from methodological/statistical topics to conceptual/theoretical issues.

He has also been actively involved in departmental curriculum matters. As level 3000 curriculum coordinator (2002-08), he was instrumental in introducing lab sessions in the curriculum, effecting changes to the level 1000 module, and rationalising the undergraduate programme. In Psychology, modules on research methods are foundational, and he has been involved in revamping and teaching such modules (PL2131 and PL2132).

He also works closely and productively with his students. Five of his Honours students have subsequently co-authored papers with him in NUS Tier-1 journals or peer-reviewed conferences.

Although he has had his excellent teaching affirmed by very positive student and peer review, as well as his receipt of ATEA and FTEA awards in 2007/08, he does not rest on his laurels. He continues to work at raising his teaching to even higher standards. Evidence of this is found in his continuing to seek regular mid-term feedback for modules, and tweaking them in response to student comments. (See, for example, the feedback he sought for PL 3233 in 2007/08).