

NTU Link

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Shaping Perspectives *on* Global Affairs

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear alumni,

We have now crossed the first half of 2015. As we prepare for an amazing second half and welcome our freshmen in August, I would like to update you on NTU's progress.

Once again, NTU has ascended numerous university rankings despite the very competitive global and regional landscape. In the latest Asian University Rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS), NTU leapt to 4th place from 7th. NTU is also the top scientific research institution in Singapore based on the Nature Index 2015 Global where we came in at No. 40 internationally and 8th amongst the Asian institutions.

In the 2015 QS World University Rankings by Subject, our Education programme based at the renowned National Institute of Education (NIE) was ranked 2nd in Asia and 10th in the world whilst our Electrical & Electronic Engineering and Materials Science programmes were ranked 7th and 8th internationally respectively.

This month, we welcome more than 8,600 new alumni as they graduate as NTU's Class of 2015. We now have close to 200,000

graduates in our NTU alumni family. With the well-rounded education our students receive in NTU, providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to succeed in the corporate world, our alumni play an important part in the advancement of NTU.

We also recently welcomed two new members to our NTU Board of Trustees, both of whom are our outstanding NTU alumni. They are Mr Lim Chow Kiat, Group Chief Investment Officer, GIC Private Limited, and Mr Tan Chin Hwee, a Founding Partner in Asia for Apollo Management Singapore. We extend our appreciation to Professor Haresh Shah and Mr Kwek Leng Joo who have stepped down from the Board, for their contributions and invaluable guidance.

We are honoured to have with us, Professor Chen Tsuhan, who joins us as Dean of NTU's College of Engineering. Prof Chen was the David E Burr Professor of Engineering and Director of the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Cornell University.

Last month, NTU together with the BMW Group, launched a new electromobility research programme, involving the all-electric BMW i3 and plug-in hybrid sports car BMW i8 that runs on electricity and petrol. This research programme, which will focus on two new areas, Electromobility in Asia and Smart Materials, will be conducted at the Future Mobility Research Lab located on the NTU campus, which is the BMW Group's first joint lab in Southeast Asia.

ST Engineering and NTU have set up the ST Engineering-NTU Corporate Laboratory to develop advanced robotics and autonomous systems that will improve airport operations and disaster rescue efforts. The corporate lab will combine both NTU's and ST Engineering's expertise in robotics and autonomous systems in supporting research in precision and airside technology and in enhancing intelligence support for crisis management.

NTU is a well-known green campus. In fact, our beautiful garden campus was ranked third in DesignCurial's survey of the top 10

green universities worldwide. Supporting our objective of promoting sustainability, we are now building the region's first sports hall with a unique long-span timber roof structure providing better heat insulation and reducing energy consumption. Our campus will have Singapore's first high-rise buildings where whole rooms complete with internal fixtures are built at the factory and then assembled on-site, resulting in manpower and construction time savings.

We have partnered Germany's Technische Universität München (TUM) to build EVA, the world's first electric taxi for tropical megacities. This is a good example of future electromobility and its possibilities, achieved by leveraging NTU's established track record in application-driven engineering and TUM's deep expertise in electromobility. NTU is also collaborating with the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory (Berkeley Lab) to develop technological solutions for energy efficiency and sustainable development in the tropics.

In May this year, I was part of the Singapore delegation led by President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam for a seven-day state visit to France to boost bilateral cooperation in fields like education. During the fruitful trip, NTU signed three new pacts with France's elite mega-university, Université Paris-Saclay; the Sorbonne Universités, the second-largest group of universities and research organisations in France; and the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique.

NTU Fest on 29 August is going to be an extravaganza not to be missed! To be held at the Promontory@Marina Bay, the mega-event not only marks a rousing start to the University's new academic year, but also Singapore's Golden Jubilee. On that day, there will be a charity run, carnival and a concert. Proceeds from the run will support SportCares, an initiative which uses sports to help underprivileged children and youths.

As we take NTU to the wider community and celebrate Singapore's 50th birthday, I strongly encourage all our alumni to join our faculty, staff and students at NTU Fest. Bring your families and have yourselves a great time while doing something meaningful for the community.

PROFESSOR BERTIL ANDERSSON
PRESIDENT
NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

Shaping perspectives on global affairs

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) aims to become a leading research and graduate education teaching institution in strategic and international affairs in the Asia Pacific. NTULink learns more about RSIS developing a community of scholars and policy analysts at the forefront of the region.

The S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) was established in January 2007 as an autonomous school within the Nanyang Technological University (NTU). It was previously known as the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS) when the latter was set up in July 1996.

The renaming of IDSS served to honour the late Mr S. Rajaratnam, Singapore's first Foreign Minister. At the same time, it also reflects the progress and development of IDSS, a modest research institute, to become RSIS – a professional graduate school of international affairs.

RSIS' mission is to become a leading research and graduate teaching institution in strategic and international affairs in the Asia Pacific. This it will accomplish by providing a rigorous professional graduate education with a strong practical emphasis, conducting policy relevant research in defence, national security, international relations, strategic studies and diplomacy, and fostering a global network of like-minded professional schools.

It plays an important role in developing a community of scholars and policy analysts at the forefront of Asia-Pacific security studies and international affairs. With its objectives in research, teaching and networking, policymakers develop comprehensive approaches to strategic thinking related to Singapore's interests.

RSIS serves as the Secretariat for the Singapore National Committee of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia Pacific, contributing to Track 2 discussions on regional security. It is also the Secretariat for the Track II Network of ASEAN Defence and Security Institutions (NADI).

The Institute organises several conferences on security which include the annual Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers (APPSMO), the annual Asia-Pacific Programme for Senior National Security Officers (APPSNO) and the biennial Asia-Pacific Security



◀ RSIS Graduate Programmes equip students with comparative and critical perspectives, historical analogies, and theoretical frameworks for ordering complex data and the technical skills needed to succeed.



▲ Today, there are more than 1,400 graduates from RSIS. They apply their knowledge in fields such as media, public relations, finance, consulting, research, diplomacy and policymaking amongst others.

Conference and International Maritime Security Conference.

Collaboration with other professional schools of international affairs to form a global network of excellence is a RSIS priority. RSIS maintains links with other like-minded schools so as to enrich its research and teaching activities as well as learn from the best practices of successful schools.

GRADUATE EDUCATION PROGRAMMES

RSIS offers a challenging graduate education in international affairs taught by an international faculty of international and local specialists, and leading thinkers and practitioners, some

of whom are world renowned in their areas of expertise.

These programmes, which attract students from some 64 countries around the world, prepare the students to respond to current global challenges by equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge.

- Masters of Science programmes specialising in Asian Studies, International Political Economy, International Relations and Strategic Studies.
- Double Masters Programme with Warwick University launched in 2010.
- Doctor of Philosophy programme for advanced students.

RESEARCH

RSIS conducts research which focuses on issues relating to the security and stability of the Asia Pacific region and how these issues affect Singapore and the region. These include areas such as terrorism, homeland security, non-traditional security, multilateralism and regionalism, maritime security, contemporary Islam, military transformations, international political economy, inter-religious relations, and country and area studies.

Research on these topics is conducted at RSIS via its five research centres:

- Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies
- International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research
- Centre of Excellence for National Security
- Centre for Non-Traditional Security Studies
- Centre for Multilateralism Studies

In addition to these research centres, RSIS' International Political Economy Programme and Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme also have research elements.

RECENT SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS

The **Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) Programme** was launched



▲ The SRP Programme was launched by President Tony Tan (right) on 9 June last year. Also seen here is the then RSIS Dean, Ambassador Barry Desker.

by President Tony Tan Keng Yam on 9 June 2014. This programme aims to study the different models of how religious communities develop their teachings to meet the contemporary challenges of living in plural societies, deepen the study of inter-religious relations, develop models for the positive role of religions in building peace, and produce knowledge to strengthen communities' social ties amongst each other.

During this inauguration, the **Peter Lim Professorship in Peace Studies**, which was established through a generous gift of \$3 million from Mr Peter Lim and the government's matching grant, was also launched. Through this endowment, the SRP Programme will be able to appoint a professor who will lead the programme in researching and teaching Peace Studies.

In order to continuously engage and communicate with RSIS graduates, the **RSIS Alumni Association (RSIS AA)** was officially launched on 22 August 2014 at the 11th RSIS Alumni Dinner. The Executive Committee was formed by a group of dedicated alumni with Mr Phillip Ee Kwang Yong leading as the AA President. The RSIS AA will serve to connect RSIS' global community of alumni, which has more than 1,200 members across more than 60 countries.

It was also during the RSIS AA launch event that the then RSIS Dean Ambassador Barry Desker announced the inauguration of the Science, Technology and Security Programme. This new programme was established after some years of work on cybersecurity, biosecurity and nuclear safety.



▲ Ambassador Mohamed Alami Musa, Head of Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies Programme; Ambassador Barry Desker, then Dean of RSIS; Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of Singapore; Professor Bertil Andersson, President of NTU; and Ms Chan Lay Hoon, Director of Kestral Capital Pte Ltd and representative of Mr Peter Lim.

▼ Participants attending a workshop under the new Science, Technology and Security Programme.



▲ Participants at the 7th Asia Pacific Security Conference (APSEC) organised by RSIS and Experia Events Pte. Ltd. on 10 February 2014 as part of the 2014 Singapore Air Show.



▲ Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, RSIS Executive Deputy Chairman

Non-traditional security (NTS) issues are becoming increasingly important for the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) and will be key to pushing the school to the top, says **Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, RSIS' Executive Deputy Chairman.**

These NTS issues cover a broad spectrum from climate change, food and water security to management of humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, and communicable diseases like Ebola and the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) which can result in pandemics.

"We started looking at NTS issues in the School several years back but over the last few years, more have come our way, and what we need to do is get ourselves more organised and obtain the know-how by networking with other people around the world who also work on these issues."

Ambassador Ong said RSIS needs to be the "first mover" and produce ground-breaking research to stay ahead of the curve.

"We have a centre for NTS issues and I think we are one of the rare few that focus on mobilising resources to tackle these issues. We have in fact also helped to organise a network of study centres around the region into a so-called NTS-Asia," he said.

"I hope that RSIS will continue to look for such opportunities and that we continue to become the first to start something meaningful. The first to design a programme or curriculum and the first to be able to undertake relevant research which will be useful to policy makers."

Non-conventional threats come into focus

In the past, security studies were focused on military assets, development and strategies but now with these NTS threats, researchers need to look at multiple interlinked issues. Ambassador Ong said it is exactly such issues that create new intellectual discourse and "magnetise the imagination of all the scholars out there".

"If we can organise the framework and the way of cooperating, then RSIS will always be up there. We may not be at the top but should always be in the top ten," he added.

THE PHD TRACK

But in order to keep churning out good research projects and studies, Ambassador Ong said universities in the country need to look at how to provide sufficient incentives for Singaporeans to become academics. He admits more needs to be done to entice people to join the academic world.

"We are not producing enough Singaporeans paying attention to intellectual issues, looking at what I call the PhD track. We need more people who are prepared to do PhDs and we need to expose them to the kind of opportunity available in doing a PhD and what kind of career prospects they have."

One of his suggestions is to provide them with a good sabbatical in between career milestones.

"People can go to a nice mountain in Scotland to mull over why single malt whisky is better than ordinary whisky or they can go to a nice countryside to contribute to the local agriculture and economy by studying some of the elements that can increase the yield of the food products," he said with a laugh.

"It may not be a promotion but it is a chance for each of these guys, in the academic world to pursue an area of interest with great professional satisfaction," he added.

"So if we can do that, let's say every ten years you get a substantive promotion, but every five years you get a chance to

go to a nice university or location to do a subject of your heart's interest, then I think we can generate more attraction to the PhD track."

Although he admits that not everyone will be receptive to this approach, Ambassador Ong said the academic scene in Singapore needs a strategic intervention to ensure a steady supply of Singaporean PhD graduates.

For those already in the academic sector, Ambassador Ong said more flexibility is needed to accommodate the diverse interests of scholars.

"I came across a guy with a PhD in military intelligence and satellite work. He cannot do anything else because the system is such that if he has a PhD in this area, he should teach this subject, which unfortunately has limited traction among graduate students and policy people in Singapore," he said.

"But I say, if a guy can do military intelligence and satellite, perhaps he is interested in the technologies, perhaps he is able to think through how to transform military technology into civilian use which can help national economic development, so why not?" he asked.

"It is tied back to a more philosophical point. We have limited resources, so we should not pigeonhole them and confine them to a particular skill for the rest of their life. This also ties in with our national policy of lifelong learning where we encourage learning in different areas and subjects through the years."

FOREIGN POLICIES & RELATIONS

Elaborating on national policies, Ambassador Ong said the foreign policy and external relations for Singapore has been in a "definite positive status" but Singapore needs to question its role in an increasingly complex world. At the same time, he stressed that Singapore being a small country needs to "take the world as it is".

"We are a little red dot and there are countries that are bigger around us. Each of them probably has no interest to help us unless we are giving them a quid pro quo. Therefore, we really have to go out and engage our neighbours and other states in the global system. I think Singapore has done very well in this aspect," he explained.

"Why would the Chinese or the Americans listen to Singapore? They can resolve their own problems. But if we can offer a reasonable position, on an issue such as the South China Sea dispute, and the parties concerned are prepared to work on it, then we help to contribute to regional peace and stability," he added.

"Most importantly, we uphold the role of ASEAN as a regional balancer, as a kind of diplomatic tool to ensure we do not go into an unfavourable period of hostile relations with one another."

Building a global brand for RSIS

Professor Joseph Liow wants S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) to be the “top three or five” graduate school of choice for top undergraduates from elite universities like Harvard, Princeton, Oxford and Cambridge. Stressing that RSIS wants very much to be a global brand, Prof Liow said that RSIS’s extensive international network and body of work will be integral in achieving its ambitions.

The RSIS Dean emphasised that the School needs to produce work which creates ripples internationally.

“Through our research we always emphasise the need for all our researchers -- including junior researchers, up-and-coming researchers -- to be able to produce work that speaks to pressing policy challenges of the day, and not just national issues but international as well. Issues such as climate change and major power rivalry are matters of concern to Singapore but have implications that will reverberate across the world,” explained Prof Liow, who is also an RSIS alumnus.

“I think it would be most unfortunate and unambitious of us to limit ourselves to the region. We need to think globally in line with what Singapore is and what the Singapore identity and brand is,” he said.

RSIS, which is also known as a think tank, helps to facilitate policy discussions and regular close interactions with policy makers around the region. Citing the example of the recent Rohingya refugee crisis, Prof Liow said RSIS can help policy makers in their decision making by “helping them think more long term”.

“For us the issue is not what do you do with these few boats out there in the middle of the seas, but more importantly, what are some of the trends that we have seen evolve over the years in terms of population movements? What is driving them? What can organisations like ASEAN for example do to mitigate some of these ill effects of population movements?” said Prof Liow.

By conducting such research projects and publishing them in respected peer-reviewed journals, RSIS hopes to contribute to the national policy making process and sets itself as a premier think tank and international school in the region.

As a school, Prof Liow said RSIS needs to be able to continuously publish in the top journals as this would create awareness with the undergraduates who read them.

“When the undergraduates in Harvard, Princeton, Yale, Oxford and Cambridge pursue their undergraduate programmes, and when they keep seeing the names of our RSIS professors and researchers in their reading list, that will definitely trigger their interest in RSIS if they do not already know us,” said Prof Liow, who completed his PhD at London School of Economics and Political Science.

But other than having high academic standards, providing the best educational experience both in and out of the classroom is equally important to Prof Liow, who even terms it their “chief marketing tool”.

“You can have all the brochures you want, you can have the best website you want, but nothing beats a student from country X, coming here and experiencing such a rich education experience, going back and telling their friends, family, classmates and spreading the good name,” he explained.

“That to me is very important and usually, this is a very often disregarded avenue for marketing teaching programmes. Yes we want to get the people here but once they are here we make sure it is worth their time here and they go back with a rich experience which they gladly share with others.”

Prof Liow also believes that issues on which RSIS conducts research on, such as national security, international relations, strategic studies and diplomacy, are evergreen issues not just for governments but also for civil society movements.

He specifically stressed that his research interests, which include Asia Pacific security, Muslim social movements and comparative politics of Southeast Asia, are becoming more important, especially for Singapore.

“Singapore is a small country located in a region which on the one hand is likely to be the fastest growing economically for some time, and on the other hand, has very deep uncertainties about regional stability even more so than for example, the Middle East.”

“You might see and hear a lot about the happenings in the Middle East, but I think that nothing going on there is, in a sense, unanticipated because of how the dynamics have developed in that region,” he explained.

“It is very different in Asia where there is a lot of concern about what a rich and



▲ Professor Joseph Liow, RSIS Dean

powerful China will or can do. But at the same time, you have countries which are so dependent today on China for economic growth.”

Prof Liow highlighted that the current situation is more complex than the period of the cold war between the United States and the former Soviet Union, referring to it as a “very different world”.

“For example, we had the Soviet Union and US rivalry where you are in one camp or the other. These days however, most countries have a foot in both camps so to speak, so there are a lot of uncertainties there.”

He explained that whilst governments discuss economic growth collectively, they need to pay close attention to stability as without that, there will not be growth.

“And stability is always a challenge because, as far as I am concerned, governments and countries are made up of people, and people have their insecurities and people have the tendency to question or mistrust or even misinterpret the intentions of other parties,” he said.

The question of stability drives the need to be able to understand the global system and its challenges. This is the niche RSIS fills and Prof Liow is confident that RSIS graduates have been equipped with the skills to manage some of these policy challenges.

Staying connected with RSIS alumni

Mr Phillip Ee, President of the RSIS Alumni Association (RSIS AA) shares his aspirations and aims of the AA.



◀ Alumni and guests at the 11th RSIS Alumni Dinner held on 22 August 2014 at InterContinental Singapore Hotel during which the RSIS Alumni Association was launched.

What are the objectives of the RSIS AA?

The vision of the RSIS AA is to be a well-networked and strong alumni community, promoting meaningful engagement amongst and between the alumni, RSIS and current students. There are three key objectives which are: to build a strong global network amongst the alumni by providing opportunities for the alumni to interact and participate in social and networking activities; to give back to RSIS by providing support to students, making available career resources and providing mentorship and career counselling; and, to reach out to the movers and shakers in the marketplace, developing strategic synergies between the RSIS AA, the Institution and the industry.

What are some of RSIS AA's future plans?

The RSIS AA was formally launched in August 2014 with close to 10 industry partners on board. In less than three months, we partnered our alumni in Indonesia to launch the Indonesian Chapter. The event was attended by Inspector General of the Indonesian Police Mr Tito Karnavian, RSIS Dean Professor Joseph Liow, and Singapore’s Permanent Representative to ASEAN Ambassador Tan Hung Seng.

Moving forward, I hope that we can continue this tempo of engagement to realise tangible benefits for the

alumni. Local and overseas networking events are in the works and we hope to also launch another overseas chapter soon.

What encouraged you to spearhead the formation of RSIS AA?

How did you start and what were some of the challenges you had to overcome?
The RSIS is a professional school and one which consistently brings together some of the best analytical minds in the region and beyond. Without a formal platform, strategic conversations and the exchange of ideas would be lost as each batch graduates into busy routines and work demands. A few of us, now part of the founding EXCO, saw the need to pull the alumni together on a single platform, creating a unified identity, and providing practical opportunities for intellectual and career growth.

Our challenges were many and some of which were common to all AAs in the beginning. They included scheduling (striking a balance between work, family, social and alumni demands) and convincing industry partners and even alumni, of our value proposition. However, given the commitment and dedication of a great team within the EXCO, coupled with the generous support from RSIS, especially the visionary leadership



▲ The RSIS AA was launched on 22 August 2014 by the then RSIS Dean Ambassador Barry Desker (centre) and RSIS AA President Mr Phillip Ee. Accompanying them on stage is Director of NTU Alumni Affairs Mr Soon Min Yam (left).

of Ambassador Ong Keng Yong, RSIS Executive Deputy Chairman, Dean Joseph Liow and former Dean, Ambassador Barry Desker, we are now a well-established AA.

What are your aspirations for the RSIS AA and for all the alumni from RSIS?

I hope for the RSIS AA to be known in the region and beyond, for its thought leadership and innovation, and its alumni well sought after in the commercial world, academia and governments. I personally think we are getting there given the speaking engagements and industry partnerships thus far.

Any words of encouragement to the RSIS alumni requesting them to stay connected to each other and to NTU?

As the saying goes, “you reap what you sow.” Invest time with us now and be part of the RSIS AA. You’ll never know the potential it can yield – a brand new career, an innovation breakthrough, or maybe even a future partner!

Hear what our RSIS alumni have to say...

Harshita Kohli (MSc International Relations / 2013)

For me the combination of being in Asia and learning at a school with a great international faculty was one of the main reasons to come to RSIS. The other was the reasonable fees that a student is expected to pay to get a world class education.

I walked away with a lot more knowledge because of the real world problems that we discussed in classes. I feel that RSIS offers you courses that are taught by professors who use real every day scenarios to explain concepts. This means you actually learn things of practical value, things I know I am going to be able to apply when I work.

I had already been working for quite a few years and therefore this degree was meant to refine and enhance my focus areas for the next leg in my career development. I think I benefitted from my time at RSIS because I was exposed to a real mix of international students and faculty which helped me get a better understanding of world affairs and politics. Also, the short trimester system means you are constantly under pressure to deliver and that is one of the best lessons to prepare any individual for today's professional life.

RSIS has a great faculty and a real mix of courses that cater to students with different aims and ambitions. Studying at RSIS is a wonderful opportunity to meet people from different walks of life, receive an education that is international and relevant to today's world affairs, have opportunities to attend lectures and seminars by noted policymakers and diplomats who you may not otherwise get the chance to meet, and above all do it in Asia which is where all the economic action is and is likely to be in the foreseeable future.

Diwaker Prerna Tarika (MSc International Relations / 2014)

When I was considering options in pursuit of a graduate programme in international relations, I evaluated multiple programmes offered by various renowned institutions. The lineage of RSIS coupled with razor sharp curriculum options to choose from, and methodology of course work by research intrigued me and challenged my thirst for acumen.

At RSIS, I particularly enjoyed the discussions and seminars during the graduate study programme which helped me perform better on exams and research papers. Professors are great support systems besides being fabulous teachers and mentors.

The research methodology I developed and the knowledge I gained while at RSIS helped me secure an opportunity to intern with the Interpol Global Complex of Innovation where I contributed to research on their projects with the Digital Crime Center.

My message to applicants is to keep knowledge acquisition as their goal. Accelerated learning imbibed from unique course modules with a focus on excellence amidst a world class environment is the stepping stone to a successful international career and personal development.

Yong Ming Sy Annie (MSc Asian Studies / 2014)

RSIS offers a range of modules beyond each specific programme which allowed me to broaden my perspectives and to contextualise what I was going to learn in Asian Studies against the backdrop of international relations. I was attracted by the fact that RSIS is both a think-tank and a graduate school and hence the prospect of being able to learn from practitioners, to marry both academic and policy-relevant knowledge for a more insightful and holistic understanding of pertinent issues.

I appreciate the rigour of the programme, the thought-provoking and rich discussions, as well as the wide range of views offered by my classmates given the internationally diverse demographics. The professors have also inspired me to be a better educator, with their passion for the pursuit of knowledge and their dedication to the profession. The high standards they set challenged me to better myself intellectually by reading widely and to consider a range of alternative views before forming my own.

The programme has certainly added much depth to my knowledge and broadened my perspectives, which I have found to be extremely useful in the classroom when my students and I discuss current affairs. The awareness of global issues has also made me more cognizant of the world that my students will have to operate in, as well as the skills and competencies they have to be equipped with to thrive in such a world that will be vastly different from the one today.

The programmes offered by RSIS are relevant to anyone regardless of one's profession. The world we live in today and in the future is going to be a volatile and uncertain one, and global awareness is important and necessary for one to thrive and lead in such a world. To that end, a post-graduate education at RSIS will add

much value by offering a global outlook and networking opportunities for its graduates.

Chang Han Lian (MSc International Political Economy / 2014)

I chose RSIS for my graduate studies because of the well-regarded, interdisciplinary programmes that it offers. Its unique positioning, as a think-tank and a graduate school located in Singapore, provides a Southeast Asian perspective balanced with an eclectic view on world affairs.

My academic experience at RSIS was rigorous and rewarding. My courses were taught by thought leaders in their respective fields and industry practitioners, making them engaging and relevant.

My overall experience in RSIS has allowed me to see the bigger picture in my work as a corporate strategist at a financial institution. My studies at RSIS trained me to deep dive into issues and to ask the difficult questions that is crucial for organisational growth.

I would recommend RSIS to all NTU alumni, especially those who are interested in world affairs, as it provides unparalleled training and strong support for those who aspire for an international affairs-oriented career.

Verra Wijaya (MSc Asian Studies / 2012)

RSIS is unique because the teachings and campus activities try to connect the academic and real-world problems. By doing so, RSIS not only trains its students to conceptualise better, but also to take part in solving some crucial issues in our society.

My professors at RSIS were helpful during intriguing discussions in class. They were very supportive and helped me overcome my difficulties in my courses. The professors came from various backgrounds which became the core strength of the programme. RSIS has experts in many areas, including traditional and non-traditional security, economy, and country specialists. Additionally, I enjoyed the seminars and workshops held by the University whereby I gained different perspectives from many distinguished external speakers.

RSIS played a very important role in my personal development. It trained me to analyse various issues in a very comprehensive way. My studies in RSIS have given me a foundation to build strong arguments and deliver it in a constructive manner. I have also built strong networks with my fellow RSIS alumni and lecturers.

RSIS is not only for those who are interested in political sciences, but also for those who want to have a global perspective in helping the society to solve collective problems.



WE CONTINUE TO

SOAR!

NTU scores high points at numerous university rankings.

World's fastest rising young university

NTU is now recognised as the world's fastest rising young university by Times Higher Education.

To determine the World's Fastest Rising Young Universities, Times Higher Education shortlisted 15 universities under the age of 50 which were ranked in its top 200 World University Rankings and measured their rise since 2011.

NTU topped this list with its meteoric rise of 108 places in Times Higher Education's World University Rankings in just four years.

4th amongst Asia's top universities

NTU has leapt three places to be ranked No. 4 in the latest Asian University Rankings by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) released on 10 June. This is NTU's best showing since the Asian rankings were introduced by QS in 2009. NTU continued its upward trajectory, having soared 10 places since 2009 when NTU debuted in QS' Asian rankings at No. 14.

18 subject fields in the world's top 50

In another ranking, the 2015 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject, NTU moved up in 18 subject fields out of 28. It is ranked in the global top 10 for three subject fields, similar to 2014. In its best showing ever, NTU has 18 subject fields in the world's top 50.

NTU's Education programme, based at the renowned National Institute of Education (NIE), enters the global top 10 in the QS subject rankings for the first time this year. Up from 14th place last year, it ranks second in the Asia Pacific.

The Electrical & Electronic Engineering programme is now ranked 7th internationally, up from 10th place last year. It is also one of the biggest risers, having improved 29 places since 2011. Materials Science maintains its position last year at 8th place.

In Singapore, NTU is the highest-ranked university for three disciplines -- Education, Philosophy, and Earth & Marine Sciences.

◀ NTU, Singapore's only representative in the World's Fastest Rising Young Universities ranking table, is ahead of other universities including Maastricht University from The Netherlands, UK's University of Warwick, South Korea's Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology.

High rankings in research

NTU is ranked No. 40 in the Nature Index Global, a ranking by one of the world's most prestigious specialist research publications. This makes NTU the highest-ranked Singapore institution on the Index after climbing two spots from the previous year, ahead of two other local ones among a ranking of 200 top institutions worldwide.

The University's strong performance also contributed to Singapore's high global standing in research at 15th place, up from 17th when the Index was first released last year.

NTU's Chemistry research was ranked 9th internationally, up from 12th place previously. It also scored well in Physical Sciences at No. 35, up from 39th place.

In the new Nature Index 2015 Asia-Pacific, which tracks author contributions to scientific articles published in 68 top research journals, NTU was ranked 8th in the Asia Pacific region, 4th for Chemistry and 9th for Physical Sciences.

NEW MEMBERS ON NTU BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Mr Lim Chow Kiat and Mr Tan Chin Hwee, both NTU alumni, appointed as NTU Board of Trustees members.

NTU has appointed two new members to its Board of Trustees with effect from 1 April 2015. They are Mr Lim Chow Kiat, Group Chief Investment Officer, GIC Private Limited, and Mr Tan Chin Hwee, a Founding Partner in Asia for Apollo Management Singapore. The new Trustees are both NTU alumni.

Emeritus Professor Haresh Shah of Stanford University and Mr Kwek Leng Joo, Deputy Chairman of City Developments Limited stepped down effective 31 March 2015.



Mr Lim Chow Kiat (NBS/1993),
Group Chief Investment Officer,
GIC Private Limited

MR LIM CHOW KIAT

After graduating with a First Class Honours degree in Accountancy from NTU, Mr Lim Chow Kiat joined GIC, Singapore's sovereign wealth fund, in 1993 as a portfolio manager. He was GIC's only fresh hire that year.

Since then, he has risen steadily through the ranks and is currently Group Executive Committee Co-chair, Managing Director and Group Chief Investment Officer (GCIO) of GIC. As GCIO, he leads GIC's investment process and strategy, including asset allocation, active capital allocation and large investments. Previously, he served as deputy GCIO and President of the public markets group and European operations.

Mr Lim has clinched several accolades during his professional career. In 2012, he became the youngest inductee of the Fixed Income Analysts Society Hall of Fame, in recognition of his contributions to the advancement of fixed-income analysis and portfolio management.

He also received NTU's Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award the following year, in honour of the key leadership role that he has played in safeguarding and enhancing Singapore's financial future during his career in GIC.

MR TAN CHIN HWEE

Graduating from NTU with a Bachelor of Accountancy honours degree in 1995, Mr Tan Chin Hwee is a founding partner in Asia for Apollo Global Management, a leading global alternative investment firm that ranks among the world's three largest.

Before joining Apollo, he was a Managing Director at Amaranth, where he pioneered a number of historic capital market "firsts" in public and private investment opportunities.

Mr Tan is presently a Director of Singapore Press Holdings Limited, a non-executive Director of Keppel



Mr Tan Chin Hwee (NBS/1995),
Founding Partner in Asia for Apollo
Management Singapore.

REIT, and a Director of Lien AID Limited (Singapore) and KK Endowment Fund. He is also a Panel member of the Government Parliamentary Committee for Finance and Trade and Industry, and sits on the new Advisory Panel for Volunteer Youth Corp under the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth.

Mr Tan is also an Adjunct Associate Professor at NTU and serves as an Adjunct Professor in several other universities. He actively contributes to the community, serving on various not-for-profit Boards such as the advisory committee of CAFE, the new banking and finance learning initiative at NTU's Nanyang Business School.

In recognition of his record-setting success in investing and hedge fund management, NTU presented Mr Tan Chin Hwee with the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award in 2014. In 2011, he received NTU's Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award for the immense strides he made in the investment field and for his contributions to society.

Appreciation to outgoing Trustees, Professor Haresh Shah and Mr Kwek Leng Joo

In 2007, Prof Haresh Shah started the Blue Ribbon Commission that advocated a new blueprint for revamping NTU's curriculum and steering the development of future programmes. This paved the way for NTU Education, the university's new undergraduate curriculum that has pushed NTU to the global forefront for higher education.

Prof Shah also chaired the Board's Academic Affairs Committee and significantly contributed to the reform of NTU's faculty appointment, promotion and tenure system that has enabled the University to attract and retain high quality academic staff despite the intense global competition. This has been a key factor behind NTU's rapid progress today.

NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson said: "As chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, Prof Haresh Shah has consistently been very focused and uncompromising in setting and maintaining high standards for the University's academic programmes and faculty. This discipline has clearly served us well. Prof Haresh has also generously contributed time, effort and commitment to NTU, exceeding what one would typically expect of a Trustee."

On Mr Kwek Leng Joo's contributions, Prof Andersson said: "The University is fortunate to have benefitted from Mr Kwek's vast property development expertise and experience in the development and implementation of our Campus Master Plan." He added that NTU is pleased that Mr Kwek will continue to serve as a member of the university's campus planning committee.

Mr Kwek is a keen supporter of the arts and an accomplished photographer who had given generously to NTU in various areas. To recognise photographic excellence among students at NTU's School of Art, Design and Media, he made a personal gift to the University in 2009 to establish the Kwek Leng Joo Prize for Excellence in Still Photography.



NTU CELEBRATES

SG 50

NTU FEST 2015 CONCERT BY THE BAY

Elvin Ng
MediaCorp Artiste

Roberta Lim
MediaCorp Artiste

Zhang Zhen Huan
MediaCorp Artiste

Guest-of-Honour:
Mr Heng Swee Keat
Minister for Education

NET Ho
Lead of NET

Edward Gonsalves
Lead of NET

Edward Li Hui
Lead of NET

Sabby and the Cats
NTU Student Talents

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THE STRAITS TIMES

Advancing electromobility research

NTU and BMW Group embark on new S\$1.3m research programme focusing on Electromobility in Asia and Smart Materials.



◀ Mr Teo Ser Luck, Minister of State for Trade and Industry (2nd from left) launching the new Electromobility research programme at the BMW Group-NTU Future Mobility Lab. Accompanying him are, from left, Mr Axel Pannes, Managing Director of BMW Group Asia; Prof Lam Khin Yong, NTU Chief of Staff and Vice President (Research); and Mr Volker Bouffier, Minister President of Hesse and President of the Federal Council of the Federal Republic of Germany.

▼ BMW Group has provided the BMW i3 (right) and BMW i8 as research platforms to the Future Mobility Research Lab.



BMW Group and NTU launched a new electromobility research programme, involving the all-electric BMW i3 and plug-in hybrid sports car BMW i8 that runs on electricity and petrol.

This new research programme, focussing on two new areas, Electromobility in Asia and Smart Materials, will be conducted at the Future Mobility Research Lab located on the NTU campus, which is the BMW Group's first joint lab in Southeast Asia.

The launch ceremony on 30 June was graced by Mr Teo Ser Luck, Minister of State at Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry; Mr Volker Bouffier, Minister President of Hesse and President of the Federal Council of the Federal Republic of Germany; and His Excellency, Dr Michael Witter, Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Singapore.

The scientists at the joint lab will use the two BMW i vehicles to conduct research on real-life driver behaviour and to collect in-depth data on vehicle performance. The two cars will also conduct on-road trials of new technologies such as a mobile application that can accurately predict traffic and estimated end-to-end travelling time.

Mr Axel Pannes, Managing Director of BMW Group Asia said: "We are very satisfied with our partnership with NTU and the establishment of the Future Mobility Research Lab, thanks to the high level of competency from NTU's research staff and interdisciplinary teams."

He added that with the efforts of researchers, important findings have been made through the earlier research areas in a short period of just two years. With the expanded research scope, more invaluable knowledge

will be transferred to Singapore's academia, broadening their technical understanding of modern full-electric and plug-in hybrid electric vehicles.

Professor Lam Khin Yong, NTU's Chief of Staff and Vice President (Research), said the new research programme will build on the research successes of the NTU-BMW joint lab.

"The new research programme will further exploit the synergy between BMW Group's leadership and expertise in automotive sciences and NTU's leading research in sustainability and clean technologies. The NTU-BMW joint lab has already made important advancements in areas such as new

battery materials that can extend the range of an electric vehicle and innovative driver assistive technologies to greatly enhance safety."

The main goal of embarking on the Electromobility in Asia project is to find out how drivers interact with BMW i vehicles in real life, so as to better understand user behaviours and to improve electric and plug-in hybrid technology for the future.

In terms of Smart Materials, today's proliferation of touchscreen interfaces being used increasingly in vehicles has created a need to study how these touchscreen surfaces can be made more tactile.

ST ENGINEERING AND NTU LAUNCH LABORATORY FOR ADVANCED ROBOTICS AND AUTONOMOUS SYSTEMS

The lab's main research areas will be in airport precision and airside technology, and in enhancing intelligence support for crisis management.



▲ Launch of the ST Engineering-NTU Corporate Laboratory by (from left) NTU Chief of Staff and Vice President (Research) Prof Lam Khin Yong; NTU Provost Prof Freddy Boey; Deputy Prime Minister Mr Teo Chee Hean; President and CEO of ST Engineering Mr Tan Pheng Hock and Deputy CEO and President, Defence Business, ST Engineering, Mr Lee Fook Sun.

ST Engineering and NTU have set up a joint research lab to develop advanced robotics and autonomous systems that will improve airport operations and disaster rescue efforts.

The ST Engineering-NTU Corporate Laboratory was officially launched on 30 April by Guest-of-Honour Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, who is also the Chairman of the National Research Foundation (NRF). The joint laboratory which will receive S\$53 million in funding is supported by the NRF Singapore under its Corporate Laboratory@University Scheme which supports the setting up of key corporate laboratories via public-private partnerships.

The two main research areas of the ST Engineering-NTU Corporate Lab will be in airport precision and airside technology (such as baggage transfer systems, aerobridges and aircraft tow trucks) and in enhancing intelligence support for crisis management.

The joint research aims to develop advanced robotics and autonomous system technologies – systems that can collect data and make decisions

on their own. These systems can transport luggage from the check-in counter to the baggage claim area in the most efficient way, minimising the number of human operators.

As airport operations are extremely labour intensive today, and coupled with increasing labour cost and manpower constraints, it is critical to develop advanced robotics and smart systems, especially when airports worldwide are embarking on expansion.

In disaster-struck environments, a smart robot can navigate its way, making search-and-rescue missions safer and more effective. Using sensors such as vision and laser rangefinders that measure the distance to an object, the robot can create a map of the unknown environment. The smart robot will automatically search and locate survivors and their vital signs in the disaster zone, unlike current robots which have to be remotely controlled.

Through advanced computer algorithms, the robot will be able to convert sensor data to images that its human operators can easily understand. With such advanced

capabilities, crisis responders would be able to optimise tasks and deploy resources under challenging conditions during disasters.

NTU Provost Professor Freddy Boey said: "The ST Engineering-NTU Corporate Laboratory will combine both NTU's and ST Engineering's expertise in robotics and autonomous systems. NTU has been especially successful in industry-relevant research and an initiative like this corporate lab allows us to develop robust and practical solutions that will benefit society, ease manpower challenges and create higher value jobs for Singaporeans."

"The vision for the ST Engineering-NTU Corporate Lab is to develop the next generation of robotics and autonomous systems that can be applied to various areas such as healthcare, urban development, transportation, environmental conservation as well as defence and homeland security. These will be solutions that will improve and impact our everyday lives," said ST Engineering President & CEO, Mr Tan Pheng Hock.

Housed at NTU's School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, the joint research lab will be led by Co-Directors – NTU Professor Wang Dan Wei and ST Engineering's Vice President/Director of the Advance Robotics Lab, Mr Paul Tan. They will be assisted by NTU Assistant Professor Justin Dauwels as the Deputy Director.

Running at full capacity, the Corp Lab will have over 100 researchers and staff, including NTU PhD students.



▲ DPM Teo Chee Hean (2nd from left) looking at various drone technologies which will be further developed by the new ST Engineering-NTU Corporate Laboratory. Also looking on are, from left, NTU Chief of Staff and Vice President (Research) Prof Lam Khin Yong, Chief Technology Officer of ST Engineering Mr Fong Saik Hay, Chief Defence Scientist of MINDEF Mr Quek Tong Boon, and NTU Prof Xie Lihua.

Introducing the world's first ELECTRIC TAXI for the tropics

Named EVA, its innovative design and various features will help to reduce carbon emissions as well as local noise and exhaust emissions.

The electric taxi, EVA, is built by TUM CREATE, a collaboration between NTU and one of Europe's top universities, Germany's Technische Universität München (TUM). The project is supported by the National Research Foundation, Prime Minister's Office, Singapore.

NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson said that the EVA Electric Taxi project is a good example of future electro-mobility and its possibilities, achieved by leveraging NTU's established track record in application-driven engineering and TUM's deep expertise in electro-mobility.

Professor Markus Lienkamp, the Scientific Advisor Director at TUM CREATE who planned the EVA project from conception to its eventual completion, said the research team had set out four years ago asking very important questions such as whether electric vehicles would be feasible for public transport systems in megacities.

"Many of the public transportation vehicles today are re-purposed from their original design as passenger cars and vans, into taxis and shuttle buses," said Prof Lienkamp, who is also the Director of Research for TUM's Munich School of Engineering and the Science Center for Electromobility.

"Now that we have proven that it is possible to design vehicles for specific purposes of public transport, it has opened up new questions for us to explore, mainly how purpose-built electric vehicles would fit into the whole transport eco-system together with the trains and buses, and how these solutions can reduce travelling times and energy usage used for transportation."

Professor Lam Khin Yong, NTU's Chief of Staff and Vice President for Research, said many of EVA's innovations can also be applicable and deployed to other industry sectors in Singapore, such as its energy-efficient air conditioning system and lightweight carbon-fibre composites.



▲ NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson and Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany His Excellency Dr Michael Witter (far right), discussing the various innovative features of EVA.

EVA's innovative design

- Fast-charging battery system can give EVA a range of up to 200km with just a 15-min recharge.
- EVA is 150kg lighter than other comparable-sized taxis due to its lightweight carbon-fibre composites.
- Ergonomically designed seats are equipped with a purpose-built system to remove moisture and heat from seats' surfaces, maximising passengers' comfort.
- Front passenger seat can be folded forward to reveal an integrated child seat for children aged 9 months to 3 years old.
- Climate controls, in-car entertainment, booking and digital payment systems are linked via the infotainment system, allowing passengers to control air-conditioning and audio settings wirelessly from their personal mobile devices.

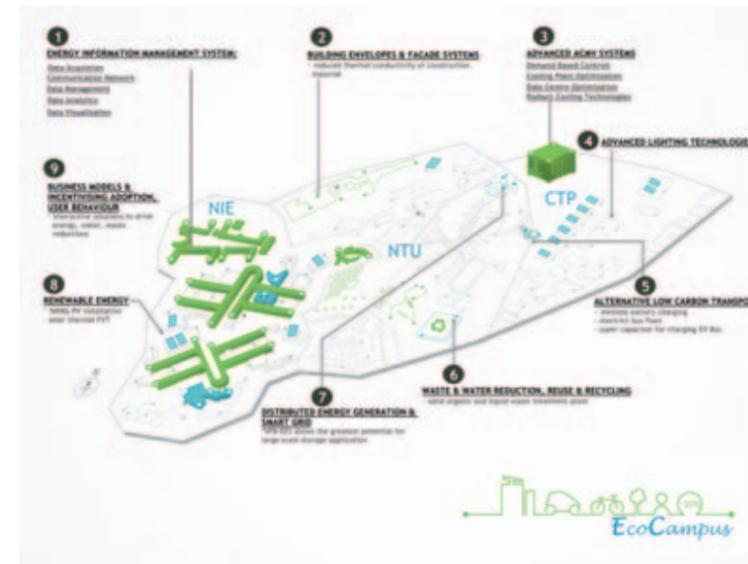


▲ EVA has a built-in infotainment system which can display fares, navigate with maps and play music from the radio.

TUM CREATE Chief Executive Officer Professor Maria-Elisabeth Michel-Beyerle said many of the technologies researched and used in building EVA, such as its specially tailored fast-charging battery system, had yielded innovations beneficial to the automotive industry.

EVA's suitability for Singapore

The research team's decision to build an electric taxi fitting Singapore's climate was for very practical reasons. By replacing fuel-burning vehicles with electric-powered ones, carbon emissions as well as local noise and exhaust emissions can be reduced.



▲ Various research projects will be carried out in conjunction with NTU's EcoCampus initiative which uses the University's 200-hectare campus and adjoining 50-hectare Cleantech Park as a super test bed for research in cutting-edge green technologies.

DEVELOPING ENERGY EFFICIENCY SOLUTIONS

NTU partners world-renowned Lawrence Berkeley National Lab to collaborate on research in technological solutions for energy efficiency and sustainable development in the tropics.

The Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (Berkeley Lab) is a U.S. Department of Energy National Laboratory managed by the University of California. Known for its excellence in scientific research, it has 13 Nobel Laureates to its name since its inception in 1931.

NTU and the Berkeley Lab will collaborate on research in various areas of energy-efficiency solutions for buildings, renewable energy generation and storage, and smart grids. The collaboration will place strong emphasis in demonstrating innovative solutions in real-life settings to enhance local capabilities and accelerate the adoption of energy-saving measures in Singapore and the region. Leading NTU's efforts in the partnership is the Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N) which is spearheading the University's initiatives in sustainable energy research.

The various research and demonstration projects will be carried out in conjunction with NTU's

EcoCampus initiative which uses the University's 200-hectare campus and adjoining 50-hectare Cleantech Park as a super test bed for research in cutting-edge green technologies.

Going beyond research, the collaboration also aims to develop and demonstrate practical solutions to combat urban and environmental challenges while reducing energy costs. Further savings in energy and costs can be achieved by improving data collection and analysis to guide decision making and enabling intelligent interaction of buildings with the electricity grid, including renewable energy sources, energy storage and electric vehicles.

Similar concepts can be applied to large infrastructures such as industrial parks and computer data centres, which require high amounts of power and cooling systems to operate. It will benefit from the development of highly efficient cooling systems and integration of energy systems that are based on sustainable energy and storage alternatives.

SMART MOBILITY TEST BED IN SINGAPORE

NTU and NXP Semiconductors N.V. are building a high-tech living test bed for smart cars and traffic systems on the NTU campus.

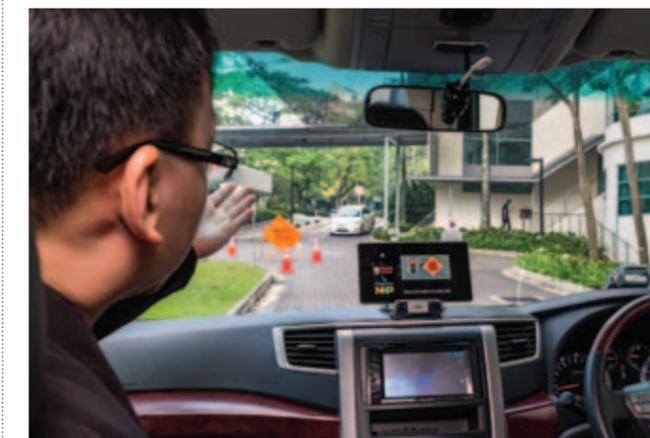
Supported by Singapore Economic Development Board, the new NTU-NXP Smart Mobility Test Bed will test and develop new technologies for vehicles to communicate with each other and with designated roadside infrastructures. Known as V2X (Vehicle-to-Everything) technology, this will push new frontiers in mobility.

Built using the latest technology from NTU and NXP, companies, research institutes and government agencies will be able to deploy, test, and validate future V2X solutions in a real world scenario with this S\$22 million campus-wide test bed. Such V2X applications will involve wireless communications between vehicles and with intelligent infrastructure such as traffic cameras and traffic lights.

The intelligent V2X system, which is capable of wirelessly collecting and analysing data from other vehicles and the surrounding smart infrastructure over a distance of up to two kilometres, will ultimately be required to enable widespread adoption of fully autonomous driving.

The technology will improve road safety and traffic flow by giving drivers advanced warning of upcoming hazards such as dangerous road conditions, unexpected traffic jams, approaching emergency vehicles or road works, long before such hazards enter the drivers' field of vision or become detectable by other Advanced Driver Assistance System (ADAS) sensors.

The collaboration will also pave the way to realise Singapore's Smart Mobility 2030 vision to optimise transport systems and enhance commuter travel experience with the latest advancements in transport technologies.



▲ In a 'Vehicle-to-Everything' (V2X) demonstration held at NTU, three connected cars were shown to interact directly with one another over Wi-Fi and exploit real-time data from each other and the roadside infrastructure.

NTU CAMPUS, A LIVING LAB FOR SUSTAINABILITY, GETS GREENER

The University is building award-winning sports hall and “Lego-style” high-rise residential buildings which will reduce its energy consumption.

Walking the green talk, NTU is building the region’s first sports hall with a unique long-span timber roof structure that provides five times better heat insulation than concrete. This will reduce its energy consumption by at least 40 per cent.

The University is also building Singapore’s first high-rise buildings where whole rooms complete with internal fixtures are built at the factory and then put together on-site. This saves up to 40 per cent in manpower and 20 per cent in construction time.

“NTU is well-known for sustainability research but we also put it in practice by designing our lush, green campus based on sustainability principles,” said Associate Professor Kwok Kian Woon, Associate Provost for Student Life.

These two new facilities are designed with sustainable features, in line with NTU’s emphasis on sustainability

▼ The first of its kind in the region, NTU’s new sports hall is built using a sustainable wood construction method and comes packed with plenty of eco features.

research and ambition to achieve a 35 per cent reduction in energy, water and waste by 2020 under its EcoCampus initiative.

To be ready in 2016, the new sports hall and residential buildings have already clinched the Green Mark Platinum – the highest award for sustainable building design in Singapore awarded by the Building Construction Authority (BCA).

Inspired by nature

Apart from sustainable features such as energy-saving LED lighting and solar powered systems, the sports hall and residential building are designed to take advantage of their natural surroundings. Using computer modelling of the sun and wind patterns on-site, the buildings’ designers aim to harness natural winds so students will enjoy good ventilation with average wind speeds calculated at about 0.5 metres per second.



▲ NTU’s new North Hill residential hall is Singapore’s first “lego-style” public high-rise building, which will be a one-stop hub with eateries, shops, rooftop BBQ pits, including the campus’ largest gym.

To reduce the need for air-conditioning, all rooms in the residential hall will have windows that reflect heat using a special coating, and louvres that shield any direct sunlight.

The sports hall will also have a similar feature, with two-layer walls designed for heat insulation on hot days. The walls will have special metal coils with cold water flowing through them. This cools the wind that enters the hall and removes hot air quickly through convection. These eco features will save over 40 per cent energy and 30 per cent in water consumption.

Championing sustainable construction

Breaking new grounds in sustainable construction methods, the new residential hall and sports halls will soon become NTU’s new icons in sustainability.

Using an innovative wood construction method, the sports hall will have a continuous wave-like timber roof arching over 70 metres long. Not only does it provide five times better heat insulation, it also saves up to 40 per cent in labour costs.

Similarly, the prefabrication method used in the North Hill residential buildings, which is Singapore’s first “Lego-style” public high-rise buildings, saves up to 40 per cent in manpower and 20 per cent in construction time. Whole rooms units complete with internal fixtures will be produced off-site, which ensures consistency in workmanship and better overall construction quality.

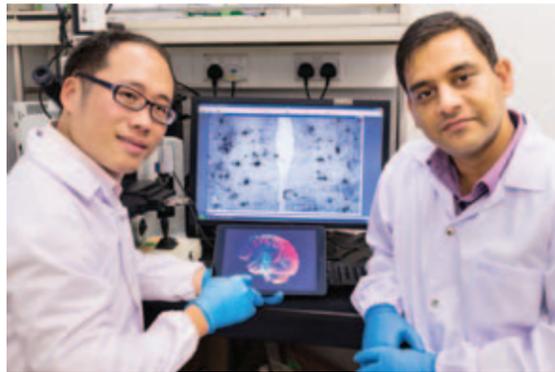


AT A GLANCE...

	SPORTS HALL	NORTH HILL RESIDENTIAL HALL
SIZE	Over 9,800m ²	Six blocks
FLOORS	3 storeys	13 storey public high rise building which includes 3 storeys of common facilities such as study areas, sky lounges and gyms.
CAPACITY AND FEATURES	Over 900 mechanised retractable seating; 13 badminton courts or three volleyball / netball / basketball courts; outdoor carpark	Accommodates over 1,850 students; common study areas and lounges; sky lounges; 580m ² gymnasium (largest in NTU); one multi-purpose hall; reading rooms; Music / dance rooms; rooftop BBQ terraces; F&B outlets; retail shops
ECO FEATURES	Motion sensor LED system; passive induction cooling system using chilled water; “Green cement” (reused industrial by-products such as ash, silica and slag)	Some 480 solar-powered energy system which powers common area lighting and hot water dispensers; motion sensor LED system; dual refuse system for recycling; “Low-E” glazed windows (special coating that reflects heat and UV rays); louvres for ventilation; “Green cement”



Discoveries @ NTU



▲ Scientists Asst Prof Ajai Vyas (right) and Dr Lim Lee Wei discover a new treatment for dementia by growing brain cells through deep brain stimulation.

Pushing new frontiers in dementia research, NTU scientists have found a new way to treat dementia by sending electrical impulses to specific areas of the brain to enhance the growth of new brain cells.

Known as deep brain stimulation, it is a therapeutic procedure that is already used in some parts of the world to treat various neurological conditions such as tremors or Dystonia, which is characterised by involuntary muscle contractions and spasms.

NTU SCIENTISTS DISCOVER NEW REMEDY FOR DEMENTIA

NTU scientists have discovered that deep brain stimulation could also be used to enhance the growth of brain cells which mitigates the harmful effects of dementia-related conditions and improves short and long-term memory.

Their research has shown that new brain cells, or neurons, can be formed by stimulating the front part of the brain which is involved in memory retention using minute amounts of electricity. The increase in brain cells reduces anxiety and depression, and promotes improved learning, and boosts overall memory formation and retention.

Assistant Professor Ajai Vyas from NTU's School of Biological Sciences said that the findings clearly showed the potential of enhancing the

growth of brain cells using deep brain stimulation.

"Around 60 per cent of patients do not respond to regular anti-depressant treatments and our research opens new doors for more effective treatment options," he added. Dr Lim Lee Wei, an associate professor at Sunway University, Malaysia, who worked on the research project while he was a Lee Kuan Yew Research Fellow at NTU, said that deep brain stimulation brings multiple benefits.

The research findings open new opportunities for developing novel treatment solutions for patients suffering from memory loss due to dementia-related conditions such as Alzheimer's and even Parkinson's disease.

ADVANCED TREATMENT OPTIONS FOR COLON CANCER FOUND

Scientists from NTU and Sweden's Karolinska Institutet, one of Europe's largest and most prestigious medical universities, have discovered that an existing chemotherapy drug used to treat leukaemia could prevent and control the growth of colorectal tumours.

Colorectal cancer commonly referred to as colon cancer is one of the three most common cancers worldwide and the most common in Singapore. Almost 95 per cent of colorectal cancers are from malignant tumours.

The research team found that Imatinib, an enzyme blocker widely used to treat leukaemia, works by blocking a signalling pathway related to a group of cell receptors called EphB. This means that when used to treat mice with colon tumours, it was able to halve the growth of tumours in the intestines.

The finding is also significant as currently there is no drug available to prevent the recurrence of tumours in the intestine after the cancerous tumours have been removed by surgery.

One of the two principal investigators in the team of 13 international scientists was Professor Sven Pettersson, Professor of Metabolic Disease at NTU's Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine and senior principal investigator with the National Cancer Centre Singapore.

Dr Parag Kundu, a senior research fellow with Prof Pettersson's lab and the first author of the study, said that

in their tests, Imatinib was able to block tumour initiation at the stem cell level by half and significantly reduced tumour growth and proliferation. The same effects were also shown when Imatinib was tested on colon tumour tissues taken from human patients.

Colon cancer usually develops first as benign tumours, which when left untreated turn aggressive, and may spread to other parts of the body. The main treatment in the early stages of colon cancer is through resection, where the affected section of the intestine is removed through surgery.

The scientists said these findings also suggest that short term intermittent chemotherapies could be possible as a treatment model, as this would substantially reduce the side effects known to occur when Imatinib is given for longer periods.

Professor Jonas Frisén, Professor of Stem Cell Research at Karolinska Institutet, who co-supervised the study, added that the study provided experimental evidence that Imatinib



▲ NTU scientist Prof Sven Pettersson, who co-lead an international biomedical study that found new treatment options for colon cancer.

treatment did not interfere with the tumour suppressor function of EphB receptors. This is beneficial as EphB receptors also function to keep the tumour intact, which prevents cancerous cells from spreading to surrounding tissue should the tumour break apart.

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Bringing glory to Singapore!

NTU alumni, students and staff do the country and NTU proud, winning medals at the recent SEA Games 2015. We speak to our Gold medal-winning alumni participants.

SAILING

MS JOVINA CHOO BEI FEN (SSM/2013)

**Female Fleet Racing Keelboat – GOLD;
Female Match Racing Keelboat – GOLD**

MS GRISELDA KHNG (SSM/2014)

Female Skiff 49erFX – GOLD



▲ Ms Jovina Choo (far right) with her team mates, from left, Ms Terena Lam, Ms Dawn Liu, Ms Daniella Ng (NTU Yr 4 student). Photo credit: Howie/SingaporeSailing

Jovina: “I started sailing when I was 10 and joined the national team at 13. One of the main challenges in these Games was

obtaining financial support as the team decided to go into full-time training but we were unpaid athletes. Thankfully, there was some funding from Sport Singapore, SingaporeSailing and our sponsor, Goldbell Group. When the team was formed, we set ourselves the target of winning two gold medals. I was confident in fleet racing because we had been doing very well in training and overseas. Winning the first event gave me more confidence going into the second event.

“My role model is Roger Federer because of his passion for his sport and his unwavering self-belief.”

Griselda: “My dad introduced my siblings and me to sailing when we were in primary school. From there, I took up other sailing courses and as I got better at it, I enjoyed it more and have been hooked since then. I am on the SPEX scholarship programme now and so am able to train full time. Before the competition, I felt calm and confident as we had been working very hard. I felt very happy winning since my family and friends were there to support us, and being able to compete and win in front of them allowed

them to see me up close and understand that all the hard work we have put in has paid off.

“My role model is my coach, Fernando Alegre, as he gives me sound advice both on and off the water. I hope to be able to compete in the 2016 Olympic Games. Our qualifiers are at this year’s World Championship in Buenos Aires and we’re working very hard towards our goals.”



▲ Ms Griselda Khng (right) and team mate Ms Sara Tan celebrating their gold medal win. Photo credit: Sport Singapore

SHOOTING

MS TEO SHUN XIE (SBS/2011)

**Women’s 10m Air Pistol – GOLD;
Women’s 25m Pistol Team – SILVER;
Women’s 10m Air Pistol Team – BRONZE**

“I first started in this sport at my college’s CCA and found the sport rather challenging and interesting as it tests you mentally and

physically to be able to do shot after shot and repeat the motion over and over again. Initial challenge when preparing for these Games was juggling between work and training. To overcome this problem, I had quality training sessions instead of quantity.

“Before the competition, I did not have very high expectations, but just to approach the competition like any other, and improve my own records. I hope to be able to qualify for Olympics 2016.

“My biggest influencer and role model is my father.”

▲ Ms Teo Shun Xie (right) with team mates Ms Teh Xiu Hong (centre) and Ms Nicole Tan (left). Photo credit: MCCY



SQUASH

MR MARCUS PHUA JIA HUI (NBS/2012)

**Men’s Jumbo Doubles – GOLD;
Men’s Team – SILVER**

“I started the sport at the age of 10 when my father introduced the game to me. Since then, I grew to love the sport and have continued to play it ever since. Hence, I have continued to train hard and compete all these years. As a sportsman, you are bound to face criticisms. It was a huge distraction to me at the start but with the help of our team’s psychologists, we blocked out these unwanted noises and focused on preparing well for the SEA Games.

“I was eagerly looking forward to the competition and we were expected to get gold for the doubles and silver for the team event. Fortunately, we were able to meet our expectations despite strong

challenges from the other participants. It was amazing winning it especially after a 20-year hiatus. That moment when I was on the podium with the national anthem being played is something I will never forget.”

▼ Mr Marcus Phua (left) with team mate Mr Vivian Rhamanan. Photo credit: Sport Singapore



BOWLING

MS BERNICE LIM HUI YING (SSM/2015)

**Women’s Trios – GOLD;
Women’s Teams of Five – SILVER**

“I remember starting to bowl when I was 11 after which I was accepted into the Singapore Sports School. That was when I realised I could make a career out of this and pursue it competitively. One big challenge I faced leading up to the SEA Games was keeping up with school. It was tough but I’m thankful for the lecturers and tutors who helped me.

“Going into the competition I felt confident because we had been training really hard the past two months and we had home ground advantage. It was an amazing feeling winning the gold in the trios, especially since Singapore had not won the gold in this event for 20 years!

“My role model would be my dad. He works really hard to provide such strong support for the whole family and I look up to him for his resilience.”



▲ Mr Bernice Lim (right) with team mates Ms Cherie Tan (left) and Ms Shayna Ng (centre). Photo credit: MCCY



CANOEING

MS SUZANNE SEAH (SSM/2015)

**Women’s K2 500m – GOLD;
Women’s K2 200m – SILVER**

“I really looked up to a particular friend in secondary school, so when she joined canoeing in college, I just followed suit. My then coaches then encouraged me to go for the national trials. The only challenge when

▲ Ms Suzanne Seah (right) and Ms Stephanie Chen.

preparing for the SEA Games was that our race course took very long to set up, and we had to train without it for the longest time. My role model is my current coach, Balazs Babella.

“Next up is the Asian Canoeing Championship and I am hoping some of us will be able to qualify for the 2016 Olympics. Before any race, I listen to ‘Famous last words’ by the band My Chemical Romance on repeat!”



NETBALL

**MS ANG SHIQI (SCBE/2010) &
MS CHEN HUIFEN (NIE/2010)**

Women’s – GOLD

Shiqi: “My netball days started in secondary school where I was invited to join the school team. It was a childhood dream to represent Singapore so I worked my way up to the highest level. As we won the Asian Netball Championship in Singapore last year, there was immense pressure to bring home the SEA Games gold too. As I am working full-time, it was very challenging managing my job and training sessions but I am thankful for the support from my boss and coach. The moment of winning the gold at home was just pure joy!”

“The future plans for our team will be the upcoming World Netball Cup in Sydney this August. This is the highest level of competition for netball and we are very excited to compete amongst the best in the world.”

▲ Chen Huifen (2nd from left) and Ang Shiqi (6th from left) in the national netball team. Photo credit: Netball Singapore.

Huifen: “I have always loved sports and started in netball when I was in Primary Four. When preparing for the SEA Games, due to our work commitments it was sometimes difficult for to have enough sleep and getting massages. But we have to be disciplined to manage our time well. Thankfully I have supportive colleagues and my family support system was also very important.

“I was excitedly looking forward to the SEA Games as it was only the second time that netball was being featured. Many people had high hopes for us as we were crowned the Asian champions in 2014 but we were wary that the Malaysian team was a force to be reckoned with too.

“My sister, Tan Huiyan, a former national netball player has been giving me valuable advice and tips in perfecting my movements.”

FLOORBALL

(featured for the first time in the SEA Games)

MS FARIZA BEGUM MOHAMED ZABIR
(NIE/2014)

Women's – GOLD

MR BRANDON CHEONG ZHI XIAN
(NBS/2013) & **MR YEO KAIXIANG**
(NIE/2013)

Men's – GOLD

Fariza: "It was my secondary school teacher who brought me to a floorball club and encouraged me to join the women's team. I fell in love with goalkeeping as I love challenges and team sport. It was challenging juggling work commitments and busy training schedules and sometimes my mind and body would take a toll on me, but I am glad to have team mates who are always encouraging and showing concern."

"I felt excited playing in front of the home crowd during the SEA Games. Since, my team had started our preparation many months ago, I was very confident that we will not disappoint the crowd. The feeling of winning the final match was amazing and that too after such a close game! We could hear the crowd cheering for us from the start till the end, seeing my family supporting the team, the entire moment was just great! I was having goosebumps when we were receiving our medal."



Ms Fariza Begum,
star goalkeeper
of the national
floorball team.



▲ Mr Yeo Kaixiang (standing, 4th from right) and Mr Brandon Cheong (kneeling, front right) and their team mates with Deputy Prime Minister Mr Teo Chee Hean (standing, centre of last row). Photo credit: Sport Singapore

Brandon: "I started playing floorball in secondary school. Mr Shashi, my physical education teacher, who was also a national floorballer back then, was my inspiration to pursue floorball competitively. As I was the oldest in the national team for the SEA Games, I had to work doubly hard to fight for a place in the team."

"During the Games, we were looking forward to seeing how strong our opponents were. We were particularly interested in how the Thais would play as they had two Thai-Swedish players. The Swedes are the world champions. I felt really honoured to play our best game in front of our home supporters."

"Being the most senior member in the team, the younger players influence me to uphold myself as a role model. In future, I would like to move into coaching to grow the sport and make floorball the most popular sport in Singapore."

Kaixiang: "The Games were indeed a humbling experience, being able to do what I enjoy, and being supported all the way. I feel truly blessed to be a part of this Games, and thankful for the many opportunities provided by the institutions I have passed through. I am a teacher, and my employer has been very supportive of my sporting pursuits. Good time management and not procrastinating helped as well."

"My future floorball plans include helping my club team achieve the top placing in the upcoming Singapore Floorball League Division 1."

Congratulations to our other alumni sportsmen and sportswomen too!

- Mr Marcus Goh (EEE/2007) – Water polo GOLD
- Ms Victoria Chan Jing Hua (SSM/2015) – Sailing Two SILVERS
- Ms Dipna Lim Prasad (SSM/2014) – Athletics SILVER
- Mr Lee Cheng Wei (NIE/2014) – Athletics SILVER
- Mr Yang Gabriel (NIE/2013) – Judo SILVER
- Ms Eunice Fu (NBS/2012) – Water polo SILVER
- Ms Dinah Chan (NIE/2010) – Cycling BRONZE
- Ms Laura Tan (SSM/2013) – Hockey BRONZE
- Ms Nur Adawiyah (NIE/2011), Ms Jerryca Teo (NBS/2011) and Ms Joannah Yue (NIE/2012) – Squash BRONZE each
- Ms Pamela Choong (SSM/2014) and Mr How Wei Min (CEE/2013) – Traditional Boat Race BRONZE each

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▲ (From left) Alumni speakers and TCM physicians Ms Tjioe Yan Yin (SBS/2010), Ms Fung Foon Yin (SBS/2010) and Mr Brandon Yew (SBS/2011), share valuable knowledge and tips on the benefits of TCM's comprehensive and integrated care for wellness and treatment.

HEALTHY LIVING WITH *Traditional Chinese Medicine*

Participants at the 31st Distinguished Alumni Forum learn how TCM can help one achieve and maintain good health.

Staying healthy is of utmost importance to everyone and for that reason, many people have been turning to Traditional Chinese Medicine for good health.

At the 31st Distinguished Alumni Forum titled 'Towards healthy living', expert alumni speakers shared valuable knowledge and tips on the benefits of TCM's comprehensive and integrated care for wellness and treatment. Some 120 alumni, students and guests attended the forum which was organised by the NTU Alumni Affairs Office on 9 April at NTU's one-north campus.

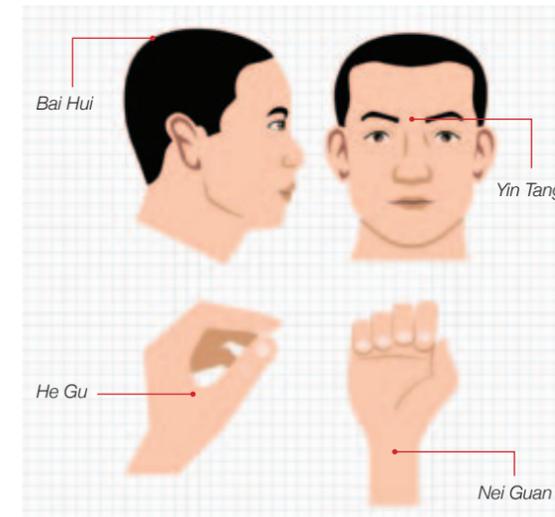
The first speaker for the evening, Ms Tjioe Yan Yin (SBS/2010), spoke about combatting stress with TCM. The Chinese Medicine physician at NTU's Chinese Medicine Clinic explained how *Qi* circulation can help in managing one's stress. In order to regulate *Qi* and blood circulation in one's body, Ms Tjioe emphasised the importance of exercise and consuming Chinese herbs such as rose buds, *chaihu*, Hawthorne berry and tangerine peel.

In addition to that, one may also undergo acupressure treatments which help to regulate *Qi* and blood circulation, relieve pain, and calm one's mind. She went on to demonstrate and point out the various acupressure points, such as *bai hui*, located at the centre of the top of the head, *yin tang* which is at the centre of one's eyebrows, *he gu*, which is a point on the front of the palm between the thumb and index finger, and also *nei guan* which is located on the wrist. She also highlighted how a person's mind-set can affect one's stress levels. Deep breathing and meditation exercises will also calm the mind and regulate the body's *Qi*.

Mr Brandon Yew (SBS/2011), the second forum speaker, delivered a presentation on the

prevention and management of spinal musculoskeletal pain, the TCM way. Currently working as a TCM physician and acupuncturist at the Complementary Integrative Medicine Clinic at Tan Tock Seng Hospital, Mr Yew gave a brief introduction on musculoskeletal disorder which refers to the strain or injury to joints, muscles, tendons and ligaments, resulting in aches and pains, stiffness, numbness, impaired function and mobility, or even disability.

He explained how an employee can prevent such injuries at the workplace by maintaining good posture and ergonomics, taking frequent breaks to stretch, exercising regularly and keeping warm. A person may also undergo acupressure to ease the pain.



Mr Yew also pointed out the various acupoints for ailments such as stiff neck (on the front of the hand, between the second and third finger, or lower back pain (two points on the centre front of the hand, between the second/third and fourth/fifth finger).

Traditional Medicine Resource Executive at the Singapore General Hospital's Department of Pharmacy, and the final speaker for the evening's forum, Ms Fung Foon Yin (SBS/2010), spoke about using TCM safely and rationally for healthy living. Throughout her presentation, Ms Fung continued to emphasise the importance of using TCM under a professional physician's advice and to never self-medicate. As no two bodies are the same, some TCM products work well for some people, while others may cause adverse effects.

Ms Fung went on to introduce the various Chinese herbal medicine and their different toxicity levels, and how some of them might cause adverse effects such as high blood pressure, respiratory paralysis and cardiac arrest if consumed wrongly. It is also important for a person to seek the correct Chinese medical treatment based on his/her ailments, as all herbs cannot be used safely for all illnesses. Ms Fung provided real-life case studies of people falling seriously ill after consuming illegal Chinese medicine not approved by Singapore's Health Sciences Authority.

In conclusion, she explained that TCM is more than just treatment using herbs and acupuncture. It is in fact, a comprehensive system of health maintenance and promotion which includes balance, prevention, holistic, and being in harmony with the environment.

The forum session ended with a question and answer session which allowed the participants to clarify with the speakers, any further doubts they might have had regarding TCM.

Drink for relieving stress

1 pot serving

Soak all the ingredients for 10 minutes in boiling water and then add rock sugar or honey to taste.



• Dried rose

6g



• Finger citron

10g



• Red dates

5g

Drink for soothing throat and eye dryness

1 pot serving

Soak all the ingredients for 10 minutes in boiling water and then add rock sugar or honey to taste.



• Wolfberry

5g



• Chrysanthemum

15g



• Ophiopogon tuber

5g

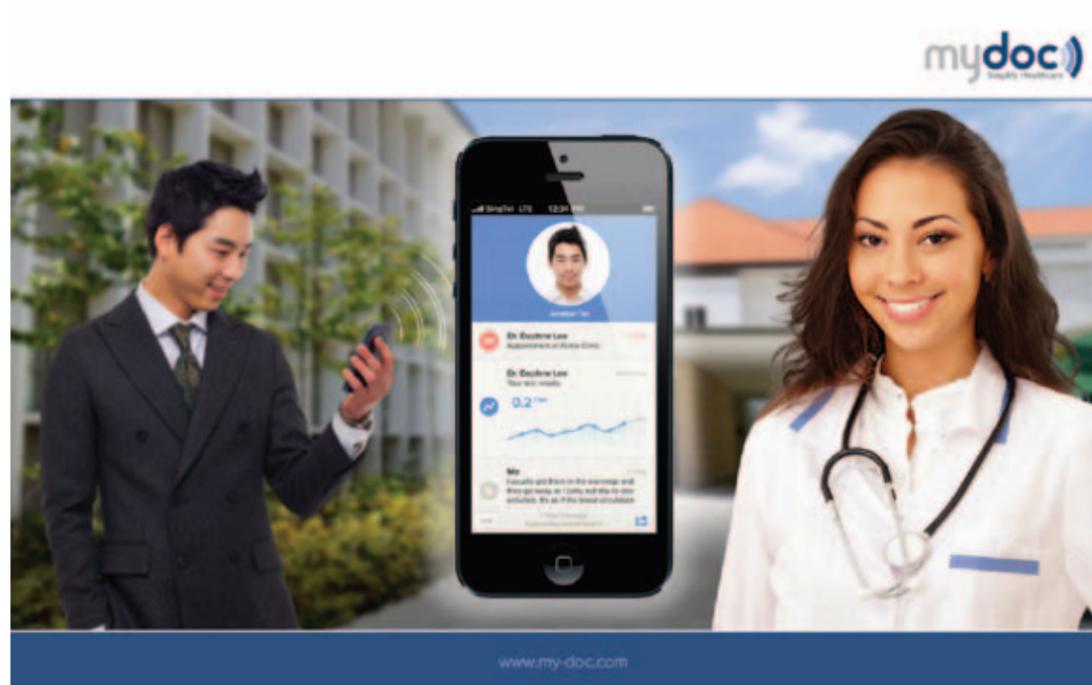
Assisting budding entrepreneurs

Alumni who are keen on embarking on an entrepreneurial journey can look towards NTUitive for guidance.



NTUitive Pte Ltd ("NTUitive" in short) is NTU's innovation and enterprise company. It manages the University's intellectual property, promote innovation, support entrepreneurship and facilitate the commercialisation of research.

As an established start-up incubator, NTUitive assists entrepreneurially inclined faculty, students and alumni take their technologies and ideas to market through new business creation. It provides start-ups with access to early-stage funding, market development, entrepreneurship education, networks, mentoring support and start-up facilities within the Innovation Centre at the University.



NTUitive is located at the Innovation Centre, the nexus of the Innovation and Enterprise ecosystem at NTU. It is a mix of work and social space to incubate and nurture start-ups; the place to be for like-minded individuals to work, network, share synergies and create alliances to enhance their value proposition.

MyDoc – An NTUitive start-up

Founded in 2012, MyDoc is a digital platform for healthcare communications and care management. It is one out of many examples of a successful start-up that has been nurtured by NTUitive.

At present, fragmented unsecure medical data and delayed communication remains an issue in patient care. Laboratory results often take weeks to be available. This results in unsatisfactory patient adherence and long-term engagement; a fact that leads to frustration, a waste of time, effort and resources.

MyDoc's solution is to provide medical providers and patients with a secure platform for virtual consultation by voice, video, text, peer-to-peer message with e-referrals, virtual appointment scheduling and personal health diaries with diagnostics and personal health device integration. MyDoc's physician co-founders have three decades of healthcare experience and relationships to develop a tool that is simple, powerful and effective. MyDoc empowers its medical provider clients to grow their practices by connecting with large enterprises interested in managing spiralling chronic disease costs, as well as with retail healthcare groups greatly aided by its virtual clinics. The service is currently available on the web, as well as on iOS and Android devices.

Dr Snehal Patel, Co-founder and Director of Corporate Strategy at MyDoc says: "NTUitive has been phenomenal in providing MyDoc with key contacts and stellar resources to strengthen various areas of the business, such as our marketplace positioning. An example of the help we received is the trip to the US that was organized and subsidized by NTUitive to meet with early stage investors and potential partners. The exposure really helped expand MyDoc in the marketplace."

He added, "All of these are possible thanks to the incredible team at NTUitive - MyDoc is blessed to be supported by an unparalleled group of professionals."



NTU alumnus Mr Phoon Ying Foong, Vice President of Engineering at MyDoc

NTU alumnus Phoon Ying Foong is the Vice President of Engineering at MyDoc. Ying Foong joined MyDoc in 2014 and, prior to that, was the co-founder of another start-up. The engineering graduate credited his family as the inspiration behind his interest to work in a start-up environment.

"I come from a family where all of my siblings are entrepreneurial; my sister is currently running her own business, and another one used to be a serial entrepreneur. I am very proud of both of them," Ying Foong says. He adds that the feeling of being in a big family and sharing the same goal is the

reason for him to want to work in a start-up.

"The leaders of the first start-up company inspired me, as I have never seen a person so devoted to a company, and that level of devotion excites me. So far, my three favorite aspects of working in a start-up environment are the 3Fs: family, freedom and fortune." Ying Foong explains.

As a final note, Ying Foong's three pieces of advice for students and alumni who want to become a part of a start-up company are: "Firstly, start-ups can kill you or make you stronger. Secondly, joining start-ups is like running a marathon: you are already one of the bravest persons, even if you're not in the lead. Finally, start-ups can be destructive or addictive, it's all up to you."

For more information on NTUitive and its complete suite of incubation services, please contact:

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16 Nanyang Drive, #01-109, Innovation Centre,
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◀ NTU alumni spend a leisurely Saturday morning with their family members exploring all that the S.E.A. Aquarium has to offer.

EXPLORING MARINE REALM

NTU alumni and their families embark on an intriguing journey learning about marine life during NTU Alumni Family Day at S.E.A. Aquarium.

The start of the June school holidays saw a turnout of 250 alumni and family members for the annual NTU Alumni Family Day 2015. This time, it was held at S.E.A. Aquarium, Resorts World Sentosa on 30 May 2015. Excitement filled the air, as many eagerly waited to explore the awe-inspiring world of ocean life at one of Sentosa's newest attractions.

Mr Kong Shin Seong (EEE/1997) came with his wife, his sister and his three children. "This is the first time all of us are visiting S.E.A. Aquarium. It is an event for the kids to enjoy and have fun," shared Mr Kong.



▲ For some of the participants, it was their first time at the attraction, where they were able to learn more about the diverse marine life.

The marine realm of S.E.A. Aquarium is home to more than 100,000 marine animals of over 800 species, across into 49 different habitats, each one as fascinating as the next.

"This is an excellent opportunity to spend time with my family. My parents and sister are here

together with me. I attended the NTU Fest last year, and this is my second NTU event after graduation," said Mr Chew Bing Rui (HSS/2013).

As the alumni participants and their families stepped into S.E.A. Aquarium, they were immersed into a magical marine world seen

through the world's largest viewing panel window, measuring 36m wide and 8.3m tall. The aquarium is home to majestic manta rays, enormous goliath grouper, napoleon wrasse, and other gentle giants of the sea.

The Shipwreck Habitat is the first tank that one explores upon entering. Whilst walking through the glass tunnel, one can observe a life-sized underwater shipwreck and a variety of fish and other sea creatures swimming around.

It was Ms Revathy Subramanian's (MAE/2013) first visit to the S.E.A. Aquarium. She heard about it being the biggest aquarium, and was enthusiastically looking forward to exploring it on a Saturday morning.

One of the most fascinating habitats in the aquarium was the sea jellies zone, a perennial favourite amongst adults and children alike. Energy is recharged with the electrifying pulsating dances of the translucent sea jelly species such as the trailing long-tentacled lion's mane sea jelly, the captivating neon blue sea jelly and the larger-than-life moon sea jelly.

Mr Tan Yew Heng (EEE/2013) and his wife were keen to spend time with their two children at the aquarium during the holidays. "In fact, my son came here three days ago for his school excursion. And he is still very excited at being here again!" said Mr Tan with a laugh.

The Open Ocean is the main attraction inside, where a diverse collection of marine life can be seen. This is home to gentle giants of the sea including the leopard

shark, goliath grouper, saw fish, and a squadron of magnificent manta rays. Adults and kids enjoyed sitting by the huge glass panel, watching the marine life swim by.

Many participants were in awe at The Shark Seas, the final attraction before exiting the aquarium,

where they came face-to-face with the various shark species and uncovered the centuries of myths about these ocean predators.

For NTU alumni and their families, the day proved to be an amazing and intriguing journey uncovering the marine realm of S.E.A. Aquarium.

▼ Participants experience the 360 degrees multimedia Typhoon Theatre where they 'board' a sailing ship and encounter a perilous storm.



▲ The Open Ocean attraction gave the participants an unforgettable experience as they watched through the panoramic marine vista, manta rays and other gentle and gigantic sea creatures swimming so closely by.



▲ At the Discovery Touch Pool, both children and adults enjoy an interactive experience with the attraction's Mariners as they share more about the sea star, sea urchin, sea cucumber and more.

For sportsmanship and camaraderie

Alumni gather on campus for an enjoyable morning of sports and games at the annual NTU Alumni Sports Fiesta.

► The hotly contested 4x100m relay run was won by team *Fast & Furious 2* which had its final runner, Mr Alex See Hongze (EEE/2008), breezing past the other teams.



▼ Dr Yap Kim Yew (Science/1961) (centre), with fellow alumni who returned to the NTU campus to participate in the tennis competition. Dr Yap, 77, a regular at every Sports Fiesta, was in fact the oldest participant.



Close to 240 alumni, graduate students and graduate programmes participants, together with their supporters, gathered bright and early on 20 June for the annual NTU Alumni Sports Fiesta organised by the NTU Alumni Affairs Office. Held at NTU's Sports and Recreation Centre, it is an event sports enthusiasts look forward to eagerly every year as it provides them with an opportunity to participate in friendly sports competitions and at the same time, network with fellow alumni who share similar interests.

Welcoming the participants, Mr Soon Min Yam, Director of Alumni Affairs, NTU, shared that the main objective of the event was to promote healthy lifestyle for all and to encourage alumni to return to campus for some networking over sports.

This year, participants took part in a 4x100m relay run, 3-on-3 basketball, badminton, table tennis and tennis. Once the Sports Fiesta was declared open by Mr Soon, the relay participants took up their positions in the hotly contested race. Whilst the race began smoothly, team *Fast & Furious 2* were the clear winners as they breezed past the other three teams to emerge champions.

Mr Alex See Hongze (EEE/2008), a member of the winning relay team, shared that the Sports Fiesta gives him the chance to meet his friends whom he stayed together with in the Hall of Residence Six

▼ Participants at this year's NTU Alumni Sports Fiesta all geared up and ready for an exciting morning!



during his student days. He also participated in the basketball competition and his team, *ZHPK2*, were the winners.

Ms Li Danwei (NBS/2012) participated in the Sports Fiesta for the first time. Teaming up with Ms Chin Su Lin (NBS/2013) for the tennis competition, she shared: "I've been playing tennis for about 5 years now and met Su Lin when we were both playing tennis together at NTU. Currently, we play social tennis regularly with a group of friends. Coincidentally, I'm also in the IRAS' tennis team and chanced upon another fellow NBS alumna who took part this year, who is also in her organisation's team! It was a good workout and great event to catch up with friends and fellow alumni."



◀ Some of the competitions lined up at the Sports Fiesta included 3-on-3 basketball, table tennis, badminton and tennis.



The men's doubles badminton team comprising Mr Charles Cheah (CEE/1997) and Mr Yap Wee Teck (MAE/1997) won the closely fought final match with a score of 21-18. "Wee Teck has been playing for three consecutive years and is a veteran in the sport. This was my second time playing as I participated two years ago. It is not all about winning the match, but rather, I come back to visit the campus. I thoroughly enjoyed myself," shared Mr Cheah.

No strangers to the tennis competition, Dr Yap Kim Yew (Science/1961) and Mr Alex Khoo (Commerce/1980), emerged champions once again for the above 45 years men's doubles. Dr Yap, 77, was in fact the oldest participant in the Sports Fiesta.

The event ended with a prize presentation ceremony and buffet lunch where many alumni participants were seen chatting with each other.

Celebrating GLOBAL DIVERSITY

NTU alumni experience a colourful blend of cultures at the NTU International Alumni Dinner 2015.

This year's NTU International Alumni Dinner returned with a sumptuous eight-course banquet at Yunnan Garden Restaurant at NTU's one-north campus on 1 April with a programme packed with cultural performances and stage games to delight the 120-strong crowd comprising alumni, faculty, staff and student performers.

Amongst over 190,000 alumni, more than 20 per cent hail from outside the little red dot – in 146 different dots on the map, to be precise. Some of them attending the dinner came in beautiful traditional costumes such as Indonesian *batik* shirts, Indian *saris* and Burmese *longyis*, showcasing their countries' colourful customs.

The evening began with an impeccably observed minute of silence for the late Mr Lee Kuan

Yew, whose contribution to the development of NTU's modern campus was recognised by all in attendance.

Guest-of-Honour for the evening, Professor Er Meng Hwa, NTU's Vice-President for International Affairs, began the evening's festivities by speaking about the growing regard the University enjoyed internationally.

He highlighted NTU's remarkable accomplishments in international university rankings and provided updates on the University's other developments.

Throughout dinner, cultural diversity was on full display with performances from a variety of student groups reflecting the best of the region and beyond, with Malaysia, Vietnam and China among the many countries represented by the performers.



▲ NTU alumni have the opportunity to network and forge new friendships at the dinner event.

▼ The attendees participated enthusiastically in the stage games which triggered rapturous laughter and applause from the audience.



▲ The Best Dressed Award winner, Mia Md Zakir Hossain, receiving his prize from Prof Er Meng Hwa, NTU's Vice-President for International Affairs.

► Some attendees came for dinner decked out in their traditional costumes such as intricately designed batik shirts (top photo), and some ladies in resplendent Punjabi suits (bottom photo).

Students from Pelajar Indonesia NTU (PINTU), an Indonesian student club, donned traditional *batik* shirts as they performed two beautiful songs to a rapt audience, connected by their shared memories of their time at the University.

The first, *Manuk Dadali*, a folk song which remains popular in West Java today, spoke about the flight of the mythical Garuda bird. The next song, *Love of a Lifetime*, was an original composition by third-year EEE student Jason Limanjaya, 22, which had been first performed in a student musical in end 2014.

One of the standout acts was a swashbuckling martial arts show, *Hidden Dragons*, put on by Malaysian undergraduates. Second-year EEE student, Lee Hong Ze, was part of a trio that punched, kicked and even pulled off an incredible sequence with homemade nunchucks reminiscent of Bruce Lee.

The 22-year-old said, "We are all performing to represent our club and country today, but one day we will all be alumni of NTU, so we are looking forward to attending alumni events like these."

Whilst the performances received the loudest cheers of the evening, some in attendance spent the evening reminiscing about their time in NTU.

Colleagues and fellow alumni Mr Chee Tuck Keong and Mr Gordon Chan, both financial services consultants with AIA, only found out when they met at their workplace that they had graduated a year apart from NTU's School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), with Mr Chan one year ahead in 2012.

Mr Chee, a Singaporean, said that he still meets up regularly with the friends he met while staying in hall in NTU, and gets tips on various

customs and traditions he should observe during business trips to neighbouring countries.

Another highlight of the evening was the Best Dressed competition. 36-year-old Bangladeshi alumnus Mia Md Zakir Hossain clinched the Best Dressed award in a clay-toned *kurta*, when the audience applauded loudest for the former ship captain, who is completing a two-year Masters in Maritime Studies programme at NTU's School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE).

The evening ended with a lucky draw, with winners walking away with some very attractive prizes.



Celebrating an extraordinary anniversary



▲ The performance 'Return to the paternal home' (回娘家), was conducted by Prof Chia Wei Khuan (Arts/1973).

Nanyang University was founded in 1955 and this year, 2015, marks the 60th anniversary of its founding. As part of this significant milestone, the Association of Nanyang University Graduates (ANUG) organised a series of events which included a concert, golf tournament and gala dinner.

Songs of Yunnan Garden

During the concert held on 8 May at Victoria Concert Hall, numerous captivating musical performances were put up by the Nanyang University Alumni Choir and other well-known alumni singers.

It began with three songs performed by the choir. *Dark Mist* (黑雾) showcased male and female voices complimenting each other beautifully; *Fly Fly Fly* (飞飞飞) had a very uplifting melody, expressing freedom and happiness; and *Descendants of the Dragon*

(龙的传人) aptly portrayed the song title with grand magnificent music.

There were also a number of duet and quartet performances featuring alumni couples. Some of the highlights of the concert included a male group's *Live to be a Hundred* (活到一百岁), a delightful performance full of energy, enthusiasm and humour. The folk song *Return to the Parental Home* (回娘家), presented by a female group, told the story of a wife returning to her paternal home. Acclaimed singer, Mr Tan Ngian Hong (Arts/1971), also performed at the concert in his rich baritone voice.

The concert was conducted by Ms Lin Li Ying, Professor Koh Khee Meng (Science/1968) and Associate Professor Chia Wei Khuan (Arts/1973).

Celebratory golf tournament

Some 132 alumni and guests gathered at Jurong Country Club on 29 May to participate in the golf tournament which was generously sponsored by eight alumni.

The clear and sunny day was perfect for the participants to spend out on the golf course. During the game, they encouraged and cheered each other whilst trying their best to perfect their individual swings.

Mr Lee Bon Kwe (Science/1976), Chairman of the Nanyang University 60th Anniversary Golf Tournament Organising Committee, thanked the sponsors, alumni and guests for their generous contribution and enthusiastic participation. He also hopes for more alumni to gather and play golf at next year's Nanyang University Global Alumni Reunion to be held in Bali, Indonesia.

Grand gala dinner

The 60th anniversary celebrations concluded with a gala dinner on 6 June attended by over 1000 alumni and guests at the Raffles City Convention Centre.

All alumni and guests were given a commemorative anniversary publication which contained precious archived articles mentioning important milestones in Nanyang University's history.

"Let us continue the hard work of our social elites and intellectuals from the previous generation, and stand together to shoulder the great social responsibility of making our motherland strong and prosperous. Let us promote our mother tongue and culture, and play a role in building a harmonious society where people share the same future regardless of ethnicity," wrote Mr Ong Chu Meng in the publication, of which he was the Editor-in-Chief. He graduated from the Arts faculty of the University's pioneer batch in 1959.

In his speech, Mr Chia Ban Seng (Science/1960), President of ANUG, said: "Graduates of our Nanyang University are living in almost every part of the world. Not only have they brought great honour and reputation to our alma mater, they have also contributed immensely to the countries and regions of which they are currently residents of. All of you, as our alumni, have made various contributions and achievements in extraordinary ways to the respective areas in your own communities."

▼ Participants gather for a scenic group photograph to mark the special occasion before teeing off at the golf course.



▲ ANUG President Mr Chia Ban Seng (centre) chatting with fellow alumni and guests at the gala dinner.

UNLEASH YOUR SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM

About the NTU WSCAA

The NTU Welfare Services Club Alumni Association (WSCAA) serves as a platform for NTU alumni to continue their enthusiasm and interest in volunteering. It strives to encourage volunteerism and promote corporate social responsibility through a variety of awareness programmes. Through volunteering, friendships and strong bonds can be forged which is also another main objective that WSCAA hopes to achieve.

WSCAA aims to maintain the relationship the NTU student club, WSC, had previously cultivated in all their members, and to build stronger ties than before. WSCAA and WSC work together to undertake projects which not only benefit the beneficiaries, but also inject meaning to the volunteers' experiences. "The professional network and knowledge our alumni have can help the student volunteers with their project planning," said Mr Christopher Sia, President of WSCAA.

The key event that WSCAA is collaborating with the student volunteers is the upcoming WSC Annual Appreciation Dinner 2015, organised in conjunction with WSC's 30th anniversary.

WSCAA welcomes all NTU alumni who have the passion and motivation to volunteer. Do visit the WSCAA's Facebook page to keep in touch with them and fire off your spirit of volunteering!

Project Aspirar

Started in 2013, Project Aspirar is a collaboration between WSCAA and the Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC). The objective of the programme is to widen the horizons of the Upper Secondary students under the CDAC's various student programmes, by introducing the

Alumni and guests also viewed a short video montage titled *Campus Life*, which comprised old photos of the former Nanyang University campus. Mr Lim Boon Kiat (Arts/1978) who attended the dinner with his wife, Ms Chia Swee Hong (Arts/1979), shared: "I met my wife on the third storey of the library. We always studied together and we have been together ever since".

He added: "As we meet our old friends tonight, we reminisce our shared fond memories of those golden days. There used to be a vegetable farm outside our campus then and we often used to

go there whenever we organised off-campus activities such as treks."

Alumni and guests were treated to a number of entertaining performances throughout dinner. This included a remarkable performance by the Chung Cheng High School (Yishun) Festival Drums Group which marked the start of the event, as well as musical performances by the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts' Chinese Orchestra, and the Nanyang University Alumni Choir. The attendees joined in enthusiastically, singing campus songs from the days of Nanyang University.

various career opportunities that are available. The students were provided with the opportunity to interact with the professionals from different industries, which allowed them to gain a better understanding of the jobs' nature. Over the years, more than 200 students have been involved, and all the speakers who interacted with the students were NTU alumni. Since the launch of this project, WSCAA has been receiving positive feedback from the students which encourages the organising team to constantly strive for improvement, making each Project Aspirar a refreshing experience for all.

CDAC New Partner Award

In 2014, the executive committee of WSCAA supported the event "Ready for Poly", which is an information sharing session for students who have just entered polytechnics. CDAC invited the President of WSCAA, Mr Christopher Sia to be the panel

moderator, together with speakers from WSC and NTU alumni who graduated from polytechnics, to share their experiences with the prospective freshmen.

WSCAA was presented with CDAC's New Partner Award for its significant efforts in organising 'Project Aspirar' and 'Ready for Poly'.

CDAC shared: "Project Aspirar has given students the much needed exposure to the various industries as they gain awareness of career opportunities through interaction with professionals from all walks of life. The past two years of collaboration with WSCAA has been a wonderful experience for CDAC. Members of WSCAA have always been supportive and we look forward to many more years of collaboration with them to reach out and engage our beneficiaries in meaningful ways."

▼ Project Aspirar provides an opportunity for upper secondary students to interact with professionals from various industries.



Embarking on a new journey



▲ CEE graduating students give a toast to future success and everlasting friendship at their School's graduation dinner

It was an evening of much fun and laughter as graduating students from the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) attended their graduation dinner on 14 May. Themed 'Sail the CEE', the event at Orchard Hotel was attended by some 130 graduating students and guests.

The event was specially organised to celebrate the CEE Class of 2015's graduation, and to signify the start of their new journey into the corporate world.

In her speech, Chair of CEE Professor Wang Rong congratulated all the graduating students on their achievements and hoped that they will continue to cherish the bonds they have created, and also review the challenges they faced. She encouraged them to never stop learning, as learning is a life-long process.

CEE's Associate Chair for Research, Professor Tan Kang Hai took to the stage to thank all the industrial partners who have supported the School. He introduced some of them who were at the dinner, which also included some NTU alumni.

After the completion of all the formalities, it was time for the students to let their hair down! Throughout the evening, everyone enjoyed a sumptuous dinner, student performances, stage games and a lucky draw.

As the event concluded, there were confident smiles on the graduates' faces, as they prepared to embark on their next chapter.

Rejoicing the memories

The School of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE)'s graduation night was an intimate affair, filled with laughter, good food and beautiful pictures. Held on 25 May, at Hotel Jen, the dinner was attended by some 120 graduating students and staff. Many came dressed to the nines, fitting the theme 'The Great Gatsby'.

MSE Chair Professor Subbu S Venkatraman graced the joyous occasion and made a heartfelt speech to the new alumni. Throughout the night, there were many inspiring speeches by the School's professors and faculty members. Some of them who could not attend the event sent in their video clips of good wishes.

The dinner event commenced with an energetic salsa performance by an MSE student, followed



▲ MSE alumni dressed to the nines, fitting the theme 'The Great Gatsby'.

by a song performance. However, the party really got going when the emcees started the stage games. Everyone was a good sport, including the professors, participating enthusiastically in the games. There was even a unique 'MSE confessions hotline' and a lucky draw segment which added to the fun.

It was a bittersweet moment when the event came to an end, as friends bid farewell but promised to meet up again soon.

Networking over breakfast in Hong Kong

On 20 July 2015, the 'NBS Dean's Breakfast in Hong Kong' event was held at *Le Salon De The de Joel Robuchon* at the International Finance Centre (IFC) Mall in Hong Kong. 33 NTU alumni attended, including six committee members from the NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Hong Kong SAR).

The event started out with an informal networking session between alumni and Nanyang Business School (NBS) Dean Prof Ravi Kumar, who had specially initiated this get-together to stay connected.

Prof Ravi Kumar highlighted an ongoing project for a new Customer Relationship Management (CRM) system that will better manage relationships and communication between NTU and alumni. Prof Kumar also



▲ NBS Dean Prof Ravi Kumar updating alumni on NTU's and NBS' progress.

told alumni looking for proper career guidance about the NBS Career Services Team which is committed to helping both undergraduate and graduate alumni define their career goals.

Being part of a large NBS alumni family that numbers over 39,000 members located across the globe, Prof Ravi Kumar encouraged alumni to stay connected and support NBS and NTU. They could consider offering internships or job opportunities to NBS students and alumni, or be involved in knowledge sharing sessions with the student and alumni communities.

"We are supportive of the efforts of NBS Alumni Affairs in achieving its objective of establishing closer relationships with NBS alumni and the school," said Mr Liew Han-Young, President of NTU AA (Hong Kong SAR).

Mr Ray Lee Ching Wei (NBS/2012) added: "The event provided a very useful networking platform for us to meet fellow NBS alumni and at the same time, hear from Prof Ravi Kumar on the University's progress."

Alumni association gatherings in China



▲ Alumni from NTU AA (Shaanxi) presenting gifts to Xi'an Special School students.

NTU Alumni Association (Shaanxi)

It was a special day for students at Xi'an Special School for speech and visually impaired children as alumni from NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Shaanxi) organised a meaningful charitable event on 28 May.

The heavy thunderstorm did not deter the alumni from visiting the school where they met the students and presented them with gifts. During the ceremony, Vice-President of NTU AA (Shaanxi), Mr Qian Qinyang (NBS/1999) presented a piano, footballs and various stationery items to the school. Ten needy students also received a special grant each from the AA.

Mr Xu Tie Wei, an official from the school, thanked the alumni for their support and generosity and highlighted how this event would motivate the students. This was followed by the students expressing their gratitude through their heartwarming performances.

After the ceremony, alumni witnessed a training session for the school's football team comprising visually impaired children. They also attended the students' sculpture making, cotton wool painting and baking classes where a student presented a beautiful cotton wool painting artwork as a gift to the AA.

NTU Alumni Association (Anhui)

Organised by NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Anhui) and supported by NTU AA (Beijing), the annual gathering was held from 13 to 14 June. The Presidents and key officials from 20 NTU AAs in China also attended this gathering.

A forum, titled 'Investment and development in Hefei city' was held on 13 June. Hosted by the President of NTU AA (Anhui), Mr Yue Chuanjing (NBS/2007), it was attended by some 80 alumni and guests. Ms Wang Yingli (NBS/2005), General Manager of Shandong International Trust Corporation, spoke about 'Managing and bequeathing private wealth' and Mr Qi Jianguo, former Chinese ambassador to Vietnam, shared

his views on the topic 'One belt, one road, commercial investment opportunities in ASEAN.'

The dinner held after the forum was attended by NTU's Vice-President for International Affairs Professor Er Meng Hwa, Director of NTU Alumni Affairs Mr Soon Min Yam, Mr Qi Jianguo, government officials from Anhui province and some 130 alumni and guests. Prof Er provided an update on NTU's latest developments and videos showcasing successful companies founded by NTU alumni in China were also screened.



▲ NTU alumni from Anhui province and other parts of China make a trip to Mount Jiuhua and visit Qiyansi Temple.

On 14 June, the alumni made a trip to Mount Jiuhua, visited Qiyansi Temple and experienced a 90-minute meditation session. They also attended a talk on 'The I Ching and Buddhism' by a Buddhist master.

NTU Alumni Association (Yunnan)

The annual gathering organised by NTU Alumni Association (Yunnan) on 14 June included an investment-cum-communication event which was attended by about a hundred alumni from Yunnan, Beijing, Zhejiang and Hebei provinces as well as from Hong Kong (SAR).



▲ (Front row) President of NTU AA (Yunnan) Mr Pu Le (7th from left), NTU Vice-President (International Affairs) Prof Er Meng Hwa (7th from right), NTU AA (Yunnan) Secretary-General Mr Cai Qing (6th from right); President of NTU AA (Hong Kong SAR) Mr Liew Han Young (5th from right), Director of NTU Alumni Affairs Mr Soon Min Yam (4th from right) with alumni and guests in Kunming city for the annual gathering.

NTU's Vice-President for International Affairs Professor Er Meng Hwa and Director of NTU Alumni Affairs Mr Soon Min Yam were also present.

Special guest at the event, Professor Liu Yunhua from Renmin University of China, delivered a talk on 'The challenge and outlook of the Chinese economy'. Mr Yang Wen (NBS/2003), Vice-President of NTU AA (Yunnan), who was representing the Survey Office in Yunnan under the National Bureau of Statistics of China, spoke on 'Development strategies of Yunnan province'.

Mr Wang Minzheng (NBS/2004), Honorary President of NTU AA (Yunnan) and Director of the Administrative Committee for Kunming High-Tech Zone, and his colleagues, provided an introduction on the development and progress of the Kunming National Hi-Tech Industries Development Zone.

During dinner, Prof Er updated alumni on NTU's recent developments and thanked them for their continuous support. He also hoped to see the strengthening of NTU alumni's ties with their alma mater through the Yunnan AA.

President of NTU AA (Yunnan) Mr Pu Le (NBS/2004) and the AA's Secretary-General Mr Cai Qing (NBS/2006), gave an update on the AA's events such as the charity project in the community of Yi Duo Yun in Guandu District of Yunnan where alumni sponsored the construction of water storage facilities to combat the local draught problem. Mr Liew Han Young (CEE/1995), President of NTU AA (Hong Kong SAR), also shared with the participants their exciting activities.



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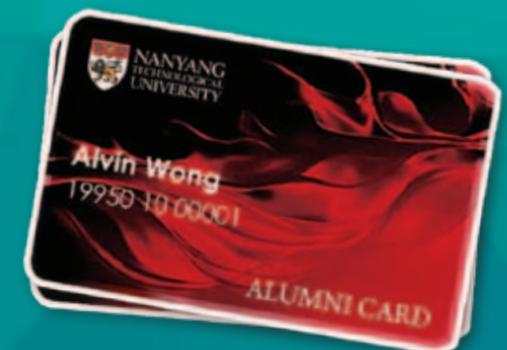
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MR GAVIN TAN WEE PING (MSE/2007)

After my graduation, I started working in Accenture and stayed there for seven years. Recently however, I made a career switch to MasterCard as a Product Leader. My seven year career may be short in the grand scheme of things, but it has definitely given me a

lifetime of experiences. In my role, I familiarised myself with a myriad of different functions within a company and was also involved in mergers and acquisitions integrations, systems delivery, IT strategy and management consulting – all of which enriched my experience greatly as a young executive.

Of all my NTU experiences, my final year project (FYP) experience played a big part in shaping who I am today. During my third year, one of my final year seniors shared about his fulfilling FYP experience with Associate Professor Wong Chee Cheong. I decided to approach him to be my FYP mentor in my final year. Professor Wong was a special mentor to me because he focused a lot on collaboration and invested his time and money to organise monthly symposiums where his undergraduate and post graduates would get together to discuss the findings and progress made in their respective projects.

During these sessions, many ideas were exchanged and at times there were intense discussions. A novice at public speaking and more comfortable behind the computer screen (yes, I am a geek at heart), I started off in the symposiums as a shy, nervous and passive

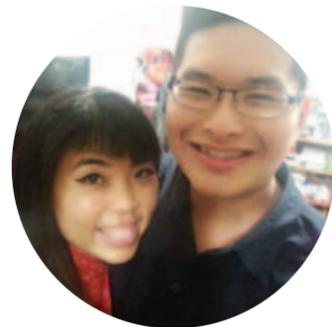
person. But each time I was ‘forced’ to put myself out there and speak to a big group of people. Finally during my last presentation, I realised I had grown to become a more confident person. I am glad I did well for my FYP. The FYP journey has really stayed with me even throughout my working life. It sharpened my analytical and communication skills, strengths which are so important in the real world today.

I have fond memories of my younger days around the time I was 14-years-old, when my elder brother and I painstakingly saved up a few hundred dollars to buy computer parts to assemble our own computer. It was 1996, and internet gaming was in its infancy stage. My friends and I started off with entering DOTA gaming competitions held at neighbourhood LAN shops, and we have never looked back ever since. During our final year in NTU, despite being laden with projects, we decided to take things one big step ahead by entering NTU's World Cyber Games qualifiers. We emerged the champions amongst 20 teams and entered the Nationals as representatives of NTU. Alas, we were eliminated in the round 16, but still, it was the highlight of my geekdom.

“I am currently a Literature and English teacher at a secondary school. I have lost count of the number of times I have shared little anecdotes and lessons from my classes at NTU with my students. My time at NTU has really helped me become a better Literature teacher.”

Mindy shares: “I am now a Librarian with the National Library Board, where I work with Primary and Secondary schools to conduct outreach programmes to inculcate a love for reading and learning in our students. When I was growing up, I used to keep to myself and stay within my comfort zone. However in NTU, after attending the Union Orientation Camp, I really came out of my shell and made many new friends that I would have never met otherwise! I continued to serve in committees for the camp, and really benefited from the dynamic experience of meeting new people.

“I loved that my experience in NTU was not merely an academic one, but one where you are encouraged to take on active roles in serving the school and managing projects. This really played a big part in helping me cope with work life, as my current job requires me to network, communicate and effectively manage projects. Being in NTU gave me a well-rounded education not only in books and examinations, but in interacting socially and professionally too.”



MS TAN MINLI MINDY (HSS/2010) & MR KWA YIEW KHOON BRENNAN (HSS/2010)

Brennan shares: “Academically I've always been plodding along in school (especially in Secondary School and to a lesser extent in Polytechnic). It was only when I started studying in NTU that I truly discovered the love for learning. The best thing about NTU was the vibrant culture of learning and sharing that we were able to experience in our tutorials and seminars. Personally, we were able to make lasting friendships that even till today we are still maintaining (in fact, two of the groomsmen at our upcoming wedding are our course mates from the English department at HSS).

“Our professors always exhibited a tremendous amount of dedication and love for learning and more especially for Literature. It is from their ideas and discussions that we were able to grow and inculcate our own values and philosophies as students of Literature and as working adults in Singapore. Those classroom lessons really gave us the cultural capital to develop a more globalised understanding of the world and our place in the workforce. “What I valued most from my education

at NTU was the ability to push boundaries and to be limited only by my own ambitions and decisions. No matter how zany or wild my ideas and theories could be, the culture of intellectual respect that was so readily apparent in our professors always ensured that those crazy theories would be discussed and acknowledged. True, sometimes those ideas were proven to be flawed, but the fact that they would be discussed seriously at all, really gave me the confidence to grow, both intellectually and holistically.

“Of course, on a more personal note, NTU was also the place where Mindy and I first started our relationship which is now culminating to our wedding at the end of the year. So not only did NTU give me a sterling education, it also allowed me to meet the love of my life.



MS JESSIE TAY (NBS/2014)

NTU provided me with many opportunities to step out of my comfort zone and experience something different. A walk down memory lane reminds me of my stay in Hall 2, my exchange experience in Switzerland and the friendships I have forged in university. As the saying goes, “The world is a book and those who do not travel read only one page.” I am thankful that NTU had given me the chance to explore other countries through the exchange programme. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience where I learnt about the local culture, attempted to pick up a new language and discovered more about the education in Europe.

Over the course of three years, I made many friends whom we still keep in contact even after graduation. Our most frequent hangout in NTU was the reading room located in the NBS building. For my friends and I, the popular haunt was a study corner, project venue, meeting point and at times, a dining place.

I feel that the education at NTU has prepared me well for the corporate world. The discovery-based education in NBS has exposed me to a wide range of real-life cases. Applying technical knowledge to handle issues in the business world is a valuable skill that NTU has imparted to me. The assignments often relate accounting standards to practical concerns in terms of interpretation and implementation.

I am currently working in KPMG as an Associate in the Advisory department, focusing on regulatory and compliance for financial institutions. It is a challenging but fulfilling job which allows me to learn more about MAS regulations and the regulatory climate in the financial sector.

I love trying out new activities during my leisure time. After I started working, I joined a yoga class and boating course.

MR AKSHAY REGULAGEDDA (NBS/2015)

Without doubt, the last one and a half years have been the most intense of my life! I have had back-to-back classes, semesters, internships and projects from mid-July 2013 to the first week of January in 2015. The Nanyang MBA is quite hectic, given that it is an intensive 10-month curriculum; we have had days when we had three 3-hour classes from 9am to 9.30pm. There were many times we could only have a team meeting late at night, at 11pm on Skype, because that was the only time every one in a team was free. On top of that, we had other commitments, such as local case competitions, preparing for the John Molson competition in 2014 (when I was a participant), and in organising the first Venture Capital Investment Competition (VCIC) in East Asia.

The cohort with whom I matriculated was quite diverse in itself. We had participants from four continents speaking a huge range of the world's languages, and with work-experiences in as varied fields as manufacturing tires, oil exploration, manufacturing LED's to even managing race-horses. Consequently, I had the opportunity to learn a lot from the collected wisdom of the cohort over and above the rigorous curriculum that the Nanyang MBA had.

In addition to the in-class experience, I also had the opportunity to venture out of Singapore for the course. I travelled to some 30 cities mainly for study-trips, exchange programmes, job-fairs or case-competitions. Ironically, I may have travelled more miles during my MBA than during my earlier job as a consultant, when I used to shuttle between Singapore and my clients in Kuala Lumpur and Bangkok.

The first key learning, then, is about managing intensity. As a result of this experience, I learnt how to achieve strong positive results from a complicated task-list, while at the same time, relaxing while doing a task. The second outcome is to vastly broaden my horizons, for instance, while learning about operations and supply-chains, we researched how food-banks in New York have implemented kaizen principles from Toyota.

The third and most crucial outcome, though, is about people in general. Due to classes on innovation management, management-control, building learning organizations, teamwork and creativity, I believe I now have an intuitive feel for what makes people and teams become innovative.

Perhaps the thing I like the most about the MBA programme is experiential learning. While graduate programmes historically were about imparting specific domain-knowledge, MBA programmes are fast transforming into opportunities for holistic learning experiences. Over and above the case-study discussion method, which in itself is the basis for most MBA learning experiences, we have had a lot of opportunities to practise the knowledge in such avenues as mock-simulation exercises and various competitions. It is this ability to quickly implement what we learnt in the classroom that I like the most about the Nanyang MBA.



ALUMNI PARTICULARS UPDATE

To help us serve you better, kindly update your particulars, and send the form to us via fax, email or mail:

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(Mr/ Ms/ Dr/ Prof/ Others)

NRIC/FIN/Passport No. DOB (dd/mm/yy) Race

Nationality Singapore PR Marital Status Religion
Y / N

Year of Graduation School / Department

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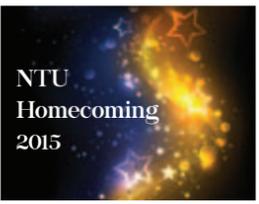
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EVENTS CALENDAR AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2015

7 AUGUST	 <p>Welcome Class 2015 Alumni Party</p>	29 AUGUST	 <p>NTU Fest 2015 CONCERT BY THE BAY</p>	5 SEPTEMBER	 <p>3rd All China-based Alumni Associations' Conference, Alumni Talk and Get-Together Dinner</p>
18 SEPTEMBER	 <p>CLASS OF 1985 30th Anniversary Reunion Celebration</p> <p>NTU Class of 1985 30th Anniversary Reunion Celebration</p>	17 OCTOBER	 <p>NTU Homecoming 2015</p> <p>NTU Homecoming 2015</p>		

Information is correct as of press time. Events and dates may be subject to change. For an updated list of upcoming events, please visit www.ntu.edu.sg/Alumni/Pages/Events.aspx. If you wish to enquire about any of the events, please email to alumniaffairs@ntu.edu.sg.

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