Embracing Art and Technology

- Of disciplines and dragons
- Made-In-Singapore in China
- Language of love, language of struggle
- The Little Nyonya, alumna's achievement
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**FEB 2009**

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*purpleincodesign
William J. personal research for
the AUTOMATIX project
for Future City Design Pte Ltd

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Project Draconika is one enterprise that portrays the trans-disciplinary collaboration of NUS. It brought together engineers, computer scientists, art, design and the performing arts to create an art-tech 3-D Dragon float beyond what the individual discipline could do by itself. It was cool. It breathed fire. It was the tallest float. It synchronised the coolest multi-dragon movements with dance and the musical score of East-West combo, evoking an imaginary patina of dream.

Team Draconika held firm to 'stunning' as a design imperative. Once the Team felt its mettle, it became apparent that the Team’s skills matched the challenge at hand. In sociological terms, it constitutes the theory of flow. An example, in the case of Zen and the Art of Archery, flow occurs when the archer, bow and arrow and the target are one! Our benefactor and fundraiser Bill Wee, son of the late President Wee Kim Wee, an archer, endorses that experience.

On another plane in the movie, ‘The Horse Whisperer’, acted by Robert Redford, he could with skill meet the challenge of commanding horses. I have seen in the mountain state of Idaho with immigrant Basque shepherds border cattle dog whisperers, who have never met any of the cattle, could command them to guide half a dozen sheep into a corral and close the door thereafter!

It was the same with our Project engineer, Professor Gerald Soet, as well as G-Fabrications’ Stella and Andrew, who fabricated the dragons and the float. They exhibited the skills to meet the challenge of commanding the three dragons. On the opening of the 37th Chingay Parade at City Hall, our threesome rose to the challenge and the rest is history!

Draconika performed brilliantly and was eventually voted the Most Popular Float of Chingay 2009!

We should seek the flow of all processes and all challenges. That facing the unknown is not new. Figuring out the pathless terrain, on a blank piece of paper and marshalling the skill to match the challenge is what we all work for as students, researchers and alumni, be it as individuals or in teams. I am in praise of Team Work!

Anthony To S C
Secretary to the University
China awakens to global branding

China, one of the hottest markets in the world today, warms up to branding at the International Conference on Chinese Enterprise Research 2008. The conference presents Singapore’s branding success stories, at the 10th Distinguished Alumni Forum, which it hosted on its second day.

Globalisation and the shifting media landscape have led to an explosion of interest in branding. Yes, in China too, the branding bug has bitten. With its rising consumer spending and constantly morphing society, China is one of the hottest markets around. The job of branding there requires a healthy dose of flexibility and creativity.

Singapore brand in China
Branding basics and China’s awakening were some of the topics surfaced at the conference entitled the International Conference on Chinese Enterprise Research 2008 – Branding in China: A Global Perspective. Timely, it was a platform where business owners and academics get to exchange views and learn. The conference also hosted the 10th Distinguished Alumni Forum, held on the second day, with the support of NTU’s Alumni Affairs Office. The forum addressed Singapore’s Branding in China, a sub-topic that thoroughly engaged the delegates, many of whom are NTU alumni based in China.

An all-alumni event, the forum panelists comprise Ms Lien Sian-Sze, Member of NTU Board of Trustees and former Senior Vice-President, Technology Solutions Group Asia Pacific, Hewlett-Packard; Mr Ooi Tong Pak, BreadTalk CEO; and Mr Mao Daqing, General Manager, Beijing Operations, Capitallink (China) Investment Co., Ltd. All three alumni have had a close in promoting made-in-Singapore brand names in NTU, BreadTalk and CapitalLand - successfully on the world stage. The forum was chaired by China’s popular CCTV presenter Mr Shen Bing, a TV personality whose media savvy turned it into an exciting exchange.

On the world stage
This year’s conference was graced by special guests, Chinese Vice-Minister of Commerce, Mr Fu Ziyang, and Singapore Ambassador to China, BRI(C)Chen Sin Yong, both of whom launched the event. Mr Ngam Tong Dow, Adjunct Professor at NTU and a well-known participant in the Singapore success story, delivered his keynote address on the strategic route to China and Singapore. Also in attendance were renowned scholars, government policy researchers and business practitioners from China, Singapore, Korea, US and UK.

The conference was jointly organised by NTU’s Lien Chinese Enterprise Research Centre and the Chinese Academy of International Trade and Economic Cooperation. Held in Beijing from 14 to 16 November 2008, it aimed to promote the understanding of Chinese enterprise and facilitates intellectual exchange and collaboration.

“I find the forum worthwhile. It has enhanced my understanding of branding. I learnt how branding value added and how it can be leveraged for promotion. What’s more, the forum gave me access to Singapore’s brand marke.” I’ve learnt a lot from talking to them. I also find the forum well organised.”

Mr Wu Zhongfeng (TIP 3)
Forum delegate
使中国觉醒的全球化品牌效应

全球化及新媒体的转化使人们对品牌的兴趣蓬勃发展，中国消费者也越来越被人们重视。中国日新月异的消费水平和商业环境已经使其成为世界上最重要的市场之一。

在中国设立新加坡品牌

在“全球化的品牌”为主题的2008年中国企业研究国际研讨会上，全球的知名品牌及中国品牌的名称占据了主导地位。研讨会为国内外品牌商和研究者提供了交流看法和互相学习的平台。第二天由新加坡商务部和中国北京校友会主办的“新加坡10周年庆祝大会”中，新加坡的中国品牌得到了来自各国的代表们的赞誉。

这次论坛由新加坡商会和中国北京校友会举办，参与者的包括两大校友会的代表、世界品牌100强的领导代表及新加坡的知名人士。新加坡品牌论坛的目的是为新加坡的品牌企业和其他活动提供一个平台，以展示新加坡的品牌形象和创新精神。

论坛的组织工作得到了所有与会者的高度评价，尤其是对本次论坛的组织和协调工作表示赞赏。论坛参与者表示，这次论坛对新加坡的品牌推广和国际化进程将产生积极的影响。

世界舞台上的品牌效应

中国商务部领导的代表在论坛上发言，对新加坡的品牌形象表示赞赏。他认为，新加坡的品牌在世界舞台上具有独特的优势和影响力。

2008年中国企业研究国际研讨会由澳大利亚中国企业文化研究会主办，以“全球化品牌”为主题，旨在推动中国品牌的国际交流和合作。
Leading men unite

Presidents and committee members of NTU Alumni associations gathered for an engaging discussion on the cultivation of alumni relations.

Sharing of experiences

In his address, Guest-of-Honour Mr. Anthony Tan, Secretary to the University, highlighted that it was important for alumni to cultivate a lifelong relationship with their alma mater. He also took the opportunity to speak of alumni contributions and thanked all who have given back to NTU through various initiatives. Mr. Tan took pride in updating those present on the progress of the University. Complementing Mr. Tan’s delivery, Mr. Soon Min Yen, Director, Alumni Affairs, NTU, shed light on the roles and initiatives of AAO. Its past achievements and future plans.

“To effectively address the challenges faced by Alumni Association (AAO), you need a team that is diverse and passionate and you need to focus on building relationships with the students on campus ground,” stressed Mr. Singh. The audience also learnt of the association’s aspirations and the critical factors it has had to overcome in order to get to where it is today.

Sharing of ideas

During the question and answer session, areas of concern were raised. While drawing on diverse experience and expertise, those who are leading their respective NTU alumni associations, bounced off ideas. Some of them wished to know how their associations and AAO can work together to achieve successful engagement of alumni, newer associations, on the other hand, raised the concern of obtaining funding and sponsorships for their events, Mr Tan and Mr Soon were on hand during the dialogue session to answer their queries and able to expand on some of the interesting ideas being surfaced.

Some of the associations also brought up their problem of finding a suitable place to hold their meetings and events. To this, Mr. R. Simakanpan, President of the NTU Alumni Club was pleased to relay that they were welcome to use the facilities at the Club at a discounted rate.

Many were encouraged by the constructive sharing of experiences and ideas between the alumni associations and AAO.

Mr. Sarjit Singh, President, Nanyang Business School Alumni Association, sharing with fellow alumni on issues regarding the running of an alumni association.

The event would not have been complete without hearing from the leaders themselves. Mr. Sarjit Singh, President of the Nanyang Business School Alumni Association (NBSAA), shared with all his experiences in running NBSAA and what were some of the problems faced by new associations.

“Mr. Zeng Bunchao, President School of Biological Sciences Alumni Association, “It was a good sharing session among the different alumni associations. And most importantly it was a great opportunity for us to meet our counterparts. I appreciate AAO’s efforts to get close to us and understand the challenges faced by alumni associations like ours.”

Mr. Kohar Moes, President, Technopreneurship and Innovation Programme Alumni Association, “The evening was a fantastic sharing session for newly formed Alumni Associations. The experiences shared by individuals such as Sarjit from NBSAA were worthwhile, as they enable us to establish a strong alumni base and move forward.”
团结起校友领袖的力量

“南大香约爱好者校友会会长王子豪先生说：‘这是一个令人深思的对话会。我们作为校友，对校舍的对话会感到自豪，也对了解母校发展宏伟计划感到高兴。校友领袖是代表大学的一股巨大力量。’”

讨论会嘉宾南大秘书长张锦才先生在对话会中强调了校友与母校培养关系的重要性，并借此机会表扬了校友们的贡献。他对所有校友表示了衷心的谢意。此外，张锦才先生还举例说明了校友们在南大发展的贡献。校友事务处主任陈生说，校友会的主要职责是校友的聚会和校友的活动。他介绍了校友会的职责和校友的贡献，也分享了校友会的经验。
Many glean the importance of alumni relations at the NTU Student Leaders Gathering cum Dialogue.

The Student Leaders’ Gathering was very well-organised and gave all of us a chance to find out all about what the Alumni Affairs Office does and how the office has provided for both students and alumni throughout the years. We are thankful for their encouragement and interest in student-related activities at NTU.”

Ng Nuoel Yun
President/NTU Students’ Union

“I find this (NTU Student Leaders Gathering cum Dialogue) a platform that is conducive to networking. I get to interact with my professors in a casual manner. I also get to mingle with my other student leaders whom I would otherwise not get a chance to meet.”

Teo Cheng Yang
Publication Manager
Photo-Videographic Society

For a relationship to flourish, it has to be cultivated from the roots. This was why NTU’s Alumni Affairs Office (AAO) gathered the student leaders from the various clubs, societies and Hall Junior Common Room Committees and hosted them to the NTU Student Leaders Gathering cum Dialogue session. At least 200 student leaders came. The session was held on 7 January 2009 at the Nanyang Executive Centre.

Not only did they get a chance to cultivate relations with fellow students, they also connected with the alumni present. They get a chance, too, to air their views and concerns, sharing them with the senior NTU staff invited to the session. The agent for connection, AAO, made it possible for us to bond.

Binding bonds

Guest-of-Honour, Mr Anthony Too, Secretary to the University, stressed the importance of building a strong bond with the students while they were still on campus. He also encouraged the students to stay in touch with their alma mater beyond their graduation; this will continue to revitalise the University.

Other VIP guests who attended the session were: Mr Soon Min Yam, Director, AAO; Associate Professor Lak Tat Seng, Dean of Students; Mr Chong Peng Jie, Advisor, Student Affairs Office and several Assistant Chair (Alumni) from the Schools.

United front

All who were present got an overview on the role of AAO and the services the office provides, through a presentation by Mr Soon. There was advice given and assistance offered by both Mr Too and Mr Soon, who made up the panelists for the question-and-answer session held towards the end of the gathering.

Additionally, the student leaders learnt of the important role they play in cultivating a sense of unity and belonging among the student population. Some, who were far-sighted, enquired about how they could set up an alumni association. Several others reached out to their peers to garner more support for their causes they believe in, as well as the events they are keen to organise.
NETWORK NETWORK

Alumni of NTU’s School of Biological Sciences now have an avenue for networking and more.

SBSAA, one among many

When the bunch got underway, the SBSAA bopp was unveiled by Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Anthony Yap, Secretary to the University. He was accompanied by Professor Alex Low, Acting Chair, SBS; Mr Soon Min Yam, Director, Alumni Affairs Office; and SBSAA’s President and Vice-President, Messrs. Zeng Renchun and Gerald Lau.

Mr Yap, in his address to all present, shed light on the importance of having an alumni association. Being the twelfth School-based alumni association, the SBSAA will become part of NTU’s expanding alumni network, spanning countries like China, India, Indonesia, Vietnam and the UK. He also highlighted the intent to start an alumni association in the US in the near future.

SBSAA President, Runchun, on the other hand, noted the timeliness of the set-up. Although relatively new — so far, the School had only three graduating classes (2006, 2007 and 2008) — the SBSAA was more than welcome. He said: “I thought it would be a brilliant idea to get this SBSAA up and running... we hope to host events on a regular basis and get everyone together. We want to be able to provide an avenue for friends to meet and catch up on what’s going on in each other’s life, and to network.”

Buffet and movie treats

There was still much to enjoy, as the evening wore on. Alumni and guests were treated to a buffet spread, where international mains were delightfully presented. While some were indulging their taste buds, others were striking poses for the camera.

So how do you end a good evening? The SBSAA wrapped it up with a movie screening of the 2006 thriller, ‘Body of Lies’, which starred Hollywood hunks, Leonardo Di Caprio. After all, one good treat deserves another.
Welcoming our new teachers

A total of 313 newly qualified teachers receive their NIE diplomas at the Teachers’ Investiture Ceremony.

“Your learning does not end today with your graduation. Instead, it marks the beginning of a phase of continual upgrading. I am confident we will continue to build a strong teaching fraternity in Singapore that will continue to make a difference not just to our students’ education, but to their lives,” Dr Ng Teck Hon says.

The Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence was the Guest-of-Honour at the Teachers’ Investiture Ceremony held on 21 January 2003 at NIE’s Nanyang Auditorium.

Minister Ng adds: “The immediate challenge for you will be to put into practice what you have learnt in NIE. I suspect that the students under your charge will be the most effective teachers and accelerate your learning curve. They will show up your strengths as well as weaknesses. They will challenge your assumptions and test the practical relevance of theories. I hope that you will persevere and do your best to create conducive environments for their learning, and help them to realise their potential.”

Among the outstanding graduates was the Valuable Citizen for the ceremony. Mr Jacob Fung Boo Tiong, who received his Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Secondary), is the active volunteer in Lekki schools that runs leadership and formation programmes. He is also the Youth Coordinator of the Lekki Alliance Mentoring Programme for at-risk and academically weak students from St Anthony’s Primary. His involvements have enhanced his interest in developing strategies to share and exchange knowledge among youths. Indirectly, equipping them with communication skills and an attribute of love and care.

The teachers received their Postgraduate Diploma in Education, Bachelor of Arts (Education), Bachelor of Science (Education) and Diploma in Education from Dr Ng. To the new teachers, we welcome you to the alumni family. To those who have won prizes, congratulations.

Volunteer and be part of your class reunion committees

If you belong to graduating classes of 1989, 1994, 1999 or 2004, come join our Class Reunion Organising Committee and work towards reuniting former classmates.

The Alumni Affairs Office (AAO) is calling for volunteers from these graduating classes, who can bring their classmates together in organising their class reunions.

So, come and be part of the Reunion Organising Committee today. You, as a Committee Member, will help to generate excitement and enthusiasm for the reunion, as well as promote attendance.

AAO will spearhead the planning by handling logistics such as the reservation of venue and the sourcing of caterers.
Fishing is now a carnival

Our Family Fishing Carnival, held for the first time, celebrates common interests and the launch of the NTU Anglers’ Alumni Association.

What does fishing and carnival have in common? These are just some of the favourite past-time of our alumni. Combining the two into a Family Fishing Carnival – the first such event organised by NTU’s Alumni Affairs Office – it gives alumni a platform to spend quality time with family and friends. The event, attended by 120, was held at the Pasir Ris Town Park on 13 December 2008.

Whose line is it, anyway?
Fishing enthusiasts took the cue from Mr Anthony Tan, Secretary to the University, who cast the first line. It was the ‘signal’ that everyone was waiting for. Along with the rods and lines, 100kg of fish were released into the pond. Families and friends had their eyes peeled on the lines to see who would get the first catch. There was great interaction among the anglers and the fishing continued into the afternoon.

While most were fishing, there were others who took to the carnival stalls for some games, snacks and even tattooing. Some got lucky during the lucky draw prize giveaway.

Who has the connection?
There was certainly more to the carnival than just fishing. The NTU Anglers’ Alumni Association was launched on the same platform by Guest-of-Honour, Mr Anthony Tan, Secretary to the University. Prior to casting the line, Mr Tan sounded the gong, as part of the launch, and delivered his welcome speech. He observed that the new association, being interest-based, will enable more alumni with common interests to gather and network via their association. He also highlighted the importance of staying connected to their alma mater.

The NTU Anglers’ Alumni Association marks the 7th interest-based alumni association set up to-date, which brings the total number of NTU alumni associations to 37. It will be headed by Mr Ong Zhiqo, who is an alumnus from the Nanyang Business School’s Class of 2005.
NTU ALUMNI SPORTS FIESTA '09
南大校友体育日

DATE: 21ST MAR 2009

TIME 8:15AM - 1:00PM

VENUE: SPORTS AND RECREATION CENTRE, NTU

RELAY RUN
4 x 100m
MIXED

BADMINTON
MEN’S DOUBLES
WOMEN’S DOUBLES

TABLE-TENNIS
MEN’S DOUBLES
WOMEN’S DOUBLES

TENNIS
MEN’S DOUBLES
WOMEN’S DOUBLES

3-ON-3 BASKETBALL
MEN’S
WOMEN’S

5-A-SIDE MEN’S SOCCER

For more information and registration, visit www.ntu.edu.sg/alumni/events
For enquiries, kindly contact Xin Wei @ 65-6373 8776 or sportsfiesta@ntu.edu.sg
NTU Alumni Family Day 2009
@Wild Wild Wet

Date: Saturday, 23 May 2009
Time: 10am to 2pm
Venue: Wild Wild Wet at Downtown East, Pasir Ris
Ticket Price: $10/Adult; $8/Child
Rides & Attractions: Ular-Lah, The Waterworks, Yakult Professor’s Playground, Yipeel, Shiok River, Slide Up, Tsunami, Jacuzzi & Skyrider

Breakfast & Lunch Provided, Door Gifts, Performances, Lucky Draw, Game Stalls
Each alumni is only allowed to purchase a maximum of 4 tickets at the subsidized price

For more information and registration, visit www.ntu.edu.sg/alumnievents
or email us at alumni.familyday@ntu.edu.sg For enquiries, please call: 6790 4875/4327
GETTING INTO THE NUMBER GAME

Alumni of the NTU Sports Club indulge in ‘Nostalgia’ in celebration of year-end gathering.

Some of Singapore’s popular sporting events – 4! to be precise – were brought back by the NTU Sports Club so its sports alumni could have more in common to share at their year-end gathering. The sporting events were: Surf n’ Sweat, Vertical Marathon, X-Physique and Bike Rally.

The Club introduced Nostalgia, as the theme for the gathering. The play with word set the tone for the gathering. Photos to depict the four national sporting events were compiled and decorated all over the walls of the venue – Robertson Quay’s Butter Factory – where the gathering was held. They made great conversation pieces for some 100 alumni, who attended the gathering held on 13 December 2008. The photo showcase even got Guest-of-Honour, Mr. Soong Min Yen, Director, NTU, impressed with the Club’s game plan for ensuring a successful gathering.

There was also entertainment. The band ‘Last Minute’, comprising Sports Club’s very own members – students and alumni – belted out their hearts out. Although it was their debut performance, they brought the house down, with guests cheering them on.

With all a high, Mr. Julian Tan Cheng Liang, M&E, Class of 2005, took the chance to announce what he felt was the year’s piece of good news – the formation of the NTU Sports Club Alumni Association. Julian, who has been pushing for the setting up of the alumni association, said; “The purpose is to bring Sports Club alumni back together, especially people who once had the same flame burning within. Besides, we always meet up in small pockets and share the good old times we once had. So it’s natural to think of bringing all of us back together.”

One for the family album.
Professional Development

Wish you could acquire knowledge to improve your professional competence? We have just the course for you. At the NTU Centre for Continuing Education, we are committed to helping you create that sought-after competitive advantage to optimize your career opportunities.

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ALUMNI TRAVEL

DURIAN FEAST & GENTING HIGHLANDS TRIP

The month of June is the durian season! This month, the NTU Alumni Affairs Office brings you double the fun and double the adventure: A durian feast and 2/3-day, 1-night trip to Genting Highlands!

Join us for a once-in-a-lifetime experience, complete with culinary delights and breathtaking natural beauty. This trip is sure to be an unforgettable adventure you won’t want to miss.

Date: 19 to 21 June 2009 (set off on Friday night; return on Sunday night)

Come and indulge in unlimited durians and enjoy Genting Highlands' cool weather and exciting entertainment.

Each alumni/alumna may bring a maximum of 3 family members OR 1 non-family member. Seats are limited, so register today!

For more information, go to www.ntu.edu.sg/alumnevents

To register or enquire, contact Ms Liu Weiping at +65 6790 6555 or bwow@ntu.edu.sg

View our website for more details at www.ntu.edu.sg/alumnevents

报名者可联络刘美平女士 (电话: +65 6790 6555) 或电邮至 bwow@ntu.edu.sg
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  – Financial Times 2008

Nanyang Fellows MBA Briefing
Date : Saturday, February 21, 2009
Time : 2.30pm
Venue : The Fullerton Hotel, TDB Room, Lower Lobby
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To register your attendance, please email fellows@ntu.edu.sg

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Website
For detailed information of the programme, please visit our website at: http://www.ntu.edu.sg/hss/gdti/

Our contacts
- Email: gdti@ntu.edu.sg
- Tel: +65 65137644

www.ntu.edu.sg
BRAVE NEW WORLD

Where language and technology meets... NTU’s new Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies (LMS) sets the stage for exploration.

Alumna Mariam binti Mohamed Amin, a project officer in the division, does her bid to save Asian languages from being endangered. Mariam is not alone in her crusade; for she is part of LMS, the newest division of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS). Subsumed under the College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences, it is also first of its kind in Singapore and the region.

Saving languages via technology

The Acting Head of LMS, Assistant Professor Ng Bee Chin, has big plans for the division. Currently, the faculty members are Luke Kang Kweang, Francesco Cavallaro and Tan Ying Ying; Professor Luke joined the division in January 2009 and has extensive experience in interdisciplinary work. With the support of her faculty and project officers Esk Madsen, she hopes that LMS has embarked on a big-scale research to tackle language loss.

"I see great social relevance in the digital archiving of South-east Asia’s endangered languages and cultures and we hope to join an international network of digital repository around the world," says Asst Prof Ng.

The work will involve collaboration with faculty from engineering as well as Art, Design and Media (ADM). They have just received a small grant from the Institute for Media Innovation to kickstart this project. The division, in conjunction with ADM and the NTU Art and Heritage museum is spearheading the effort with an installation titled ‘Singapore Voices: A Sound Installation of Endangered Languages’. This is a multi-media installation that features 16 languages, which are disappearing from the Singapore landscape. These languages include Hokkien, Hainanese, Hakka, Bayanese, Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Baba Malay, and many more.

Endangered languages, or languages that are ‘dying’, hold special significance for Mariam, too. “Being a Malay Singaporean, I am guilty of endangering my mother tongue. I speak English at work and when I am at home, I mix the two. The only time I converse entirely in Malay is when I speak with my grandparents. There is concern that my generation is losing touch with Malay,” she shares.

Freshly graduated from HSS, she is delighted to be part of the faculty research team. Besides working on language maintenance, she is also researching into the impact of religion on Malay and finding out why people are speaking more of one language and less of another. "I am able to apply my data gathering knowledge to the job, so it has been great!" says the young alumna, Class of 2008, who holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology.

Between arts and science

LMS is positioned at the intellectual intersection of humanities and social, biological and behavioural sciences. Students on LMS’ programme can expect language and communication prowess when they graduate, in addition to having a broad-based education.

“There is a place for LMS at NTU. We need a centre, which focuses on the study of diversity given that Singapore is smack in the middle of one of the most linguistically diversified regions of the world. We have well over 2,000 languages at our doorstep and while there is a lot of research being done on many of these languages, much more is needed within and outside of Singapore,” says Asst Prof Ng.
To the new generation of NTU graduates, Yunnan Garden is a favourite spot for taking their wedding photos, but to the husband-and-wife part of the Class of 1960, it is a place that kindled their passion. The Yunnan Garden, once the campus of Nanyang University or Nantah, was where Mr Chen Meng Tse and Mdm Chai Chu Chun studied.

Sharing the kind of passion that resonates only with pioneers, Mr Chen and his wife helped drum up donations to set up the Nanyang University. These pioneering graduates, now in their 70s, recalled putting up performances, not unlike glee clubs or glee choruses, to garner donations. Mdm Chu, who used to be a ballet dancer, performed on stage, whilst Mr Chen provided logistic support backstage.

Then, there were many such donation drives being held, where students staged famous dance performances such as 《美丽的祖国》 or 《Beautiful Motherland》. The item, choreographed by students themselves, was based on a popular Chinese song by the same title.

In addition to their labour of love, the couple also donated, albeit paucily sum. They were after all students. With the donations from people of all walks of life, Nanyang University was set up in 1955 and became the first Chinese-language university outside China.

To Yunnan Garden, with love.

More than half a century have gone by since the people’s University was set up, yet the Chen remembers their alma mater, fondly.

So much so they donated $1 million to NTU from the proceeds earned through the sale of their family’s four retail stores, at the Bras Basah Complex. A favourite haunt among locals on the lookout for Chinese books, the Shanghi Book Company owned by Mr Chen’s family, is Singapore’s oldest bookstore. Parting ways with the company that has been with the family for 83 years speaks volumes. They gave then, and they are still giving now.

Giving to NTU, in particular to the Division of Chinese within the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (SHSS), was a natural decision for Mr Chen. He reasons: “I chose to donate to the Division of Chinese, not just because we are alumni, it was more because we hope to see the Chinese culture flourish in the Yunnan Garden,” NTU’s Division of Chinese was established in 2003 as part of the University’s plan to become a multi-disciplinary campus.

The Shanghai Book Co Scholarship and Bursary Fund, set up from the Chen’s donation, totals $2 million, after a one-for-one matching grant from the government. The fund will be divided into four scholarships and 12 bursaries, each with a value of $4,000 and $4,000, respectively. The first set of bursaries will be disbursed to deserving students, who are pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Chinese, in the coming academic year. The scholarship programme will take effect from 2017.

Affinity for Chinese

What brings an such generosity? Mr Chen replies: “It is about affinity, I believe. Pioneering the founding of Nantah brings on something deep and meaningful. We are a product of our struggles, having lived through the tumultuous 50s. Chinese education is, we feel, a slice of the Singapore story.”

In appreciation of the Chen family’s donation, a dinner held in their honour also saw the triumphant launch of ‘The Early Chinese Newspapers of Singapore (1881–1912)’ a book by Mr Chen’s elder sister, Mdm Chen Mengphie. Thanking the Chen, Dr Su Guowei, President of NTU, said: “The fund underscores the expectations and high regard with which the NTU Division of Chinese is held by the local Chinese community. It also reinforces the common ideals that we share.”
Adding, Associate Professor Quan Sy Ren, Acting Head, Division of Chinese, notes: "The Shanghail Book Company has played a critical role in promoting Chinese culture in Singapore... We are glad that it is supporting future generations of NUS students."

Passing on Nantah’s spirit and values
Years have a way of putting the past in perspective. When asked if Mr Chen would just pen a piece and write his memoirs of the Nantah days for the future generation of Singaporeans, the genial man smiled. Admitting that the thought did cross his mind, Mr Chen says that there is a story to be told, but he has yet to decide how best to tell it. He is in certain of one thing though - the Nantah spirit and values can best be conveyed in Chinese.

Today, in semi-reirement, Mr Chen and Mdm Choi run their trading business and divide their time between their children, grandchildren and personal pursuits. They participate keenly in alumni activities organised by NTU’s Alumni Affairs Office and have volunteered in their Class reunion committee. Both sing and dance for the Nantah Choir and Nantah Dance Club. The pair even gets to perform together onstage, unlike their Nantah days. Life is good; surely the happy couple deserves it.

COVER FEATURE

如果你们是60年代在南洋大学求学的校友，他们告诉你们，南大会因有他们当中的许多人，留下最美好的回忆，成全热爱文学的人。南大校友总会，就是陈宗兴和新加坡夫妇等待来学的地方。

陈宗兴夫妇及夫人隋善如女士是南洋大学第一届毕业生，这两位校友，如今已经年过七十，当年因为对南洋大学创办初期的热爱奉献，勇往直前，于是邀请热情激昂的南洋大学的校友们，他们决定在当年为新加坡的文学活动的将来作规划和行动，于是在校友们热情的邀请下，南洋大学于1980年成立创建，成为新加坡著名的文学中心。

陈宗兴校友的家教始终支持他在文学上的努力。他回忆说：“我们选择参加文学活动，不仅因为我们是校友，更因为我们将看到中华文化的云南民族发展。”

回访马来西亚，尤其是新加坡华人和与南洋大学华文教育，是对陈宗兴夫妇及隋善如夫妇的访问。他们表示：“我们选择南洋大学中文系，不仅仅因为我们是校友，更因为我们将看到中华文化的云南民族发展。”

南洋大学校友捐款100万新元用于南大现在和将来的发展，也激发了南大的中文学习热潮。

校友捐赠100万新元

校友捐赠100万新元用于南大现在和将来的发展，也激发了南大的中文学习热潮。
Land of wonders, dragons of fire

NTU debuts at this year’s Chingay ‘Wonderland’ Parade with its first ever float - Draconiko - wowing spectators with the fiery forces of three mystical dragons. Embodying the University’s multi-disciplinary feat, Draconiko is voted everyone’s favourite float.

A vicious performance complete with three robotic fire-breathing dragons was NTU’s submission to the Chingay Parade 2009. Mesmerizing spectators in this year’s ‘Wonderland’ theme, NTU and alumni voted this an unforgettable float. A first-time entry for NTU, Draconiko, is a confluence of art and technology. It is a multi-disciplinary project that brought together artists from the Schools of Art, Design and Media (ASDM), and robotic experts from Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE) and Computer Engineering (CENG). It is indeed a powerful representation of the University’s strengths, and it comes as no surprise when Draconiko was crowned the Favourite Float on Chingay Parade!

Draconiko début
Instrumental to NTU participating in this ever-popular street parade was none other than alumnus, Mr Nah Juying, Mr Nah graduated from Nanyang University’s Arts Faculty in 1979 and is the current Group Director (Network) at the People’s Association. He is also the Chairman of this year’s Chingay PAXCO.

Of NTU’s maiden entry, Mr Nah said: “We are very happy that NTU has come forward to take part in Chingay for the first time. The unique Draconiko float the University has created will set new design and presentation standards for floats in future parades. It certainly hope that NTU’s participation will inspire many more educational institutions to come forward and take part in this national event.”
The NTULink alumna has served as the Chairman of the Chingay Parade since 2005. Proud to be associated with Chingay - what he dubbed as everyone’s party and parade - Mr. Nih was most happy that NTU became a part of Singapore’s iconic event, “Singaporeans, as well as millions of people across Asia caught NTU’s debut performance through television broadcasts!” he enthused.

Blind and technology

Engineered by NTU’s diverse pool of talents, comprising engineers, computer scientists and artists, Drononiko blended the sense ofmystery and students from ADM, MAE and SCE, Professor Isaac Kedow, NTU’s Creative Director of the project, who hailed from ADM conceptualised the design. The concept drawing that he worked with ADM students and Professor in-charge majestic dragons that moved alongside dancers during the parade. Once the concept drawing was completed, students from the School of ADM also participated in the prototype development process, which involved looking at how to realise engineering theories with the artist impression. This gave them unique exposure to integrated flow collaboration.

Drononiko was able to manoeuvre gracefully and even breathe fire without any fences or support structures. These motions are controlled by a mechatronic system designed by three NTU Engineering professors and a staff member, Professor Goh Siew Gim, Lee, from MAE, and the Technical Director for the project, together with his engineering team, had a challenging task to build large automated dragons without structural support. Operating only with a mix of hydraulic and pneumatic power, each dragon has an internal aluminium structure.

Mechanical marvel, mystical vision

A mechanical marvel and a mystical vision at the parade, Drononiko made history as the tallest float to have paraded at Chingay in 36 years, towering by two-metre dragon, the effigy of the three mechatronic (mechanical robotic) giants towers over a typical ERP (Electronic Road Pricing) gantry at a fully upright position of an impressive nine metres.

Drononiko’s three dragons also rest on a huge wave structure that simulates the dragons’ journey crossing a sea of illuminated waves. The Chairman of the NTU Chingay Parade 2009 Committee and Secretary to the University, Mr. Anthony Yeow, likened it to poetry in motion. To simulate the actual effect of waves on the structure, a unique green solution was designed by Associates, Professor Goh Wai bin and Associates, Professor Quek Hock Chai from SCE that used simple, recycled materials such as water bottles, caduceus water and simple rotating motors.

In action, NTU’s show-stopping performance with NTU student dancers dressed in seahorse-inspired costumes thrilled spectators sailing all parade routes - from City Hall to the Marina Bay area and Chinatown. The students, who performed an energetic synchronised dance with cymbal, fans and pearl pokers brought perfect harmony to a well-executed parade item.

“We were excited by the invitation to participate because the Chingay parade offers the perfect opportunity to blend art and technology, two strengths of the University. The design blends Chingay traditions with engineering principles and raises the bar in bringing together art and technology,” summed up Prof. R. Ming Hua, NTU’s Senior Associate Provost.
S
chool of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) alumnus, Dr Zuruizi Abu Samah, is a researcher, inventor and teacher, all rolled into one.

Although graduating in 1997 at a time when research wasn’t the buzz, this graduate from the School of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE), has had a vibrant research life. “Research has been and will always be my passion,” he says.

Today, a lecturer at Singapore’s Nanyang Polytechnic, Dr Zuruizi has created the world’s first ultrasensitive sensor which is boasted to be 100 times more sensitive than the commercial sensors currently available. Excited about his sensor, he says: “Once I was working on a project that was related to nanomaterials, I was discussing a problem with my professor which in turn became the basis of my PhD thesis. This led to the uncovering of titanium nanosponges, the world’s most sensitive material for use to sense chemicals in the air.”

The sensor technology is being developed further, and plans are underway to have it patented under the polytechnic before being deployed to the market.

Scientist in the making
Inventor extraordinare, Dr Zuruizi nurtured his affinity to research, while studying at NTU. He explains: “It was a natural progression of sort, I found that the more I learn, the more questions I have. I think I am naturally inquisitive. As a scientist, I have to ask many questions, elaborating, he says. “My Honour Year Project professor was very nurturing, and he allowed me free rein to pursue my ideas. We also had a lot of opportunities for research, as we were given a number of projects to work on. We had the latest equipment to use, and our professors often enthrall us in the idea that research is something we can make a good career out of.

Believe it or not, I am still in contact with some of my NTU professors, who have retired and even migrated overseas. We were very close, as those days the classes were rather small. We had chemistry,” he recalls.

Research and learning
You could say research was Dr Zuruizi’s destiny. Soon after his graduation, he had the opportunity to join one of his professors, Dr Syamal Lahiri, in the US to set up a research group at the Institute of Materials Research and Engineering. There, he stayed for three years, during which he was encouraged by his professor to further his studies. He applied to do his PhD at the University of California, Santa Barbara (UCSB).

“I spent four and a half years pursuing my PhD. Upon completion, I took up a job at Intel and relocated to Arizona, and provided a lot of research innovations, but before these could be developed into commercial products, they had to go through the capacity expansion phase, which I was responsible for. I found myself, modelling research and production, and developed novel ways of packaging for Intel’s product line,” says he.

What he gained while in the US was something Dr Zuruizi would never forget. The time spent there was possibly his steepest learning curve. “I was always among professors, a few of whom were Nobel Prize winners. You would learn a lot just by talking to them, as they had years of industrial research experience and were very passionate. This complemented my UCSB academic background well, giving me a holistic research experience, which I was able to apply when I came back to Singapore,” he observes.
Teaching versus researching

USA or home, Dr Zuwil has luck on his side. Soon after his homecoming, Dr Zuwil landed a job with Nanyang Polytechnic. “Was teaching part of this researcher’s plan? “I want to impact a larger number of people and give back to society. Teaching allows me to do that,” he says. He has been teaching Nanotechnology and Materials Science and Engineering at the polytechnic for two years.

No longer a student, what is it that keeps this lecturer going in the field of research these days? “There will always be research problems to work on, which means having to continuously innovate for newer solutions,” he enthuses.

It helps that teaching at the polytechnic allows him to continue with his research pursuits. He was the best of both worlds and wider opportunity to establish linkages with industry. “At this juncture, I enjoy teaching and I enjoy research,” he adds. Incidentally, his wife is also a polytechnic lecturer. Somewhat in jest, Dr Zuwil claims that she is about the only female he knew, who was as mad about nanotechnology, as he was. The 35-year-old got married last August.

"In whatever we choose to do, we must work hard, persevere, be ready to help others and always remain humble. It doesn’t hurt to have lady luck smiling on you either," he surmises.
The leading lady behind the scenes

The latest Channel 8 mega blockbuster most watched by Singaporeans, "The Little Nyonya" (《小娘惹》), has scored the highest rating in 15 years. To produce Chinese dramas that are a hit is indeed a challenge, says MediaCorp TV's Senior Vice President of Chinese Drama Productions, Ms Kok Len Shuang. She is also an alumnus of Nanyang University.

Ms Kok, a 1979 Arts graduate, says Singapore's Chinese dramas and has been at it for at least two decades. She leads her unit in producing two blockbusters a year in addition to the regular slate of Chinese dramas. "The Little Nyonya," she reveals, took two years to put together - from concept to research to production.

While she is very thankful to the public for their support of the mega blockbuster, she shares that the public is given support from its own kind - the critic. "The Little Nyonya's" last episode, where the two main characters parted ways, provoked a public outcry such that a short story was forced as an addendum to explain away the relationship. Entertainment is a tricky business. Public approval will affect ratings. The bigger challenge is to keep the concept fresh and ideas new.

"That's entertainment"
Despite the challenges, Ms Kok has remained steadfast in the entertainment business.

On Singapore's entertainment scene, she shares her observation about the local Chinese drama. "The heroine is always a fuah with restrictions. We've an audience that is highly critical of local productions. We also have to deal with our geographical limitations, language and education barriers." Still, Singapore's Chinese dramas have come a long way.

Made-in-Singapore Chinese dramas are selling overseas and are popular with viewers in China, Hong Kong SAR, Malaysia, Taiwan and Vietnam. "The Little Nyonya" has been sold to broadcast stations CCTV (China) and TVB (Hong Kong), which is a rarity in these countries, which are known for their entertainment standards. "I would like to have more of our Chinese dramas travel overseas and to increase their popularity in other countries," says Ms Kok.

Ms Kok also hopes to groom more local talents. "Chinese dramas can do with more script writers and directors. Here in Singapore, our youngsters struggle with Mandarin and Chinese scripting is a craft in itself. I think training is very important. We've adopted the approach practised in the Hong Kong TV drama, which is to groom from bottom-up," she says.

"Drama mamas"
Interestingly, Ms Kok highlights that the Singapore TV drama is female dominated, while the reverse is true of Hong Kong. "I've seen a lot of male dressing up. It's a fact, it is about training on the job. The work involves artistic booking, filming scheduling, doing headcounts, arranging for props, costumes and filming locations, and even filming under the hot sun in the overnight. The combination of those tedious paperwork and on-site filming can be mentally and physically challenging. Those that stay are able to endure the nitpicky of the business, " she shares.

Behind the camera: Ms Kok Len Shuang is comfortable where she is and doing what she does best.

KOK LEN SHUANG'S CAREER TRACK
1979 Broadcast Journalist with Radio 5 (Education of Singapore (EDS))
1986 Transferred to Chinese Drama Productions
1997 Promoted to Director
1995 Promoted to Executive Producer
2000 Promoted to Assistant Vice President
2003 Took over Chinese Drama Productions
2005 Promoted to Senior Vice President of the Chinese Drama Productions
满招损，谦受益
访新传媒华文戏剧制作部副总经理郭令仕女士

Ms Ko notes from experience that a lot of graduates who join the industry tends to expect a cushy job. She counsels graduates who are keen to make a career out of TV and drama should have realistic expectations and be prepared to roll up their sleeves. Be humble and be receptive to learning, and above all, endure. She stresses that it takes five years to learn the basics of being a director and eight to 10 years to be good at it.

Ms Ko, 51, not being where she is today if she hadn’t entered Nanyang University, the leading lady behind Singapore’s Chinese dramas disbelieved that she almost didn’t get a tertiary education. She came from a poor family and thought her parents couldn’t afford it. On the insistence of her mum and a relative, she eventually applied for admission on the last day of application. She recalls that it was last-minute. I asked her if she filled in forms, choose my subjects and look for a halls of residence.

Balancing act
Her career has certainly benefited from her studies: She majored in Mass Communication, International Politics and Public Administration. Upon graduation, she became a journalist with then Radio 6 (Television of Singapore). It was a career she was focused on maintaining whilst studying.

Journalism became her forte for four years before she was transferred from the newsroom to the drama unit in 1986. Since then, her career took a 180-degree turn. From being national and factual, which was required of a journalist, she found herself having to emit more, “from real. I went to real. I find myself to be in between reality and fiction,” she says. Which probably explains why she has a passion for Chinese drama with social messages.

Ms Ko has certainly developed a style of her own; even crying for herself the unofficial title of “Golden Executive Producer” for her acclaimed dramas, these include Chronicle of Life (SBS 1990), Tales of Days (STV 1990-91), The Price of Peace (STV 1998-99) and Stand By Me (STV 1999). With a string of hit dramas, she has even been told to have a soft spot for SBS Drama (CCTV) and Stand By Me (STV).

Focused in mind and spirit, Ms Ko points out that she “dissect her own Chinese dramas through rigorous post-production and critical evaluation. By her own admission, she says she is her worst critic. "Only then will I improve and produce dramas that appeal to viewers," she says, so which can viewers look out for in 2009?

The first blockbuster this year, a modern day drama, is expected to be out in mid-year followed by another blockbuster, a metastatic drama, to be out at year-end.
Seeing the world in one night?

Global Immersion Programme (GIP) participants see the world in a different light on the night of the GIP Alumni Dinner.

First, they made the world their classrooms. New GIP participants – students and alumni – got a chance to turn the GIP Alumni Dinner into a night of ‘worldly treasure’. They exchanged views and shared with one another their priceless overseas experiences.

“No one GIP experience is the same. I spent six months in Washington, USA and saw my world opening up. I was exposed not only to the US way of studying, but also their way of living,” said Mr Sean Weimin. He was among the first batch of NTU students who went overseas when NTU initiated the GIP in 2004. Weimin graduated in EEE in 2006 and is today an engineer with the Republic of Singapore Air Force.

Going places
America was not the only country on the night’s itinerary. Students and alumni at the dinner had had their GIP in China, France, India, Switzerland and Vietnam. They, too, shared the experiences they have gained from their study jaunts and industry stints.

Certainly the GIP Alumni Dinner was not just about memories. Participants also played games, indulged in food, tried their luck in lucky draws, and above all, caught up with their varsity peers.

The first get-together organised by NTU’s GIP Student Club, the GIP Alumni Dinner was graced by Professor Er Meng Hwa, Senior Associate Provost. Guest-of-honour Prof Er addressed the guests and espoused on the benefits of GIP and how much it has grown. The President of the Club, Mr Yung Wan Qian, also delivered a speech, shedding light on the aims of the GIP Student Club, and the get-together dinner itself. Wan Qian is a final-year student in SCBE.

Inviting alumni
Attended by at least 140 guests, half of whom were alumni, the GIP Alumni Dinner is the platform for students to interact with and learn from their seniors. President Wan Qian has even set his sights on some future plans for the 10-month GIP Student Club. He said: “I plan to extend membership to alumni, as this will make for a win-win deal. Having a chance to engage with their seniors will enable students to find out how to use GIP to impress potential employers during job interviews. At the same time, they get to hear first-hand how the GIP experience can come in handy at the workplace.”

The Club held the GIP Alumni Dinner on 15 December 2008, at Nanyang Executive Centre. The dinner was made possible, thanks to the support of NTU’s Alumni Affairs Office, Career & Attachment Office, GIP Office and Sens Services.
南洋理工大学

引领时代•独具一格

创业与创新硕士课程

课程旨在培养勇于创业、敢于创新，具有组织力和领导力，适应全球化发展及能从容应对知识经济时代种种挑战的创业型企业家和经理人。课程从企业生命周期的视角出发，循序渐进地探讨企业如何从起步、高速发展到成熟的发展过程，注重培养创业者如何识别机会、策划商业计划、评估创新技术、风险融资、组建创业团队、制定创业战略，管理层创业财务规划以及处理各个核心阶段的必备知识与技能。在一年的全日制学习中，学员有机会走进全球化的课堂，参加和考察国际知名的创业企业并与世界一流的跨国投资商和企业家面对面交流。无论是立志成为新一代企业的创业精英、私营企业老板，或是政府部门扶持与推动创业的决策人员及各企业集团的中高层管理人员，以及有志创业的青年学生都有机会在海外留学进修的大学毕业生，都将从本课程受益，极大地拓展国际视野、增强才智、增强实力和提升自信，从而为创业的成功之路打下坚实基础，引领时代潮流。

课程特色

• 海外留学（新加坡、迈向中国）
• 独特的国际学习平台（新加坡、马来西亚、美国、中国）
• 拓展国际人脉、发掘海外商机
• 全球视野、东方智慧
• 培养创业精神、深化战略思维和领导力
• 中文授课、高效紧凑（无需托福或雅思成绩）

课程学制：全日制一年，授予南洋理工大学硕士学位
开课日期：2008年4月20日
入学条件：大学本科或以上学历、专业不限（面试与笔试后择优录取）

课程网页：www3.ntu.edu.sg/ntc/ctip.asp  电邮：chenghui@ntu.edu.sg

新加坡  吉隆坡  旧金山  西雅图  北京  上海
Update Lucky Draw

Alumni Winners

You took part in the Update your particulars and win a lucky draw prize promotion held by NTU's Alumni Affairs Office (AAO) from 1 September to 31 December 2008 (inclusive). We received nearly 3,000 updates. Of these, 200 lucky alumni won prizes in the lucky draw. Are you one of them? Check out the winners' name list.

Prizes can be collected in person before 5pm, Monday 16 March 2009, at AAO, 60 Nanyang View, G02-08 Nanyang Executive Centre, NTU. Letter of authorisation for others to collect on your behalf is acceptable. Terms & Conditions apply. For enquiries, contact:

Ms Sally Chua
Tel: +65 6333 7616
sallychua@ntu.edu.sg

Mr Wang Meng Khin
Tel: +65 6795 6557
mikwang@ntu.edu.sg

To all our alumni, who have taken part, thank you.

$10 Swee Choon Voucher
1. Tony Ho
2. Cong You Yan
3. Li Yang
4. Teng Kang
5. Koo Koon Sen
6. Lim Ying Ann
7. Lim Qiliang
8. Lee Mei Yuk
9. Guo Ping
10. Phoebe Lim
11. Clemen Choo
12. Lam Chin Wee
13. Tan Wei Hui
14. Leong Wai Hong
15. Wee Chi Seng
16. Choo Yee Leng
17. Tan Poh Woon
18. Tan Shun Ling
19. Li Hock Chuan
20. Lee Wan Li

$20 Takahayama Voucher
1. Arai
2. Akiyama
3. Aoki
4. Araki
5. Asai
6. Asano
7. Asano June
8. Asano June
9. Asano June
10. Asano June
11. Asano June
12. Asano June
13. Asano June
14. Asano June
15. Asano June
16. Asano June
17. Asano June
18. Asano June
19. Asano June
20. Asano June

$20 NTUC FairPrice Voucher
1. Amin Arrif
2. Ahmad Amin
3. Ahmad Mokhtar
4. Ahmad Mustafa
5. Ahmad Nazim
6. Ahmad Nazim
7. Ahmad Nazim
8. Ahmad Nazim
9. Ahmad Nazim
10. Ahmad Nazim

Movie Tickets (2 each)
1. Amin Arrif
2. Ahmad Amin
3. Ahmad Mokhtar
4. Ahmad Mustafa
5. Ahmad Nazim
6. Ahmad Nazim
7. Ahmad Nazim
8. Ahmad Nazim
9. Ahmad Nazim
10. Ahmad Nazim

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EVENTS CALENDAR

Mar 7
Launch of NTU Alumni Association (Zhejiang)

Mar 8
Launch of NTU Alumni Association (Jiangsu)

Mar 21
NTU Alumni Sports Fiesta 2009

Mar 29
Appreciation Lunch for Student Alumni Associates

Apr 4
Wine-Tasting & Chocolate-Making Session

Apr 17-19
NTU Alumni Weekend Cruise Onboard Superstar Virgo 2N Weekend Cruise

Apr 24
International Alumni Get-Together

May 16
Class Anniversary Reunion Celebrations: Classes of 1968 is 1969

May 23
NTU Alumni Family Day 2009

May 31
Launch of NTU Alumni Association (Sichuan)

To participate or enquire, please email us at alumni@ntu.edu.sg or call us on +65 6730 4875 / +65 6730 4434
Keen for a regular, monthly update of events? Get e-zine, ClassACT, through http://www2.ntu.edu.sg/hypodensports/includes/commonsubscription.asp
Subject to change without prior notice.
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Tel | 6777 1101 Fax | 6777 1933 Email | ntus@ntualumni.org.sg
Website | www.ntualumni.org.sg
黄南柱
Hei-Ng Nan Boi
(文学院/1969)

南大校友返校日活动

昨天我走进礼堂，映入眼帘的“南大校友返校日”，是今天
所看到的最美丽、最难忘的景色了。还有“日新月异，骨肉情
温、友情重逢”，正是我难以形容心情的最佳写照。

活动开始前，先由司仪致辞，接着校友会颁发奖章和证书。紧
后，校友会主席的精彩讲话，使现场气氛达到高潮。然后就是
校友的精彩表演，他们的歌声，他们的舞蹈，都让我们感慨
万分。我想，这就是南大校友的风采，这就是南大的精神。

礼堂后，整个礼堂被布置得非常整齐，观众们在等待着精彩
的节目。中场休息时，我们有机会在礼堂前拍照留念。随后，
精彩的节目开始了，唱歌、跳舞、相声，各种形式的表演让
我们大饱眼福。

整个活动在欢声笑语中结束，校友们互相挥手告别。我想，
这就是南大的魅力，这就是南大校友的精神。让我们期待下
次的南大校友返校日活动，期待南大校友的精彩表演。

梁贤慧
Lim Nghee Huat
(Commerce/1975)

Running is such a big part of my life. If you caught news of the first Asian, who competed
in the Brazil 10K Ultramarathon, on Channelnews Asia on 10 February 2019, it was I they
were talking about. The race was grueling, as it included mountain climbing. We ran up
and down the total distance of Mount Everest, and then from the challenging rocky route,
we also had to deal with weather conditions. The cut-off time for this non-stop foot race
is 60 hours.

I came in 26th spot and finished the race in 52 hours and 15 minutes. I was only 55 years
old. Besides, 19 of the 61 competitors did not complete the race. I actually fell down at
the start of the race, just five km into the run. Thank God I was just a minor cut and I
managed to go on.

Four years ago, I dedicated my runs to raising funds. For my latest venture, I raised more
than $20,000 for the Singapore Table Tennis Association. I would like to thank my alma
mater, NTU, and six companies, for without their financial support, I wouldn’t have been
able to serve my cause.

I am also thankful to my company and colleagues, who have been understanding and
supportive of my mission. I work at MediaCorp as an editor for Chinese current affairs.
**See Ee Hoon**  
*Computer Science (1977)*


1992年在新加坡创办“新加坡华人信息科技联合会”，担任会长。1993年在新加坡创办“新加坡华人科技论坛”，担任主任。

**Mah How Teck**  
*Electrical Engineering (1985)*

How Teck joined ST Electronics (Satcom & Sensor Systems) in 1985. He has been working there since October 2005.

During his more than 23 years in ST Electronics Group (still his first job), he has had the benefit of being rotated to different divisions and companies within the Group and was able to learn about the wide scope of business and technologies within the info-comm and satellite communications industry. He has also been given the opportunity and responsibility of marketing and selling to different countries across the world.

One of his fondest memories of his first job at ST Electronics was when he was made the Senior Engineer in charge of the Satellite Communications Division. He was responsible for ensuring that the Division was meeting its targets and objectives. He was proud of the fact that his team was able to deliver on time and budget, and that the Division was able to meet and exceed its targets.

**Lim Seng Hock**  
*MBA (1988)*

It was great to be back at the recent quad-reunion. Indeed, the opportunity to relive our experiences and reconnect with old friends brought back much laughter and sharing.

We even shared with the guides during the campus tour, who were NTU students, snippets of history on the various parts of the campus. Other than being nurtured by my alma mater, I have also found my partner, Siew Hoon. She was from the School of MAE, year 1988.

I hope we can tap the opportunities provided by our alumni and the class agents to grow the friendship network and renew ties.
CLAS NOTES

Cheong Wei Chyang (EEE/1993)

Fishing has always been my hobby and it came as no surprise that I joined the NTU Anglers' Club committee in 1990.

Almost two decades later, I found myself engaging the wonderful Club again. I am drawn to the annual NTU Fishing competition and offshore expeditions organized by the Club. It never fails to attract a large congregation of anglers, comprising NTU alumni, students and staff.

It is very encouraging to see how the Club has evolved beyond serving the needs of students; it also acts as a link for alumni to bond with the University.

To the past and present committee members, congratulations for a job well done. I look forward to seeing more NTU anglers, returning to 'Yang's Lake', just like wild salmons, streaming back to their breeding grounds.

Lee Ching Ping (SCE/1997)

After completing my Bachelor in Computer Engineering in 1997, I went back to do my Masters and completed it in 2000. It has been more than 10 years since I left the comfort of NTU and stepped into the working world, but whenever I look back at the time spent there, it brings back wonderful memories.

The days spent, the hours slugged... all these formed the foundation of the long hours one would expect to put in at the workplace - minus the fun and laughter, and the friendships built in those earlier years.

Being an avid follower of the principles of learning, I understand that the foundation built and the background acquired form the solid rock on which further learning and experience are moulded. Without the firm engineering foundation I acquired in my university days, it would have been hard for me to navigate the trickery of the modern work environment.

Oh, how the days were spent— not in studies but active involvement in activities. I truly look upon this as the best thing I did during my four years at NTU, where I found a great bunch of friends and acquired skills that could not have been learnt in the classroom. The activities I was involved in included event setting-up, going from conceptualizing to planning, implementation and packing up, all of which mirrored what I do on a daily basis at work today.

Now, I actively apply what I have learnt to my workplace as a systems engineer manager at Apple Inc.
Collin Low Chee Hwa  
(SCI/1997)

Having won the Amazing Race Asia season 2, I have often been asked what I intended to do with the prize money. It has always been my dream to start my own Pilates studio. So now my dream is coming to fruition!

With the help of my teacher and mentor, Alvin Giam, I’ll be starting a branch studio for Pilates Bodyworks at Holland Drive, which is five minutes from the NTU Alumni Club at North Buona Vista Road. Pilates Bodyworks is the most established studio in Singapore. In fact, Alvin brought it to Singapore more than 10 years ago.

Prior to Pilates and graduation onward, I was in the media sales industry. Now I am ready to hang up my tie and forge the corporate life (at least for the time-being) to pursue my passion in bringing health and fitness to people.

Pilates Bodyworks at Holland offers both mat and equipment (Reformer and chair) classes. Pilates exercises help strengthen the body, enhance muscular endurance, and improve flexibility and mobility. These exercises are also very effective in strengthening core muscles and improving posture.

Pilates Bodyworks will be offering special packages to members of the NTU Alumni Club. Visit my studio at Buona Vista Community Club at 36 Holland Drive, #02-01. For more information on Pilates Bodyworks, please check out www.pilates.com.sg.

To contact me, email info@holland@pilates.com.sg.

Raman Bhadhri Prasad  
(EEE/2004)

I have lived in Singapore for almost 10 years, and having studied and worked at NTU, I find the celebration of Chinese New Year very interesting. I got a chance to visit Hong Kong SAR, Macau and Shenzhen this January. It was a great experience to celebrate the Chinese New Year in China. It was interesting to see the different ways they celebrate the Year of the Ox in every place and how the significance of the Chinese zodiac varies.

Still, I don’t put my belief completely in the Zodiac or the stars, as I am more of a right-brainier. My work, however, allows me to dream of stars — I work at NTU’s Satellite Engineering Centre. As its Senior R&D Engineer, I specialize in the communication sub-systems of Singapore’s first satellite project, X-SAT. The Master of Science in Communication Engineering that I got from NTU has equipped me with the right skills to go into satellite technology, which is a joint venture between NTU and DSO.

I tend to get some rather interesting reaction when I tell people about what I do. Some think that I am a ‘secret agent’ of sorts, who is involved in space exploration, but the truth is nowhere near. Do I like what I do? Most certainly! I like that the job scope allows me to have the best of multiple disciplines – Science, Communication and Engineering.

Cheers and have a great year ahead!

Edward Tanny  
(SCE/2003)

For all former NTU classmates, we have been through a lot of challenges — from tolerating exams to getting used to a different country. We have counted on each other to get through. And got through we did. I think the day we all graduated was the happiest moment.

Although we have now entered a different phase of our life — working at work — I’m sure some things don’t change. The firm friendship for one will stand us in good stead.

Please keep in touch. My email address is edtanny@hotmail.com.
**Shen Jiayi**  
(EEE/2004)

I joined NTU’s Centre for IT Services (CITS) in early December last year. It feels great to be able to work in NTU, the university where I had studied and lived in for more than six years.

To me, my campus experience can best be described as ‘I hear the laughter, I feel the tears’. I spent four wonderful years in NTU for my undergraduate studies. During this time, I savoured the freedom of living in the halls; reasmed the campus to try every canteen; and struggled with every exam paper. I even met my wife on campus.

When I graduated, I joined Siemens and started my career as a Building Automation System (BAS) engineer. In 2006, I realised I missed NTU so much that I came back to take up a part-time master degree course, again in an IT-related field.

In late 2007, I left Siemens to join a well-known data centre provider named Global Switch as a facility engineer and site IT controller. At the end of 2008, I returned to NTU again, not as a student this time, but as a staff member of CITS.

One of my favourite activities during weekends is playing soccer. I play for NTU’s Sports & Recreation Centre. My other hobbies include reading books, playing the harmonica and experimenting with computers.

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**Ye Min Min Thana**  
(CEE/2005)

I wish all NTU alumni a very happy and prosperous Year of the Ox. My thanks go to the Alumni Affairs Office for organising events such as the Class Agents Chinese New Year Gathering, which I enjoyed.

Coming from Myanmar, I wish to see an NTU Alumni Association being set up there, so that we can provide more information about NTU to the many others back home, who also wish to pursue an education in the University.

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**Yan Naing Aye**  
(EEE/2005)

It is my pleasure to be able to participate in alumni events where we can make new friends. I joined the KL durian trip last year and found it meaningful. I will encourage my friends, who are also alumni, to join this year’s events too.

What made me proud to be a part of the NTU family was when I went to Chingay Parade Singapore 2008. When I saw our NTU float – Dragonboat – scaling heights and breathing fire, it was a wonderful feeling. I cheered and cast my vote for Dragonboat in the Chingay Float Voting competition. Thank you, NTU, for making me feel so welcomed in this big family.

---

**Intan Supraba**  
(CEE/2006)

Currently, I work in a construction company that deals in oil and gas. The company is called Plant Engineering Construction Pte Ltd. Work as a Project Engineer and have been there for more than two years.

I like my job and encourage any alumni to give engineering a go, be it Mechanical, Chemical or Civil Engineering. Although a highly specialised area, it is the very foundation of any infrastructure and is therefore crucial.

We are located on Jurong Island and our clients are industry bigwigs like ExxonMobil, Shell, Semrauwang Corp, Chevron, Taya, etc.
Kadir Vedachalam
(MAE/2006)

I would like to thank NTU for providing me a wonderful education. I consider myself lucky in these hard financial times to land myself a job in a leading company, Schlumberger, as a mechanical engineer.

In this new year of the Ox, I would like to wish all NTU professors, students, and alumni, a very happy, healthy and prosperous new year!

Adilla Angraeni
(NBS/2007)

Thank you, NTU, for the best three years of my life. I hope NTU continues to be the prestigious university that it is and do us all alumni proud. All the best!

My principle in life is: If I’m not better than others, at least I would like to be different. We are made differently and have the capability to find our own way to succeed. No two persons are the same. I hope to carve out my own niche in this world.

James Ong Zihao
(SCE/2007)

Fishing has become part of my natural instinct since primary school. What got me hooked on fishing is the adrenaline-pumping moment when a fish is caught on the hook. Fishing is not just about yanking a fish out of water; it is also about friendship, sportsmanship and the spirit of sharing, which is as important.

Getting involved in the managing committee of the NTU Anglers’ Club since 2003 has enabled me to grow this favourite past-time of mine into a lifelong sport. During the four years spent at NTU, we have organised a wide range of activities to enrich our experience and also to bring in new blood to the sport. In the process, we have made lifelong friends; travelled together to many foreign countries to fish, such as Malaysia (Sabah) and even Australia (Perth).

The NTU Anglers’ Club is turning 21 soon. With the formation of the Anglers’ Alumni Association and the support of the Alumni Affairs Office, Student Affairs Office and the School, I believe the passion for this sport will live on among alumni, students and staff. Most importantly, I believe the interest can be passed down, indefinitely.
Gloria Aw
a.k.a Bel Esprit
[SBS/2008]

I am currently working as a marketing executive at Biogen Pte Ltd. The company specialises in the distribution of life science products and consumables. I enjoy my work there, I have a curious mind and a hunger to learn, which makes my work interesting.

I am thankful to NTU and its professors as unknown to many, they have really trained me for the working world. One beautiful principle in life that I learnt as a student then was that a positive attitude definitely spurs one to learn and face challenges and grow as a result.

I also learnt from my work experiences that nothing in life is ever a mistake, but just another route, perhaps to success. The one principle that I have learnt from many wise men – the likes of Khalil Gibran – on the attitude towards burning is:

"Wisdom seeks to be wisdom when it becomes too proud to speak, too grave to laugh, and too selfish to seek other than itself." Khalil Gibran.

Aside from work, I am interested in poetry-writing and song-writing. I have done up a few pieces of amateur art out of passion, which I find helps in balancing my life. At the end of the day, everyone lives with a purpose in life.

Here’s one of my works:

**Loving a Man**

I am just a little boy at times,
Wished to be heard sometimes
Though I cannot cry.

Does not mean I do not cry.
Woman, if you would please try.

To listen and wipe those cheeks dry.

These curves, a short while, I love,
Though they fly away, like an elegant dove.

I do not keep them, like an angel in my heart.

In truth to say, the angel is compassion I seek,
From the woman who hears me out when I speak,
And stands by me when I am weak.

Flings and fancies,
They tire my out, these parties,
A meal cooked from you, woman, is so hearty.

Time spent in a true lover’s arms is worthy.

Of mine in return to be your halo.

My email contact: gloria@biogen.com/awc0002@ntu.edu.sg

---

Ronn Goei
(CEE/2008)

I came to NTU in 2003 to study in the School of Materials Science and Engineering. Throughout my four years of undergraduate experience, NTU has given me many chances and opportunities to learn and progress, both academically or through leadership programmes from the various ICA activities.

From the minor programme offered, I was exposed to the R&D of Environmental Engineering, which I found very interesting and important. Applying what I have learnt in my undergraduate days to my doctorate programme, I feel proud to be part of NTU. Thanks, NTU!

---

Charlene Ng Jin Wei
[SBS/2008]

My undergraduate experience at NTU has been amazing. I spent a total of four years at the University. From attaining world-class education to being involved in NTU Sports Club and participating in Global Immersion Programme, everything adds up to what is the most memorable chapter of my life.

There were also the friendships made. What’s more, the unforgettable lesson gained will definitely be with me for a lifetime. Thanks, NTU!
Xu Shouheng
(EEE/2008)

I still remember the surprise and excitement I felt when I first saw the beautiful NTU campus five years ago. Thereafter, NTU impressed me in other ways with its world-class facilities, vibrant campus life, multi-racial and multi-lingual students, in addition to the gorgeous beauty of Yuen Yuen Garden.

I spent four years at NTU and during that time, I participated in many School and Club events. This enabled me to make many friends and I grew so much from these experiences. One thing I cherish the most is that I picked up violin-playing with the CAC (Cultural Activities Club) String Orchestra in the last four years and now, as the concert master of the SD Training Orchestra, I am very proud of and especially thankful for the precious experiences provided by NTU.

In fact, I enjoy life here so much that I decided to spend another four years to pursue my PhD in EEE, as well as to continue learning and playing violin with the CAC String Orchestra. How long will this last? Or, I don’t know... Forever, perhaps.

Zeng Renchun
(SBS/2008)

Completing my tertiary education is a milestone in my life. Moving on, I recently embarked on a career with Citibank in its prestigious Management Associate Programme. The learning curve has been steep, but I am enjoying every moment of this new challenge.

The past four years at NTU have been phenomenal, and this would not have been possible without my mates at the School of Biological Sciences. A special thank you goes out to the School’s faculty, staff, as well as the mentors, who have guided me through this important stage of my life. Thank you for the wonderful memories, which will stay with me for the rest of my life.

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