16
NTU’S NEWEST RESEARCH CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
On Bacterial Biofilms

20
AN HOUR WITH PROFESSOR FREDDY BOEY
NTU’s Provost

32
FOSTERING CLOSER CONNECTIONS
A new alumni chapter launched in Inner Mongolia

NTU’S SHINING STARS
CELEBRATING ALUMNI SPLENDOUR
Message from the President

Dear NTU alumni, faculty, staff and students,

Time flies. It has been half a year since I became President and in these six months, I have seen significant developments in NTU to be able to share with you that NTU 2012 will be just as exciting, if not more!

2011 has seen remarkable progress for the University on many fronts. As alumni, you have many reasons to be proud of your alma mater. In the research arena, a second Research Centre of Excellence (RCE), the Singapore Centre on Earth Sciences (SCIENCE), was launched. The first RCE, the Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS), was established in 2009. SCIENCE and EOS are the fruits of a S$270 million grant awarded to NTU by the Singapore government, a reaffirmation of NTU’s leadership in the earth sciences and environmental engineering. These awards are part of the competitive research funding that NTU has won in the past five years. Today, the University has close to S$1 billion in research funding; a testament to its growing potential for cutting-edge strategic research in Singapore, and to its journey towards becoming a top global research-intensive university.

We also look on with pride as we celebrated the achievements of some of our most extraordinary alumni. These are alumni who exemplify the best of NTU, by virtue of their conviction in giving the best to what they do, and their passion in pursuing what they believe in. In their varied fields of expertise, they have attained considerable accomplishments. In their contributions to nation, they have made profound impact. Through their excellence, they have pushed the good name of their alma mater further and beyond geographical borders.

One of the key things I look forward to in my new role is to meet and engage alumni on a personal platform. I have had the pleasure of meeting some alumni at events like the Nanyang Alumni Awards and more recently, at the combined Class Reunion Celebration of Classes 1986 to 1995. In both, I witnessed the deep dedication of NTU alumni. In the latter, our alumni from these ten classes contributed a generous sum of S$556,300 to our Reunion Giving Programme, in support of NTU undergraduate education. With Government matching, this translates to around S$1.35 million that will go towards supporting NTU Bursaries, school advancement and student life activities. This zeal in helping current students of their alma mater is evident of our alumni’s awareness in the crucial role they play to help shape the future of their University. This zeal is what we need from you to help propel NTU onto becoming a distinctive global university.

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Upon graduating from Nanyang University with a Bachelor of Commerce degree in 1960, the young Mr Phua went on to join the civil service. He has served in public service departments such as the Land Office at the Ministry of National Development and the Prime Minister’s Office.

78-year-old Mr Phua shared an anecdote about his experience dealing with issues faced by the fledgling nation: “Life back then was truly very different. I remember having to tackle the problem of ‘pirate taxis’, where unemployed Singaporeans turned to running taxi services without the proper permits. Thankfully, we managed to make many of these ‘pirates’ legitimate by way of formalising them through NTUC Comfort; today’s Comfort DelGro.”

He also played an important role in the introduction of National Service in 1967. The alumnus is noted for being the first elected Member of Parliament for Tampines in 1968. He acted as the voice and custodian of the estate for the next twenty years until 1988. Mr Phua’s other roles in office include being the Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Communications from 1968 to 1971 and Senior Parliamentary Secretary of the Ministry of Defence from 1972 to 1988. He also actively assisted ministers.

In recognition of his effort in nation building, Mr Phua was conferred the PAP Party Award in 2008.

On the corporate front, the Commerce graduate has served on the Board of Directors of numerous public listed and private listed companies since 1969. These include GP Industries Ltd, Metro Holdings Ltd, Pan United Corporation Ltd, Singapura Finance Ltd and Wing Tai Holdings Ltd.

Mr Phua acknowledges that his bond with NTU has remained strong through the years and he is a keen supporter of alumni activities. He is also the Honorary President of the Association of Nanyang University Graduates.

Q: You served post-independent Singapore and saw her develop into a first world nation. How do you feel, seeing this progress and development?
A: I feel honoured to be able to witness the remarkable progress of Singapore. It feels great seeing how much our country has developed and knowing that everyone can enjoy the privileges and benefits of this progress and development.

Q: In your many years of service in Parliament, starting from 1968, you have held many different posts. What were your most challenging and satisfying experiences?
A: When I was elected Member of Parliament (MP) in 1968, my first responsibility was to the constituents and my first priority was to make a difference in their lives. What affected the quality of their lives was put under the microscope. The physical infrastructure, like housing, roads, parks, markets and hawker centres, was easier to change and improve. What was more challenging was to bring about changes to the softer aspects of community spirit, bonding, racial harmony and mindsets, as these were largely dictated of the heart. Time and patience were needed to produce results. We worked relentlessly. During my 20 years as MP, grassroots leaders and community volunteers rallied around me to give me their unreserved co-operation and ardent support. We felt a deep sense of fulfillment to see the gradual transformation of Tampines Constituency. The constituents acknowledged our results via the ballot boxes every four to five years. We were touched and encouraged. After 20 years, a solid foundation was laid for the Constituency’s future growth; not by me alone, but also by the community leaders, workers and the constituents at large. Looking back, it was a 20-year journey that was personally satisfying to me.

Q: What are your aspirations for the University?
A: NTU has come a long way since the days of Nanyang University. I am sure that NTU can go much further and I hope that one day the University will be one of the top amongst the world’s leading universities.
Mrs Yu-Foo Yee Shoon (Commerce/1971 & NBS/1996)

When she entered the political arena in 1984, Mrs Yu-Foo was one of only three female leaders in office. The capable 61-year-old alumna also holds the distinction of being Singapore’s first female Mayor, when she was appointed the Mayor of South West Community Development Council in 2001.

The intrepid alumna was active in the labour movement and made significant contributions at the National Trades Union Congress (NTUC). Since beginning her career as a Senior Industrial Relations Officer with NTUC, the spirited lady rose through the ranks to assume the role of Deputy Secretary-General of NTUC. For championing the cause of workers, she was conferred the Rochdale Medal by the Singapore National Co-operative Federation in 1997.

The former Minister of State at the Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports shared that she found her experience in the Ministry especially meaningful, as she witnessed how policies she helped formulate directly impacted the life of the everyday man.

She was founder Chairman of Community Ministry of Community Development, Youth and Sports shared that she found the passion and desire to add value to people’s lives and to make a difference to the community and nation. They must also have the ability to serve and lead and be able to achieve work-life harmony and balance.

Q: What do you think you possess as a female politician that gave you an important advantage in getting what you want to do done, in your service as MP?
A: As daughter, wife and mother, a female politician plays multiple roles in managing family and work matters. This skill helps one to think of policies and programmes in a more fundamental and pragmatic manner. The female mind can also understand and appreciate needs and feelings better as she is usually more persistent and a good communicator.

Q: How do you think alumni from Nanyang University can play their part in advancing NTU?
A: Even though Nantah alumni have been forthcoming in supporting NTU in various ways, their enthusiasm could be further strengthened if the Nantah spirit is emphasised. The Nantah spirit is evergreen and can be the common goal for the old and new.

Q: How do you feel, being the longest serving female Member of Parliament?
A: I feel very proud and fortunate to have the opportunity to serve all three Prime Ministers, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong and current Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and see Singapore transform herself from a third world country to a first world country.

Q: What would you share with fellow female alumni who may be considering a career in serving the community/nation?
A: Aspiring female alumni must have the passion and desire to add value to others’ lives and to make a difference to the community and nation. They must also have the ability to serve and lead and be able to achieve work-life harmony and balance.

Q: Any words of wisdom to share?
A: 人生方本。
Mr Inderjit Singh (EEE/1985)

An astute entrepreneur who has been extremely successful in the high technology semiconductor industry, 51-year-old Mr Inderjit has spearheaded a number of key initiatives in the past few years. The dynamic entrepreneur founded the United Test and Assembly Centre (UTAC) in 1998, building up the large Singapore-based semiconductor assembly and testing services provider to an estimated market capitalisation of US$1 billion just two years later, in July 2000.

The enterprise champion is the co-President of the World Entrepreneurship Forum, a world organisation dedicated to the development of entrepreneurship around the world. Highly involved in promoting solutions to help solve the problems they face, Inderjit, has spearheaded a number of student start-ups, he is also the Deputy Chairman of the Action Community for Entrepreneurship, a national entrepreneurship movement.

Mr Inderjit has been an elected Member of Parliament (MP) in the Ang Mo Kio Group Representation Constituency (GRC) since 1996. Having been elected to the GRC for four terms, the alumnus has developed a close relationship with residents, especially in the district of Kebun Baru, where he serves as Advisor.

Q: How did you develop such a passionate entrepreneurial mindset?
A: My pioneering spirit at NTI helped develop my entrepreneurial spirit of initiating, seizing opportunities and creating something new. As the pioneer batch of students at NTI, we had the opportunity to start everything from scratch; build student organisations and help shape the curriculum for the University. This was an excellent experience which helped me throughout my life, be it in starting companies or solving problems.

Q: What would you share with alumni who wish to start out on their own?
A: Faced with obstacles we must always adopt a “Never Say Die” attitude if we want to overcome difficulties. I have always believed that there is no problem which cannot be solved. We should not lament over the problem for too long – just roll up your sleeves and solve it!

Q: What motivates you to contribute to the University and how can young alumni become better involved with their alma mater?
A: It is the collective role of every stakeholder of the University to help make NTU amongst the best in the world. As alumni, we have a lifelong relationship with our alma mater. We want to be associated with a great institution, but the institution can only become great if each of us contributes in whichever way we can. We want to be associated with a great institution, but the institution can only become great if each of us contributes in whichever way we can.

Q: What do you like about being in community service and serving the residents as a Member of Parliament?
A: Community service for me started whilst I was a student leader at NTI where my main role was to take care of the interest of the students I represented. As an MP, I have the opportunity to help improve the lives of the residents I serve and I use my entrepreneurial skills when looking for solutions to help solve the problems they face. I feel a sense of accomplishment when I am able to help my residents.

Q: What are your aspirations for the University?
A: I would like to see NTU become a world class and perhaps the best technological university in Asia. I also hope that NTU becomes the first choice for the best students in Singapore.

“South Asia Alumni Awards 2011”

They are the South Asian alumni at NTU who have effectively contributed to the institution. Their excellence spanned across all areas, which makes them an inspiration to many.

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**NANYANG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD WINNERS**

**Mr Ong Ah Heng (Arts/1972)**

The 67-year-old Nanyang University alumnus served three terms as Member of Parliament (MP) for Nee Soon Central. Prior to his stint as MP of Nee Soon Central, he had already forged deep ties with its members as Second Advisor of the SMC’s Grassroots Organisation since 1992.

Mr Ong shared: “I wanted to bring about improvements that would benefit the people of Nee Soon Central. The job of the MP is primarily to look after the needs of the people and I am very glad that I had the chance to do that in my years at Nee Soon Central.”

During his 14-year tenure as MP of Nee Soon Central, Mr Ong spearheaded numerous upgrading projects to better the lives of his constituents. He introduced the Lift Upgrading Programme to 114 blocks to provide apartment dwellers the convenience of having lift access to every floor. A total of 126 blocks were also made barrier-free, affording easy access to wheelchairs, prams and shopping trolleys. Other amenities that were introduced included the Nee Soon Central Community Children’s Library. He also ensured the smooth establishment of Khoo Teck Puat Hospital.

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In the General Elections of 2011, Mr Ong chose to retire from the political arena and handed the mantle for overseeing Nee Soon Central to the new team of MPs elected by the people of the newly merged Nee Soon Group Representation Constituency (GRC).

**Mr Ong Lay Khiam (Commerce/1970 & Commerce (Hons)/1971)**

The 63-year-old veteran corporate banker has worked in the local banking and finance industry since 1971. Upon graduation, the Commerce graduate cut his teeth at the then National Banking Group of DBS, where he rose to the position of Vice-President. Other financial houses the alumnus has worked for and held leadership positions at include Tat Lee Bank and Hong Leong Finance.

Following his retirement from Hong Leong Finance in 2007, Mr Ong took on the position of Executive Director of the Lien Ying Chow Legacy Fellowship. Mr Ong returned a year later, in 2008, to the finance industry and is currently an Executive Director of Wealth Management at UBS AG Singapore.

**Dr Tan Kok Swang (Science/1969)**

The investigation of electromagnetic interference (EMI) and electromagnetic compatibility (EMC) on medical devices has been the focus of Dr Tan’s work. A leading expert in his chosen field of specialisation, Dr Tan was the recipient of the Outstanding Instrumentation Research Paper award, bestowed by the Association for the Advancement of Medical Instrumentation. He has put the Republic on the world map by being the only Singaporean and researcher of Chinese descent to obtain this distinguished accolade.

Dr Tan was appointed Special Advisor to the Pan American Health Organisation since 1998 to provide guidance and conduct workshops on medical devices regulations and EMC on medical devices in 10 Latin American countries. Locally, the Ministry of Health has also sought his expertise in drafting a proposal regarding the establishment of a medical device regulatory agency and in reviewing the existing regulations governing medical devices.

The Science graduate from Nanyang University obtained his PhD in biophysics specialising in cardiac electrophysiology from the University of Calgary in 1979. Dr Tan currently resides in Canada and has established a prestigious government EMC research centre at Health Canada. Based on his outstanding contributions in the field of EMI and EMC research, he has been a Fellow of the Institute of Population Health at the University of Ottawa since 2004. The multi-tasking alumnus is also the author of three book chapters and over 100 papers and abstracts.

**Mr Low Thia Khiang (Arts/1980)**

For four terms, the people of Hougang Single Member Constituency (SMC) had chosen 55-year-old Mr Low to be their Member of Parliament (MP), trusting him to look after their needs and represent their voices. At the General Elections of 2011, the team led by Mr Low emerged victorious at the Aljunied Group Representation Constituency (GRC). For the first time, a GRC will be represented by the opposition.

Mr Low took the tough decision of leaving his stronghold in Hougang to contest in Aljunied GRC alongside four of his party members. The goodwill Mr Low had established in Hougang subsequently helped pave the way for his successor MrYaw Shin Leong to win the SMC seat and ensured that WP secure an unprecedented six seats in Parliament.

Mr Low is known for his sharp analytical skills and for his ability to provide constructive advice and suggestions. He does not prescribe to opposing the ruling party sentiment merely for the sake of opposing.

The Nanyang University graduate shared his philosophy for life and politics: “I believe in acting with a clear conscience and doing my best.”

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Apart from his financial pursuits, Mr Ong is also interested in imparting knowledge to the younger generation. He was appointed Adjunct Associate Professor and was attached to the Nanyang Technopreneurship Centre (NTC) from 2007 to 2009. He has been lecturing on a part-time basis at NTC, the Nanyang Centre for Public Administration and the Nanyang Business School, since 2005.

“Since my days as a student at Yunnan Garden Campus, I have obtained a firm foundation in financial basics which I was able later to build upon. I am truly honoured to be part of the Nanyang family and will strive to embody the Nanyang spirit in all that I do,” Mr Ong shared.
Ms Sng Ee Tze, Stefanie (NBS/2000)

Ms Sng Ee Tze Stefanie, more popularly known as Stefanie Sun, is undoubtedly one of the most successful singers to hail from our shores. After graduating from NTU in 2000, the then 22-year-old took the Mandarin pop industry by storm with her musical debut that very same year. Very quickly, the pop industry by storm with her musical

Ms Sng’s capabilities extend far beyond her singing career. The marketing graduate from the Nanyang Business School started her own artiste management company, Make Music, in 2003. As Mercy Relief’s Goodwill Ambassador, she has made humanitarian visits to Indonesia, India and Africa. In 2008, she helped to raise funds for the charity’s reconstruction projects in Ziyang city after the devastating Sichuan earthquake. “It is very important for me to give back when I have been given so much,” Ms Sng shared in a previous interview with The Business Times.

In 2010, Ms Sng was presented with the inaugural Young Achiever Award by the NTU Alumni Association. She now serves as the National Youth Council, chairman of the National Youth Council and the current Chairman of Young PAP, the youth wing of the ruling People’s Action Party. In addition, Mr Teo led Singapore’s successful bid for the inaugural YOG in 2010 and assumed the roles of Advisor to the Organising Committee and Mayor of the Youth Olympic Village.

He said: “Young people hold the key to the future of our nation. It is important to engage them, work with them and support them to shape the future of this nation. NTU has very much provided the opportunity to enhance bilateral relations between Shandong province and Singapore. He said: “My education at NTU gave me extra knowledge and skills to contribute to the betterment of my country. It is only fair that I do right by my alma mater by improving ties between Singapore and Shandong,”

In 2011, Mr Cai led the Shandong Economic and Trade Delegation to participate in the 15th Conference of Singapore – Shandong Joint Economic and Trade Council. A total of eight Memoranda of Understanding were signed; a testament to the close level of cooperation between Singapore and the Chinese province.

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences alumni is gratified to have the opportunity to enhance bilateral relations between Shandong province and Singapore. He said: “My education at NTU gave me extra knowledge and skills to contribute to the betterment of my country. It is only fair that I do right by the home country of my alma mater by improving ties between Singapore and Shandong,“
Mr Chan Saik Wei (EEE/1986), was one of the close to 1000 alumni who came home to NTU, at the annual NTU Alumni Homecoming 2011, hosted by the University. Though he has returned to campus numerous times, he remains impressed by NTU’s transformation through the past few decades.

“When I was studying, there were only three engineering courses – Electrical and Electronic, Mechanical and Production, and Civil and Structural Engineering – offered at the then Nanyang Technological Institute (NTI). Today, NTU has evolved into an internationally renowned university that offers a wide range of courses beyond its engineering traditions,” said Mr Chan.

Strength of alumni

Themed ‘Reminiscing Nanyang’, NTU Alumni Night 2011 was part of the homecoming programme.

One of the highlights of NTU Alumni Night was the Nanyang Alumni Awards presentation ceremony, where Guest-of-Honour Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister for Education, presented Nanyang Alumni Awards to 34 deserving alumni. (Read more about our awardees on pages 3 to 12).

In his speech, Minister Heng spoke about the strength of the University’s alumni and how their support will benefit future generations of NTU students.

“A key measure of a university’s success must be the accomplishments of its alumni. Every good university takes pains to stay in touch with and keep track of its alumni. With more than 156,000 graduates across the globe, I commend NTU’s decision to recognise and celebrate its alumni’s efforts to make this world a better place.”

Minister Heng added: “I believe one reason why NTU has succeeded in encouraging its fresh graduates to contribute back to NTU is because of the example set by our alumni. NTU’s strong alumni base has, over the years, been making contributions to NTU’s programmes, to help financially-needy juniors.”

In his maiden alumni homecoming speech, NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson updated alumni on the University’s new leadership team and its latest research developments.

He also emphasised the importance of keeping in touch with alumni.

“As NTU’s alumni, you should be regularly kept informed on the progress of the University. As key stakeholders, you need to be continually apprised of the University’s development. I want to strengthen this interaction with you and I will want to meet you more often at the various alumni events. You can do a lot for us. You can be our advisors. We will make you proud of NTU and we can do that by increasing the profile and international standing of the University. And vice versa, the mark you make in society cements our long term reputation as a great global university. You are NTU’s best ambassadors,” said Prof Andersson.

Earlier that day, alumni also attended English and Chinese forums where topics on new media and investment were discussed. (More on page 15).

NTU Alumni Night 2011 was held on Saturday, 15 October, at the Nanyang Auditorium.

Welcome home, alumni!

The annual alumni homecoming sees past graduates returning to the Yunnan Garden campus for an evening of reminiscence.

Mr Chan Saik Wei (EEE/1986), was one of the close to 1000 alumni who came home to NTU, at the annual NTU Alumni Homecoming 2011, hosted by the University. Though he has returned to campus numerous times, he remains impressed by NTU’s transformation through the past few decades.

“When I was studying, there were only three engineering courses – Electrical and Electronic, Mechanical and Production, and Civil and Structural Engineering – offered at the then Nanyang Technological Institute (NTI). Today, NTU has evolved into an internationally renowned university that offers a wide range of courses beyond its engineering traditions,” said Mr Chan.

Strength of alumni

Themed ‘Reminiscing Nanyang’, NTU Alumni Night 2011 was part of the homecoming programme.

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欢迎南大校友们回校！

南洋理工大学的校友们重返云南园校园，出席一年一度的校友回校日，缅怀求学的美好记忆。

南大电机与电子工程学院1986年校友 Chan Saik Wai 先生是出席由母校主办的“2011年南大校友回校日”活动的1300位校友中的一位。虽然已经多次回到校园，但这次他仍然对南大数十年来的巨大变化而感到惊叹。

他说：“我在求学时，只有三门工科课程，就是电机与电子工程、机械与生产工程，以及土木与结构工程。那时是南洋理工大学（NTU）开设的。现在南大已经成为一所多学科的国际著名大学，超越它的传统工程学而传播著范围更广的课程。”

校友大家庭的巨大力量

以“缅怀南洋”为主题的“2011年南大校友之夜”，是校友们回校日的一部分。南大校友之夜的其中一个是“南洋校友奖”颁奖典礼，由大会主席、教育部部长王瑞杰先生颁发34名杰出校友奖。（欲知获奖者名单，请参阅第3至12页）

王部长在讲话中读到南大校友的巨大力量，以及校友们的大力支持将如何使未来的南大学生获益。

他说：“一所大学取得成功的三个关键因素是校友们的成就。每一所南大的大学都凝聚巨大努力和校友们来支持我们，关注校友们的最佳方向，南大在世界各地拥有15万6千多名毕业生，我很高兴看到校友们的成就，这将使世界更加美好。”

王部长补充说：“我相信南大之所以能够成功地鼓励新毕业生们维持联系，是因为校友们做出了榜样。多年来，南大强大的校友网络一直对母校的各种计划和课程做出贡献，以帮助那些学府。”

南大校长安博迪教授上任后首次于南大校友回校日发表讲话，他向出席大会的校友们介绍新的领导团队以及最新的科研进展，他强调与校友们保持联系的重要性。

安博迪教授说：“身为南大校友，你们应该定期查询大学的进展信息，身为大学主要的资产持有者，你们必须不断了解南大的发展动态。我期待你们加强这样互动关系，我也会在各位校友活动中多与你们见面。你们可以为大学做的事情很多。我也希望你们为南大感到骄傲。透过提升南大的国际知名度，你们可以做到这一点。同样，你们在社会的贡献也提升了南大作为全球化大学的声望。你们是南大最好的大使。”

当天较早时间，校友们也出席了分别关于新媒体和投资理财专题的英语和华语论坛（详细内容请参阅第15页）。2011年南大校友之夜于10月15日（星期六）在南洋大礼堂举行。

New media for today’s world

The internet, Facebook, Twitter and other channels of social media have gained increasing popularity in recent years, not just as platforms to connect people, but also as marketing channels. This and more were shared by the three speakers who spoke at the Alumni Forum: ‘The role of new media in today’s world’, held as part of NTU’s Alumni Homecoming this year.

Forum Chairman and speaker, Professor Ang Peng Hwa, Director, Singapore Internet Research Centre, NTU, related his experience of a research study he conducted in Nepal to better understand how social media is used to engage citizens.

与生活息息相关的金钱问题，是许多人所最为关注的。2011年10月15日，近300名南大校友、学生和来宾们回到母校，聆听专家们讨论《创业、投资、理财》的相关课题。

论坛主席、瑞士银行新加坡分行财富管理部执行董事王励谦先生（南大第11届会计学系校友）如此介绍：“创业、投资、理财就如一个同心圆。投资是理财的一部分，只要成功做到，就可享有幸福人生。”

综合分析，不贪为宝

第一位主讲者、南大第8届银行财务学系校友王金福先生在分析欧洲主权债务危机等问题时表示，目前的社会具有“动态复杂性”（dynamic complexity），只能综合各派看法分析股市。

第二位主讲者、华安证券公司首席经济学家兼策略投资部总经理王海荣先生。于2007年毕业并南洋商学院高层主管工商管理硕士课程的这名摄影爱好者透过旅游途中捕捉到的一幅幅生动画面，以“快乐行走”为主题，向出席者们阐述一个真理：身心灵的健康才是最重要的。

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check with my colleagues and try to gather enough information to write an interesting news article on it,” she shared.

The Forum was held at the School of Biological Sciences on Saturday, 15 October.

解析创业、投资、理财

四名校友受邀在2011年南大校友回校日华语论坛上与出席者们分享专业心得。

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HARNESSING THE ‘INVISIBLE’ POWER OF BACTERIA

Did you know that bacteria talk to one another? And though microscopic, they are powerful in numbers and are known to help eliminate environmental problems. Professor Staffan Kjelleberg, Director of the newly established Singapore Centre for Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCELSE), talks about the exciting research studies conducted on bacterial biofilm communities used to fight diseases and treat water.

Biofilms are all around us, but how many of us know of their existence, let alone of what they are? Professor Kjelleberg explains: “Bacterial biofilms are the oldest and most active form on Earth. They live on surfaces and can be found everywhere. When you wake up in the morning, the plaque you feel on your teeth is a biofilm.”

The biology of bacterial biofilms is significantly different from that of single free living cells as biofilms have distinct architecture.

They comprise multi-species consortia that cooperate with one another in their communities. “Humans have one set of metabolism and we breathe oxygen. But biofilms have different sets of metabolism. They can breathe anything, even metals!” says Prof Kjelleberg.

“They talk amongst themselves by coordinating their social behaviour to benefit the entire group, often showing altruism. When bacterial numbers reach a certain threshold, individuals change their behaviour and rapidly colonise a surface, acting as a group,” Prof Kjelleberg elaborates.

Minute yet powerful

By understanding how bacteria interact with one another in these communities, scientists aim to harness them and control their activities through innovative life sciences based engineering, for the benefit of our urban environment and our well-being.

“Microbiology as a discipline has been around for 300 years. But the discipline has been focused primarily on the study of single cells and driven by medical microbiology. Today, we understand that biofilms live in communities and not alone. Biofilms perform constant biodegradation of even the most resistant compounds created by higher organisms. We have only begun to harness this incredible capacity of microbial biofilms to help solve the problems associated with our modern living,” shares Prof Kjelleberg.

With the research studies conducted at SCELSE, scientists will be able to harness the capacity of the biofilm mode of life and translate its diverse metabolisms and capabilities into practical and sustainable outcomes for modern society.

“Biofilm technology can offer solutions for wastewater treatment, bioremediation – the degeneration of harmful compounds – public health, and the fouling of industrial surfaces,” explains Prof Kjelleberg.

“Water treatment is entirely dependant on biofilms. The waste goes into the treatment system, where a large number of biofilm consortia do the job of attacking the pollutants, and cleaning the water. We can also remove oil spills by understanding the activities of these communities. In bioremediation, for example, we can use biofilms to break down toxic compounds into more benign forms,” he adds. By understanding the collective

metabolisms of such biofilm communities, the clean up process can be maximised, resulting in an efficient and cost-effective remediation of the affected site.

Rather than consume energy, biofilms can also be used to create water treatment systems that generate energy for a sustainable and cost-effective solution to wastewater management. They are able to recover nutrients, degrade and remove pollutants, and reclaim resources in an efficient manner.

Water treatment projects

Singapore faces the constant challenge of ensuring a good supply of clean water as the city state lacks permanent rivers and has to depend on rainwater, reused water, imported water and desalination. SCELSE has embarked on two flagship programmes in partnership with PUB, Singapore’s national water agency, to better address this issue.

The first involves the Ulu Pandan water reclamation plant, where SCELSE began a comprehensive analysis of the complex microbial communities that treat water at the plant. Knowing exactly what organisms do and how they function will optimise the reclamation process to become more efficient and consume less energy.

With NTU’s growing international profile, the campus is even more abuzz with activities, projects and collaborations.

Our new section, On Campus, aims to showcase some of the most exciting initiatives and developments happening right here, at NTU. Alumni readers will be able to find out more about the ongoing projects and research work being carried out by NTU researchers, academics and students.

For a start, we take you behind the doors of NTU’s newest Research Centre of Excellence, the Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCELSE). We speak to the Centre’s Director, Professor Staffan Kjelleberg, who let us in on the Centre’s current and long-term initiatives and objectives.

Established in April 2011, SCELSE examines the life of microbial biofilms to develop environmental solutions with significant economic benefits.
“We have only begun to harness this incredible capacity of microbial biofilms to help solve the problems associated with our modern living.”

SCELSE is NTU’s second Research Centre of Excellence. The first, the Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS), was opened in 2009 and is devoted to studying earth’s natural disasters. SCELSE is led and hosted by NTU, in partnership with the National University of Singapore (NUS).

SCELSE is co-funded by the National Research Foundation and the Ministry of Education over the next ten years under the Research Centres of Excellence (RCE) Programme. It was officially opened on 14 September 2011.

Director of SCELSE, Professor Staffan Kjelleberg, was formerly a Research Fellow with the Swedish Research Council and Head of the Department of General and Marine Microbiology at the University of Göteborg back in his native country Sweden.

A co-founder of the Centre for Marine Bio-Innovation and Research: hard and soft engineering approaches.

SCELSE aims to develop an integrated view of the biology of biofilms and how they impact the function of natural and engineered systems. The centre will make use of the very latest developments in molecular techniques, including DNA sequencing, to establish the first comprehensive database of microbial biofilms.

Prof Kjelleberg elaborates: “We will integrate data from different biological levels with measurements of environmental factors. These will generate a multi-scale view of the role of biofilms in various systems. The international database will be a key global focal point for research in this emerging discipline.”

SCELSE will develop four research clusters, Environmental Biofilm Engineering, Metamorphosis and Systems Biology, Experimental Biofilm Systems, and Biofilms and Public Health, which will drive research to understand the ecology of biofilms and their use for environmental solutions.

The Centre is also training more than 100 PhD students, and joint PhD programmes in Environmental Life Sciences have been established with international universities.

For two weeks every July, SCELSE runs a summer school for 30 national and international PhD students. During this course, participants are able to interact with world-renowned scientists, engineers and guest experts.

For the second programme, SCELSE has adopted the Ulu Pandan Catchment Areas to study the role of microbial processes in the recycling of surface water, to control harmful microorganisms in our waters. The findings will help to provide fundamental knowledge useful for reshaping waterways using hard and soft engineering approaches.

Objectives of SCELSE
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Seizing entrepreneurial business opportunities in China
NTU’s Nanyang Technopreneurship Center (NTC) is launching a one-week intensive residential executive programme on ‘Seizing Entrepreneurial Business Opportunities in China’, in collaboration with Tsinghua University, Beijing, China.

If you are an entrepreneur or a business decision maker looking to learn how to leverage on the rise of innovation in China to enhance the success of your enterprise, sign up for this transformational journey now.

The programme will be conducted at both universities – two days at NTU, and four days at Tsinghua University.

Potential funding up to 50% will be available for application*. Please contact us to know more.

*Subject for approval, terms and conditions apply.

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Seizing Entrepreneurial Business Opportunities in China

Dates: 26 February 2012 to 3 March 2012

Language: English

Tuition fee: SGD 10,000 or USD 8,500

For more information or to register, please visit www.ntu.edu.sg/ntc or contact NTC at +65 6592 2598 / ntc@ntu.edu.sg.

Calling for Contributions

Keen to share your views and have your articles published at NTU? We are calling for contributions in the following sections:

Lifestyle:
Do you travel widely, keep a journal of your adventures and have good photographs that you might want to share? Or have you simply been somewhere that caught your imagination? Tell us all about your travels!

Are you an avid movie goer? Be Leonard Maltin for the day and share your views of the latest blockbuster with our readers!

If food is your preferred choice of relaxation, try your hand at being food critic and send us your views on food/restaurants worth trying.

Research:
If this noble line of work is your bread and butter and/or passion, we want to hear from you! Share with the NTU community your research developments and breakthroughs. If you know of someone (alumni or faculty members) whose research work is a source of inspiration for you, do not hesitate to send in your suggestions!

Class Notes:
Whether it’s about your accomplishments, memories of campus days, your recent marriage or a new addition to your family, we welcome you to share your news, views and photos with friends and classmates through Class Notes. Read about your classmates in this issue of NTULink.

Potentially funding up to 50% will be available for application*. Please contact us to know more.

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How old were you when the first notion of entrepreneurship came to you and what form did this take?

FB: I started working when I was a kid. I have had to work all my student life, this probably explains why the entrepreneurial part of me swung in. You do not regret what you do not have. You simply make the best of what you have. As early as eight or nine years old, I had to look for work after school, to help bring in income for the family. I collected copper wires and other collectibles, selling them to the rag-and-bone man. I began working for my mechanic dad when I was ten. In my overseas undergraduate days, I ran a service selling and delivering fresh chicken to students' doorsteps. Initially I sold eggs but soon realised that selling chickens were more profitable. Asian students would buy frozen chickens, which they had to carry back to their flats. I bought an old Volkswagen for AUD$250, drove weekly to a farm to collect the chickens and delivered them fresh to the students, for the same price as the frozen ones! I delivered my last chicken on the day my final year exam results were posted in the university hall and officially graduated as an engineer with top honours. Last month, 31 years later, I returned to the same place (Monash University, Australia) to receive their Distinguished Alumni Award. Not bad for a chicken seller!

Q: With your formidable experience as a researcher, and in your capacity as Provost, how are you working together with the President in advancing NTU in the research arena, particularly in the context of how information and communications paradigms seem to be in the midst of seismic shifts?

FB: As a research-intensive university, it is crucial for the University’s leaders to understand the very concept of ‘research-intensive’. Whilst research money is important to us, the real impact comes when we can translate this money into creative knowledge that is applicable to society, first in Singapore, then in this region and beyond. I believe in research that has economic relevance and educational value. How does research benefit students? Society does not owe it to professors to give them money to satisfy their personal curiosities; rather, professors owe it to society to ensure that the valuable money entrusted to them for research produces results that benefit society, economically or educationally.

Communications in the world today (and certainly tomorrow) has dramatically and permanently changed with the incredible explosion in Information Technology – Google, Facebook, Twitter, virtual reality etc.. We need to redefine teaching and learning for tomorrow. In the past, we would go to the library to seek information. But today, we get information overload just by using our iPhones or iPads. So the library needs to come (wirelessly and virtually) to the students now. I believe learning today is no longer defined by students sitting in a classroom, listening to a lecturer speaking. Theoretically, a student can sit in his own bedroom, or a cafe, and work through his iPad or laptop just to download information for his course. But I am not saying that students need not be in campus anymore – not at all! This is because today, we learn through interaction, institution and inspiration. Students come to the campus to learn to interact with fellow students, scientists and professors, to learn to work as a team, to interact with companies and industries. All these are essentially to educate them for the future and make them well-trained graduates.

Education is not just about what one remembers and knows; it is also about how one relates and leads. Being in a leading institution like NTU, students move around in an institutional environment and that motivates and disciplines them to learn intensely, be it in the laboratories or lecture theatres. If they belong to a prestigious institution, they feel a pulsation about it and this in turn motivates them to do well and do fantastic things. Graduating from this institution also gives them a sense of belonging; that they are part of a great educational institution. They learn also through inspiration. Within the campus, students get to meet, interact and be inspired by top scientists and professors. This is a huge motivational factor to increase their desire to learn more and learn more deeply.

Some professors inspire, because they have produced knowledge that is of use to society. For this reason, I have been fastidious in insisting that we hire the very best professors from the world over, who are excellent in research and equally good in teaching. I will not short-change our students. Today’s modern world
Before being Provost, I ran the School of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) for six years. During this time I introduced the notion of innovation to the School. Today, the School’s faculty starts companies regularly. When I first challenged the faculty to push for innovation – one company per year – it seemed like a tall order (laughs). Today, starting companies has become a bit of a culture for the School and that is very gratifying. It is a small wish of mine to spread this culture across NTU. The challenge is to inculcate this also in our undergraduates. We have begun some plans to encourage them to start enterprises in NTU.

Where facilities and services can be run by students, we will give the preference of running them to students. We will teach and encourage them along the way. We do have very modest student-run facilities but we would like to challenge the entire University to take this up, so this will become unique to NTU.

Q: What are some of the challenges you have faced since becoming Provost and how have you/do you intend to overcome these challenges?

FB: We are a University in a hurry. We have shown how fast we can move especially in research and we have great appetite for doing more, but our logistics must catch up. An army cannot run faster than its logistics. The campus’ bricks and mortar have not caught up with the expansion in student numbers, courses, and research. We have a good piece of land, but in terms of facilities it is very crowded, hence, that is one of my challenges. Fortunately, the Board of Trustees has approved a building programme worth more than S$1 billion. The biggest piece of this pie is set for student facilities – eight halls of residences and two huge student self-learning hubs. This gives us huge leverage on transforming the campus, to build facilities not for yesterday’s work, but for tomorrow’s work; something that will greatly facilitate teaching of the future. The same applies to Halls of Residences and other facilities. I have to make sure that what we build and what we believe in merge.

We want to do even more, but we need more resources to do that. Moving ahead, endowment will be a big challenge for the University. The endowment must catch up with the prestige of this University. And this is where our alumni can play a part. Alumni contributions can find their way to scholarships for the brightest students who are financially in need. We want the brightest students but we need to have scholarships to attract them. Attracting top quality students to come to NTU is my other challenge. Our ambition is for many of our students to spend a significant amount of time overseas. If I have it my way, we should have enough money to send each and every of our students overseas. I am not just talking about London and New York, but also about Africa, South America, and China, where they can sense opportunities for innovation. We would like to send students there.

Q: You have been a faculty member of MSE for many years. Do you have any memorable anecdotes to share about some of the School’s alumni?

FB: There was a student who asked to meet me as he had been arrested for a crime. After meeting him, we asked the police to give him another chance, with the assurance that we would keep him out of trouble. The police relented and we kept the student in good counsel. The day the student graduated with a good Second Class Upper degree, I was so proud of him. He is now a useful member of society. I have another PhD student who became depressed and got himself drunk a few times. Twice, in the wee hours of the morning, I received calls from his roommate. I drove to his room to extirpate him from his stupor. Then there was Danny Tan, Danny was my final year student many years ago. I encouraged him to be adventurous, and he became one of the very first engineers who got into the biomedical field. Years later, he became the Managing Director of the listed company, Biosensor. Tragically, on the day before he was officially announced as Managing Director, he drowned, whilst at a retreat for the company. I will always be very proud of him; whilst he was not the top student his willingness to go into the biomedical field early on made him a much more successful person than he otherwise would be.

Q: What do you recall most fondly about being an alumnus of your alma mater Monash University? How have you been contributing to your alma mater?

FB: Monash invited me in November to their 50th Anniversary. I was totally surprised that evening when they awarded me with the only Distinguished Alumni
I must ensure that NTU will be even more strategic, impactful, and important in the global arena and that she does Singapore even more proud.

Award. It is nice to know Monash is proud of me. The feeling is reciprocal. I have also benefitted greatly from my Monash experience. One day during my second year, the Chair of the department, Professor Ian Polmear, came into our class and surprised me by announcing that the first individual student to win a prize. Unknown to me, he had applied on my behalf for this prize. For a needy student like me trying to make ends meet, this was most welcomed. I was immensely touched by him. I had benefitted because a professor thought of one individual student.

So when I started running the School of MSE, the first thing I did was to make money available for needy students, to engage and employ them in the School so that they could work and earn money at the School without the need to travel far to earn this money. We need to teach our students the concept of giving back. What we have received freely, we must also give freely. I have been very thankful to Monash University and I express this gratitude by letting them know that I would be more than happy to help drive endowment.

What do you hope to achieve for NTU five years from now?

An institution is as good as the leaders it has. NTU needs good leaders – academic leaders, alumni leaders, administrative leaders, student leaders. For NTU to sustain the good work she has done, we need good leadership today and we need to have potential leaders for tomorrow. This is one challenge for me.

The world has changed dramatically especially in the way we communicate and in the way information is disseminated. The challenge for me is to ensure that NTU knows how this dramatic change affects our teaching and student learning, in the years ahead. We need to drive this University, not with a rear-view mirror, but looking ahead. What is the definition of teaching and learning, in the future? We then need to prepare NTU’s academic system for the future, to ensure that we hire and empower professors and train students who will be valued for a long time.

NTU has an important role to play in Singapore’s future. Singaporeans can rightfully be very proud of NTU today, but I need to ensure NTU’s role remains, if not increases. To do this, I must ensure that NTU will be even more strategic, impactful, and important in the global arena and that she does Singapore even more proud. We want to make all Singaporeans proud of NTU today and even more so tomorrow.

You have been most successful in your inventions and in funding companies to patent and license them. What words of advice do you have for budding inventors who possess an entrepreneurial spirit?

Never find a solution for which there is no demand. This is a golden rule. No matter how clever your idea is, if it is of no earthly use, it is of no heavenly good. Believe you have more than one good idea. This means that you should never be so passionate about one idea that you find it impossible to let go of, at the expense of the next idea which may be even better. Learn to walk away when your idea does not work. There are more to come. There are numerous puzzle pieces to bring together before you can make one good picture. A good idea is one, the right resource is another, the person who can execute your idea is a third, and sound advice from experienced businessmen is another. All these must come together before the business is a success. In short, you can never do it alone. A small piece of a huge pie is forever bigger than a big piece of a small pie. If they get all these right, they probably would be successful. Do not be afraid to share and to ask for help. These are things that I myself have learned and applied along the way.

Outside of work, what gives you most satisfaction in life?

My other passion outside of the work I do at NTU is the Christian-related work I do. I help run a church and also engage in other missions-related work around Singapore. This passion motivates me immensely and gives me balance, vis-à-vis my work at NTU. The voluntary work gives me enormous satisfaction as I help, even if in a small way, to bring joy to others’ lives. I venture out to Northern Thailand, Indonesia, China and Malaysia, to help small underprivileged groups, like the Orang Asli, to help run orphans in Thailand, to give them hope, comfort and encouragement. I always find time for this. If I wait to be free to do these, I will never do them! I used to be a sportsman, competing in swimming, water-polo and football. I do not have time for sports now. Between my work at NTU and my mission work, I am very much fulfilled.

If there is one thing you can change about life, what would that be?

I have taken what comes my way, made use of it, and I am happy with the way things are today. I would not want to change anything. I was born under very poor circumstances but that in itself has made me who I am. I may never be who I am today if I were born rich. No, there is no time for regrets, only time to move on.
专访南大教务长——梅彦昌教授

出生于新加坡一个条件并非理想的11口大人家庭，南洋理工
大学教务长梅彦昌教授深知何谓贫穷。然而，对于这位多才多能的科学家、发明家、学者和企业家来说，世事无难事。
这个过程中，他的身边人甚至经常因为他足智多谋受到鼓舞。以下是对教授进行的访谈的摘要:

问：您最初萌起创业的念头时是多大年纪?是什么
样的模式呢?

梅教授：我从很小的时候就开始工作。我整个求学时
期都得干活，这大概是我想要创业的原因吧。早在
8、9岁时，我就得在放学后找活干，捡一些铜线之类
的卖给收破烂的人。
10岁开始替我当技工的爸爸工
作，帮补家用。在国外留学时，我开始买卖鸡肉并送
货到学生宿舍。我先是卖鸡蛋，但很快意识到卖鸡
肉更好赚，因为亚洲同学会买冷冻鸡，而且千里迢迢
带回宿舍去。我就用250澳币买了一辆旧款大众汽车
(Volkswagen)，每周开车到鸡场买新鲜鸡肉送到
学生宿舍，价钱和冷冻鸡一样!我运送最后一只鸡是
在期末考成绩放榜的那天，我正式获得荣誉学位毕业
了。31年后，我在上个月回到母校(澳洲莫纳什大
学)领取“杰出校友奖”。当一个鸡贩可以这样算
是不错了吧!

问：身为一名具有丰富经验的研究员，您如何凭藉
您的专长和教务长的职位，同南大校长携手推
进南大的科研工作，特别是在资讯与通信正发生着巨
变的阶段?

梅教授：身为一所科研密集型大学的领导，最重要
的要先了解“科研密集型”的含义。研究资金固然重
要，但真正的用处是把资金转化为创新知识，应用
于新加坡社会、本区域甚至更广的地区。我深信任
何研究工作都必须有相关性以及实质的经济价值和教
育价值。处于通讯媒介发生着巨变的年代，我们有必
要重新定义未来的教学与学习方式。随着
iPhone和
iPad等的出现，学习已不仅限于课堂内。当然，我不
是说学生再也不来学校了，只不过今天的社会靠的
是互动(interaction)、学府(institution)和鼓舞
(inspiration)。

在南大这所顶尖学府求学，学生们自然受到浓厚的学
术氛围所感染而追求进步。他们会因为这么好的学府
而有归属感，但也同样要受到校园优秀人才的鼓舞而
渴求新知识。因为一些出类拔萃的教授们创造出对社
会有用的知识，学生们也自然会受到鼓舞。所以我特
别坚持要聘请最好的教授，在教学和科研方面都要是
最好的。就此而言，博迪校长和我决心通过极力的互
动、伟大的学府和鼓舞人心的人和事来推动大学的科
研和教学工作。

问：在2008年至2011年间，您成功获得约3.6千万新
元的竞争性研究赠款。请您和读者们分享您
做科研的动力，以及您在科研领域一些难忘的经历。

梅教授：新加坡政府在授权进行科研方面是独特的。
要得到一笔大幅赠款是靠团队力量的;我有一个好的
团队。最令人兴奋的，是看见我的同窗们也有创办起
步公司、担任教授并鼓舞着其他人的。谈到难忘的经
历，其中一个是在我做研究生时一次获得资助的机
会。具讽刺意味的是硅谷是很难获得资助
的地区之一。而另一件难忘的事是我设在硅谷的公司
第一次获得援助资金的那一刻。具讽刺意味的是硅谷
可是最难获得赠款的地方之一。而另一件难忘的事情
是我得知我的博士生们创办了自己公司的时候。创新是
具感染力的。我担任教务长之前，曾管理材料科学与工
程学院达六年。当时我主张创新，挑战学院要每年开创
一家公司。当时这像是个很难履行的命令(笑声)，但今天创办公司
成了学院的优良文化，不再是件难事。我有一点心愿就是要把这个文化传
遍整个南大。目前我们已开展一些计划帮助学生们
在南大创业。希望整个大学都会跟上潮流，这样就会创造出南大独有的文化。

问：您担任教务长之后遇到哪些挑
战?您如何在过去/计划在未来克
服这些挑战呢?

梅教授：我们是一所急速增长的大学，特
别是在科研方面。我们要做得更多更好，
但是我们的后勤一定要赶上进度。一支
军队不能超越后勤的速度而前进。我们校
园的基础设施跟不上学生人数、课程、科
研的增长。校园土地很大，但设备却很拥
挤，学生宿舍也一样。我要确保我们的建
设和信念是相融合的。幸运的是，校董会
批准了逾10亿新元的建设项目，其中最大
的工程是建设学生设施，包括八栋宿舍和
两处大型自习场所。未来的另一项挑战是
吸引顶尖学子到南大来。我们要有最优秀
的学生，也需要为他们提供奖学金，并让
他们能更多地到海外实习和交流。若要精
益求精，就必须要有持续性的预算，以及
投资与赠款。这样大学才能继续跃进。

问：您希望南洋理工大学在未来取
得什么成就呢?

梅教授：一所大学好不好，取决于领导
者。南大需要好的领导者——学术领
导、校友领导、行政领导、学生领导。
有了好的领导，大学就有持续性。今日是
如此，未来更是。对我而言就是一指前
战。全球正发生巨变，特别是资讯与通信
方面。关键是要让南大意识到这些变化对
未来的教学和学习的影响。要驾驭这所大
学，靠的不是后视镜，而是前视镜。我们
要为将来做准备，制定未来的学术体系，
培养出在很多年后仍然非常优秀的学生和
教授。南大对新加坡的未来至关重要，而
新加坡人理应为今天的南大感到骄傲。但
我要确保南大的持续性，甚至要更进步。
因此，我要让南大成为在世界上更具
战略性、影响力、重要性的高等学府，为
我国争取更多荣誉。我们要让所有国人为
今天，甚至是未来的南大而感到骄傲。

问：您无论是在发明上，或协助一些
企业争取专利和执照方面都很成
功。那么，您对富有创业精神的年轻投
资者们有什么金玉良言吗?

梅教授：千万不要专研毫无市场需求的东
西。这是这一行的金科玉律。不管你多么
天马行空，如果这个东西完全没有实用性，
那就是一无是处。你的妙想不仅是一个，
所以你千万不热衷于一个“弃之可
惜”的设想，而要是另一个可能是更好的
设想。如果这个设想无法行，就要学会放
弃，因为更多的想法会源源而来。就如
一幅拼图，零散的碎片终究会构成一幅佳
画。好的想法、对的资源、能执行该设想
的人。从经验到商人而来的“这”：这些所
有要素我都有，所以你不能要。我希望为我
的事业而奋斗，所以我不能要。不可能
有另外一选择，你的事业才会成功。

问：在工作之外，是什么能为您的生
活带来最大的满足感呢?

梅教授：工作之外，我热爱参与基督教事
工，我协助打理教会，投入于新加坡一带
的宣教事工。这份对义务服事的热忱，大
大帮助我平衡在南大的工作，也为我带来
巨大的满足感。不管是再小的事，只要我
能为其他人带来乐，我就会去做。我不去
想任何事情，我对其他事情很乐观。我对
新加坡的未来感觉乐观，我期待新加坡
会越来越好，我希望新加坡会更快乐。

问：如果生活中有一样东西是您可以
改变的，那会是什么呢?

梅教授：我一直都是逆来顺受，多加利用
困境的。我对今天的一切事物都很满意，
我不想改变任何东西。我出生在非常贫困
的环境中，然而这样的环境却使我出人头
地。如果我出生在富裕的家庭，我可能不
会有今天。我没时间后悔，惟有抓紧时间
向前迈进。
Members of NTU’s new senior management team have huge responsibilities to raise the international profile and standard of NTU. NTULink speaks to them to find out more about what these are.

Professor Lam Khin Yong
Chief of Staff

Q: What does your position as Chief of Staff entail and what kind of challenges have you faced since assuming this position?
A: My responsibilities are fairly varied. I work closely with the President and the Provost to ensure that the decisions made by senior academic leaders are well-implemented. In addition, I am working with key industry players and leading universities under my Special Projects portfolio to secure major research funding and collaborations for the university.

In the course of my work, implementing the projects and decisions can bring about a host of challenges and complexities owing to the scope and scale of some of these initiatives. One significant challenge is the need to work within the confines of tight timelines to accommodate the competing demands and varying needs of our stakeholders. Despite having a fairly new team in place, I think we have a group that is working closely to support one another.

Professor Er Meng Hwa
Vice President (International Affairs)

Q: Please share with us some of the things you have been doing, since assuming the role of Vice President of International Affairs. What has been the most exciting about this new role?
A: I started by reviewing the existing international activities at NTU. NTU’s international profile as a research-intensive University is fast rising. A new Office of International Affairs (OIA) has been set up to manage the diverse international activities of the University. My Office provides a high-level academic focal point in NTU to spearhead our various strategic collaboration and international programmes. For better coordination of services and activities, the International Relations Office (IRO) has been restructured and renamed the Office of Global Education and Mobility (OGEM).

I have been with NTU for about 26 years and I have personally seen the dramatic transformation of the University over the years. This new portfolio is something new and exciting for me. It offers a wonderful opportunity to help raise the international profile of NTU and provide more global education opportunities for our students. At a personal level, I get to meet and interact with many eminent personalities and experience a wide range of activities.

Q: How will you promote the NTU brand overseas?
A: Our globalisation efforts are happening on many fronts. We are developing more opportunities for our students to study and immerse themselves in various overseas environments. At the same time, we are continuing to attract top international students. This cultural exchange is an important way to promote the NTU brand overseas, especially amongst the younger generation. We will continue to raise NTU’s international profile by tapping on the networks of our faculty and research staff who come from more than 70 countries. We are also stepping up our efforts to seek and enhance collaborative agreements with the best universities around the world.

Our overseas alumni are a valuable resource in these efforts, and I look forward to cultivating deeper ties with them. NTU has established more than 30 international alumni chapters to network with our alumni and potential partners. We have also been offering international executive programmes to professionals and senior officials from the region to be trained on NTU’s campus.

Q: What are some of the more interesting places you have travelled to for work?
A: I visited three cities for the first time in 2011 – Addis Ababa, the capital city of Ethiopia for the GlobalTech meeting in May, Luang Prabang in Laos for the AUN Rectors’ meeting in July, and Hohhot in Inner Mongolia for the Alumni Chapter launch in October. I was amazed by the huge land and resources these places possess and I was also impressed by the determination of their people to progress economically. In terms of land size, Singaporeans should all be proud that despite having limited natural resources in just about 700 sq km of space, Singapore has achieved so much to become a developed nation in one generation.

Professor Stephen Kevin Smith
Vice President (Research)

Q: How do you think NTU is progressing in the field of medical research and education? What more would you like to see being done?
A: The Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCSoM) aims to attract world-class Biomedical and Clinical research and teaching faculty staff. Over the next few years, we intend to build a team of over 400 top quality faculty staff. We see our faculty staff as instrumental to the School’s role in enhancing medical education, and helping to raise standards in healthcare practice and research in Singapore. Besides increasing the doctor pool, we hope to catalyse research in the field of medical technology and bioengineering. It is my belief that the way ahead for medicine lies in the integration of ideas and the marrying of minds of doctors, researchers and engineers.

We must be open to international collaborations as well as those within Singapore, there is a place for competition and a place for cooperation, but big science can no longer succed in isolation.

Q: How will NTU attract students to the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCSoM), especially since there is already another medical school?
A: The LKCSoM is a joint school between two of the world’s premier institutions of higher education, Imperial College London and NTU. I trust the long heritage of excellence and intellectual vigour of both universities will pave the way for LKCSoM to be a standard bearer for medical education.

The Singapore community deserves good doctors. At LKCSoM, we want to train doctors who not only understand the needs of patients, but who will put patients at the centre of their care. We aim to train doctors of tomorrow who are able to meet Singapore’s present and future healthcare needs. Our graduates

Standing tall, reaching high, the new senior management team works for NTU’s future. (From left) Prof Kam Chan Hin, Associate Provost (Undergraduate Education); Prof Lam Khin Yong, Chief of Staff; Prof Angela Goh, Associate Provost (Faculty Affairs); Assoc Prof Kwek Kian Woon, Associate Provost; Student Life; Prof E Mary Hwa, Vice President (International Affairs); Prof Peter Rainer Prasser, Associate Provost (Graduate Education); and Prof Stephen Kevin Smith, Vice President (Research).
Q: What was it that attracted you to accept the position in NTU? Why Singapore and why not any other Asian universities?
A: Everyone outside of Singapore has seen the country’s commitment to enhancing research and building a knowledge-based society. It is very exciting to be part of this effort, and when I was approached I had no hesitation whatsoever. Singapore is seeing a rapidly ageing population. A multitude of other factors add to the need: a rise in chronic diseases, changing disease profiles and emergence of new medical complexities. Yet, Singapore is seeing a brain drain where some of her best and brightest are going abroad to study medicine due to the lack of places to study medicine here. The idea then is for one of Singapore’s top universities to partner one of the world’s top medical colleges to augment Singapore’s healthcare manpower needs, whilst providing more opportunities for Singaporeans to pursue a high-quality medical degree locally.

Professor Angela Goh
Associate Provost (Faculty Affairs)

Q: How does it feel being the only female in the new senior management team under Professor Bertold Andersson’s leadership?
A: I am used to being in the minority, having studied and worked in departments and colleges where most of my classmates and colleagues were males. So there really is nothing different about working in this new team. I receive no special treatment.

Q: What are some of the things you have implemented, since assuming this role in July?
A: I am still in touch with alumni, both through email and the occasional meet-up over meals with those here in Singapore. If each faculty member maintains contact with just a few former students, who are now friends, we will have more than simply a database of names. The best engagement is still at a personal level, but complemented with events, social media, and more.

Associate Professor Kwok Kian Woon
Associate Provost (Student Life)

Q: How have you been engaging yourself with the students on campus?
A: I have been engaging in numerous direct dialogues with various sectors of the student population. In the first place, as a faculty I have a good idea of the academic challenges faced by our students. But I am now even more immersed in student life by interacting with students involved in the Students’ Union, the Junior Common Room Committees in the Halls, and the many student clubs and societies. I have also participated in many student activities in the areas of welfare, cultural life, and sports.

Q: How do you see NTU becoming more vibrant in terms of student life?
A: There are many interesting activities already happening on campus: seminars, cultural performances, film screenings, debates, and sports events. But we must ‘aggregate’ all the activities into a campus calendar that is accessible to all members of the NTU community. In addition to the wonderful surprises that happen on campus, we need to have a very visible cycle of events and activities. For example, weekly cross-campus runs and art film screenings, monthly interdisciplinary debates, stress-buster activities during exams, annual festivals and rock concerts! We are also looking at how every available space on campus can be better used for informal study, play and student-led entrepreneurial activities.

Q: You are widely-read. If you could meet your favourite author, what would you have from him/her that might assist you in your new role?
A: Let me start by drawing a lesson from a recent popular book about the human brain. Neuroscientists now show that, contrary to a century of past thinking, the adult brain is capable of generating new cells or neurons – including through physical exercise and immersion in stimulating environments. Intensive learning does not stop when students graduate. They have a whole life ahead of them, and they will continue to grow and learn as the decades go by. The engaging and enjoyable experiences they have at NTU – as our alumni have proven – will lead them to embrace lifelong learning and new challenges.

One of my favourite sociologists, Max Weber (1864–1920), once gave a twist to the common saying that “politics is the art of the possible”. He said that history shows that human beings would not have achieved the possible if they had not reached out for the impossible. There are many times in our lives, when we are overwhelmed by practical considerations, but we need to keep an eye on a higher ideal and a larger mission, and keep persevering. And that too is part of the ‘Nanmat spirit’! I would like our graduates to be known for reaching out for higher goals and seeking creative ways to achieve them, combining idealism and practicality without being beaten down by difficulties and obstacles.

Professor Kam Chan Hin
Associate Provost (Undergraduate Education)

Q: How do you think the educational system and undergraduate curriculum in NTU could be enhanced, to help better prepare our students for their transition into the professional world and to help them become socially responsible citizens?
A: Our curriculum has been recently reviewed and revamped under the Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) to better prepare our graduates for the globalised world of today. Our graduates are equipped with the skills and attributes to succeed in their chosen professional field and to meet the demands of the workplace, fulfilling their duty to contribute to making it a better place.

Q: You were once a student in Nanyang University and today you are in charge of undergraduate education in NTU. How do you think the educational system in NTU has evolved and how do you feel, seeing the University come this far?
A: I did my Masters in Nanyang University. The NTU of today is totally different. It has distinguished itself in research and education and is very well regarded by our peers internationally as our curricular and research activities have increased. Our undergraduate curriculum has been continuously evolving and is benchmarked against the best in the world. I am really proud of the tremendous progress we have made in our relatively short history.

Q: Have any of our students expressed their concerns about the educational system in NTU to you? What are some of these and how do you intend to address them?
A: There has been feedback from students from time to time that our programmes are quite challenging. However, with the changes mandated by the BRC, our curriculum has been trimmed to free up time for students to broaden their education and pursue their interests.

Professor Peter Rainer Preiser
Associate Provost (Graduate Education)

Q: What are some of your plans to enhance NTU’s graduate education?
A: To succeed in today’s world it is not only important to have great technical and scientific skills but it is also important to be strong in soft skills such as presentation and communication skills. I would like us to provide more opportunities for graduate students to improve these types of skills. A key goal of a university is to engage students in such a way that they see learning as something they want to do, because it is of value to them. Particularly for research-based graduate degrees, I would like NTU to move to a system where courses are shorter and more intensive, with small group sizes that allow for more discussion. I also would like to see graduate students being given more opportunities to spend some time in an overseas institution doing research.

Q: What would you do to encourage more NTU alumni to pursue graduate education in NTU?
A: Many Singaporeans believe that the “the grass is always greener somewhere else”. Having lived in different countries, I can assure NTU alumni that in most cases it is just the opposite. Many overseas universities offer fewer opportunities than what NTU can provide. Graduate education is very much dependent on the overall research funding universities can obtain. This funding in many countries has been significantly reduced over the last few years. In contrast, NTU has had a massive increase in research funding over the last ten years, which directly feeds into graduate education and what each student is able to do for his research project.

Q: You will be looking to enhance NTU’s portfolio of joint PhD programmes with top universities. How do you think NTU can enable more collaborations in graduate education?
A: International collaboration in today’s world is very important and therefore research interactions with other universities are very relevant. A joint PhD programme is one way such interactions can be formalised, but it will remain only a minor component of the total number of PhD programmes at NTU. More importantly, researchers at NTU should develop thematic collaborations with the appropriate universities overseas which will then allow PhD student exchange in both ways.

will be well-versed in medical matters and modern medical technologies, and adept at leading teams of fellow healthcare professionals, with a genuine commitment to the well-being of their patients. Our medical curriculum will be scientifically-based, interdisciplinary and collaborative in approach, with an innovative and pioneering pedagogy.
Fostering Closer Connections

Well-known for its vast grasslands and impressive deserts, the Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region is located at the northern region of China. Inner Mongolia is currently undergoing immense economic growth, creating more collaboration opportunities for Sino-Singapore relations.

On 30 October 2011, around 100 NTU alumni and invited guests gathered at the Inner Mongolia Hotel, the capital city of Hohhot, to witness the launch of NTU Alumni Association (Inner Mongolia). NTU senior management, distinguished guests and alumni representatives from Anhui, Beijing, Henan, Hubei, Shandong, Shanghai and Zhejiang alumni associations were also present to lend their support.

Professor Er Meng Hwa, NTU’s Vice President (International Affairs) (3rd from left); Mr Luo Zhihu, Honorary President of the Association (2nd from left); and Mr Liang Chun, President of the Association (4th from left).

Guest-of-Honour at the launch, shared with alumni and guests NTU’s recent progress in his opening address. “The University needs to establish good connections with the region and other countries, in order to take the lead in the rapid urbanisation of the world. Under the NTU 2015 five-year blueprint, China programmes will still be regarded as part of NTU's strategic programmes,” said Prof Er.

Fostering partnership

Mr Liang Chun, President of the alumni association, believes that the setting up of the association will contribute positively towards the development of Inner Mongolia. “The association will allow for the nurturing of ties between its alumni and their alma mater. It will help Inner Mongolia keep pace with globalisation, as it serves as a platform onto which knowledge, ideas and information from NTU, one of the top global universities, can be transmitted,” he said.

“Current and future alumni in Inner Mongolia will have new opportunities for collaboration, information sharing and career advancement. Besides, the new set-up will also play a part in attracting investments from overseas and across the region, enhancing Inner Mongolia’s economic and cultural development,” added Mr Liang.

Alumni at the launch were also treated to a forum, where Dr Liu Yunhua, Deputy Director of Nanyang Centre for Public Administration, NTU, shed light on the topic ‘Inner Mongolia’s Regional Economic Development’.

To date, more than 16,000 NTU alumni reside and/or work in China.

From Grassland to Asia’s Gateway

2011年10月30日正值金秋时节，来自内蒙古政府、金融界、企业界、教育界等各行业的近百位曾经在新加坡南洋理工大学留学或培训的精英学员们汇聚在内蒙饭店，见证南洋理工大学内蒙古校友会的成立大会。中国其它省市，包括安徽、北京、河南、湖北、山东、上海和浙江在内的南大校友会也派代表前往呼和浩特参与庆祝。

南大副校长（国际事务）余明华教授来自内蒙的校友会会长梁春校友认为，校友会的成立对内蒙古的发展将产生积极的意义。首先，它让全体内蒙校友与母校保持密切联系，从南大这所世界百强榜中的大学继续汲取知识、理念和新鲜资讯，有利于内蒙古紧跟世界的步伐。其次，内蒙现有和将来的发展可以与校友会加强联系与合作，实现信息及资源共享，推动各项事业的发展。再次，校友会的成立有助于内蒙古从海外、区内及大引进软硬投资的力度，促进内蒙经济与文化的进步。

南大内蒙古校友会会长梁春校友认为，校友会的成立对内蒙古的发展将产生积极的意义。首先，它让全体内蒙校友与母校保持密切联系，从南大这所世界百强榜中的大学继续汲取知识、理念和新鲜资讯，有利于内蒙古紧跟世界的步伐。其次，内蒙现有和将来的发展可以与校友会加强联系与合作，实现信息及资源共享，推动各项事业的发展。再次，校友会的成立有助于内蒙古从海外、区内及大引进软硬投资的力度，促进内蒙经济与文化的进步。

因此，校友会是一个联系与沟通的平台，不仅让新老校友们有机会延续与母校师生的良性互动，也是从草原到亚太的一扇窗口。

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中西文化与思维的碰撞

成立大会当天，内蒙古籍经济学家、南大南洋公共管理研究生院刘云华副院长应邀主讲题为《内蒙古的区域经济发展》的专题讲座。

近五年来，到南大留学或培训的内蒙古学员人数有加速增长的趋势。他们都对在南大的学习表现出强烈的自豪感，认为在南大的学习开阔了眼界，增长了知识，尤其是文化理念方面，能够与西方式的思维方式碰撞、交融、互补——这些都是难得的有益经历。

目前，在中国的南大校友人数已超过1万6千名，而南大校友会已在中国28个省市成立。
永不褪色的友情

离开云南园校园已有四五十年的南大第1届至第10届校友，出席了一场联合大聚会，与阔别多年的昔日同窗再次相逢并重温人生中最值得怀念的求学生涯。

近半个世纪之前，他们曾经陪伴南大走过了筚路蓝缕的办学之路，在艰辛的磨练之下孕育出一股“南大精神”；今天，他们成了新加坡及马来西亚一带华文报业、教育界、制造业、工程技术业的重要力量，而南大也终于跻身于全球名牌大学之林。

“南大精神”代代相传

“各位校友欢聚一堂，这充分显示出南大校友大家庭团结友爱、精诚合作、心系母校的高贵精神，令人钦佩。我要感谢广大校友对南大的贡献。”大会贵宾、南大校长余明华教授在致欢迎辞时真诚地表示。

校友们还共同回顾了南大校园的点滴，从1960年到1969年，南大的变迁和校友们的故事交织在一起，让每一个人都感受到了校园的温暖和友情的珍贵。

午餐会的文娱表演环节中，包括余副校长和徐冠林教授在内的多位嘉宾及校友也纷纷上台一展歌喉。现任新加坡华裔馆馆长的廖建裕教授（历史学系1963年校友）也朗诵了自创诗歌《永远的南大湖》，午餐会终于在大家熟悉的《传灯》合唱中结束，校友们随后也参加了游览校园活动，故地重游培育他们的母校。

记忆与怀旧

在讲座之后的午餐聚会上，场内漫溢着的温馨寒暄与连连笑语，与场外的绵绵细雨构成了一幅对比的画面。年近古稀的这批南大校友们大概是格外珍惜这个难得的聚会吧，蹒跚而坚定的步伐、精神矍铄的双眼，都悄然透露出他们期待重遇昔日同窗老友的喜悦。

为事业与家庭奔忙了半个世纪，这批“老南大”们在言谈间缅怀着那段难忘的青春岁月和大学趣事，缓缓走进了那似乎从未消逝过的校园记忆中。

南大校友会董事谢万森校友、大学事务推展总监周庆全先生、校友事务处孙敏炎主任、基金发展处陈美月主任、校友大聚会联合工委会主席林清荣校友、副主席陈仰波校友等嘉宾也出席了午餐会。

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曾经从风雨中走过来的“老南大”们，如今成为了今天南大卓越发展的奠基石。愿那份珍贵的“南大精神”，代代相传，为新生代们所承继下去。
Relive, Renew, Reconnect

It was a night where memories of campus days were revisited, but also one where new memories were made.

The theme for that Friday evening’s combined reunion celebration was “Relive, Renew and Reconnect” and the stars were alumni from the ten classes of 1986 to 1995: graduates of the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and its predecessor institution, the Nanyang Technological Institute (NTI).

Keeping the flame alive

It was an evening where emotions ran high; where fond memories of campus days were evoked against a constant backdrop of laughter and merrymaking. Amongst a series of entertaining programmes that evening was a characteristic component featuring Special Guest Professor Bertil Andersson, NTU’s President. In a memorable illusion performance where he successfully broke free from a pair of hand-shackles tightly chained to his wrists by the event emcee, Prof Andersson brought home the message of ‘Nothing is impossible’, in an effort to rally alumni support for the Class Reunion Giving Programme.

The result was a significant one, with contributions from alumni that evening increasing the total donation sum for the programme to nearly $557,000. With government matching, more than $1.35 million was raised, in support of NTU undergraduate education; a heart-warming indication of our alumni’s willingness to take part in shaping the future of NTU’s next generation of graduates. In thanking and commending alumni of their active participation and generous support, Prof Andersson also encouraged them to remain in close touch with their alma mater. He shared with the Classes the latest developments of the University and reminded them of how much their participation in their alma mater’s journey to becoming a great global university is valued.

"Many of you have made a mark in your chosen fields and helped to build up your alma mater and the larger community. My congratulations to you for having done so well and making NTU very proud. My main duty as the President of NTU in the next five years is to make you proud of NTU," said Prof Andersson.

In his welcome speech, Mr Andrew Tan (MPE/1988), Chairman, Class of 1986-1995 Reunion Organising Committee, expressed his appreciation for the combined organising committee from the ten classes who had made time to ensure the success of the event. He also urged his fellow alumni to give back to NTU in different ways. "We all have important roles to play in our University’s progress. A university is distinguished not only by the calibre of its faculty and students, but also by that of its alumni,” he added.

Jointly leading the committee is Er Chong Kee Sen (CSE/1987), who shared his pleasure at helping to organise the event, and encouraging the participation of his fellow alumni. Alumnus Mr Tan Puay Tong (MPE/1986), remarked: “We enjoyed ourselves immensely, in no small measure due to the spontaneity of our NTU President who really let his hair down.”

"It was a very well-organised event with a very good cause. It was also a rare opportunity for us to meet up with old friends," said alumnus Mr Lee Soon Hiang (CSE/1986), the first prize lucky draw winner of that evening.

245 alumni, invited guests and staff attended the Class of 1986-1995 Reunion Celebration, held at Concorde Hotel on 4 November.
Sustainability in the 21st Century

At the Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Forum held in Beijing, new alumni from NTU’s ‘Mayors’ Class’ were exposed to insightful strategies for economic and social development in relation to global sustainability.

“Sustainability is a key issue for policy makers around the world, including China. I am sure that our alumni from the ‘Mayors’ Class’ will find this conference to be both interesting and beneficial,” said Professor Er Meng Hwa, NTU’s Vice-President (International Affairs) and chairman of the event’s organising committee.

Themed ‘Sustainability in the 21st Century: Strategies for Economic and Social Development’, the forum was held in conjunction with an alumni reunion for graduates (Classes of 1999 to 2006) of NTU’s Master of Science in Managerial Economics (MME) and Master of Public Administration (MPA) Programmes. These programmes are popularly known as the ‘Mayors’ Class’, as the students represent the best of China’s public sector.

This year’s forum comprises two sessions that address the issue of sustainability. In the first, four renowned experts, including Professor Euston Quah, Head of the Division of Economics of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, weighed in on the latest dynamics in the field of economics and sustainable development; Professor Danny Quah of the London School of Economics and Political Science, a researcher with a focus on Asian economy; and Professor Max von Zedtwitz of China’s Tongji University and Switzerland’s University of St. Gallen, Director of Global, the Research Centre for Global R&D Management and Reserve Innovation.

Exploring new initiatives

In the second session, the development strategies of China’s Bohai-Rim Region, the rapidly growing economic power house in the northern part of the country, were the subject of discussion. Speakers including Mr. Yufeng, NTU alumnus and member of the Standing Committee and Executive Vice Mayor of Baoding City, Hebei Province, and Dr. Lin Peng, Director-General of Administrative Committee of Tangshan Caofeidian New District and Eco-City, Hebei Province, shared their experiences in planning and implementing sustainable strategies in the region.

Held at the Shangri-La Hotel in Beijing, on 29 October 2011, the forum-cum-alumni reunion was graced by Professor Euston Quah, Head of the Division of Economics of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, weighed in on the latest dynamics in the field of economics and sustainable development; Professor Danny Quah of the London School of Economics and Political Science, a researcher with a focus on Asian economy; and Professor Max von Zedtwitz of China’s Tongji University and Switzerland’s University of St. Gallen, Director of Global, the Research Centre for Global R&D Management and Reserve Innovation.

Invited guests and alumni from NTU’s ‘Mayors’ Class’ gained a deeper understanding on the issue of global sustainability from the forum panelists.

On 28 November, NTU’s Mayors’ Class won the coveted Business Finland Enterprise Award for Its Quality Leadership. The award, presented by Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hian, recognises the individuals and organisations that have made exemplary contributions to strengthen the ties between Singapore and China. NTU President Prof Bertil Anderson said that he feels proud and honoured that the Mayors’ Class has fostered close ties between Singapore and China and he is looking forward to greater cooperation between the two countries.

The Mayors’ Class, conducted by the Nanyang Centre for Public Administration (NCPA), debuted in 1992, when NTU’s Mayors’ Class was launched to provide short-term training for senior officials in China and other Asian countries. It has since been expanded to include two comprehensive master’s programmes. Since then, the programmes have groomed more than 1,000 Chinese officials.

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A brand new platform to connect

Graduates from the NTU School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences can now look forward to more networking opportunities.

A common love

Current and former residents of NTU Hall of Residence Seven came together for the launch of its alumni association.

Their life stories may vary, but one thing they have in common is their love for their hostel. This was apparent from the alumni, students and staff who turned up for the launch of NTU Hall of Residence Seven Alumni Association, held on 1 October.

Established in 1990, Hall Seven is one of the oldest amongst the 16 Halls of Residence on campus. It is also the fourth hall of residence-based alumni association to be formed, bringing to date the total number of local and overseas alumni associations to 65.

Under the University’s Campus Master Plan, 5000 new hostels will be added to the existing 9200 by 2015. Through staying in hostels, graduates experience a more holistic university life. This is where they get to interact closely with their peers of different backgrounds and nationalities.

Heading the association is Mr Tan Zheng Chang, Leslie, a current teacher who graduated from the School of Mechanical Engineering in 2007. Mr Tan said: “With the new association, alumni from Hall Seven can now interact with different generations of the Hall. Their diverse needs will also be taken care of, with various interest-based events, such as dancing and sports, organised by different coordinators. Ultimately, we aim to boost the vibrancy of Hall Seven.”

The organising committee for the launch – students from the Hall Seven Junior Common Room Committee (JCRC) – also held Homecoming Games for all alumni who returned that day. All bonded through recreational games such as scrabble, bridge and darts, as well as outdoor sports which included soccer, netball and basketball.

The School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences (SPMS), one of the youngest schools of the NTU family, recently launched its alumni association. The set-up aims to promote interaction and networking amongst its increasing number of alumni, and foster a sense of belonging between its alumni and their alma mater.

SPMS has been playing a key role in the initiatives of ‘NTU 2015’ – a five-year strategic plan where the University scales the ‘Five Peaks of Excellence’ in areas such as Sustainable Earth, Future Healthcare and New Media – by addressing scientific problems of major societal concerns like sustainability and healthcare issues.

With the launch of its alumni association, SPMS alumni will have more opportunities to contribute to their School in this area.

In its relatively short history, SPMS has grown phenomenally to become a vibrant School, preparing students for fulfilling careers, through the interdisciplinary programmes offered. The School has produced mathematicians who have made impact in computer science, and physicists working in financial engineering. The pioneer batches have secured jobs with prominent employers like Bloomberg, Citibank, GlaxoSmithKline and Singapore Airlines.

Leading the NTU SPMS Alumni Association (SPMSAA) is Mr Seo Jia Hui, Andy, alumnus from the Class of 2010. Guest-of-Honour Professor Ling San, Dean, College of Science; Associate Professor Chee Yew Meng, Chair of the SPMS; Mr Soon Min Yam, Director of Alumni Affairs and some NTU faculty and staff joined the 150 alumni who turned up on 5 November at the O’Leary’s Sports Bar & Grill at the Singapore Flyer, for the launch.

The launch of NTU Hall of Residence Seven Alumni Association was witnessed by NTU faculty and staff: (back row, from left) Mr Soon Min Yam, Director of Alumni Affairs; Assoc Prof Lu Guoxing, Hall Fellow; and Asst Prof Luo Wenshu, Serena, Hall Fellow.

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

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五年后,南大校友事务处与联合工委会主席林清荣学长发起“第一届至第十届校友大聚会”,吸引了几百位来自泰国、马来西亚及我国早年毕业的学长们,于9月10日,当天济济一堂、同欢共庆。那四年寒窗、国、马来西亚及我国早年毕业的学长们,于

起南大的历史——南洋大学、南洋理工学院到今日成为国际品牌的南洋理工大学,感到当时创办人的眼光令人佩服!

继续发扬光大,更上一层楼!

希望南大精神代代相传,“自强不息,力争上游”的校训能

不言而喻,其乐无穷。

在南大,我不仅得到了学位,更重要的是结交了志同道合的朋友们。现在与我合

友都来南大见证我们的婚礼。没想到

还专门为我们校友准备了一间

的南洋理工大学,感到当时创办人的眼光令人佩服!

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Stay in touch with fellow alumni and keep your Class Notes coming. To share, email alumniaffairs@ntu.edu.sg or call +65 6790 5763. NTU Link reserves the right to edit for clarity.

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Just fill out this form and fax it to us at +65 6792 5048 or email us at alumniaffairs@ntu.edu.sg. Please ask your classmates to share this form with you.

2011年10月我很荣幸代表第十一期教育管理硕士研修班的全体学员，怀着无比喜悦和感激的心情在告别宴会上向母校倾诉心声，新加坡的热浪正是结业当天心头澎湃激荡的感情。

挥别告别昨天，展望未来。此情此境，依依惜别。待到相聚开怀时，回首看，在那灯火阑珊处，灯火辉煌，我们NIE学子，定会方显英雄本色，觥筹交错，举杯畅饮，往事笑谈间！

彭雪琳
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