Reflection from Andy Tay, 2014 GEP graduate

I graduated from GEP in 2014 and have since been doing my PhD at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in bioengineering. My study is currently supported by the National University of Singapore Overseas Graduate Scholarship.

I brought the GEP momentum with me to graduate school and was one of the very few graduate students who completed my required classes in the first year. I am also pursuing multi-disciplinary research in brain mechanobiology and directed evolution of magnetotactic bacteria. From 2015 till now, I have published 7 papers in top journals like Nature Protocol, ACS Nano and Lab on a Chip.

GEP has also taught me the importance of developing myself in areas other than academics. This motivated me to participate in contests in imaging (FEI electron microscopy) and writing (Naturejobs Career Expo 2016) which I have won. These opportunities allow me to take some time off research to recharge. Additionally, it also allows me to network with individuals in different areas of science to broaden my career option.

Summer 2016 will be an exciting time for me! I will first be heading to Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in Long Island, New York to attend a course on ‘Ion Channel and Synaptic Transmission’. My summer course is supported by the Helmsley Fellowship. Following this course, I will undergo an attachment on microbiology in the University of Bayreuth. After which, I will be heading to Ireland for a conference in micro-systems.

As part of the Global Engineering Programme, you can be assured that you will be as well prepared for academic rigour like me. GEP students like you are well-rounded individuals who should find time to commit to activities other than studying. This is particularly useful for graduate school and job applications where academic excellence is no longer the main selection criterion. I encourage you to make use of seminars/talks organized by GEP to network and start planning about your future career now!

A photo of Andy’s group members. Andy is wearing a red shirt at the top left hand corner.