Alumni of the Year

| Dr Chee Kheng Hoy | Dr Teh Hoon Heng | Mr Chai Chong Yii |

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中国：向新加坡城市化发展看齐

中国城市化的迅速发展为南大迎来了更多培训机会，在最近一次的毕业典礼上毕业生人数最多的是中国学员。

恰逢中建交20周年，南洋理工大学为此双边关系再添喜讯——自1992年至今，南大共为中国培养了一万名干部人员。

迄今，有1528名中国学员顺利完成南大中国项目硕士课程，而其中共有906名中国官员毕业自南大“市长班”。“市长班”当中的许多官员，在毕业后不久还晋升为副省长、各市市委书记和市长。

今年共有331名中国学员，毕业自6项中国项目硕士课程，此第五届中国毕业典礼成为南大目前为止毕业生数最多的一次。

毕业典礼于9月19日（周日）在广州白云国际会议中心的广州大会堂大厅举办，并且荣幸地邀请到名誉副校长詹达斯先生主持。

中国毕业典礼

南大校长徐冠林博士在致辞时说道：“今天，2010班毕业生正式加入南大校友的大家庭中。我希望大家将来继续和母校保持紧密联系，并成为南大驻中国大使。我同时希望你们能充分运用在南大学到的知识，为社会和国家尽一份力。”

出席毕业典礼的嘉宾还包括了中共中央政治局常委李克强、新加坡国家发展部暨教育部高级政务部长傅海燕女士、新加坡交通部暨社会发展、青年及体育部高级政务次长张思乐先生、新加坡驻广州总领事洪齐全先生，以及南洋理工大学校董会董长谢万霖先生、胜吉星先生和连承思女士。

另外，南大北京校友会会长沈冰女士也在典礼上和所有校友们分享南大协助达成她个人志向的感激之情。

南大中国项目课程

南大共有六项中国项目硕士学位课程。其中两项目被广泛誉为“市长班”，由管理经济学硕士学位课程及公共管理硕士学位课程组成。

其他四项中国项目硕士课程还包括了：南洋高层主管工商管理硕士课程、创业与创新硕士课程、教育管理硕士课程，以及金融硕士学位课程。这四项课程同时在社会和经济方面为中国带来了积极的转变。

南洋公共管理研究生院院长暨人文与社会科学学院副院长吴伟教授指出，这是由于中国官员在中国迅速的城市化发展方面所面临的挑战所致。
Urbanisation in perspective

NTU’s latest and largest cohort of Chinese graduates shows interest in Master’s programmes slanted towards China’s rapid urbanisation.

Interest has shifted among the Chinese students enrolled at NTU.

As the officials in China face challenges brought about by the rapid urbanisation of the country, their interest is slanted towards urban management and planning, cited Associate Professor Wu Wei, Director of the Nanyang Centre for Public Administration and NTU’s Office of China Affairs.

The University has since 1992 trained more than 10,000 Chinese officials.

This year, a total of 331 graduated from NTU’s six China-focused Master’s degree programmes. It marked NTU’s fifth convocation and also the University’s largest cohort by far.

NTU Pro-Chancellor Mr Chandra Das presided over the China Convocation held at Guangzhou Baiyun International Convention Centre, on Sunday 19 September.

China Convocation

NTU President Dr Su Guaning delivered his welcome address at the Convocation ceremony.

In his address, Dr Su said: “Today, the Class of 2010 joins our global Nanyang alumni family. I hope you will continue to sustain strong bonds with your alma mater and become NTU’s ambassadors in China. I also hope you will harness the knowledge you have gained in your time at NTU and use it to play your part in contributing to society and to your country.”

The ceremony was also attended by distinguished guests such as Ms Cheng Guilan, Deputy Director-General of the Organisation Department of China’s CPC Central Committee; Ms Grace Fu, Singapore’s Senior Minister of State for National Development and Education; Mr Teo Ser Luck, Singapore’s Senior Parliamentary Secretary for Community Development, Youth and Sports, and Transport; Mr Ang Chay Chuan, Singapore Consul General in Guangzhou; and NTU Board of Trustees members Mr Chia Ban Seng, Mr Inderjit Singh and Ms Lien Siaou-Sze.

Representing his fellow graduands, valedictorian Mr Zhang Ke, Deputy Director, Taiwan Affairs Office, People’s Government of Guangdong Province, said: “We will apply what we have learnt in NTU to our daily work in an earnest and down-to-earth manner, and play our part in enhancing ties between China and Singapore.”

Also addressing fellow alumni on the big day, President of the NTU Alumni Association in Beijing, Ms Shen Bing, shared via her speech how she was able to achieve her aspirations, thanks to NTU.

NTU’s China-focused programmes

NTU offers six China-focused Master’s degree programmes. Two of these, popularly known as the ‘Mayors’ Class’, comprise the Master of Science in Managerial Economics and Master of Public Administration programmes. The other four China-focused Master’s courses – the Nanyang EMBA, Master of Science in Technopreneurship and Innovation, Master in Educational Administration, and Master of Science in Finance programmes – have also introduced positive transformation in China, both socially and economically.
公共服务质量和城市宜居性

在首届亚太市长论坛上，来自中国各城市和世界各地的政府官员就“公共服务质量”和“现代城市品牌”问题交换了心得和见解。

南洋理工大学的中国校友们从全国各地云集广州，出席第一次由南大和中国广东省广州市人民政府联合举办的首届亚太市长论坛。

出席的嘉宾约有500位，他们是来自中国部分城市的政府官员及全球其他城市的政府官员，他们当中有一部分人曾经南大大学习及培训。

来宾们致勃勃地聆听论坛上的一种见解，这要感谢在论坛上发表演讲的嘉宾们——新加坡国家发展局暨教育部高级政务部长傅海燕女士，美国亚利桑那州凤凰城市长高登先生，广州市市长万庆良先生，以及“二十国集团研究中心”秘书长暨亚洲博商会论坛前秘书长龙永图先生。

论坛上讨论的主题是：“追求卓越的公共服务”以及“现代城市品牌问题”，题目具有普遍性，内容也很切题。

可持续发展的城市

傅海燕女士在讲话中指出，亚洲城市如果要实现可持续发展，他们面对着三种挑战。

这三种挑战是：现代城市在转型成为知识型经济之后，如何依靠资源推动生产力；在人口迅速增加、经济迅速发展过程中，如何提高城市的宜居性；在城市转型为知识型经济过程中，如何协助市民们适应日益激烈的竞争。

形象与公共服务

首届亚太市长论坛显然为亚太地区的市长和政府高级官员们提供了一个交流意见和经验的平台。举办论坛的目的也在和来宾商讨并寻求解决方案：改进公共服务、提高城市的宜居性。在国际舞台上，优良的公共服务预示着卓越的城市形象。

在论坛上也公布了“连氏中国城市公共服务质量指数调查”结果。卓越的公共服务指数将使中国政府能够了解他们在公共服务领域的实力和弱点，井加速改善的步伐。

首届亚太市长论坛是南大在多方面加强与中国关系举措中的其中一项。这项活动也是为庆祝新中建交20周年而举办的。

论坛于9月19日（星期日）在广州市举行。
Asia-Pacific Mayors’ Forum: Towards sharing and finding solutions

A first, the forum held in Guangzhou, sees experts discussing public service excellence and the liveability of modern cities.

The Asia-Pacific Mayors’ Forum marks the 20th Anniversary of Singapore’s bilateral ties with China. Held for the first time by NTU and the People’s Government of Guangzhou Municipality, it saw alumni from across China congregating, at the city of Guangzhou on Sunday 19 September.

Among the attendees were some 500 government officials from several Chinese cities, as well as from around the world. Many of them had received training from NTU.

All present were treated to a forum of varied views on the topics of ‘Pursuing Excellence in Public Service’ and ‘Branding Modern Cities’.

Distinguished keynote speakers were: Ms Grace Fu, Singapore’s Senior Minister of State for National Development and Education; Mr Phil Gordon, Mayor of Phoenix City, Arizona, USA; Mr Wan Qingliang, Mayor of Guangzhou Municipality; and Mr Long Yongtu, Secretary General of Centre for the Study of the G20 and former Secretary General of Boao Forum for Asia.

Sustainable city: Singapore’s sharing

Ms Fu suggested in her presentation that for Asian cities to achieve stable and sustainable development, they face three challenges.

These were: How can a modern city rely on resources to promote productivity, following its transformation into a knowledge-based economy; how to enhance the liveability of cities amid rapid population and economic growths; and how to help its people to adapt to increasing competition as the city transforms into a knowledge economy.

Image and public service

The Asia-Pacific Mayors’ Forum had facilitated the sharing and exchange of views and experience. It was a learning journey for the mayors and senior officials from the Asia-Pacific region.

It was also an attempt at finding solutions: Ways to improve public service and make cities more liveable were surfaced for deliberation.

A good public service augurs well for the image of a city in the international arena.

The forum also saw the introduction of the Lien Public Service Excellence Index for Chinese Cities. The public service excellence index will provide the China government with insight to the strengths and weaknesses of its public service and accelerate improvement.
Network, network

NTU’s newest school, the School of Chemical & Biomedical Engineering, launches an alumni association for its former students to keep in touch.
Albeit a relatively new School – the School of Chemical & Biomedical Engineering was set up in 2005 – alumni eagerly formed a grouping that will serve as a contact point for them to maintain ties with NTU and stay in touch with one another.

Its recent Class of 2010 is the third batch of students to have graduated from the School.

The launch marks the 13th school-based alumni association set up by the University, bringing the total to 53 NTU alumni associations.

As close as can be

Mr Ng Zhihan, who is from the School’s Class of 2009, will be heading the newly formed association.

Mr Ng encouraged his fellow alumni to stay close to NTU in his launch address.

Mr Ng said: “I would like to urge all of you to keep your contact details with the University updated, so that you will be kept informed of alumni events. These events will serve as platforms for you to catch up with your friends and to discover more opportunities.”

To officially launch the association, Mr Soon Min Yam, Director of Alumni Affairs, NTU, and Mr Ng unveiled a plaque, witnessed by the School’s Assistant Chair, Assistant Professor Timothy Tan, the association’s Vice President, Mr Lewis Woo (Class of 2009) and Associate Professor William Chen from SCBE.

‘Dinner with Shmucks’

Once the unveiling was done, the alumni lost no time in mingling and catching up with their former classmates.

The evening proved fruitful for the 100 SCBE alumni that came, many of whom dropped by straight after work.

They were certainly looking forward to wrapping up their working week, what with the launch being held on a Friday evening.

Many weren’t disappointed. They got to enjoy a sumptuous Italian buffet spread, which was rounded up by ‘dessert’ in the form of a movie treat – ‘Dinner with Shmucks’.

The School of Chemical & Biomedical Engineering Alumni Association was launched on 8 October, at Golden Village Vivocity.

“I would like to urge all of you to keep your contact details with NTU updated, so that you will be kept informed of alumni events. These events will serve as platforms for you to catch up with your friends and to discover more opportunities.”

Mr Ng Zhihan (SCBE/Class of 2009), President
School of Chemical & Biomedical Engineering Alumni Association
Stretching their talent

Former active members of the Cultural Activities Club set up an alumni association to serve as a talent pool for their alma mater and foster camaraderie at the same time.

The NTU Cultural Activities Club (CAC), one of the University’s largest and most influential student bodies, has set up its alumni association.

It couldn’t have been timelier; the CAC has been around for 19 years.

The setting up of the CAC alumni association was made possible, thanks to several members, many of whom had held posts in the club’s committees during their varsity days. They included Ms Vu Minh Huong (NBS/Class of 2008), now President of the new association and its main motivator.

Creative synergy

Applauding the set-up was NTU’s Senior Associate Provost, Professor Er Meng Hwa, who was Guest-of-Honour at the launch ceremony.

Addressing alumni in his welcome speech, he said: “The set-up will facilitate the strengthening of ties; the CAC ‘seniors’ who have graduated will have the opportunities to collaborate with existing student members in the club, motivated as they are by their shared passion and common interests.”

“I am certain the collaboration between alumni and students will help to nurture the artistic talents on campus, such that NTU will be transformed into an Arts and Cultural hub,” he added.

Alumni who are also past CAC members have been actively lending support to the University’s Alumni Affairs Office (AAO) and performing at the activities it organises.

The new set-up thus offers an official avenue for talented alumni to extend themselves.
Synergy is in place between the new alumni association and the campus’ CAC. With the student body’s 21 member clubs associated with music, dance, martial arts and event support, diverse collaborative opportunities can be expected.

Talent tapestry

The launch ceremony of the CAC alumni association itself was synergy epitomised.

From the Masters of Ceremony to the performers – Jazz and Blues band and singing sensations – the launch saw the CAC’s very own alumni and students showcase their combined talents.

Alumna Zhu Lifang (NBS/Class of 2008) and a member of the association’s Executive Committee said: “The launch is the fruit of our labour. We have been working hard to bring together past CAC members who are like-minded and share the same passion.”

The evening was certainly not all work and no play.

Benny Chwee (NBS/Class of 2008), one of the evening’s emcees, quipped: “While the launch was important, it also gave us a chance to get together and relax after a week of hard work. This is also why we held it on a Friday.”

Alumni present certainly wound down, as they played an interactive game of Bingo and enjoyed the performances being staged, which included a Lady Gaga hit song.

The launch took place on Friday, 22 October, with 100 alumni attending.

Facilitated by AAO, it was held at *SCAPE, a hip venue, deliberately picked to befit the vivacious individuals of the CAC alumni association.

Exclusive! Sign up and be a member of the new NTU CAC Alumni Association.

To register, surf by www.ntucacalumni.com/member/register.htm
Alumni couple, Mr Chan Ying Bean (MAE/Class of 1995) and Ms Chong Pei Ling (NBS/Class of 1996), recalled their romancing days, ‘dating’ on IRC, or the then Internet Relay Chat.

Sharing how they became campus sweethearts, Mr Chan said: “I went through the numerical identity card numbers of students and chose those starting with ‘74’. This was how I made sure I was talking only to the fairer gender. When we started chatting, NTU was still using the 386 series of computers. There were no graphics on the screen and all you could see were green words on a black background.”

He and his wife were all smiles when they revealed their little ‘secret’ at the anniversary reunion of the Classes of 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005.

Those were the days
A few from the Class of 1990 – engineering graduates – happily recounted how they used to ‘annoy’ their female peers from accountancy.

Those were also the days when the University’s engineering discipline was typically male dominated, recalled alumnus Jimmy Tan (CEE/Class of 1990). Then, there was an influx of the opposite gender into accountancy. They became the talk of the campus. Two beauties, in particular, often had their names called out by male students whenever they were in sight. Their names were even abbreviated to L² and L³ for ‘subtlety’. These abbreviations might still ring a bell to alumni of the era.

Mr Tan fondly remembered, too, the rustic feel of the old campus, where there were plenty more green spaces for students to unwind after a stressful day.

Looking back as well was Mr Mohamed Hizam (NIE/Class of 2005), presently a Malay Language teacher at Qihua Primary School. He missed the food stalls at the old Canteen A, where he often visited for drinks and Muslim food. Mr Hizam noticed that there were many wonderful changes in NTU, while joining a campus tour, organised as
part of the reunion’s activities. He came with his wife and eldest daughter.

**Best times of your life**

Welcoming the alumni back to NTU, Guest-of-Honour, Professor Er Meng Hwa, Senior Associate Provost, NTU, highlighted that campus days were probably the best times of one’s life. These were the times when precious friendships were forged.

As Professor Er delivered his opening address to kick start the reunion, he apprised alumni of the latest developments of the University. Key among which was the setting up of Singapore’s third medical school, a partnership between NTU and the Imperial College London.

Mr Ting Chee Kheong (MSE/Class of 1995), who represented the reunion’s organising committees, took the chance to encourage fellow alumni to cherish the link they have with NTU, for it identifies them with a reputable university.

To make the reunion more meaningful, Classes of 1990, 1995 and 2000 laid their class plaques at the Quad. Class of 2005’s plaque was already laid during their Convocation in 2005, the year plaque-laying tradition was observed.

The Quad is a site on campus where the class plaques of the present, past and future graduating classes, are placed.

Alumni were also treated to wine appreciation and the art of tea-making at the reunion. Even the children who came along had their treat – a magic show.

Happiness was written on the faces of alumni, but the happiest of them all would have to be Ms Sia Pei Pei (MAE/Class of 1990). Ms Sia went home with an iPad she won from a lucky draw held at the end of the reunion.

The anniversary reunion for the Classes of 1990, 1995, 2000 and 2005 took place on 25 September, at Nanyang Auditorium Foyer, NTU.

The event attracted about 160 participants.
The recipients of this year’s President’s Award for Teachers serve beyond their call of duty and are an inspiration to fellow alumni from the National Institute of Education.

Inspiring teachers

The recipients of this year’s President’s Award for Teachers are: Mdm Emelyn Soon (2nd from left), Mr Devindra Sapai (3rd from left), Miss Teh Wan (3rd from right) and Mrs Mohana Eswaran (4th from right). They are in the presence of President and Mrs S R Nathan (4th and 5th from left); Dr Ng Eng Hen (far left), Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence; Mr Masagos Zulkifli (2nd from right), Minister of State, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Home Affairs; and Ms Ho Peng (far right), Director-General of Education, Ministry of Education.

From developing students into civic-minded citizens to affirming and motivating them to achieve exceptional success, inspiring teachers often go the extra mile. They educate, lead, care and inspire their young charges so as to develop them into all-round individuals for the future.

Receiving the nation’s highest accolade for teachers from President S R Nathan, these teachers were: Mdm Emelyn Soon Bee Hong from CHIJ Kellock; Mr Devindra Sapai s/o Indrasapai from Seng Kang Primary School; Miss Teh Wan from Townsville Primary School; and Mrs Mohana Eswaran from Regent Secondary School.

Nurturing social-emotional growth

Recipient Mdm Emelyn Soon works hard at developing her pupils into concerned citizens with a strong sense of civic responsibility. She also shapes them into keen contributors willing to take on an active role in improving the lives of others around them.
Through a wide repertoire of teaching strategies to promoting interest in learning, she designed and demonstrated how to meaningfully infuse Social Emotional Learning competencies into her pastoral care lessons.

Developing character
As Dean of Pupil Development in Seng Kang Primary School, Mr Devindra Sapai plays a key role in ensuring that the teaching of values is embedded across all disciplines.

He cares passionately about the character and moral development of all his pupils.

Mr Devindra is personally involved with 'at risk' pupils, working with colleagues, parents, educational psychologists and the community to improve their lives.

Sparking interest
Fellow recipient Miss Teh Wan believes that it is important to spark her pupils’ interest in Mathematics, a subject she teaches.

To help her pupils attain their goals, she teaches them to set target; she also spends time to review their targets regularly.

A skilful classroom practitioner, Miss Teh is passionate about developing and honing the professionalism of teachers and has shared her experiences and pedagogical skills with her colleagues at various levels.

Boosting morale
Mrs Eswaran, also a recipient of the 2010 President’s Award for Teachers, is regarded by her charges as a confidante they can trust to share their problems with.

The pupils appreciate her efforts in affirming their work; it boosts morale and spurs them on.

Mrs Eswaran’s sincerity and enthusiasm have also been commended by parents and partners of her school, many of whom she collaborates with, to enrich the learning of her pupils. She values every opportunity she gets to contribute to the teaching fraternity.

The annual President’s Award for Teachers recognises the commitment of teachers towards the total development of students and to nation-building.

The awards were presented at the Istana during the Teachers’ Day reception on 1 September.
Class of 1985 gives back

Alumni of the class raise over $3 million for needy engineering students through their Class of ’85 Pioneer Fund, a first and only such class fund set up for the University.

Perhaps willed by their common experience, the Class of 1985 is motivated to lead the way, no less for a good cause.

Leading the way
This year, to mark the Class’ 25th Anniversary Reunion, they raised more than $3 million (with government matching) for NTU, above its initial target of $2.5 million.

The amount is the largest sum raised by a class in conjunction with their class reunion.

The University’s Class of 1985, comprising Members of Parliament Er Lee Bee Wah (CEE) and Inderjit Singh (EEE), had raised the sum for their Class of ’85 Pioneer Fund established five years ago.

While Mr Inderjit led the fundraising sub-committee, Er Lee chaired the dinner sub-committee to put together their 25th Anniversary reunion dinner.

Relating how the idea of the fund came about,
Mr Inderjit said: “A few of us got together five years ago to do something bigger and more significant by organising a 20th Anniversary Class of 1985 gathering in 2005.

“As we planned the gathering, we also thought that, as the pioneer batch of NTI, we should give back to the University by creating an endowment fund to help future needy students.”

The $2.5 million target set in 2005 was to coincide with the Class’ 25th Anniversary this year, affirmed Mr Inderjit.

To solicit donation, the fund-raising committee sought the support of successful alumni.

In addition to Mr Inderjit and Er Lee, some of the other Class of 1985 donors were Mr Chang Long Jong (CEE), Deputy Chief Executive Officer of MediaCorp Pte Ltd and Ms Florence Tan Sok Bee (MAE), Director of CAD-IT Consultants (Asia) Pte Ltd.

Entrepreneur Mr Sonny Bensily (CEE), who also donated, said: “I consider myself a ‘filial son’ of NTU, so I find giving back to my alma mater a duty.

“Giving is only considered giving if it hurts. $55,000 is a lot of money to me, but I think it is worth the while to help deserving undergraduates who need financial help. I have not given so much money before and to be able to help is a good feeling.”

At its steady state, this NTU class endowment fund supports up to 23 NTU students each financial year. To date, a total of 27 awards have been disbursed and another 10 awards are slated to be given out by next March.

Setting an example

“I am proud of the NTU Class of 1985 for setting a wonderful example for others to follow,” said Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence, on his blog. Dr Ng was Guest-of-Honour at the dinner held to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the NTU Class of 1985.

Applauding the class for their fund-raising efforts, NTU President Dr Su Guaning said: “The Class of 1985’s generosity has helped to ensure that deserving students receive quality education, regardless of their financial status.
Past and present key players of the University are: (From left) Professor Lim Mong King, NTU’s Senior Advisor (Globalisation) and former Dean of the School of Mechanical & Production Engineering; Professor Brian Lee, former Dean of the School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering; Professor Cham Tao Soon, President Emeritus, NTU; Professor Chen Charng Ning, Emeritus Professor, NTU and former Dean of the School of Civil & Structural Engineering; and Professor Er Meng Hwa, NTU’s Senior Associate Provost.

“We hope this will inspire more graduate classes to follow suit, sparking off a meaningful tradition that forms the cornerstone of NTU’s culture of giving.”

**It’s a celebration!**

The Class of 1985 has distinguished themselves. Proud of her peers, Er Lee observed in her welcome address at the dinner that many among her fellow alumni have achieved success amid adversity.

Throughout dinner, the alumni were moving from table to table, catching up. Friendships were re-kindled among students and faculty members – some had not seen each other for years and had even flown in from overseas just to be part of the reunion.

Then and now photos were compared, greeted with plenty of laughter and heckles, while tears flowed for some.

There to celebrate the 25th Anniversary class reunion with alumni were the founding President, Deans and other professors from NTI. These included President Emeritus Professor Cham Tao Soon; Emeritus Professor and former Dean of the School of Civil & Structural Engineering, Professor Chen Charng Ning; Senior Advisor (Globalisation) and former Dean of the School of Mechanical & Production Engineering, Professor Lim Mong King; and former Dean of the School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, Professor Brian Lee, and NTU’s Senior Associate Provost, Professor Er Meng Hwa.

The dinner was held on Friday 29 October at Sheraton Towers Singapore.

This year’s NTU President’s Golf Challenge took on a greater significance. It was used as a platform to raise funds to support deserving NTU students with cash awards, scholarships and bursaries through the Class of ’85 Pioneer Fund.

Held on 3 November at Island Course, Singapore Island Country Club, the golf event was graced by Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Minister for Finance and attended by over 180 participants and guests.

All 36 flights were sold, with mostly corporate sponsors coming forward graciously to support the event. Golfer Tony Puah, Financial Controller at APP Systems Services Pte Ltd, was crowned champion.
A glittering occasion, the dinner also incorporated a talk by Dr Liu Thai-Ker, an architect-planner renowned as the ‘Father of Singapore’s urban planning’.

The Director at RSP Architects Planners and Engineers (Pte) Ltd, Dr Liu spoke on ‘Trends of Future Urban Development’.

Some 400 alumni and guests present for the evening were enthralled.

Among them were: Mr Chandra Das, Pro-Chancellor of NTU; Mr Ang Chay Chuan, Singapore Consulate General in Guangzhou; Mr Liam Younong, Mayor, Beihai Municipality, Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, China; Mr Phil Gordon, Mayor, Phoenix City, Arizona, USA; Dr Chan-Gon Kim, Deputy Mayor, Songpa-gu, Seoul, South Korea; NTU Board of Trustees Mr Chia Ban Seng, Mr Inderjit Singh, Ms Lien Siaou-Sze and senior management staff, as well as alumni from Guangzhou and other provinces.

The occasion was also opportune; Dr Su presented the NTU flag to the NTU Alumni Association (Guangdong).

Additional key committee members had been appointed for the chapter, which has been serving alumni in the province since it was formed in July 2008.

Following the flag presentation, performances were staged. Dinner was well underway and there were spontaneous outpourings of cheer as glasses clinked merrily in toasting.

The good humoured atmosphere brought NTU’s Senior Associate Provost, Professor Er Meng Hwa, on to the stage to croon a love ballad. Director of Alumni Affairs, Mr Soon Min Yam, also performed.

The Evening Talk & Alumni Networking Dinner was held on 19 September, at Oriental Hall, Guangzhou Baiyun International Convention Centre.
NTU honours 31 brilliant alumni who exemplify the University’s finest graduates at Homecoming this year. They received their awards from Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence. NTU Link profiles some of these individuals.
Dr Chee Kheng Hoy, 74, has had breakthroughs in the rubber industry and made an impact on rubber tree research and disease eradication.

Dr Chee conducted vigorous research, whilst serving the Rubber Research Institute of Malaysia (PRIM). He first propelled to international acclaim when he discovered a new species of fungal pathogen on rubber trees, following an outbreak of Phytophthora Leaf Fall. His discovery earned Dr Chee the recognition as a world expert on rubber tree diseases. The disease, which attacked the mature leaves of rubber trees causing them to shed, was named after its founder – Phytophthora Botryosa Chee.

Another area which Dr Chee devoted 14 years of his life’s work on was the study of the South American Leaf Blight (SALB) – a condition that turned rubber trees into a commercially-unviable crop in South America.

His research on SALB took him to Trinidad and Brazil. There, Dr Chee gained an in-depth understanding of the disease from which he managed to safeguard the Malaysian rubber industry against the blight.

The experienced researcher headed the Crop Protection and Microbiology Department in RRIM until his retirement in 1989. He then went on to lead Research and Development for the IOI Plantations in Malaysia and Lyman Agro Plantations in Indonesia, among others.

He was also consulted for his extensive knowledge on rubber tree research by the likes of the Food and Agriculture Organisation and Common Fund of Commodities.

Dr Chee’s varied contributions had earned him numerous official mentions. In 1984, the Gold Medal Award was bestowed upon him by the Malaysian Rubber Research and Development Board. He was elected Fellow by the Incorporated Society of Planters in 2002 and last year, he received the Malaysia Federal Award Ahli Mangku Negara.

Today, he is Deputy Chairman of The Agriculture and Primary Industries Committee of the Associated Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Malaysia.
The Chen family’s immeasurable support of NTU

All three alumni, now in their 70s, share an indelible bond with their alma mater. They hailed from the first batch of Nanyang University graduates and were involved then in garnering donations to help build the university. Mdm Chai, a former ballerina used to grace the stage, while her husband toiled backstage, as part of the performances put up for donation drives.

The Chens’ latest contribution was a $1 million donation for the advancement of Chinese studies in NTU. The donation was made through the proceeds from the sale of the family-owned Shanghai Book Company, one of Singapore’s oldest home-grown bookstores that had been around for 83 years.

The main shareholders, Mr Chen Mong Tse, his wife, Mdm Chai Chu Chun, and his sister Ms Chen Mong Sing, consented unanimously to donating the proceeds from the sale of the company to NTU.

Their sizeable donation was contributed to the Division of Chinese at the School of Humanities & Social Sciences. Coupled with a matching grant from the government, a $2 million scholarship and bursary programme was created for NTU students pursuing a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) degree in Chinese. The fund is divided into four scholarships and 12 bursaries, each with a value of $8,000 and $4,000, respectively.

Ms Chen said: “Our father set up the Shanghai Book Company with the purpose of serving society through the promotion of the Chinese culture. The establishment of the Shanghai Book Co Scholarship and Bursary ensures the continuity of our father’s mission.”

The Shanghai Book Company was the leading Chinese language bookstore patronised by Nanyang University undergraduates and graduates in its early years.

Today, in semi-retirement, Mr Chen and his wife continue to contribute. They had served on the organising committee that put together their class reunion to mark its 50th and 47th Anniversaries. They are also Class Agent for the Class of 1960 and have been one since 2007. Mdm Chai even lends her expertise to organising dance performances for various Global Nantah Reunions.

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Dr Teh Hoon Heng

(Science/Class of 1960)

An educationist and a technologist in Mathematics and Computer Science

Dr Teh Hoon Heng, 76, dedicated 16 years of his career teaching at the then Nanyang University. He innovated the learning and teaching of Mathematics at tertiary level by creating excellence course programmes much ahead of his time.

Dr Teh rose through the academic ranks and landed various leadership positions within the Department of Mathematics. Key among his achievements was the supervision of the master’s and research programmes for graduate studies courses as Dean of the College of Graduate Studies.

He shifted his professional focus towards Information Technology (IT) by the late 1970s. It was at that point that the Computer Science teaching programme was introduced at Nanyang University and was seen as a pioneering effort in IT.

Dr Teh played a pivotal role in the Computer Centre, which saw the onset of his involvement in the research of Computer Science by 1982.

He was able to conduct extensive IT research over a period of eight years, whilst working for the Institute of Systems Science (ISS). There, he was Programme Manager and led research activities before moving on to become the Visiting Research Advisor of the institute. The ISS was a collaboration between IBM and the Government.

He had published over 100 research articles in Mathematics and Computer Science in the last four decades and authored two books – ‘Algebraic Graph Theory’ and ‘Neural Logic Network’.

For his contributions to mathematical education and research, the Academic Achievement Award was conferred upon him by the President of France in 1977.

Dr Teh lent his expertise to primary and secondary schools here and in Malaysia by conducting seminars and workshops for teachers on the teaching of Mathematics.

In recent years, he developed educational software for the younger generation in a joint effort with Kent Ridge Digital Labs (the former ISS) and Times Information. His series became one of the best-selling educational tools in the region.

Towards the end of 1997, Dr Teh created a series of educational software aimed at inculcating creative thinking. Partnering All Thinkers Lab, he developed their first product, ‘The Dawn of Creative Thinking’, and recently, ‘The Joy of Creative Mathematics’. Dr Teh is currently its Research Advisor.

Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award Recipients

Ms Chen Mong Sing

(Arts/Class of 1960)

Board Chairman

Mr Chen Mong Tse

(Science/Class of 1960)

Business Consultant

Mdm Chai Chu Chun

(Arts/Class of 1960)

Board Director

The Chen family’s immeasurable support of NTU

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Mr Stephen Lim Nghee Huat  
(Commerce/Class of 1975)  

*Editor, Chinese Current Affairs*  

*Ultra-marathoner goes the distance*  

Mr Stephen Lim Nghee Huat participated in Run Round Singapore – the longest 218-km ultra-marathon on the island – to challenge himself, as well as to raise funds.  

The run was organised by NTU to commemorate the University’s 55th and 50th Anniversary celebrations in 2010 and 2005, respectively. The sprightly 57-year-old still holds his alma mater close to his heart. Although the oldest amongst the participating alumni runners, he completed all 218 km, or the equivalent of five full marathons.  

Also the oldest when he first took part in the same run in 2005 – albeit a shorter distance of 168 km – Mr Lim came in first in 24 hours 45 minutes. His efforts were recognised by Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong, who pledged $10 for every kilometre covered by Mr Lim. Proceeds from the race were channelled into the NTU Endowment Fund in aid of future generations of NTU students.  

Mr Lim has also left his mark in the international ultra-marathon arena. In 2007, he was listed in the Singapore Book of Records for being one of the first few Southeast Asians to complete the 217 km Death Valley Challenge in the USA. Running under extreme weather conditions and treacherous terrains, Mr Lim raised funds for the Mountbatten Citizens’ Consultative Committee and National Junior College Student Development Fund.  

In 2009, he became the first Asian to complete the Badwater World Cup 217 km Brazil Ultra-marathon, finishing in 26th position out of 61 competitors. He garnered more than $20,000 in donation for the Singapore Table Tennis Association.  

Mr Lim was also the fastest Asian finisher outside of Japan at the 1989 Ironman World Championship held in Hawaii, and the first Asian to complete the Sahara Marathon in Tindouf, Algeria, in 2007.  

Next year, he plans to take on a 1,000 km run, criss-crossing 25 cities in China.  

Mr Lim is active in grassroots as well; he is Chairman of the Mountbatten Citizens’ Consultative Committee and aims to promote a ‘Sporting Mountbatten’ by administering health enrichments programmes such as ‘FIT for Elderly’ for the residents.  

Commissioner Ng Joo Hee  
(NBS/Class of 1998)  

*Commissioner of Police*  

*Keeping watch over the Lion City*  

Commissioner Ng Joo Hee has been with the Singapore Police Force (SPF) since 1985 and has had an illustrious quarter-century-long career in safeguarding the interests of Singaporeans.  

Key among his many achievements was the establishment of the Police S.T.A.R Unit – an elite hostage-rescue outfit. He subsequently went on to lead the outfit.  

The 44-year-old alumnus was appointed Commissioner of Police and took leadership of the SPF on 1 February 2010.  

Commissioner Ng was formerly Deputy Director of the Criminal Investigation Department and Director of the Police Intelligence Department. From 2001 to 2003, he commanded the Central Police Division.  

Beyond the SPF, he had served the Internal Security Department, Singapore Prison Service and was absorbed into the Singapore Administrative Service in 1999. He had had stints in the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Ministry of Trade and Industry.  

He was appointed Director of Prisons in 2007 and was responsible for the efficient operation of all prisons and drug rehabilitation centres in Singapore.  

He currently sits on the board of the Casino Regulatory Authority, and is a member of the Probation Committee and the National Crime Prevention Council.  

His commitment to preserving the safety of his fellow men extends beyond the shores of Singapore. In 1992, he spent a year working as a police monitor with the United Nations’ peacekeeping mission in Cambodia.  

Commissioner Ng obtained a Master in Business Administration (Accountancy) from NTU and a Master in Public Administration from the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University. In 1988, he obtained his honours degree in Engineering Science and Economics from the University of Oxford.  

He was a keynote speaker at NTU Convocation 2010, where he drew on his experiences and shared with the University’s graduating students.
Ms Sophia Pang Soh Chui  
(NBS/Class of 1994)  
Freelancer  
From full-time mum to South Pole explorer  
The active 38-year-old and a mother of three became the first Singaporean woman to ski to the South Pole. She defied extreme weather conditions such as sub-zero temperatures, ‘plain white vastness’, brutal winds and 24-hour sunlight, to reach the South Pole on 29 December 2009, together with her expedition team-mates. They had skied over 900 km and reached their destination in 38 days.

Ms Sophia Pang Soh Chui took to the South Pole as part of the Kaspersky Lab Commonwealth Antarctic Expedition, organised to mark the 60th Anniversary of the Commonwealth. She beat 80 other Singaporean women for a place in an eight-woman team, representing eight Commonwealth countries.

Ms Pang signed up for the expedition out of a sheer desire to want to do something for herself. But, when her daughter quipped that it would take a miracle if she succeeded, Ms Pang became motivated by a cause bigger than herself – a determination to show her children life’s possibilities.

She shared that having team-mates, who hailed from different countries and backgrounds, inter-cultural and inter-racial understanding was essential.

Citing an incident where a strong gale had ripped a hole in their tent, threatening to throw a spanner in the works, the eight had rallied together. Mending the tear, they demonstrated that no challenge was too difficult to tackle.

They also discovered that the expedition was not merely about each individual’s progress, but about a disparate group of women working together towards achieving a common goal.

Having juggled traditional societal roles held by women – mother, wife and daughter – Ms Pang also wanted to prove that women could embark on physically gruelling challenges and succeed!

A freelance aerobics instructor, Ms Pang continues to inspire others by sharing her South Pole experiences through talks and forums.

Mr Song Changrui  
(HSS/Class of 1999)  
Deputy Director of Hebei Provincial People’s Congress Standing Committee  
An exemplary civil servant with people’s welfare at heart  
Mr Song Changrui, 59, is dedicated to improving the living standards of people in the Hebei province. He encourages urban modernisation in a bid to raise the standard of living for the residents there.

Mr Song has been instrumental in promoting reforms beneficial to the province for over three decades.

Recognised by the local government for his leadership qualities, he was sent to read his Master of Science in Managerial Economics at NTU from 1998 to 1999. While studying at the University, he felt an affinity to NTU and has continued to give his alma mater wholehearted support even after returning to his homeland upon graduation.

He played a key role in organising NTU’s first overseas Convocation in Qinhuangdao City in 2006. Party Secretary of the city then, his support led to the success of the Convocation.

Steadfast in his commitment to NTU, Mr Song contributed significantly to the establishment of the NTU Alumni Association (Hebei) in June 2010. He assumed President-ship of the association when it was founded and remains actively involved in its running.

In 2009, he lent support to the launch of NTU Alumni Association (Jiangsu).

A hardworking man by nature, Mr Song takes his professional career seriously; he had risen through the ranks from being an Executive in a political division affiliated with the Hebei Provincial Committee to his current position as Deputy Director of the state. He has worked ceaselessly, serving the people in Hebei and many other cities, through good times and bad.

He writes, too, and his books have been well received by literary circles within and beyond the Hebei province.

Retirement is definitely not on the cards; he hopes to continue to serve the people of Hebei for as long as he can, and strengthen ties between NTU and its alumni based in the province.
Recipients of Nanyang Alumni Awards 2010

This year, the Nanyang Alumni Awards were presented in commemoration of NTU’s 55th Anniversary. The presentation ceremony was held on Saturday 23 October, at Nanyang Auditorium.

The awards were introduced in 2005 when NTU celebrated its 50th Anniversary. The awards were presented in four categories, namely, the Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award, the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award, the Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award and the Nanyang Alumni Service Award.

Mr Yong Yuen Cheng (NIE/Class of 1997)
Teacher
Inspiring educator and passionate ultra-marathoner

Thirty-eight-year-old Mr Yong Yuen Cheng set a national record for being Singapore’s fastest 218 km ultra-marathon runner when he came in first in Run Round Singapore. The Physics teacher crossed the finishing line of the run in 31 hours 28 minutes 51 seconds, overcoming physical and mental anguish.

The run, an equivalent of five full marathons, was held in conjunction with NTU’s 55th Anniversary.

Mr Yong bettered his performance since his previous performance in Run Round Singapore when it was first held in 2005. Then, he finished a distance of 168 km, but he came in second to establish a record for being the fastest male runner under 40, to complete the full route.

Ironically, Mr Yong was not a born athlete. He was sickly as a child and did not make it pass the heats selection for competitive sports during his school days.

Mr Yong sought to improve his physical fitness by taking part in canoeing and long distance running.

His efforts paid off; he conquered the treacherous 217 km long terrain of the Death Valley Challenge in the USA. For taking on the challenge, Mr Yong earned for himself a mention in the Singapore Book of Records, for being one of the first runners from Southeast Asia to complete the infamously difficult route.

Other events he had participated in include the Round Singapore Dragon Boat Challenge 2007 and Round Singapore Canoeing Challenge in 2006 to raise funds for the Diabetic Society of Singapore. Along with Run Round Singapore, Mr Yong had completed long distance challenges for all three sports.

This year, he was selected by the Singapore Book of Records as the Record Breaker of the Year for these efforts.

Mr Yong’s passion extends beyond his own athletic achievements to coaching and inspiring students. In 2009, he was the team manager of Singapore Youth Dragon Boat Team that won the junior (under-18) category of the World Dragon Boat Racing Championships held in Prague, Czech Republic, in their debut participation in a world championship.

He would like to inspire others by demonstrating that ordinary people are capable of performing extraordinary feats; there is no limit to the human spirit.
Homecoming: Celebrating NTU’s past, present and future

Generations of alumni converge at the Yunnan Garden campus for the annual affair held in conjunction with the University’s 55th Anniversary.

Entertainment galore: Students from the NTU Cultural Activities Club entertain alumni and guests, making it a night to remember.

The NTU Alumni Sports Competition gives Homecoming variety, while promoting alumni engagement through sports.

Alumni and guests throng the Nanyang Auditorium for their Homecoming buffet dinner, followed by some catching up.
The NTU Alumni Homecoming 2010 was the icing on a cake in a year of festivities and milestones as NTU celebrates its 55th Anniversary.

During the annual event held on the weekend of 23 and 24 October, over 1,600 alumni and friends thronged the Yunnan Garden campus. Many spent the Saturday, participating in two lively forums and soaking in the revelry of NTU Alumni Night 2010. (For coverage on the English forum, turn to page 27 and for Chinese, page 31.)

The more sporty alumni whiled away their Sunday in friendly matches at the NTU Alumni Sports Competition.

Tradition of giving embraced
For alumni Ms Myint Zu Myaing (MAE/Class of 2010) and Mr Khun La Win Myint (MAE/Class of 2009), NTU holds a special place in their hearts. “We met at NTU, studied at NTU and even got married at NTU! The University is indeed our second home!” exclaimed Ms Myint. This year’s Homecoming was the couple’s first.

Now that they are working adults and have the means, Mr Khun looks forward to giving back to their alma mater. “NTU has given much to us in so many ways,” he said.

When it comes to giving back, one could take a leaf from the book of the Chen family. They donated the proceeds earned through the sale of their family business – $2 million (with government matching) – to help NTU’s needy students. For their invaluable support, the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award was conferred by NTU on a family for the first time.

Applauding the importance of nurturing a spirit of generosity among alumni was Dr Ng Eng Hen, Minister for Education and Second Minister for Defence and Guest-of-Honour at NTU Alumni Night 2010.

Dr Ng took the opportunity to share with audience the record set by Class of 2010 in his speech. He highlighted that more than 70 per cent of Class of 2010 contributed about $97,000 to the University. “We want to encourage alumni to contribute back to the parent institution,” Dr Ng urged the audience, adding that the Government will invest about $4 billion over the next 20 years. Of the amount, $2 billion will be set aside in a Singapore Universities Trust.

Of recognition and change
Homecoming is also about giving honour to alumni who have done their alma mater and country proud through service to society and mankind.

The Nanyang Alumni Awards – NTU’s equivalent of the Oscars – were presented to 31 luminary individuals who received the nod...
The NTU Alumni Sports Competition held on Sunday to round up Homecoming saw over 200 alumni return to campus to play badminton, basketball, soccer, table tennis and tennis.

There to welcome alumni was the organiser, represented by Mr Soon Min Yam, Director of Alumni Affairs.

Mr Soon noted in his address that the morning’s turnout comprised alumni from the recent graduating cohort to those from the first batch, Class of 1960.

Tennis enthusiast, Dr Yap Kim Yew (Mathematics/Class of 1961), has become a regular at the event. Dr Yap looks forward to pitting his skills against alumni with the same love for the sport every year. It was no exception for him this round.

Alumna Ms Lim Si Huan (HSS/Class of 2009) beat fellow alumni players, garnering top honours in the women’s table tennis. The two-time champion – she won last year as well – was modest about her wins.

Ms Lim said: “It is not just about winning. More importantly, it gives me the chance to catch up with my former NTU table tennis team mates.”

The NTU Alumni Sports Competition was held at the University’s Sports and Recreation Centre.

The family that plays together, stays together

for their exemplary achievements or significant contributions to the University.

It was a bumper crop of Nanyang Alumni Awards given out this year.

For Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award winner Dr Chee Kheng Hoy (Science/Class of 1962), receiving this accolade from his alma mater is akin to the recognition a child receives from a parent.

Awash with excitement and pride, Dr Chee said: “Of all the awards I have received in my life, this is the one I treasure the most.”

Equally elated to receive her Nanyang Alumni Service Award was Ms Li Dongxia (HSS/Class of 2001). She had flown six hours from Beijing just for Homecoming despite her busy work schedule.

The deserving recipients were presented the awards by Minister Ng, alongside NTU President Dr Su Guaning.

Sharing their glory was also a poignant moment for Dr Su, as this marked his last Alumni Night as President of the University.

Come next July, Dr Su will be handing over the reins of the University to current Provost Professor Bertil Andersson.

“Succession and renewal are vital stages in the life cycles of the universities and I have full confidence in the succession team that I have helped to assemble,” said Dr Su.

Professor Andersson expressed his delight at having the chance to get up close and personal with alumni at Homecoming.

He said: “NTU is a university of international standing. At the same time, we must also honour its history and continuously strengthen links with the alumni.”

The University looks forward to welcoming alumni home again next year!
Research scientist Dr Liu Lie (MAE/Class of 2003) was concerned about the growing rift between him and his 12-year-old son.

As with the current ‘Facebook generation’, the teenager spent a lot of time logged on to the social networking site. His father had himself set up a Facebook account to ‘befriend’ him.

“I want to keep learning to be a good friend and father to my boy. I am glad that NTU has organised this forum so I can once again be a ‘student’ in my alma mater,” said Dr Liu, 41.

His sentiment was echoed by the 100 or so alumni at the forum on the discourse of ‘Parenting challenges of today – Be a friend or parent to your teenagers?’. Four alumni were on the panel.

Disciplining or empathising?

Mr Heng Guan Teck (EEE/Class of 1985) kicked off the forum by sharing that he constantly undergoes ‘on-the-job’ training vis-à-vis parenthood. The Deputy Chief Executive Officer (Academic) at the Institute of Technical Education is father to three children, aged 12, 18 and 20.

Mr Heng suggested that it is important to instil discipline in children from a young age; ground rules such as curfews and the allocation of computer usage time should be clearly laid out.

Still, he tempers his brand of discipline with empathy; teenage children are often self-conscious and sensitive.

“Affirm their looks, go on one-on-one dates with your children,” he exhorted members of the audience.
He too, explained that as children grow up, the role of the parent will evolve. Starting as a controller, the parent subsequently takes on the role of a coach, followed by a guide. The final role is that of a ‘friend’.

Fellow alumnus Mr Lim Peng Hun (EEE/Class of 1985) approached his teenage children more like a consultant. To prepare for the forum, he got the help of his 17-year-old daughter and 15-year-old son to distil what they felt parents should know from a teenager’s perspective.

A high level of involvement, respect and open-mindedness are qualities Mr Lim’s daughter felt was important for a parent to have. Being supportive, exercising discipline at appropriate times and infusing humour into the relationship were pointers Mr Lim’s son offered, which he imparted to the audience.

Mr Lim concluded by drawing the analogy of the ‘hovering parent’. “Think of your children as butterflies. When they are in the cocoon stage, do not be too hasty in helping the ‘pupa’ leave the cocoon. Let them struggle at their own pace while we watch over so as to keep the cocoon safe.”

Being supportive
Speaker Ms Jill Lee (NBS/Class of 1998) shared that much of her 19-year-old son’s teenage-hood was spent abroad in Beijing. Her work relocated the family to the Chinese capital city.

The Senior Vice President raised her teenage boy in an international milieu away from relatives and friends in Singapore.

Ms Lee stressed the importance of discipline and structure in the first 12 years of the developmental stage of a child – it sets the fundamentals for good character. She also saw the importance of involving the teenagers in interaction with the parents’ friends and colleagues, as she believes parents have to teach by being role models.

As to being a parent or friend to a teenager, she suggested playing the role of the supportive parent.

There should also be love and trust between parents and their teenage children.

Wh R Dey?
The last speaker for the day is a godparent and an aunt to a large brood of teenagers. Dr Vivien Huan, Associate Professor of Psychological Studies Academic Group at National Institute of Education (NIE), also has much experience working with troubled teens in her line of work.

‘Wh R Dey?’ was a question she began with, citing the preference of younger generation for communicating through abbreviations.

The audience was bemused to see another perspective.

Effective communication is essential in any parent-teen relationship. “Use the disarming technique – lower your power (authority) once in a while and ask your teen to help you understand. The answers you get will depend largely on how you ask your questions,” she advised.

Dr Huan also shared that the average teenager is influenced by three inter-related systems – school, peers and family. By far, peers exert the largest influence in a teen’s life.

She surmised that dealing with teens requires moments of reining them in, interspersed with letting them go about their way – to pull and let go depending on situations – much like kite flying.

Affirmation works
Forum Chairperson, Professor Neihart Maureen Frances, Head of Psychological Studies at NIE, observed that parental affirmation was not common in the Singapore culture.

She and all four speakers agreed that the act of affirmation should be part of parenting.

Ms Lee is a proponent of hugs and open expressions of love, while Mr Heng acknowledged that the occasional pat on the back can be very encouraging for teens, although touch communication has yet to catch on in Asia.

Forum participant, teacher Madam Magdalene Chia Lee Chin (NIE/Class of 1994), felt that the forum affirmed the appropriateness of the judgement calls she often has to make in guiding her teenage students.

Madam Chia said: “In affirming their positive side, I hope to lead them in the right direction.”

The forum was held at the School of Biological Sciences on Saturday 23 October.
团圆欢庆南大校友回校日
- 五五辉煌创校 昂首蓄势腾飞

为庆贺南大55周年校庆，老少校友们相聚云南园校园欢庆此年度盛事。

南大文化活动俱乐部呈现精彩绝伦的演出，为南大校友之夜增色不少。

校友回校日文娱表演：新加坡非常Superband总冠军——兔子，为校友和来宾们带来动人歌曲。

齐乐融融：校友和来宾们挤满南洋大礼堂，享用晚会自助餐以及同昔日同窗叙旧交流的珍贵时刻。
南洋理工大学在建校55周年以来，虽走过无数风雨，但也创下了许多崭新里程碑。2010年南大校友校庆日更加锦上添花般，成了南大过去一年来所有庆祝活动中最耀眼的一次。

共有超过1600名校友和来宾们拨出周末的时间，于10月23日及24日出席了在云南园举办的这项年度庆典。

校友们参加了周例行的两场生动精彩的论坛（英语论坛，请见第27页；中文论坛，请见第31页），更多校友参加了2010年南大校友之夜的欢腾气氛。爱好运动的校友们更参加了周日白天在南大泳池与康乐中心展开的友谊竞赛。

南大的优良传统

毕业自南大机械与宇航工程学院2010年班级和2009年班级的越南籍校友陈美淑小姐和Khun Lo Win Myint先生表示，南大在他们目中有个特殊的地位。

他们都是第一次参加校友校庆日，校长陈校友更兴奋地说：“我们俩在南大认识、学习，甚至结婚！南大是我们的第二个家！”

如今，他们都已事业有成。Khun校友表示期待能回馈母校，他说：“南大在各个方面都给了我们太多东西。”

提及回馈母校，还须向陈氏家族学习。为了表彰陈氏家族将其出售家族企业所获的盈利捐赠给南大，“南洋校友成就奖”首次颁发有四个家族。

身为2010年南大校友之夜的大会嘉宾，教育部长兼国防部第二部长黄永宏医生热烈鼓励校友们继续奉献之美德。

另外，黄医生也在致辞中透露南大2010年班级的校友们所创下的记录，并强调当中有超过70%的校友共捐献了9万7千新元予南大。他呼吁：“我们要积极鼓励校友回馈母校。”

黄医生还宣布，新加坡政府将在未来20年内投资40亿，其中20亿将作为一项新加坡大学信托基金之用。

认可与改变

“南洋校友奖”——南大“奥斯卡金像奖”，共有四个奖项类别，今年共颁发予31名卓越杰出的校友，以表扬他们对促进大学、社区或社会发展作出重大贡献，并为南大及国家带来荣誉。

今年的“南洋校友奖”是颁奖最多的一次，可说是个多收年。

“南洋卓越校友奖”得主朱乾海博士（理学院1962年毕业生）有感而发，认为获得这项奖项就像孩子得到父母的认可一样。他自豪又谦虚地表示：“在我这一生收获的所有奖项当中，这是我最珍惜的一个。”

永宏 “南洋校友服务奖”的李东霞小姐（人文与社会科学学院2001年毕业生）甚至乘搭六小时的飞机专程从北京回到母校，在百忙中抽空参加校友校庆日。

黄永宏医生及南大校长徐冠林博士是颁奖嘉宾。晚会将是徐校长最后一次以校长身份出席南大校友之夜，意义非凡。

明年7月开始，现任南大常务副校长安博迪教授将接任徐校长职务，成为新一任的南大校长。

徐校长在致辞时说：“交棒与接任是大学生命周期中的关键阶段。我对一手栽培起来的继承队伍有绝对的信心。”

安博迪教授也欣喜地透露，他很兴奋能有机会和校友们近距离地接触，同欢庆校庆。他表示：“南大是一所国际知名的大学，与此同时，我们务必表扬它走过的历史，并继续加强和校友之间的联系。”

明年，南大将期待校友们再次回家团聚！
南大华语论坛：探讨人民币汇改

纷飞的细雨并不阻挡南洋理工大学校友们回校的决心。大约有350名校友出席2010年南大校友回校日系列活动之一的华语论坛。

10月23日（星期六）下午，由南大校友事务处主办的华语论坛——《更灵活的人民币汇率政策，是利还是弊？》吸引了来自1960年班级至2008年班级、中国项目硕士及短期培训课程等本地和海外的南大校友。

论坛的主席是南洋商学院中国项目副院长陈国辉副教授。两位主讲者分别是南大人文与社会科学院经济学的叶秀亮博士，以及南洋公共管理研究生院的刘云华副教授。

作为2005年中国汇改改革的原建议者，叶秀亮博士就其丰富的央行及金融经验向听众讲解了人民币升值中的过渡阶段，以及其利与弊。据叶博士预计，人民币近期面临诸多挑战与风险，而美国迫使人民币升值的目的，如许多业界人士分析一般，或是在于博弈中国出错，提升其强劲之势。然而叶博士表示，美元的不断施压其实在一定程度上已对中国造成了伤害。引用《孙子兵法》的“虚则实之，实则虚之”，人民币应有足够的浮动区间，在完成兑一篮子货币之后缓慢兑美元升值。最后他乐观地指出，人民币的缓慢升值将为中国带来好处，即让人民币在较长时间内保持强劲升值，以降低国内失业问题。

随后，刘云华博士进一步阐述了影响货币币值的因素。对城市的经济与产业发展具有深厚研究背景与经验的刘博士表示，所谓健康的汇率即是市场经济中的问题，以及经济账户的均衡。另外，在2009年美国及中国的双向出口货物当中的，电子器械的出口总量在两国都居于首位。刘博士还预计，至2003年至2005年期间美元兑人民币汇率从1比8.3跌至1比8.1，而2015年将跌至1比5.8，而至2025年更可能跌至1比2.8。

热门议题，激发互动
论坛讲座的切题性和关联性，引来听众的热烈提问。有者甚至向两位资深的博士请教股市走向。两位博士在问答会上都强调，中国经济的稳定性将对新加坡的发展带来极大的好处。

庄学宜校友（商学院/1962届毕业生）认为，“论坛非常精彩。两位博士对新加坡的经济情况了如指掌，也对中国的汇率走向很了解，中国现在所面对的挑战是如何防御被美国从经济位置上拉下来的危险。”

论坛上最年轻的两位同窗校友，何勇赋和司徒（电机与电子工程/2008届毕业生）也认为，人民币的汇改问题和中国的经济发展是目前最热门的话题，而他们是被讲座所吸引并冒着大雨前来出席论坛的。

一来一往，主讲者和校友们之间的互动使论坛最终圆满结束。
Be a leader in environmental science and engineering through the NEMS programme

NEWRI Environmental Master of Science (NEMS) is a premier graduate education and research programme conducted by NTU’s School of Civil & Environmental Engineering and the Nanyang Environment & Research Institute (NEWRI), with summer attachment at Stanford University.

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Information on other graduate programmes available at: www.ntu.edu.sg/cee/program/postgrad.asp

NEWRI - Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (Website: www.ntu.edu.sg/NEWRI)

NTU via NEWRI is enabling Singapore to be a global hub of environmental science and technology in providing technological solutions to the world. It is committed to environmental and water technologies (EWT) through its ecosystem of education, research and developmental activities.

As the coordinating body of NTU’s EWT efforts, NEWRI pulls together NTU’s water and environment-related centres and institutes leveraging off one another’s strengths for the benefit of industry and society.

Highlights of Programme:

- Students spend a full Summer term at Stanford taking regular courses and continue with the rest of their academic programme at NTU.
- It is a 12-month full-time course in environmental science & engineering.
- It aims to train engineers and scientists to meet the increasing environmental challenges for Asia and the wider region.
- Students under NEMS will have opportunities to do research projects under NEWRI as well as to continue for PhD work.
- Graduating students receive the NTU degree and a certificate from Stanford for their summer attachment.
### YEAR 2010

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To sign up for or enquire about any of the events, email alumniaffairs@ntu.edu.sg or call +65 6790 4875/ 4434.

For a regular, monthly update of events, check out [http://www.ntu.edu.sg/Alumni/Pages/Events.aspx](http://www.ntu.edu.sg/Alumni/Pages/Events.aspx).

To subscribe to ClassACT e-zine for regular event updates and more, go to [http://www.ntu.edu.sg/enewsletter/managementsubscription.aspx](http://www.ntu.edu.sg/enewsletter/managementsubscription.aspx).

*The Event Calendar is subject to change without prior notice.*
The lens is now turned on Mr Patwant Singh, a sports journalist often seen on TV, as NTULink gets him to spill the beans on sporting controversies and the celebrities he interviews.

Lights! Camera! Sports!

Mr Patwant Singh
(WKWSCI/Class of 2006)
Sports journalist
He had to get the facts right so he could deliver a fair report on what had really happened.

“I am aware that my questions are not always welcome especially when they are 'sensitive'. But, I have to do my job and pose them nonetheless. Being transparent is important,” he acknowledges.

As one who is interested in sports on a personal level, Mr Patwant almost always does have his own opinions about controversies and incidents.

There are judgement calls Mr Patwant has had to make. When it comes down to it, he will take the professional path – to ensure a balanced reporting.

“I have to be responsible and fully aware of how news ought to be delivered to the masses,” he stresses.

The 'scenes', the 'celebs'

Mr Patwant relates yet another 'challenging' incident.

“I once attended a media conference in Thailand, where Brazil's national football team was playing. As the Brazilian coach could only speak Portuguese, there was a translator on hand, but she could only translate in Thai.

“There were many Caucasian journalists there as well. One stood up to ask for an English translator. His request was rejected and he walked out in a huff, muttering that it was not worth covering the event,” Mr Patwant shares.

He knew he could not give up; he has a job to do. He worked round the situation. “I looked around and spoke to the other reporters. I found a Thai reporter, who could speak English, and she became my translator!” he shares.

Handling situation and controversy does come with journalistic experience. So does handling the different sports personalities.

He recalls an interview with F1 race driver Fernando Alonso. Mr Patwant reveals that he had posed Alonso an awkward question. Elaborating, he says: “When I Interviewed Alonso in 2004 before he became a world
champion, I asked him that since Michael Schumacher is always winning all the races, then are all the other drivers there just to fill up the numbers?

Mr Patwant was prepared to face an unhappy Alonso. But, he was the one being surprised.

“Alonso replied with a straight face that if half the drivers were given good cars, they will beat Schumacher!” exclaims Mr Patwant.

Alonso went on to win the next year!

“I knew then that Alonso is one confident racer,” he says somewhat in awe.

Mr Patwant also professes to hold retired tennis player Bjorn Borg in high regard.

He says: “Bjorn Borg is someone I will never forget. I met him when I was new to the scene and had been given the opportunity to do a one-on-one interview with him. He even offered to hold the microphone for me while I conduct the interview! His general persona is warm and inviting and he came across as nice, down-to-earth and genuine.”

Mr Patwant admits there were times he went for his interviews with a negative stereotype in place. Footballer David Beckham was a case in point.

“Before the session, I already had the thinking that he would be aloof and uninterested. But, I was so wrong. Beckham turned out to be a very nice person to talk to and was also very obliging,” says the journalist.

The good news

Today, many look up to him as being THE reporter to cover sports.

Mr Patwant who graduated from NTU’s Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information with a Master in Mass Communication did not start out wanting to be a sports journalist. He didn’t have the aspiration when he was young.

Still, he has made a name for himself in the industry.

To him, one of the ‘real’ perks of the job was getting to be a torchbearer in major sporting events.

“I was the torchbearer at this year’s Singapore Youth Olympic Games. It was one of my career highlights. I also got to bear the torch in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. I actually started in the 2006 Torino winter games,” he says.

Mr Patwant enthuses: “When I was given the first opportunity four years ago, I thought that I would probably not get the chance again. It was such a privilege to be part of the torch relay of the Beijing Olympics and to be able to represent Singapore. I felt like I was part of our National Day celebrations, only three to four times bigger. It was awesome!”

The stamina

Although Mr Patwant does not have the luxury to indulge in sports because of his hectic schedule, he does play the occasional football game and was a judoka during his school days.

He has held his own and manages to remain trim and fit as his job requires him to be on the move.

Does Mr Patwant have a sports hero?

“I look up to Pedro Pinto, a sports anchor for CNN International based in London. Pinto covers sports across the European continent. He is confident and oozes presence and credibility. He knows his stuff and delivers his job well,” he explains.

Mr Patwant sees sports reporting as being comparable to a marathon. He is in it for the long haul and stamina is essential.

To aspiring sports journalists, his word of advice is: “It is an exciting career. It is also a unique one. Each day is different from the next. There is a future in it, what with today’s buzzing Singapore sports scene!”
‘Indonesian Idols’ in the making?

NTU’s Indonesian alumni demonstrate talent and unity of spirit at their annual gathering.

The NTU Indonesian Alumni Night has turned out to be a showcase of talent and community bonding.

The annual event had great camaraderie, observed Guest-of-Honour Chief University Advancement Officer Mr Chew Kheng Chuan. He urged the Indonesian alumni to keep up their spirit of camaraderie, for it reflects the kind of engagement the University wants with its alumni.

NTU, a university of choice

Citing the 2,000 Indonesian alumni NTU has today, Mr Chew highlighted that Indonesians had chosen NTU since the days of Nanyang University.

The first batch had graduated as far back as 1962.

Mr Chew said: “You (alumni) are our best ambassadors, evidence to the rest of the world of the high calibre of our graduates, and ultimately, the best spokespeople NTU has.”

He went on to urge alumni to be as enthusiastic about and generous towards their alma mater as the alumni from Cornell, Stanford and Harvard are about theirs.

‘Don’t Forget the Lyrics’

Mr Chew and the 120 or so present were entertained when the gathering culminated with a singing competition not unlike Don’t Forget the Lyrics’.

Mr Hanky Bayugiri Taufan Guruh, better known as Giri, from the School of Materials Science & Engineering’s Class of 2007, found the evening a good platform to enjoy Indonesian songs and the company of fellow alumni.

Mr Giri said: “I had lost touch with many of my friends so I am really glad to be here tonight. For future events, I hope that we will see more alumni from different graduating classes. I am looking forward to next year’s gathering. I hope the entertainment will be as good.”

The NTU Indonesian Alumni Night was organised by the Pelajar Indonesia NTU or PINTU club, with the facilitation of the University’s Alumni Affairs Office. It was held at Hotel Rendezvous on 9 October.

“You (alumni) are our best ambassadors, evidence to the rest of the world of the high calibre of our graduates, and ultimately, the best spokespeople NTU has.”

Mr Chew Kheng Chuan
Chief University Advancement Officer
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Yes! I would like to find out more. Please contact me.

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Graduation Year: ........................................................ Faculty: .................................................................

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NTU Alumni Club
Nanyang Technological University Alumni Club
11 Slim Barracks Rise (Off North Buona Vista Road) Singapore 138864

For further enquiries, please call 6777 1101 or fax the membership form at 6777 1933. You may also email us at enquiries@ntualumni.org.sg

www.ntualumni.org.sg
One of the many finger paintings exhibited as part of Esplanade’s community engagement programme for Moonfest 2010, which I was involved in.

Dr Tan Ching Yam (陈清业博士)
(Arts/1966)

感思母校—南洋大学

迄今将近半个世纪，我能在各领域包括文学创作和绘画艺术方面做出贡献，应归功于南洋大学所给与我的教育和文化熏陶，“自强不息”的南大精神指引我走向正确的人生道路，我借此对母校表示感恩。

（陈清业博士）

I was engaged to teach Chinese painting at NTU for more than 15 years. I used to teach art as a minority subject – Introduction to Chinese Painting & Practical (LC100) – for NTU students to opt for.

Nowadays, I teach Chinese painting at NTU’s Chinese Language Society on a part-time basis.

I am an art educator, a writer, as well as a multi-skilled artist.

I dabble in Chinese brush painting, finger painting and art therapy.

I mastered finger painting under the tutelage of one of finger painting’s foremost artist, Mr Wu Tsai Yen. I have been teaching the unique form of finger painting as an art therapy programme, which began in Alexandra Hospital, for more than five years.

Throughout the month of August, I taught almost 200 participants from 10 voluntary welfare organisations the basic techniques of finger painting using Chinese ink. These workshops were organised as part of Esplanade’s community engagement programme for Moonfest 2010.

Selected works, reflecting the festive mood and feel of the mid-autumn festival, were on display at the Esplanade Community Wall. Altogether, there were five great collective finger paintings produced by 200 students from the welfare organisations nationwide. Each painting measures 2ft x 4ft.

On 15 August 2010, I launched my new book entitled ‘Internet Literature by Dr Tan Ching Yam’.

The book was successfully launched at the Bukit Timah Community Club. Dr Chua Chee Lay was the Guest-of-Honour.

Dr Chua is a Chinese linguist, educational technology researcher, award-winning poet and an educator.

For the past 25 years, I have taken part in many Group Art Exhibitions held in Korea, Japan, China, among others.

In the last 15 years, I have put up four solo art exhibitions on finger painting, each with a unique theme, namely:

- New Zealand scene – Maori Culture;
- Historical Buildings in Singapore;
- Portraits of Great People in Singapore; and
- Love for Animals.

I was invited by the Singapore Tourism Board to demonstrate finger painting in New Zealand in 1997, 1993 and 1992.

I am also the Secretary for the Bukit Timah Community Club Literary Centre and a Committee Member for the Federation of Arts Societies, Singapore.
I was one of the speakers at a forum held in conjunction with the NTU Alumni Homecoming 2010.

The forum was on ‘Parenting Challenges of Today – Be a Friend or a Parent to your Teenagers?’, a subject that I found relevant. You see, I have two teenage children, aged 15 and 17.

To help me prepare for the forum, I enlisted the help of my daughter and son. I wanted their sides of the story, as well.

I must say asking them turned out to be a quite an eye-opener for myself.

Interestingly, my daughter drew an analogy, likening a teenage child to a ‘cocoon’. Just as a cocoon will metamorphosise into a beautiful butterfly when it is ready, so too will teenage children. Parents should allow their teens to break out of the shell in their own time and space, yet not abandoning the cocoon. They could play the role of the ‘protector’, hovering above the cocoon and coming forth to help, as and when necessary.

My son, on the other hand, shared that humour is important to facilitate open communication between parents and their teenage children.

He felt that a parent who knows how to tell a joke stands a better chance at being listened to than one who comes across as stern and thus, unapproachable.

As I share with audiences at the forum, I find the sharing to be a learning journey for me.

I am fortunate to have the chance to run in the 218 km Run Round Singapore, organised by NTU in celebration of her 55th Anniversary.

I also saw it as a way to promote the ‘Nanyang Spirit’ and hope that I had inspired fellow alumni to go the extra mile in challenging their own limit in life.

I did not, however, get to complete the entire 218 km of the run. I had to stop at the 170.3 km mark, although there was still a 50 to 50 chance for me to carry on and complete within the cut-off time of 36 hours.

So as not to cause delay to the run’s closing ceremony, I decided to stop. I would love to take up a similar challenge again to go further and raise funds for our alma mater.

Running is always in my blood and I love to challenge my own limit. It is through such endurance sports that I have learnt what lies deep within my psyche and how far I can push myself.

Within the amazing endurance sports community, I have met people from every walk of life, all of whom share the same passion – the quest to see how far we can push our bodies.

I would like to share a quote from Dean Karnazes, who is a mega-endurance athlete. He said: “Run when you can, walk when you have to, crawl if you must; just never give up.”
It was early in life – at the age of 7 – when I started to learn how to play the piano. It was then that I discovered my love for music.

I am very passionate about music. I listen to a wide range, from pop to jazz, classical to dance/electronic and experimental music.

I find myself drawing inspiration from and being influenced by artistes like Bjork, Tori Amos and Mariah Carey.

I strongly believe that the training I received in NTU, as well as the experience as a student, has allowed me to experience the essence of music beyond just the surface. It has also helped me to acquire the ability to balance the creative and analytical aspects of handling life’s challenges.

After all, while at NTU, I had had enriching experience from the active roles I undertook during my hostel days and in representing the various student groups of MAE.

After graduation, I realised I had a strong desire to immerse in the arts, at the same time applying the core values from the life that I had in NTU.

I have taken every opportunity to gain as much experience as I can and to identify my core strengths by taking on various roles like assistant producer, advertising accounts executive, alumni club management trainee, education officer and music teacher.

Several roles on, I eventually found myself most drawn towards the field of performing arts education. So, together with another NTU graduate from the School of Civil & Structural Engineering, whom I had lived in the same hostel with, we founded Verve Music and Dance School. This took place in August 2006.

We tapped the School’s core values for bringing quality, versatility and inventiveness into art education. Making them top priority has enabled the establishment to bring in over 300 students, to date.

Dear Friends,

How are you? :) I hope all is well.

Just want to share with you a piece of good news of mine. I am fortunate to be nominated for the Great Women of Our Time Award 2010 by The Singapore Women’s Weekly. The award recognises excellence, leadership and performance in a new generation of women with the potential to be the leaders of tomorrow.

In April, I won the Readers’ Choice Award in My Paper Executive Look 2010.

I see success as an ongoing process of striving to become better, to achieve more. So, I always pursue opportunities where I can continually grow emotionally, socially, spiritually, psychologically, intellectually, and financially, while contributing positively to others.

In my effort to reach the top, the one rule that I must never breach is: Integrity.

I have a corporate hero whom I admire. She is Oprah Winfrey, one of the most powerful women in the world.

I like that she sets her standards high in all her endeavours. She also encourages others to make the most of their lives. She is proof that life’s possibilities are limitless no matter how hardships present themselves, if you adopt an open heart, a fierce, positive spirit and energy.

Thank you for all of your kind friendship and support all this while.

I wish you and your family all the best.
I participated in the NTU Alumni Sports Competition, held in conjunction with this year's Homecoming. I played table tennis and paired with an alumnus I met at the competition. I not only found a new friend, I also had fun taking part in the table tennis double. We won bronze. I was very happy. We were probably lucky.

Nicholas Voo Chung Chiat  
(CEE/2006)

This would be a great and memorable experience for me. There was also sportsmanship developed among alumni who took part in the different types of games like badminton, basketball, tennis and soccer. I would like to take this opportunity to express my gratitude towards my alma mater for providing a platform where alumni could cultivate and maintain strong bonding.
I would like to take this opportunity to thank NTU’s Alumni Affairs Office (AAO), for the help and services rendered throughout the entire Durian Feast, Shopping and Farm Trip. AAO has certainly made the short getaway a very enjoyable one for my friends and I.

I must say I appreciate all the effort and time taken to coordinate the trip and especially for making it such a successful one.

Wong Siang Leng
(NIE/2009)

The Durian Feast, Shopping and Farm Trip was very well organised, and we were very well taken care of.

I had many sumptuous and delicious meals during the two days of the trip. At the same time, I enjoyed the company of friends and fellow alumni.

Thanks to NTU’s Alumni Affairs Office for a well organised trip.

Poh Jia Yee
(SCBE/2009)

We - Wong Jie Ying (left) and Wong Siang Leng - are having a good time in Kuala Lumpur.

Wong Jie Ying
(NIE/2009)

We chanced upon this Durian Feast, Shopping and Farm Trip in NTU’s ClassACT e-zine.

We wanted a short getaway and this trip came at the right time.

It turned out to be a fruitful trip.

I gained knowledge through visits to places like the durian plantation, the fruit orchard and vegetables plantation, and mushroom farm.

I also learnt more about the Malay culture.

What was more, it was interesting meeting seniors who had graduated from NTU. It was practically a gathering for alumni from across the different generations.

Thanks to the organiser, my friends and I had an enjoyable time together.

Wong Siang Leng
(NIE/2009)

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Xu Peifen
(NIE/2009)

We really enjoyed ourselves in the two days when we went on the Durian Feast, Shopping and Farm Trip!

We were very well taken care of.

Our last-minute request was also fulfilled and arranged well, so much so we got to see the famous Petronas Twin Towers in Kuala Lumpur.

I find the Twin Towers a beautiful icon of Malaysia.

The trip was a fruitful one.

Not only did we get the chance to try many of the local delicacies, we also learnt about the Malaysian modern way of life, its history and culture.

Petronas Twin Towers, here we come! I am the girl in white (centre, front row), seen with three of my friends during our trip to Kuala Lumpur.
I graduated from NTU’s Nanyang Business School.

I ended my internship with SGX and began my full-time job with WDA as an Engagement Manager in September.

Besides working, I run a tennis school, Just Tennis. I coach aspiring tennis players, including those from NTU, how to play the game well.

Other than tennis, I am also an avid salsa and bachata dancer. During my free time, I will check out the salsa scene in Singapore and enjoy a night on the dance floor.

I am currently undergoing a dance instructor course. Upon completion (hopefully, it will be by the end of the year), I will be a professional dance instructor, too.

Ahmad Mubarak Bin Amir Hamzah (NBS/2010)

I (in foreground) value friendship and make an effort to keep in touch with my friends.

I sang at the NTU Indonesian Alumni Night held on Saturday 9 October 2010. I performed a nostalgic song from ‘Toy Story 3’ movie, accompanied by a guitarist.

I had lots of fun singing at the get-together. Not only that, I also got a chance to meet fellow alumni from Indonesia. Our homeland is so huge so much so there were many countrymen I was meeting for the first time.

Singing is my hobby. I would have no qualms volunteering my voice should my alma mater require a singer for any events it holds. I am really keen to sing at the events organised by NTU’s Alumni Affairs Office.

I graduated this July and am working as Project Officer, at the Energy Research Institute @ NTU. I am still very close to the University and working at NTU is one way of giving back to my alma mater.

I Komang Narendra (MAE/2010)

Here I am performing at the NTU Indonesian Alumni Get-together.

I had the opportunity to exhibit my product at the ADMSHOW 2010, which is my School’s first joint graduation.

The exhibition marked the transition of young people from university graduates to being professional artists and designers.

It showcased a convergence of imagination, creativity, sensitivity and intelligence. I am so glad to be part of ADMSHOW 2010.

The School has widened my horizon. I am now overseas, pursuing further studies.

Daniel Lim Yu-Heng (ADM/2010)

Explaining the rationale of my product design to Professor Alan Chan (right), Dean, College of Humanities, Arts & Social Sciences, NTU.
Through the various exchange programmes offered by NTU, I had the rare opportunity of spending two semesters overseas in three different countries – USA, Vietnam and China.

I think my exchange in the US was the most challenging experience, as I had to learn in an entirely different environment. There were knowledge gaps since we were taking higher level courses. Learning took on a different approach. Professors no longer handed us hardcopies of slides or lecture notes, so we had to jot everything down. Tutorials were non-existent, although assignments were still prevalent.

This meant that I had to learn to take more initiative in my learning. Though having to adapt to the environment was tough, initially, I would say the overall experience was still fulfilling and exhilarating.

It prompted me to apply to Vietnam and China under two different exchange programmes – the Summer programme in Vietnam and the Global Immersion Programme (GIP) Work & Study in China. Both were eye-opening experiences. I had the opportunity to learn about these rapidly industrialising nations first-hand. Of all the lessons, the best that I took home with me were from the discussions I had with the locals over lunch or dinner.

In addition, I had the rare opportunity to be accepted into the CN Yang Scholars Programme during my freshmen years. This allowed me to participate in research projects, which were typically offered only to final year students.

One of the two modular screens acted as a divider with integrated lighting, and the other which served purely as a partition screen, for my creation.

I had my design exhibited at the ADMShow 2010 this July. It was my School’s first joint graduation exhibition.

I believe we will continue our regular meet-ups, as I see them as friends for life. After all, the many events we planned together during our university days did bring us closer. Believe it or not, the times we met to plan for our club’s upcoming activities were more often than the number of times I saw my parents!

Having my design exhibited at Old School, where the exhibition was held, was a wonderful opportunity to show my friends and family what I have been working on for the past year.

It also serves as a platform for my friends and I to expose our works to the general public.

Currently, I am a student-teacher at NIE, pursuing a dream career of being a teacher – to spread the love of creating and expressing inner thoughts and feelings and exposing hidden talents through the teaching of Art.

The whole experience was truly enriching. I got to work on projects with the support of professors; this allowed me to hasten the bridging of the knowledge gap between freshmen and final year students.

Throughout the four years, the University also provided me with many platforms to serve others. In particular, I had served in the main committee of the NTU Investment Interactive Club and NTU GIP Student Club. I am currently still in contact with the ex-committee members of the Investment Club and the GIP Club.

The whole experience was truly enriching. I got to work on projects with the support of professors; this allowed me to hasten the bridging of the knowledge gap between freshmen and final year students.

I believe we will continue our regular meet-ups, as I see them as friends for life. After all, the many events we planned together during our university days did bring us closer. Believe it or not, the times we met to plan for our club’s upcoming activities were more often than the number of times I saw my parents!

There have been many professors I’ve had the chance to work with during my years in NTU whom I would like to express my heartfelt thanks to.

Professor Leslie Loo is one of the most helpful professors I have come to know in my years in NTU. He was always willing to offer his help and advice even though I was not his mentee. In fact, being the GIP course coordinator for the School of Chemical & Bio-molecular Engineering, he was the one who encouraged me to take up the GIP challenge when I was offered a placement at Georgia Tech.

As for others like Professor William Chen Wei Ning, Professor Raymond Lau Wai Man and Professor Lim Kok Hwa were more like friends. Besides the regular schoolwork, they were there when I needed advice especially towards my job hunt.

Aside from the professors, I would also like to thank the NTU staff – Mr Desmond Woo and Mrs Seah Wai Choo for their support of the initiatives that my clubs undertook.

All in all, studying in NTU was indeed a challenging, enriching and blessed experience for me!
I am proud to have been in the second batch of the Nanyang Executive MBA (General Entrepreneurship) programme students who graduated this July.

Eighteen months of hard work and perseverance saw 30 mature students, many of whom are CEOs, graduate from the programme.

To mark the graduation of the EMBA Class of 2010, we had a dinner event at Forlino at One Fullerton on Saturday, July 31.

I won the ‘Emerging Entrepreneur of the Year’ award. I think my win was a proud moment for NTU, as well as the Nanyang Business School (NBS).

I was conferred the prestigious award by OCBC Bank and *The Business Times*.

I think what contributed to my achievement was God, hard work and NBS. The lessons learnt from the practical pedagogy adopted by the professors at NTU had helped me in the strategising and implementation of my business model, in a most efficient way.

I am CEO and founding member of MindWave Solutions Pte Ltd. I aspire to grow MindWave into a recognised leader in Information Technology.

I have spent more than 15 years in the IT industry and will continue to upgrade my skills.

Stay in touch with fellow alumni and keep your Class Notes coming. To share, email alumniaffairs@ntu.edu.sg or call +65 6514 1078. We reserve the right to edit for clarity.

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