

# SRC Orientation



## 2018

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It has been almost two weeks since the SRC orientation for the freshmen (2018). All the freshmen are settling in their new life at SDU, getting accustomed to life in China.

The SRC orientation was on Oct 12<sup>th</sup>. The CR election and a casual hiking event preceded this formal orientation.

### Acquaintance

Everything began on November 29, 2018. This day the SRC witnessed the class representative (CR) election of the freshmen (G2018).

After introducing the SRC to the first years, the election began with 5 candidates. The final decision was made based on the voting result. 3 CRs were appointed. They are Ghazal Razmahang, Alireza Parhizgari, and Ismail Desai.

After the CR election, the SRC announced that there would be a hike organized for the first year. The place chosen for the hike is none other than Jinan's attraction Thousand Buddha Mountain on 5<sup>th</sup> of October. Most people thought it would be a rainy or very hot day. But nature had other ideas. The nature offered a very pleasant and breezy climate.

Once we left the crowded streets of the city with our hiking mates and went out for a walking tour away from the mad world, we really felt free. The open air had a bracing effect on the mind. How merrily, we travelled a mile after another in the company of our friends. Our power of observation was sharpened; nothing escaped our eyes: a squirrel leaping about on the branches of a tree, a bird flying past us, all these were noticed and aroused our interest. We had the leisure to stand, to walk and to talk. We walked among a zig-zag motor road or cut across a mountain path in search of adventure. It is all more of a pleasure to do hiking in a mountainous region and thrilling than in the plains.

The excitement of climbing up to the top of a hill, the adventure of climbing down a slope, the golden statue, all these imparted a rare charm and interest to our journey.

At the end of the trip, we played a little game to add more fun. Addition to all the pleasure of hiking, the opportunity of intimate conversation with the strangers we met on the way or at our resting place.



### Contagious !!!

After the hiking experience, it was time to provide useful guidance and bring our freshmen closer to the rest of the student body. This significant event started at 1:30 p.m. with a slight delay where everyone was given the opportunity to purchase raffle tickets for an amazing prize.

During the programme, atmospheric speeches were given by students from different grades. Being at different stage in their academic life here at SDU, they provided guidance from different perspectives. This comprehensive combination is believed to bring out excitement in the students and prepare them for future challenges.

Speakers that day were very passionate during their speeches. Their expressions and feelings were contagious. These freshmen have become an official "SDUer" as they were told about the spirit and expectations here at SDU. It is everyone's wish that the students are constantly reminded of this spirit and genuine feelings as there is a long journey ahead.

Dr Syed Mohsin Ali who founded the SRC talked about his journey at SDU from a bachelor student. His achievements despite the hardship were encouraging. Ending his speech with, "We are more than happy to help," Dr Syed Mohsin Ali's unwavering support for the student is always there.

Four other speakers have also offered their wise words enthusiastically. They related to their peers emotionally while giving advice.

Friends are [for] life here...Hold on to your friends.  
— Sushitha, G2015

Build your bonds together...Study together...Be passionate, get excited!  
— Rozanne, G2017

You couldn't do it but put in effort...Try and smile...That's the most important thing.  
— Tunji, G2015

You don't know how good life can be when you don't leave your bubble...Negativity is bad for the soul.  
— Mallory, G2014

After an informative session in a classroom, Amazing Race gave the freshmen the perfect occasion to display their brainy and brawny abilities.

The clues sent the students looking for places at SDU medical campus. Even without participation, the effectiveness of this event was apparent. Laughter and excitement can be found around campus. They are contagious. The unquestionable happiness experienced during the game is the best tribute to the Interaction Division for their effort.

### Sealed connections

The Mixer brought to an end to the delightful orientation on the 12<sup>th</sup>. It was a platform to allow the first year students to make everlasting memories and bonds.

The event was held down by the lovely Banele and her Co-MC Talia Unice. The mixer started off by a quick speed dating where guards were let down, and laughter and comfort filled the room.

As everyone started getting more comfortable the air seemed lighter. Little conversations and delicious food filled every table.

Hunger game was the last event that concluded the evening. With a mouth watering prize to be won, it kept the students on their toes. Each team in groups of 5 took part in hilarious challenges to see who would come out victorious, and Team Astros took home the free pizza and title.

The mixer was a great opportunity to encourage healthy relationships, not only the first-years but the senior students as well. To create an atmosphere of love and acceptance.

Understanding that we are all united by our differences, the SRC wants to promote good relationships amongst students and mentalities that promote unity.



Photos courtesy of Chitra and Maher