NTU – A BRAVE NEW WORLD

BOOSTING FOOD SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH
NTU ALUMNI NETWORK GOES TO EUROPE
NOVELIST TASH AW COMES TO NTU
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NTU alumni,

I am delighted to share some very good tidings with you in this first issue of NTULink for 2013. As the first quarter of this year comes to a close, Nanyang Technological University (NTU) continues to venture further toward the next frontiers of excellence. We are poised and ready, as we take off from a solid launchpad of recent achievements.

These achievements convey a sense of where NTU stands today. The first is the most apparent – 2012 was the year NTU shot up global varsity rankings. Here are some key ones: NTU is the fastest-rising university among the world’s top 50, according to Quacquarelli Symonds, which also rated us fourth in the world among young varsities. We rocketed 83 rungs up the Times Higher Education rankings to be among the world’s top 100 universities (at the 86th position). In January this year, the Financial Times ranked our Nanyang MBA programme at the 32nd position in the world, up two spots from last year.

Such nods came at a time of transformation. In 2012, we tore down the Berlin Wall of disciplines at NTU, to ready our students for real-world problems that are not defined by disciplinary boundaries. Our interdisciplinary Peaks of Excellence brought seemingly disparate disciplines together. We revamped our undergraduate curriculum to allow our students to spend more time on group projects and self-learning, and to enable more of them to get overseas exposure to develop a global mindset. We also launched the Interdisciplinary Graduate School for a new approach to PhD education that combines two or more disciplines.

We were honoured to welcome stellar additions to our world-class faculty. Among them are Prof Dermot Kelleher, a leading immunology and infectious diseases expert who now heads our new medical school, and renowned marketing expert Prof Bernd Schmitt who helms NTU’s Institute on Asian Consumer Insight. The presence of these global thought leaders will benefit our students immensely. And speaking of the students, we were very happy to see a 43% spike in the number of top A-level students joining NTU in Academic Year 2012. This was despite stiffer competition in Singapore’s higher education landscape and a growing trend of top students studying overseas.

The transformation of NTU also saw the widening reach of its alumni network. At last count, we have almost 170,000 alumni around the world. They have formed a total of 70 Alumni Associations (AAs) – 30 in Singapore and 40 beyond. While the overseas AAs are found mostly in Asia, the NTU AA network is also expanding westwards. In addition to NTU AA (UK) which was
formed in 2006, the NTU AA (USA-West) was launched in 2011, and NTU AA (USA-East) last year. Early this month, the NTU AA (Europe) was launched in Zurich, to serve some 300 NTU alumni in the continent.

We sought out new partnerships that are now raising our global profile in sustainability and attracting research funding. Through the Cambridge Centre for Carbon Reduction in Chemical Technology, we are working with the University of Cambridge in Singapore to minimise the carbon footprint of industrial-scale chemical processes. With Carl Zeiss, we started the Advanced Biofilm Imaging Facility at NTU to boost used-water treatment and environmental life sciences engineering research. We partnered the Meinhardt Group to set up the Meinhardt Water Training Centre.

NTU is making a difference through recent discoveries: Our researchers found that our bodies may be kept in “fat-burning mode”, whether we exercise or not, just by “switching off” a molecule. This breakthrough could pave the way for new treatments for aging, obesity and diabetes. We created an eye gel that releases a drug to combat post-surgical scarring in glaucoma patients, among other innovations. Most recently, a hernia mesh developed by Prof Freddy Boey, our Provost, became the first of its kind to be approved for sale by the United States Food and Drug Administration. Hernia meshes are used by doctors to repair tears in the abdominal walls.

Outside the labs, we are spearheading Singapore’s contemporary art centre at Gillman Barracks, the new modern-art destination in Asia, through international artist residency, research and exhibition programmes. The Singapore Writing Residency, a partnership with the National Arts Council, is bringing world-famous talents to our campus, including Whitbread Book Award winner Tash Aw.

In the months ahead, we will welcome our first intake of students at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine). We are confident that they will benefit from the School’s interdisciplinary outlook on medicine and healthcare. We also look forward to NTU’s physical transformation under Phase One of our Campus Master plan. Coming up next will be the S$45-million learning hub at the South Spine, and the first two of eight new undergraduate halls that will offer 1,250 additional places.

All this is possible only with the support of everyone in the NTU community: the Board of Trustees, university leadership, faculty, staff, students, our supporters and donors – and you, our alumni. I thank you on behalf of your alma mater, and look forward to your continued support as NTU journeys to become a great global university.

校长寄语

亲爱的南大校友们：

我很高兴能够通过2013年第一期的《心系南洋》校友季刊来同你们分享一些好消息。在今年第一季度即将结束之际，南洋理工大学继续在卓越之旅的路上挺进。我们已经准备就绪，在一个以南大近期成就为基础的发射台一飞冲天。

我们可以从这些成就上看到南大今天所处的位置。第一项成就是最显而易见的－2012年是南大在各个全球大学排名榜上飞跃的一年。其中的主要排名榜如下：根据QS公司的世界大学排名榜，南大是前50名顶尖大学中发展速度最快的高等学府；该机构把南大列为全球新晋大学中的第4名。在英国《泰晤士报高等教育专刊》的世界最佳大学排名榜上，南大跃升了83个名次，成为百强榜上的第86名。今年1月，《金融时报》也把南大的南洋MBA课程评为全球第32名，与去年比较上升了两个名次。

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这些肯定的来临，正值南大蜕变之时。在2012年，我们推倒了南大教学科别之间的“柏林墙”，以培养南大学生面
对现实世界中各种问题的能力，因为这些问题并不局限于各科的范围之内。我们的“卓越高峰”跨学科发展战略，汇合了看似大不相同的学科。我们改革了本科生课程，让学生们可以有更多的时间进行小组项目，自修，并且让更多的学生到海外实习进修，以开拓他们面向世界的思维模式。我们还开设了跨学科研究生学院，创造了结合两个或两个以上学科的博士生教育的新概念。

我们的世界级教学团队，很好地得到了明星级教学人员的加盟。他们当中有：顶尖免疫学与传染病学专家德莫特·凯莱赫（Dermot Kelleher）教授，他是我们新医学院的院长；以及领导南大亚洲消费者洞察研究中心的著名市场营销专家施密特（Bernd Schmitt）教授。这些世界级的智囊人物的到来，将大幅惠及我们的学生。南大也通过最近的发明改改变现状：我们的研究员发现，人体可以维持在“燃烧脂肪的模式”（无论我们是否进行体育锻炼），方法只是把一个分子“关闭”而已。这项突破为老化、肥胖、糖尿病等疾病铺平了新的治疗途径。我们的新发明包括了一种眼部凝胶，它可以施放药物防止青光眼手术后出现的疤痕。就在最近，南大教务长梅彦昌教授首创的疝修补网片，成为第一个被美国食品药品监督管理局批准上市销售的同类型药物。疝修补网片被医生们用来修补腹部撕裂的部位。

除了实验室之外，我们还通过国际艺术家驻留计划、研究计划及展览计划去带动设在吉门营房的当代艺术中心。该中心是南大亚洲当代艺术的高地。南大同新加坡国家艺术理事会合作的“新加坡驻校作家计划”也吸引着世界知名的写作人才进驻南大校园，其中包括惠特布雷德图书奖得主欧大旭。

在接下来的几个月里，我们将迎来李光前医学院的首批学生。我们相信，这些学生将受益于医学院在医学与保健学上的跨学科教学方式。我们也期待南大校园在主体规划第一期工程完工后的新面貌。接着要完工的是校园南区耗资4500万新元的学习中心，以及8栋本科生宿舍中的其中两栋（可以容纳1250个床位）。

要实现所有的这些计划，必须得到南大大家庭所有成员的支持：即校董、大学领导、南大教职员、学生、支持者以及您，各位南大校友的支持。我谨代表你们的母校感谢你们，并且期待大家继续支持南大成为全球伟大学府的宏愿。
NTU — A BRAVE NEW WORLD

Today’s NTU is a research-intensive university and one of the fastest-rising universities in the world. Following the recent Open House and the NTU President’s State of the University Address, we take a look at what our young university has to offer its current and future students.

An artist’s impression of Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine’s Clinical Sciences building at Novena.
At LIFE@NTU, the recent NTU open house held on 9 March 2013, more than 12,000 prospective students thronged the NTU campus in west Jurong to learn more about NTU’s programmes and how the NTU education can prepare them for the future.

For students who will be admitted to NTU for Academic Year 2013/14 (which will begin in August this year), they can expect to join a University of the 21st century, one that offers a globalised learning experience through a highly international environment, one that is a hub for top talent around the world and an institution of standing that ranks globally among the best universities.

Amongst the Best
The University escalated into the top 100 Times Higher Education World University rankings at 86th position. It was also ranked higher, in 47th position, in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) rankings. Amongst young universities, NTU was placed fourth globally.

International Diversity
NTU is ranked amongst the top 10 universities in the world for international diversity. This culturally diverse learning environment allows NTU students to interact in a microcosm of a globalised workplace. The campus is where they learn to communicate effectively with students from varied backgrounds and nationalities.

NTU currently counts a student population of about 23,700 undergraduates and 9,500 graduate students from 83 countries; and about 3,600 faculty and research staff from 66 countries.

When our students graduate, they will join an international community of NTU alumni. Numbering more than 169,000, NTU alumni can be found in more than 120 countries around the world.

Talent Hub
NTU’s global reputation attracts students and faculty from Asia, North America, Europe and beyond.

In Academic Year 2012, there was a 43% increase in the number of top A-level students choosing NTU to pursue their degree.
programmes. This means NTU was recruiting more than 200 top students than in previous years.

NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson has called this “one of the most important developments in 2012” for NTU. He also said that it is “not unlikely” for this positive trend to continue at NTU, as its new medical school, the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine) takes in its first cohort of students for AY2013/14.

NTU has also established a nucleus of leading professors in several domains. Amongst them are renowned microbiologist Professor Staffan Kjelleberg and geneticist Professor Stephan Schuster at the Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCELSE); prominent geologist Professor Kerry Sieh; neotectonics scientist Professor Paul Tapponnier and volcano scientist Professor Chris Newhall at the Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS); interactive digital media research pioneer Professor Nadia Magnenat-Thalmann at the Institute for Media Innovation; internationally acclaimed artist and scholar Professor Vibeke Sorensen, at the School of Art, Design and Media, just to name a few.

In August 2012, LKCMedicine welcomed immunology and infectious diseases pioneer Professor Dermot Kelleher as its Dean. Prof Kelleher is also the Principal of the Faculty of Medicine at Imperial College London. The former Vice-Provost for Medical Affairs, and Head of the School of Medicine at Trinity College Dublin in Ireland, has over 30 years of experience in research, teaching and medical leadership.

Professor Kelleher’s research examines the immune response to many of the leading causes of gastrointestinal infectious disease worldwide. He was instrumental to the founding of the Dublin Molecular Medicine Centre in 2002, a joint venture between three major medical schools and their associated academic hospitals in Dublin, aimed at accelerating the translation of biomedical research into improved diagnostics and therapies for patients.

Professor Daniela Rhodes, a renowned structural biologist, has been with NTU’s School of Biological Sciences.
Sciences since September 2011. She is internationally recognised for her contributions to the area of chromosome biology and has provided fundamental insights into the packaging of DNA in chromosomes, how specific proteins such as transcription factors recognize DNA sequences to regulate transcription and the structure of telomeres. Telomeres are intimately linked to cancer propagation and human ageing.

THE SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

At his annual State of the University address on 12 March 2013, NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson further unveiled new strategies and initiatives to reform education and research at NTU.

EDUCATION

Educating students is the core business of any institution of higher learning. At NTU, education is supported by two very important pillars – undergraduate education and student life.

NTU Education

Whilst the University has made leaps and bounds in research accomplishments, initiatives and strategies have also been implemented to reform its educational activities in tandem with international developments.

In 2007, NTU established a Blue Ribbon Commission (BRC) to conduct a bottom-up review of the University’s undergraduate education philosophy and curriculum. The BRC advocated a new blueprint for revamping the University’s curriculum and steering the development of future programmes. It recommended changes to the curriculum, enhancing excellence in learning, enriching student experience, strengthening academic culture and expanding academic advising and career guidance.

The University will continue to implement the BRC recommendations and other recent initiatives under the umbrella of NTU Education. The following are some of the highlights of NTU Education:

Curriculum time: It will be reduced by 20% to allow for more educational reflection. At least 30% of students’ modules will be from outside of their core programme, so as to allow them to achieve a more holistic education.

More choices in programmes: There will be more exciting Premier Programmes, such as the University Scholars Programme, plus more choices in the fields of studies, such as in History, Philosophy, Film Studies, Earth and Environmental Sciences and Medicine, which will encourage more top students to choose NTU.

Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine: NTU has partnered Imperial College London, one of the leading medical schools in Europe, to set up a new medical school in Singapore. Combining NTU’s core strengths in engineering and business with Imperial’s world-renowned medical expertise, LKCMedicine will educate doctors who can meet the growing challenges of ageing and healthcare in Singapore.

The five-year undergraduate programme, to be taught by faculty from both NTU and Imperial, will adopt a holistic, pioneering
approach to medical education. Apart from lessons in laboratories and classrooms, there will be simulations, e-modules, webinars and apprenticeships, and students will be exposed to clinical settings such as community hospitals early in their education. They will also learn to work in multidisciplinary teams consisting of nurses, allied healthcare professionals and administrators.

The School has attracted the interest of top Singapore students, and will welcome its first intake of about 50 students in August 2013. LKCMedicine’s Experimental Medicine building is being developed within NTU’s biomedical engineering cluster whilst a new satellite campus is being built in Novena.

Student Life
Today, NTU is strongly committed to placing great importance on student life and improving all areas related to it. For a start, a new position, Associate Provost (Student Life) was created and is now being held by Associate Professor Kwok Kian Woon.

The University will focus on student life priorities anchored on learning that cultivates qualities NTU graduates should exemplify: Character, Competence, Creativity, Communication and Civic-Mindedness.

Through the many student activities on campus, NTU students learn to exercise leadership and initiative. Student leaders have also been consulted regularly on matters affecting them. It is now part of the University’s policy to seek the views of student leaders on any significant change to campus facilities and services.

Whilst this demonstrates a new model of student governance or

01. NTU’s prospective medical students learn more about surgery at a simulated operating theatre. | 02. More student activities will be held on campus adding to its vibrancy.
01. The Centre for Contemporary Art at Gillman Barracks will showcase NTU's strength in humanities and the arts. | 02. NEWRI plays an important role in environmental and clean water technologies research. | 03. Assoc Prof Low Kay Soon (right), Director of NTU's Satellite Research Centre (SaRC) and NTU undergraduate student Muhammad Dzahir showcase two student-built satellites. | 04. NTU is embarking on new satellite research projects, further strengthening its capabilities in this field. | 05. SCELSSE aims to harness powers of micro-organisms for environmental and water sustainability by studying biofilm communities (left picture). Seen here are, SCELSSE Director Prof Staffan Kjelleberg (centre), Deputy Director Professor Cohen Yehuda (right) and Prof Michael Givskov, a pioneer in biofilm model systems.
student democracy in partnership with senior management, student leaders also learn to be more responsible and take ownership.

To make the campus more vibrant, NTU will support more student-led activities and learning opportunities on campus; and more meeting places for interesting discussions to take place will be created. Sporting facilities such as the soccer field will be improved.

RESEARCH

NTU is well on track, and halfway through its five-year strategic plan to develop the Five Peaks of Excellence in research. These research peaks of Sustainable Earth, Future Healthcare, New Media, New Silk Road and Innovation Asia are centred on interdisciplinarity.

The increasing importance of interdisciplinary research in producing high-impact breakthroughs has been recognised over the past ten years, and NTU too has had an Interdisciplinary Graduate School (IGS) in place for over a year. The School has 109 students who have more than one supervisor from different schools. IGS promotes and facilitates interdisciplinary research through NTU’s colleges, institutes and research centres in areas of sustainability, healthcare and new media.

NTU has developed into a research-intensive university in record time. In 2005, it won $80 million in research funding, which increased to $441 million in 2012. The following are some of NTU’s most exciting research initiatives:

Food Science and Technology research

NTU is going into research in the field of food science and technology, and education related to food and food processes. This field is expected to be a new research frontier as it plays an important role in health, welfare and economic status of nations. Through a partnership with The Netherlands Wageningen University, NTU will conduct research related to the conversion of agricultural raw materials into high value food ingredients; and also observe the important relationship between food, the food matrix and human physiology – all of which are relevant to NTU’s new medical school.

Satellite Research

NTU developed Singapore’s first locally-made satellite (X-SAT) and pioneered the country’s first satellite research programme for undergraduates. The University is now embarking on new space projects: to develop Singapore’s first tropical weather satellite; to be involved in the building of Singapore’s first commercial satellite; and to conduct research on the aerodynamics and safety of high altitude vehicles.

Centre for Contemporary Art at Gillman Barracks

The Centre (or CCA in short) is a key initiative to bolster the visual arts landscape in Asia through its international artist residency, research, and exhibition programmes. It aims to be a world renowned centre for the production, presentation and...
interpretation of contemporary art and it will build research capabilities and thought leadership to bolster Singapore’s standing as an Asian arts hub. CCA will work closely with NTU’s School of Art, Design and Media (ADM) and leverage its strengths and expertise to establish graduate programmes with an emphasis on Asian art history in the context of world art histories. The Centre, which showcases NTU’s growing strength in the humanities and arts, will change the image of NTU, Prof Andersson said.

Nanyang Environment and Water Research Institute (NEWRI)

The centre has put NTU at the forefront of the national R&D effort in environmental and clean water technologies. NEWRI steers the development of the clean water sector in Singapore. Launched in 2008, its ultimate goal is to translate research in cutting-edge environmental and water technologies into industry-relevant applications that benefit society and the community at large.

Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCELSE)

Its work is to harness the power of micro-organisms to solve various water and environmental issues. The Centre aims to become a world leader in microbial biofilms, as well as a source of novel environmental engineering applications that tap the hidden power of such communities to solve problems from dirty water to toxic pollutants and infectious diseases.

Industry Collaborations

Times Higher Education rankings has placed NTU at number 15 in the world for industrial funding and collaboration. These industrial collaborations form a key component of a world-class technological university. They are a testament to the relevance of NTU’s research expertise to real life problems and industry needs. Some of the top international industry partners with labs on campus include Rolls Royce, Vestas, Lockheed Martin, Siemens, Bosch, Singapore Technologies, to name a few.

NTU’s partnership with Rolls-Royce includes an engineering-research agreement where Rolls-Royce and NTU researchers will conduct research in areas such as improving the manufacturing process of engine parts. Under a project agreement NTU signed with Vestas Technology R&D Singapore, an NTU-Vestas Joint Lab focusing on ‘Materials Research for Wind Turbine Applications’ was established.

More recently, the University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Lockheed Martin, to explore the science of nanotechnology, with special focus on nanocopper and related technologies for the commercial market. A joint research laboratory will be set up on campus, allowing NTU students and faculty to work directly with Lockheed Martin scientists.

THE MAKING OF A BRAVE NEW WORLD

NTU’s physical campus will be transformed in tandem with
all these developments. It is undergoing its biggest physical transformation since 1991, with a stronger emphasis on sustainable learning and residential places. The campus will be converted into a mini-city, vibrant with activities bringing together students, staff and faculty.

A new Learning Hub being constructed at the South Spine is set to become NTU’s next physical icon. Conceived by Thomas Heatherwick who also designed the London Olympic Cauldron and Seed Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo, the building, with its generous circulation space and an atrium as the focus of activity, will encourage greater interactions.

Eight new halls of residence for approximately 5,000 students will be developed at the Yunnan Garden campus. The first two new residential halls along Nanyang Drive are designed as an idyllic blend of eco-friendly residences. They will set the benchmark for sustainable residential design in NTU.

Alumni visiting the campus in the middle of 2014 will be pleasantly surprised at the significant developments and transformation of NTU’s beautiful green campus, such as the iconic Learning Hub and Nanyang Drive residential halls.

The Learning Hub at the South Spine will provide more opportunities for interactions amongst students with its atrium as the focus of activity.

Artist’s impressions courtesy of Heatherwick Studio.
Writing is about building identity and connecting emotionally, says Tash Aw, renowned novelist and international-writer-in-residence at NTU. He talks to NTULink about what it takes to be a successful novelist, and the part that creative writing programmes can play in the process.

Mr Tash Aw, NTU’s international writer-in-residence believes that the University’s creative writing programme has an important role to play in encouraging reading and writing amongst students.

Tash Aw has come to NTU. A multi-award-winning Malaysian writer and one of Southeast Asia’s most respected literary figures, Mr Aw has been on campus since 10 January. He will be here for six months as the National Arts Council/Nanyang Technological University international writer-in-residence at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS).

The programme allows him to both write and mentor English division students at HSS on creative writing. At his first class, the acclaimed novelist asked the students what they felt about the books they had read – and got back “very intelligent and complex answers, but from an academic point of view”.

After a few sessions, however, he observes that his students are now beginning to talk more about how they respond emotionally to the books they read. “This is very important as I feel that reading literature is not only an intellectual exercise, but also an emotional one,” says Mr Aw. “I think the creative writing programme is really important..."
as it teaches people to think about literature from a different angle and not just from an academic viewpoint."

BREAKING DOWN BARRIERS
Mr Aw is of the view that while the international writer-in-residence programme at HSS is still very new, it has a lot of potential to be expanded. He says he is encouraged by the response from the students and their eagerness to gain experience in terms of reading and writing.

"Reading is a very important part of writing and I see a lot of hunger in that within the student groups I meet. Many students from other NTU disciplines are joining this programme and this cross-disciplinary approach is very important. In fact, some of the more brilliant writers I know of come from science backgrounds. It does not mean that if you are an engineer or chemist, reading and writing are banned from your head space," he adds.

In fact, any difference between students from diverse disciplines would disappear the moment they enter his class. "It is one of the very few programmes which break down barriers. I run my classes in workshop style, so it is not important what kind of academic background you are from, but how you contribute to the class," says Mr Aw.

FOCUSSING ON ASIA
The fact that Mr Aw’s three novels have been translated into 23 languages attests to his cross-cultural appeal. This is perhaps not surprising, as Mr Aw has benefitted from a cross-cultural upbringing: He was born in Taipei and raised in Kuala Lumpur before moving to England to study law. He worked at a number of jobs after his graduation, and it was during his four years as a lawyer that he wrote his debut novel The Harmony Silk Factory. Interestingly, he completed this first novel during a creative writing course at the University of East Anglia.

Mr Aw cites Faulkner, Nabokov, Steinbeck, Alexander Hemon and Li Yiyun amongst his favourite authors. The Harmony Silk Factory, published in 2005, was longlisted for the 2005 Man Booker Prize and won the 2005 Whitbread Book Awards First Novel Award as well as the 2005 Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best First Novel (Asia Pacific region). It was quite a success and there was much fanfare in the media about the £500,000 he had been paid for the novel, a sum that he has consistently denied.

Map of the Invisible World, Mr Aw’s second novel, was released in 2009 to critical acclaim. And his latest novel, Five Star Billionaire, was most recently launched in February 2013. His latest offering is a story about five Malaysians who go to Shanghai to start anew and to seek fame and fortune.

Says Mr Aw: "Our relationship with China has changed so dramatically in the last ten years that I felt I could not talk about the changes in Malaysia without mentioning China as well. The story’s characters represent my generation – who have access to high level of education and the chance to travel the world. Since I am ethnic Chinese, I feel that the topic about immigration is very important to the story of overseas Chinese."

He shares that in every character in the book are snippets of people he has met in real life. The book took him four years to complete, although he worked extremely hard to have it ready in three.

"You cannot control how fast to write a book. A book will take as long as it wants to take," he says with a laugh.

All of Mr Aw’s books have stories focussing on Asia "I care a lot about what goes on here. Southeast Asia is developing and changing so fast that I find it important to examine what exactly is going on here. I want to talk about the lives around me, and also write about what has happened here in past, which is not recorded very well yet in literature," says Mr Aw.

"Part of why I am so dedicated to the idea of writing about Southeast Asia is that I just feel I cannot really escape it. It occupies all my interior space."

TIPS FOR BUDDING WRITERS:
A RECIPE FOR SUCCESS
Budding writers who produce quality fiction will get noticed eventually, says Mr Tash Aw.

"Publishers have a way of finding you. If you are writing good fiction and you want to get published, the steps will fall in naturally. In the creative writing programme here, there are tutors who will be able to put students in touch with publishers. When you send your work to publishers, it will get read some day. But it will take some time."

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time as publishers receive massive amounts of work every day,” he says.

Mr Aw understands the frustration young writers face when they are waiting eagerly to be published. But he warns that thinking too much about that can be damaging, as a writer may lose his or her focus on writing the work itself, which may in turn cause the writer to lack originality and creativity in his work. “Young writers should not be distracted by the urgency of getting published, but rather, should focus on their writing,” he says.

He reckons that it is possible for one to become a full-time novelist in Singapore as there is book buying potential amongst people here. He adds, however, that he does find it a mystery that Singaporeans do not buy more books given their high level of education and disposable income.

“The priorities of society at large need to change a little before a large number of people can become writers. But even at present it is still possible,” he observes.

He has some tips for budding writers:

- **Read a lot, as much as possible, and as widely as possible.** “Writing is directly related to reading. The more you read, the better you will write. You cannot write well if you do not read widely. You have to push yourself with reading books which you do not naturally gravitate to.”

- **To get inspiration and ideas, observe people around you and what you see on television and the news.** “You might think that what you observe is unimportant, but there is a lot happening in everyday dramas. Every person has his or her own life. As a writer, you need to imagine those lives and see how your life fits into that whole world.”

- **Be prepared for a long process.** “Writing takes time and experimentation. You do it over the course of many years. In my class, which is one semester, I try to trigger that process. I cannot lead the students all the way, but I can get them to start thinking a little about how they respond to the world in the literary sense.”

- **Have an emotional connection with the audience.** “When you face a writer’s block, try to take a step back and ask if what you are writing is important to you. Very often, people write because they think they should be writing it. They write as an intellectual exercise and very soon it feels really flat and they are not able to continue. What actually gives the writer the momentum and rhythm is the emotional connection he or she has with the audience. When you write, you have to care deeply for your work and it cannot be done half-heartedly”.

- **Be dedicated and disciplined to your work.** “Stick to your writing even when it is not going well as these ‘bad times’ may last for a few months. You must be able to weather the storm. Renowned professional writers have ‘bad times’ which lasted for years and you need to have the courage to withstand that.”

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TASH AW’S NOVELS

**The Harmony Silk Factory**

Published in 2005, the novel is set in 1940s British-ruled Malaya, now known as Malaysia. It tells the story of Johnny Lim, a textile merchant, and his marriage to the beautiful Snow Soong. The novel, which is set at a pivotal moment in Malaysian history, has won much recognition:

- 2005 Whitbread Book Awards First Novel Award
- 2005 Commonwealth Writers Prize for Best First Novel (Asia Pacific region)
- Longlisted for the 2005 Man Booker Prize
- Longlisted for the 2007 International Impac Dublin Award
- Longlisted for the Guardian First Book Prize

**Map of the Invisible World**

Released in 2009, the novel set in 1960s Indonesia follows the journeys of two brothers, Adam and Johan, who were abandoned by their mother as children and later separated when they were adopted by different families in Indonesia and Malaysia.

**Five Star Billionaire**

The latest novel, launched in February 2013, is about five Malaysians who go to Shanghai, China, to start anew and to seek fame and fortune. The story examines their journeys and how the issue of immigration in Shanghai shapes their individual lives.
NTU ALUMNI
FAMILY DAY 2013

Venue:
Adventure Cove Waterpark @ Resorts World Sentosa

Date:
Saturday, 15 June 2013

Time:
8.30am

Ticket Price:
$30 per adult
$20 per child/senior citizen*

*Child: 4-12 years old
*Senior citizen: 60 years & above

Join us for a fun and exciting morning at Singapore's latest attraction – Adventure Cove Waterpark. Enjoy thrilling waterslides including Riptide Rocket (Southeast Asia's first hydro-magnetic coaster), the Blueliner Bay wave pool, or simply relax with your family riding down the Adventure River. You will be amazed by the fascinating variety of 20,000 fishes as you snorkel over a colourful Rainbow Reef. Your kids too will have loads of fun exploring the action-packed interactive water playground!

Sign up now!
Alumni may buy a maximum of 4 tickets at the subsidised rates. Ticket price includes admission to Adventure Cove Waterpark, breakfast and a $5 meal voucher.

To register, please visit:
http://www.ntu.edu.sg/alumnievents/familyday

For more enquiries, please email: alumni_events@ntu.edu.sg
1. Dutch Royals witnessing the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NTU and Holland's Wageningen University. (From left) Princess Máxima of The Netherlands, Wageningen University's President Dr Aalt Dijkhuizen, The Prince of Orange and Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office Ms Grace Fu and NTU Provost Prof Freddy Boey.

2. Queen Beatrix enjoying a light moment with NTU President Prof Andersson, next to a painting by Mr Ong Kim Seng, a gift from the University to commemorate Her Majesty's visit to NTU.

3. Wageningen University's President Dr Aalt Dijkhuizen and NTU President Prof Andersson signed the MOU to signify partnership in Food Science and Technology research.
NTU PARTNERS TOP DUTCH UNIVERSITY TO BOOST FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands visits NTU to witness the collaboration between NTU and Wageningen University.

The Netherlands is the second largest exporter of food and agricultural products, accounting for more than eight percent of the world’s total in 2011.

The partnership between NTU and Wageningen University, one of the world’s leading research centres in food science and technology, will provide NTU students with new opportunities in education and research in this highly interdisciplinary field.

Starting with new undergraduate modules specialising in food science and technology, NTU aims to develop full-fledged programmes up to Master’s level, involving more schools and departments from NTU and Wageningen University. This will contribute to a critical mass of trained manpower for the food industry both locally and regionally.

“Food Science and Technology is expected to be a new research frontier in Singapore. NTU is anticipating a substantial rise in funding in this field over the next few years as it continues to play an important role in the health, welfare and economic status of individuals and nations,” said NTU’s Provost, Professor Freddy Boey. “Big food companies could also be developing research labs in Singapore focusing on high value food processing, so we want to move fast and position ourselves firmly in this field so as to benefit our students, faculty and Singapore as a whole.”

The partnership between NTU and Wageningen was signed on 25 January by NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson and Wageningen University’s President Dr Aalt Dijkhuizen. Her Majesty Queen Beatrix of The Netherlands, who was in NTU as part of her official visit to Singapore, witnessed the signing ceremony. She was joined by Their Royal Highnesses The Prince of Orange, and Princess Máxima of The Netherlands.

In addition to developing academic programmes, both universities will also collaborate on research projects such as the conversion of agricultural raw materials into high-value food ingredients, as well as sustainable food production including conversion of waste to food supplements. Such research also aims to establish a deeper understanding of the link between the intake of food products and ingredients and their effects on health.
NTU’S CENTRE FOR CONTEMPORARY ART PRESENTS FIRST PUBLIC SHOWCASE

Here are some of the visual highlights of the exhibition at Gillman Barracks featuring 9 Singapore contemporary artists.

The Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) presented its first public showcase in conjunction with Art Stage Singapore: an exhibition of nine Singapore contemporary artists at the Gillman Barracks and a series of talks featuring local and international art personalities at Marina Bay Sands.

A national research initiative of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and the Singapore Economic Development Board (EDB), CCA’s inaugural events aimed to not only explore and push Singapore’s contemporary art to the forefront, but to also broaden horizons for Asian contemporary art.

Curator Mr Eugene Tan said: “The artists in our inaugural exhibition prompt us to consider how attentive we are to the visible and invisible structures and networks that exist in our society, and how enormous an influence these have on our everyday lives.”

ENGAGING PERSPECTIVES: NEW ART FROM SINGAPORE EXHIBITION
The inaugural exhibition, Engaging Perspectives: New Art from Singapore, featured a roster of young, accomplished Singapore artists who were born in the 1980s. Works from five of the artists are shown below.

BLACK BAROQUE COMMITTEE - The Photographer: An Executioner’s Assistant
The Photographer: An Executioner’s Assistant looks at the analogic relationship between the photographer and the executioner’s assistant. This analogy was observed in a 19th century execution by guillotine, where an assistant would hold the head of the condemned while crouching behind a booth-like shield to protect him from the blood. The guillotine found its inception in a pre-photographic era, and it survived well into the age of photographic documentation, with the last execution by guillotine in 1977. Coincidently, the assistant is also known as the Photographer.

Image copyright and courtesy of Black Baroque Committee.
ON CAMPUS – NTU’s Centre For Contemporary Art Presents First Public Showcase

DEBBIE DING - *Spotspotting*

*Spotspotting* is an archive of more than 600 photographs of urban markers collected from various urban cities and meticulously mapped. These markers are seen all over urban cities wherever land surveying, demolition or construction work is being conducted. Usually only temporary, these symbols can also be considered as the most honest, authentic form of graffiti found in Singapore.

Image copyright and courtesy of Debbie Ding.

NAH YONG EN - *Trees and Buildings*

The work explores how the intrinsic properties of art work through our sensorial perceptions and our minds. His painting series contemplate the idea of “the overseas moon is rounder”, with the thought that seeing more of the world does not mean seeing more, nor being able to see more. In continuing his explorations of our sense of our immediate environment, Trees and Buildings focuses our attention on the place we live in – the trees and buildings that we are surrounded by but which we never really noticed.

Image copyright and courtesy of Nah Yong En.

JASPER YU - *Not so rush hour. I always hear about train stations crowded with people during rush hour*

Taken in various cities the artist has travelled to in the past year, this photographic series explores the interaction between people in public spaces and the idea of the photographic moment.

Image copyright and courtesy of Jasper Yu.

DEBBIE DING - *Spotspotting*

*Spotspotting* is an archive of more than 600 photographs of urban markers collected from various urban cities and meticulously mapped. These markers are seen all over urban cities wherever land surveying, demolition or construction work is being conducted. Usually only temporary, these symbols can also be considered as the most honest, authentic form of graffiti found in Singapore.

Image copyright and courtesy of Debbie Ding.

ZHAO RENHUI - *The Glacier Study Group*

The Glacier Study Group consists of scientists, artists, activists and people who are interested in glacial and polar activities in the Arctic Circle. The approach of the group is broad in terms of its scientific methods of investigation, data collection and glacier sampling. Global warming has seen an increase interest in glaciers and the group spend long periods each year (often as much as six months) at the extreme conditions of the Arctic investigating the melting of glaciers and its impact on the surrounding flora and fauna of the Arctic.

Image copyright and courtesy of Zhao Renhui

CCA’s first public showcase also included talks and forum sessions at Marina Bay Sands, featuring an exciting array of artists, curators, writers and academics. Some of the renowned personalities included Joan Kee, Kevin Chua, John Phillips, Uli Sigg, Budi Tek, Lekha Poddar and Ray Langenbach.
Ms Vinny Kuah’s journey in life took an exciting turn when she left Singapore 13 years ago to pursue a career in Hanoi. That was when the Business graduate (Class of 1995) realised great things about travelling and discovering. She has not stopped travelling ever since. It was also then that she fell in love with photography.

Now an Assistant General Manager for Retail and Corporate Marketing in Keppel Land China, Ms Kuah admits that she was clueless when she first started, thinking that the word ‘photography’ only applied to professional photographers. “All that was important to me was to capture moments that touched me, the fascinating sights during my travels, and to record those,” she shares.

After visiting more than 50 countries, she self-published a travel photography coffee table book in 2012, documenting the amazing moments she captured on camera during her travels. She also decided to donate all the proceeds from the sale of her book, ‘My Journeys Of Discovery’ to the charitable organisation, Food from the Heart.

The charitable organisation aims to reach out to the less-fortunate and brighten their lives by alleviating hunger through a food distribution programme; and bringing joy through the distribution of toys and birthday celebrations.

Ms Kuah explains that by publishing her photos, she wanted to share her love of travel and photography with others. And she wanted her book to serve a bigger cause of helping the needy – hence she decided to donate all the proceeds.

“Pursuing this good cause is not something new to me, and I do not think I am doing anything extraordinary. In fact, I think I am very fortunate to be given the opportunity to pursue my passions and at the same time help others in need,” she shares.

EXPERIENCING TRAVEL ADVENTURES
Ms Kuah considers herself a very visual person. She has always loved movies and music and is constantly fascinated by good advertisements. She bought her first camera in 2002 and started travelling for work and leisure. To fuel her interest in travel photography, she even stopped working for a year, focussing on some serious travelling for five months to Argentina, Chile, Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador.

She believes that travel is “more than just a holiday”. “It is a journey of experience where you leave behind your comfort zone and prejudices. You learn about another world by reaching out to the people, opening up your mind and exposing yourself to new cultures, exploring new frontiers,” she explains. It was through travel that she discovered the world and learnt more about herself, she says.

Travelling allows her to touch the world instead of looking at it through another’s eyes, the newspaper, television or Internet, she says.

She says she is a fan of all the countries she has visited, but counts India, Patagonia, Italy and Botswana amongst some of her favourite places to photograph.
“India is extremely colourful and vibrant because of its culture, people and history. And the scenery in the Patagonia region and Italy is amazing!”

Through her many travels, Ms Kuah has now got used to the good and bad incidents she faces in different countries. She advises: “In life and travel, as in all journeys, there are ups and downs. One ought to experience all of these as part of life.” Her approach to life has been shaped by her travels.

In India, there were times when she was scolded and chased away by people whenever she tried to photograph them. However she also experienced a pleasant moment in Kashmir. “I remember driving through the mountains with my guide, when we came across a wedding taking place. The people at the wedding eagerly asked me to join them in their festivities and were very excited in being photographed. They asked me to join them in their meal and were refusing to let me go until my guide had to pull me away!” she says with a laugh.

Ms Kuah even tried to take photos at a Palestinian camp, but was chased away.

**RECORDING HER TRAVELS**

In 2003, Ms Kuah had already developed an idea of publishing a
travel photography book, featuring photos of some of the interesting places she visited, and of people of different countries. But she felt the need to accumulate more photographs. Following that were many more years of travelling, which provided her with more than enough material for her book.

“I hope that my book will inspire people to travel, and encourage them to see the world beyond just the surface. The book is also the best gift to myself, an intimate part of me to be enjoyed, to celebrate this milestone in my life,” she shares.

The photographs in her book capture people and places captured so beautifully – how does one accomplish that? Although Ms Kuah was not professionally trained in photography, she believes that anyone can take good photographs as long as one remains curious and looks beyond what one sees on the surface. One should also be able to capture moments or images which other people might not have seen or paid close attention to.

In future, Ms Kuah hopes to develop a website featuring all her photos for sale, with the plan of supporting charitable causes with the proceeds.
NTU ALUMNI SPORTS FIESTA 2013

Saturday, 1 June 2013
NTU Sports & Recreation Centre
9am – 1pm

4 x 100m Relay Run
Mixed

3-on-3 Basketball
Men’s / Women’s

5-a-side Men’s Soccer

Badminton
Men’s Doubles / Women’s Doubles

Table-Tennis
Men’s Doubles / Women’s Doubles

Tennis
Men’s Doubles / Women’s Doubles

For more information and registration, please visit http://www.ntu.edu.sg/alumnievents/sportsfiesta

For enquiries, please email to alumnievents@ntu.edu.sg

Closing date for registration: 3 May 2013
NIE alumnus Siva Gopal believes in teaching and learning through community service. He shares with NTULink his experience leading service-learning projects and how he hopes to promote the benefits of service-learning.

Mr Siva Gopal (NIE/2005) started the Service-Learning Club at NIE, which has attracted more than 200 members in the last ten years.
Mr Siva Gopal’s energy is inexhaustible. During his four years as a trainee teacher at the National Institute of Education (NIE), he started, organised and led many student activities and programmes such as the youth expedition projects (YEP) to neighbouring countries. He also started NIE’s Service-Learning Club (SLC), which organises service-learning projects to develop all-rounded teachers. Today, the Club is still running strong in NIE, attracting more than 200 members over the last 10 years.

He stayed active in community service after his graduation from NIE in 2005, and during his stint as a physical education and mathematics teacher at Keming Primary School. He is now a Senior Specialist for Character and Citizenship Education at the Ministry of Education.

To further develop his skills and knowledge in working with community and youths, Mr Siva Gopal recently spent a year at the University of Minnesota, USA, pursuing the Masters in Youth Development Leadership.

GOODNESS OF SERVICE-LEARNING
Service-learning is a teaching and learning approach that integrates meaningful community service with academic instruction and reflection to enrich the learning experience, teach civic responsibility, and strengthen communities. Through service learning, young people use what they learn in the classroom to solve real-life problems. They not only learn the practical applications of their studies, they become actively contributing citizens and community members through the service they perform.

Says Mr Siva Gopal: “You engage yourself in serving a group of people and in that process you learn more about the people, the place, the culture, the history and more importantly about yourself. I thought that this was a very good pedagogy for values and citizenship education and I wanted to share such rich learning experiences with other trainee teachers. That was when a group of us at NIE set up the SLC.” SLC promotes overseas service-learning expeditions as well as local community engagement projects.

It was through a humanitarian trip to Sikkim, India, that Mr Siva Gopal experienced the spirit of service learning. It encouraged him to form the SLC. During the 21-day trip, his group worked on creating a conducive living and learning environment in an extension to an existing home for disadvantaged children, Lepcha Cottage. They were also able to put their teacher training experience to good use by conducting fun and engaging programmes for the children.

“Since we were all trainee teachers, we had the skill set to conduct teaching and learning programmes. We decided to engage the children there in some music and arts classes. We also gained a lot of knowledge about the history, people and places of Sikkim. This was very meaningful as it was an authentic experiential learning for us. That is exactly the spirit of service learning,” emphasises Mr Siva Gopal.

SLC’s first service learning project in Singapore was with the children from the Muscular Dystrophy Association of Singapore. The trainee teachers brought the children on an excursion to Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserve.

Mr Siva Gopal also realised that service learning should not be restricted within projects involving needy children or those with disabilities. SLC worked with a secondary school in the west to develop a programme to engage the school’s Normal (Technical) students after their examinations. They worked with the students on a ‘Stomp’-styled percussion music performance and graffiti art for a week.

The programme was aimed at equipping the students with skills that they were interested in, and teaching them civic responsibility through that process. The students went on to perform at a children’s home and at the opening of the NLB Library at Jurong East. They also created graffiti art murals at children’s home.

IMPORTANCE OF HUMAN CONNECTION
Through his various humanitarian expeditions and community

“..It was very meaningful to be able to make a difference in a person’s life, instead of reaching out to thousands of people without much human connection.”
development projects, Mr Siva Gopal hopes to place more importance to building relationships and friendships. He says he realised how positive an impact on the human spirit he and his peers could make, no matter the size of their group, during their trip to Sri Lanka in June 2005 as part of the tsunami rebuilding efforts.

“All of us went there with the same mindset. We wanted to work with the Sri Lankans and contribute to the betterment of their lives. We refurbished a school there, which was a hosting a site for people who had been affected by the tsunami. However, when we were done with the school, we also began to notice how the young people there became demoralised because of the tragedy. We decided to do something about that too,” he shares.

They built a simple netball court, provided the sports equipment and taught the youths how to play the game. “Children from neighbouring schools came to play netball together, and we saw how this rejuvenated their spirits. We were glad to see the positive outcome of our efforts to exhilarate their spirits.”

In the beginning however, the group questioned their real role in the rebuilding efforts. They wondered if they, a small group of 14 trainee teachers, could make a positive impact. These doubts, however, were short lived.

“Mother Theresa once said that we cannot do big things in life, only small things with great love. Whatever we planned to do in Sri Lanka, we did with all our love,” says Mr Siva Gopal. “And it was very meaningful to be able to make a change in one person’s life, instead of reaching out to thousands of people without much human connection. We realised that human connection was what mattered the most.”

“Human connection shapes a lot of my work today. I emphasise a lot on building the human spirit and human relationship. One of my main thought is how can we, as educators, create a culture of care for our students, so that values and citizenship education will flourish?”

When Mr Siva Gopal was the coach and teacher-in-charge of Keming Primary School’s floorball team, he not only trained the students to excel in the game, he also encouraged his students to share their love for the sport with children with disabilities.

“We invited children from the Society for the Physically Disabled (SPD) to play with us, where we taught them some basic skills. The whole process was very humbling for my students as they learnt a lot about other children who might not be as fortunate as them. It was also an empowering experience for the children from SPD, playing on par with our students,” he shares.

When Mr Siva Gopal left the school to serve in MOE’s headquarters, his floorball students were still keen to continue to do their part for the community.

“We decided to form a club, the One West Floorball Club. My aim was to provide opportunities for young people from all schools to come together in sports and excel in the game as well as in the other areas of their lives. Our three core values – discipline, team work and fighting spirit – help to translate the learning they achieve through the sport, into shaping their lives for the better,” he says.

He also hopes to develop young leaders through sports where the older students are able to play leadership roles within the club. Since this year, Mr Siva has restructured the club to provide greater emphasis on youth development in the affective, leadership and sports education domains. The programme is called Youth Excellence through Sports (YES) and is held every Saturday morning at the School of the Arts (SOTA).

When asked what encourages him to continue being active in social work, Mr Siva Gopal says: “I value the new relationships and friendships I make when I work in the community and with young people. There is always something to learn. We begin to realise our strengths and limitations and how best we can overcome our weaknesses. These are lessons we can learn only when we push ourselves beyond our comfortable boundaries.”
In recognition of our outstanding alumni, nominations for the Nanyang Alumni Awards 2013 are now open.

- Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award
- Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award
- Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award
- Nanyang Alumni Service Award

Nominations close on 30 April 2013

For more details, please visit www.ntu.edu.sg/NanyangAlumniAwards, or contact Alumni Affairs Office by phone: 6790 6769/ 6790 5919, or email: nanyangalumniawards@ntu.edu.sg
The NTU Centre for Continuing Education provides Professional Development courses for the Alumni and others to advance their knowledge and acquire relevant skills. From engineering to soft-skill disciplines, we aim to help you in both your professional and personal development, and be your partner in lifelong learning.

Courses Highlights:

**Media Management**
Date: 1 to 2 Apr 2013
Standard Fee: $631.30

**Advanced C Programming for Embedded Systems**
Date: 10 to 12 Apr 2013
Standard Fee: $1048.60

**Advanced Negotiation Skills**
Date: 11 to 12 Apr 2013
Standard Fee: $631.30

**Situation-specific Presentation Skills**
Date: 24 to 26 Apr 2013
Standard Fee: $888.10

**Generating Creative Ideas to Design Effective Graphics**
Date: 29 to 30 Apr 2013
Standard Fee: $631.30

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PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE ECONOMIC CLIMATE

How will Singapore’s economy fare in 2013? Two of our expert speakers at the 23rd Distinguished Alumni Forum, both NTU alumni, share with NTUlink possible scenarios and potential opportunities for Singapore.
‘Economic Outlook 2013’, the 23rd Distinguished Alumni Forum organised by the Alumni Affairs Office, attracted more than 200 attendees. Chaired by Professor Euston Quah, Head of the Division of Economics at NTU’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), the forum was held on 22 January. It featured alumni speakers Mr Inderjit Singh (EEE/1985) and Professor Chew Soon Beng (Commerce/1971), and invited speaker Mr Lawrence Leow Chin Hin.

At the forum, Prof Chew – The Professor of Economics and Industrial Relations at HSS – outlined various factors affecting Singapore’s GDP growth. These ranged from quantitative easing by governments of the United States, European Union and Japan, to rising wage costs within Singapore itself due to economic restructuring and low population growth, among other factors.

He used Professor Lim Chong Yah’s ‘S Curve Theory’ to show how the Singapore economy has changed from being a ‘Horse Economy’ with galloping growth rates to an ‘Elephant Economy’ characterised by high income but low growth rates. Prof Chew concluded that Singapore’s GDP growth in 2013 “cannot be high”.

Presenting two possible scenarios in 2013 was Mr Inderjit Singh, Member of Parliament for Ang Mo Kio Group Representation Constituency (GRC) and a well-known entrepreneur who has established several successful companies.

In the first, there is modest growth, with the economies of China, India, and the United States recovering. Singapore will then be able to achieve 2-3% growth, as the Singapore Government had forecasted.

In the second scenario, Europe’s recession deepens, the US goes back into recession, China’s property bubble bursts and India fails to reform its economy. Singapore will then go into a deep recession, and it may take the country about two years to recover, in tandem with China. However, Mr Inderjit also highlighted potential growth opportunities that Singapore can look to tap, in the Silver Industries, in Asian and ASEAN growth, and in Iskandar Malaysia.

Mr Lawrence Leow, Executive Chairman and CEO of the Crescendas Group and a former Nominated Member of Parliament, highlighted the challenges that small and medium enterprises (SMEs) will face in 2013, including rising costs, increasing competition, and tightening of credit and loan facilities, amongst others.
Following the forum session, our two alumni speakers Prof Chew and Mr Inderjit shared further insights with NTULink on what may be in store for the Singapore economy.

How well do you think Singapore’s economy will perform in 2013? And which industries will most likely drive the economy?

Prof Chew: I think our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth will be around 2.5% with deviation of 1% on the account of cyclical factors.

Mr Inderjit: The government’s projected 2% to 5% seems achievable, more towards the bottom half of that range. We can expect the services, financial and construction industries to be the key drivers of the economy, especially since the government is going to keep driving infrastructure growth. We can also expect to see some growth driven by high tech industries such as in the pharmaceutical and oil and gas fields.

Do you think Singapore will face slow growth and high inflation in 2013? Why?

Prof Chew: It is possible that Singapore will face a higher inflation rate in 2013 which could mainly be due to imported inflation and the increasing prices of domestic housing and vehicles. Imported inflation happens whenever there is an increase in the price of imports. Measures to control inflation will lead to slower growth.

Mr Inderjit: I worry about a possibility of slow growth but high inflation. There is a real possibility of this happening as the government levers of using a stronger Singapore dollar to mitigate imported inflation has reached its limits. And also due to the fact that most of the recent inflation is driven domestically by high real estate prices as well as transport and wage increases.

How will Singapore’s economy be affected by the economies in the neighbouring countries and also that of the powerhouses such as USA, China and Europe? How will the ‘man on the street’ feel the effect?

Prof Chew: Although the Singapore economy will be affected by these large economies, I think it is likely to be fine. The ‘man on the street’ may feel the effect through a higher cost of living; and some may even have to change to lower wage jobs due to tight labour competition.

Mr Inderjit: The problems in Europe will continue this year but I think we have been handling this well in Singapore. I believe that the US will strengthen in 2013 and this will translate to benefits for us. Singapore is already plugged into China and also somewhat into India and ASEAN, so we are quite diversified. This will help us weather any weakness in any one country. However, I worry most about China. If China has a hard landing as a result of its property bubble building up, which will then affect their financial markets, and followed by China’s economy falling steeply, Singapore could end up also going into a recession, especially if the US does not recover strongly too.

How are the housing and employment sectors projected to fare in 2013?

Prof Chew: The demand for housing will be very strong, as foreigners are interested in purchasing property in Singapore. The employment sector will also do fine, but there might be a cause of concern as wages might not be very good.

Mr Inderjit: Employment should be better as the government is cutting the quota of foreigners this year, allowing Singaporeans to have more career opportunities. However, we have to be careful that companies do not relocate out of Singapore, resulting in job losses. So the government may have to slow down their curbs on foreign workers for the next two years, to give companies some breathing space to focus on restructuring. Then from the third year onwards, the government can start a steeper cut in foreign workers.

In the face of increasing competition, what do you think is the most effective way for companies, especially SMEs, to improve their productivity and keep costs low?

Prof Chew: I think SMEs will need to upgrade. These companies need to come to terms with the fact that cheap labour may no longer be so easily available. Our SMEs must find ways to utilise limited resources more efficiently such as labour and land.

Mr Inderjit: Companies need to restructure their business models to survive this environment of high cost and tighter labour market. Productivity is definitely the key thing they should work on. Some may have to break up their processes and relocate low value adding and labour intensive activities outside Singapore, unless they are able to use technology to increase productivity in Singapore.
Calling for Contributions

Keen to share your views and have your articles published in NTULink? We are calling for contributions to 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 our community, 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.

If you are interested in sharing any of the above, or if you know of someone worthy of feature, please get in touch with the Editor-in-Chief, at sadia@ntu.edu.sg. Contributions will be selected based on their relevance and quality and NTULink reserves the right to publish or reject a submission. All contributions will be edited for clarity and length. Please send your submissions in word.doc files and your photos in jpeg format.

Contributions for the June 2013 issue should reach us by 10 May 2013.

Go online, go green!
Did you know that the NTULink magazine is also available online?

Read NTULink online! In our bid to save the environment and our move towards a more sustainable earth, we encourage you to read your favourite alumni magazine by accessing the online PDF version at http://www.ntu.edu.sg/Alumni/publications/Pages/default.aspx

Continue to keep abreast of the University’s latest developments and alumni activities, and read about our alumni’s success stories.

Play your part for the environment today. Read our magazine online and email us at alumniaffairs@ntu.edu.sg to unsubscribe from the print version.
Research indicates that these newly qualified teachers can expect to have a profound impact on their students’ lives, well beyond the school-going years.

**ADDING TO THE ‘TEACHER EFFECT’**

317 newly qualified teachers are welcomed into the teaching fraternity at NIE’s Teachers’ Investiture Ceremony.

The National Institute of Education (NIE) celebrated the first graduation of student teachers for 2013 on 28 January, which saw 317 newly qualified teachers joining the teaching profession. Also included in the group was the second batch of 24 teachers who graduated from the three-and-a-half year Bachelor of Education Programme. This programme was specially designed for non-graduate primary school teachers in Singapore who wished to obtain a degree through a part-time programme.

In his speech at the Teachers’ Investiture Ceremony on 8 January, Mr Hawazi Daipi, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Manpower, highlighted the importance of teacher effects – defined as the impact that teachers have on student achievement and their subsequent success. “We know intuitively that teacher effects in a student’s life persist beyond a student’s school-going years, and research has shown that to be true. Evidence suggests that good teachers encountered from as early as primary one in a child’s life can create positive long-term effects on the subsequent success of a disadvantaged child, even into adulthood,” he emphasised.

Given this research on teacher effects, Mr Hawazi hopes that the new teachers clearly understand the crucial role they play, and their responsibilities as a teacher.

Mr Hawazi also presented awards to outstanding teachers for their academic achievements.

One of the winners, Mr Julian Azfar, who received the Geography Teachers’ Association of Singapore Book Prize, said that the trait of a great teacher would be the ability to guide students in asking the right questions, rather than telling them the right answers.

“My goal as a teacher is to help students understand why they learn what they learn, rather than telling them what to learn. As a teacher, I strongly believe in getting students to create meaning for themselves. The role of a teacher is to ignite that spark of curiosity so that learning can take flight. I want to nurture students who can think creatively and critically about issues around them, and have the courage to take a bold stand and voice their views about what they feel is right or wrong,” he said.
01. With the newly launched NTU AA (Europe), alumni in Europe now have a platform to stay connected. | 02. Participants had a ball of a time taking interesting shots during their walk in the snow, for the team-photo contest. | 03. NTU President Prof Andersson (left) presents the NTU flag to NTU AA (Europe) President, Dr Marcel Thom, signifying the launch of the Association. | 04. Alumni took the opportunity to network and make new friends whilst baking bread and drinking Gluehwein in the wintery weather.
NTU alumni in Europe now have a new platform to stay connected with the University.

The special day 2 March 2013 marked another milestone in NTU’s global efforts to strengthen its bond with its overseas alumni. Close to 60 alumni and guests from all over continental Europe and Singapore made their way to Zurich, Switzerland, to witness the launch of NTU Alumni Association (Europe). With an alumni population of more than 300, the NTU AA (Europe) becomes one of NTU’s biggest single chapters.

The event took place at lovely Uetliberg, one of Zurich’s city mountains and highest peaks in the area, where alumni and guests had the opportunity to enjoy a slow walk in the snow. It was during the walk that many alumni were seen reconnecting with former classmates and getting acquainted with new friends. Committee members of the alumni chapter also organised a team-picture contest, which was very successful.

The networking did not end after the walk. It continued as alumni gathered around campfires drinking traditional European Gluehwein (a warm alcoholic drink) and baking bread together – a traditional custom in central Europe.

Dr Vinay Kalia (NBS/2003), Secretary-General of the European chapter, welcomed the participants to the gala dinner and Dr Marcel Thom (NBS/2002), President of the NTU AA (Europe), spoke about the importance of the chapter. NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson shared with the audience NTU’s tremendous growth momentum.

The NTU AA (Europe) was launched with the presentation of the NTU flag to the Association’s committee by Prof Andersson. Two members of the NTU Board of Trustees, Ms Lien Siaou-Sze and Professor Alexander J.B. Zehnder, along with Director of Alumni Affairs Mr Soon Min Yam, were present to witness the ceremony.

Ms Natalie Hong (RSIS/2008) welcomed the presence of an NTU alumni chapter in Europe. She said: “Ever since I graduated from NTU and embarked on my further studies in Europe, I have been wishing to be closely linked with my beloved alma mater through such an alumni community.”

The official programme for the evening ended with a discussion session, ‘World-Café’, where participants took turns changing their seats, to meet as many alumni and guests present. The session, which was moderated by Mr Andreas Brenner (TIP/2010), NTU AA (Europe) Vice-President, had participants discussing NTU alumni presence in continental Europe for more than two hours.

Mr Marc Besserer (NBS/2004) said: “I hope that with my engagement, and the personal effort of many of the more than 300 alumni working in Europe, we can heighten the name of NTU. I am looking forward to meeting fellow alumni more regularly, to network and to seek career and business opportunities.”
相聚神州大地 追忆美丽南洋

南洋理工的大学的校友们分别在河南、天津和北京举行了校友聚会，各地均以不同的方式向大家展示了思念母校之情。

河南的校友们于2012年12月15日庆祝他们的2周年聚会；有来自北京、上海、香港、陕西、山西等校友会的代表、嘉宾和河南校友共60多人。在会上，南大河南校友会史先刚会长(南洋商学院/2006)回顾了校友会两年来的发展历程：两年间，河南校友会规模不断扩大；以论坛、聚会、户外拓展等多种形式不断活动，给校友创造了一个互相熟悉和了解的有效平台，在校友间传递出强大正能量。“可以说，把我们这些在中原大地干事创业的人凝聚在一起的，正是母校这条温暖的纽带，”史会长说。

在接下来的一天，天津校友会也举行了以“爱心牵手校友情”为主题的年会。大会的点睛之笔就是以“瀚墨情·爱心牵手校友情”为题的书画展，吸引了100多名参与者。大家在看书画的同时，河北、北京、香港、广东等地校友会的代表也到会祝贺。南大南洋公共管理研究生院刘云华副院长作了题为《十八大后中国的经济发展》的专题讲座。在年会上，南大天津校友会秘书长樊雅强（人文与社会科学学院/1999）代表张伟力会长（南洋商学院/2006）和天津校友会致辞，对大家的到来表示热烈的欢迎和衷心的感谢。南大北京校友会长、河北校友会张伟力会长(南洋商学院/2006)代表河北校友会致辞。

在中国的首都北京举办的“爱在南洋”大型年会也是2013年在中国大陆举行的校友会年会的开场重头戏，于1月12日由南大南洋商学院（中国项目）和南大北京校友会联合举办。大会不仅吸引了来自北京的本地校友，更有来自全国各地的校友代表和来宾等共300余人。

出席宴会的贵宾和校友包括：南大校友会副会长连小强女士、南大副校长（国际事务）余明华教授、南大荣誉校长徐冠林教授、南洋科学院副院长（中国项目）陈国辉副教授、南洋商学院副院长（工商管理硕士课程）庄丽凤副教授、南大校友事务处孙敏炎主任、南大北京校友常务副会长孙侠校友（南洋商学院/2006），以及郝国平校友（南洋商学院/2008）等。除了南大代表，年会还非常荣幸地邀请到了新加坡驻华大使罗家良先生、前中国驻新加坡大使陈宝全女士、北京市政协副主席、九三学社北京市副主委张炎先生、中国企业家俱乐部名誉主席、原交通部副部长忻元校先生、新加坡商会会长施全富女士等重要嘉宾。在南大北京校友大型年会的当天，也举行了南洋金融俱乐部的开启仪式。

在这三个年会中，南大副校长（国际事务）余明华教授担当重任，代表母校作为大会贵宾奔走于这三个城市之中，他介绍了母校目前的发展情况，并希望大家以南大校友之理想、激情和创造力，对母校的发展投以更多关注。余教授更是大方的在这三场聚会中一展歌喉，把聚会的气氛带向高潮。
01. 南大副校长（国际事务）余明华教授（前排，左三），南大河南校友会史先刚会长（前排，左四）南大校友事务处孙敏炎主任（前排，左二）及河南省的校友们庆祝南大河南校友会成立两周年。
02. 在南大河南校友会年会上，史先刚会长（右）向代表母校的余明华教授（左）献上书画。
03. 南大天津校友会年会上，南大副校长（国际事务）余明华教授（右三），天津校友会秘书长周雅强先生（右二）、校友和来宾们欢迎河北校友会会长，河北省人大常委会党组副书记、副主任宋长瑞校友（左三）。
04. （左起）南大北京校友会孙侠副会长，南大副校长（国际事务）余明华教授，新加坡驻华大使罗家良先生，南大荣誉校长徐冠林教授，南大校董连萧思女士，南洋商学院副院长（中国项目）陈国辉副教授，南大校友事务处孙敏炎主任，在北京年会上举起酒杯与校友欢聚同庆。
05. 北京校友会年会中，由校友家属，小朋友们表演的节目使点缀了整个晚会。
WARM GATHERINGS OF FRIENDS IN CHINA

NTU alumni in Henan, Tianjin and Beijing have reunions amidst the cool wintery climate.

NTU alumni in Henan celebrated the second anniversary of the NTU Alumni Association (Henan) which was also attended by alumni representatives from Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Zhejiang and Shanxi.

At the event, Mr Shi Xiangang (NBS/2006), President of NTU AA (Henan) reviewed the development of the AA over the two years. During this period, the AA organised various events, providing alumni in Henan a platform to network with one another.

A total of 60 alumni and their families attended the celebrations on 15 December 2012.

The following day, it was NTU AA (Tianjin)’s turn to celebrate its annual gathering. Themed ‘Hearts united and hand in hand’, the event also saw representatives from NTU AAs in Hebei, Beijing, Hong Kong and Guangdong making their way to Tianjin.

Participants at the event also attended a lecture titled ‘China’s economic outlook after the 18th National Congress’, delivered by Dr Liu Yunhua, Deputy Director of NTU’s Nanyang Centre for Public Administration.

Following the lecture, the 100 alumni and guests were treated to a painting and calligraphy exhibition.

The ‘Love in Nanyang’ annual gathering jointly organised by NTU’s Nanyang Business School (NBS) China Programmes and NTU AA (Beijing) attracted more than 300 alumni and guests.

Held on 12 January 2013, the event was attended by Mr Stanley Loh Ka Leung, Singapore’s Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China; Madam Chen Baoliu, former Chinese Ambassador to Singapore; Mr Fang Yan, Deputy Secretary-General of Beijing Municipal Committee of the Chinese People’s Political Consultative Conference and Vice-Chairman of Beijing Committee of the Jiu San Society; Mr Xin Yuanxiao, former Vice Minister of the Ministry of the Transport of the PRC and China PhD Entrepreneurs Club’s Honorary President; and Ms Dorothy Seet, Chairman of SingCham.

The newly formed Nanyang Finance Club was also launched at the gathering.

Speaking at these events, Guest-of Honour Professor Er Meng Hwa, NTU’s Vice-President for International Affairs updated the alumni on the University’s recent developments and encouraged them to stay connected with NTU.
**EVENTS CALENDAR**

*Upcoming attractions for Alumni!*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>13 April 2013</td>
<td>NTU Alumni Ambassadors’ Appreciation Lunch 2013</td>
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<td>2013年南大校友大使答谢午宴</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 April 2013</td>
<td>NTU Alumni Movie Screening – Iron Man 3</td>
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<td>南大校友电影欣赏 – 钢铁侠3</td>
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<tr>
<td>15 May 2013</td>
<td>24th Distinguished Alumni Forum</td>
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<td>第24期南大杰出校友论坛</td>
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<td>1 June 2013</td>
<td>NTU Alumni Sports Fiesta</td>
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<td>南大校友体育嘉年华</td>
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<td>15 June 2013</td>
<td>NTU Alumni Family Day</td>
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<td>南大校友家庭日</td>
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<td>12 July 2013</td>
<td>Launch of School of Humanities &amp; Social Sciences Alumni Association</td>
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<td>人文与社会科学学院校友会成立大会</td>
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<td>13-14 July 2013</td>
<td>NTU Alumni 2D/1N Trip to Malaysia with Durian Feast</td>
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<td>南大校友2天1夜大马之行与榴梿宴</td>
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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**

To subscribe to **ClassACT** e-zine for regular event updates and more, go to **http://www.ntu.edu.sg/newsletter/managemysubscription.aspx**

Information is correct as of press time. Events and dates may be subject to change.
MASTER OF ARTS
IN LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL CHANGE

Bringing New Vision Into Leadership

The Master of Arts in Leadership and Educational Change is an innovative new programme, a joint degree offered by the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University and Teachers College, Columbia University. With a dual focus on organisational and curriculum leadership, the programme provides opportunities to build new cross-national learning communities and fraternities steeped in both local and global perspectives.

If you are tasked with leadership responsibilities in leading educational change in your respective organisations, you will appreciate the advantage of pursuing a higher degree in an Asian context delivered by two leading educational institutions.

SECOND INTAKE
opens in January 2014!

Be part of this unique programme come January 2014. Application for admission opens from 18 April to 17 May 2013. For more information, please visit www.nie.edu.sg/malec or e-mail us at nieadmpp@nie.edu.sg

For information on other programmes for the January 2014 intake, please visit www.nie.edu.sg/jan2014
FOR NTU ALUMNI, AN IDENTITY CARD OF PRIVILEGES

Rejoice in your NTU Alumni Card! It identifies you as a part of the NTU alumni family – and provides you with many exclusive privileges. In this issue, we feature some of the many F&B discounts NTU Alumni Card holders enjoy.

As NTU alumni, you are entitled to the NTU Alumni Card – one that identifies you with NTU, now, and in years to come. Rejoice in your NTU identity and start your lifelong connection with your alma mater. You have earned the exclusivity of belonging to the NTU community.

There are also privileges and benefits you can enjoy as a part of this family of exclusive NTU Alumni Card holders. Other than the dining privileges mentioned here, the card also offers special packages in beauty and wellness, shopping, sports, leisure and other good deals, which we will feature in coming issues.

Apply now for the NTU Alumni Card!

The NTU Alumni Card is issued free of charge to all NTU alumni.

If you don’t already hold one, apply for it now at www.ntu.edu.sg/alumni/alumnicard. This webpage will also show you a complete list of card privileges.

New app shows offers for NTU Alumni Card holders

You may now register your NTU Alumni Card via the NoTikum iPhone/Android app or via www.notikum.com. This new app acts as your shopping concierge by remembering your NTU Alumni Card and showing available offers. Just enter the category of offers you are looking for and it will fetch those offers and display the ones available at a location nearest to you.
MARRAKESH — MOROCCAN LOUNGE & BAR
#01-01 River Valley Road, Singapore, Singapore 179024

20% discount on total bill*

Marrakesh takes on a distinct Moroccan theme, serving traditional Middle Eastern tapas such as hummus, moutabel, tabouleh and fattoush. It also serves a mixture of Lebanese, Marrakech and Moroccan entrees including Shish Kabab and Marrakech style grilled lamb skewers with bell pepper chakchouka.

MIRCHI — TASTE OF INDIA
8A Marina Boulevard, #B2-04 Marina Bay Link Mall, Singapore 018984
8 Raffles Avenue, #02-23 Esplanade Mall, Singapore 039802
#03-K1 Singapore Changi Airport Terminal 3, Departure/Transit Lounge North Singapore 819663

20% discount on total bill*

The restaurant serves delectable North Indian cuisine such as kebabs, curries and a wide range of authentic dishes from the North. You may also enjoy pre dinner cocktails by the bar.

LIQUID KITCHEN
185 Upper Thomson Road, Singapore 574333

15% discount on a-la-carte items*

A contemporary lounge bar concept, Liquid Kitchen serves a selection of beers, cocktails, wines, hot beverages and pizzas, pastas, pies and more. The outlet plays lounge music and offers complimentary wireless internet surf zone.

ESKI BAR
46 Circular Road, Singapore 049401

15% discount on a-la-carte items*

A sub zero degree bar, Eski Bar offers ice-cold wintery feeling all year round. The front of the house ice-cold room is actually an industrial strength freezer where temperatures range between minus five degrees Celsius to just above zero. For patrons who prefer a warmer spot can head to the less cold ‘Igloo Chiller Room’. The bar offers premium cocktails and drinks.

THE STRAITS
79 Circular Road, Singapore 049433

15% discount on a-la-carte items*

At The Straits, you can expect craft beers that combine the brewing traditions of the West, with the flavours and spices of the East. Concoctions like Archipelago Traveler’s Wheat, Archipelago Trader’s Ale and the Archipelago Straits Pale Ale are infused with spices such as assam and palm sugar.
HARRY’S
26 outlets in the city, suburban areas and business parks

10% discount on total bill*

All the outlets are outfitted with flat screen televisions, allowing a comfortable live sports viewing. Harry’s also offers its own brew – Harry’s Premium Lager.

LE CHOCOLAT CAFÉ
28 Ann Siang Road, Singapore 069708

10% discount on total bill*

The little café in the heart of Chinatown serves chocolate cakes and desserts, coffees, sandwiches and salads.

THE RUPEE ROOM – BOLLYWOOD & BEYOND
3B River Valley Road, #01-15 The Foundry Clarke Quay, Singapore 179021

10% discount on bottles of spirits; waiver of entrance fee before 10.30pm

At The Rupee Room, you can enjoy delectable cocktails and Indian fusion menus.

SERENITY SPANISH BAR & RESTAURANT
No 1 Harbourfront Walk, #01-98/99 Vivocity, Singapore 098585

10% discount on a-la-carte items*

The Mediterranean styled restaurant serves authentic Spanish cuisine such as tapas and soups, rice (paella) dishes, noodle (fideua) dishes, Spanish wine cocktails (sangrias) and more.

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YING YANG ROOFTOP BAR
28 Ann Siang Road, The Club Hotel, Singapore 069708

10% discounts on bottles of spirits

Located at the top floor of The Club Hotel, Ying Yang serves a selection of premium drinks. The bar snack menu features choices such as petite club sandwich, grilled spicy sausages, petite Asian flavoured dishes and platters.

*Terms and conditions apply. Visit www.ntu.edu.sg/alumni/alumnicard for more details.
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Associate membership @ $1200* for Non-NTU Graduates

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- FREE! Yunnan Garden Restaurant Voucher worth $120*
- FREE! Atos Wellness Face or Body Treatments worth $180* PLUS Physiotherapy Chiropractic Assessment and Back Therapy worth $280*
- FREE! NTUC Plus Card
- Complimentary Parking Lots on Level 2 Car Park.
- Discounts* at Costa Sands Resort, Downtown East, Wild Wild Wet, eXploriskid
- Discount privileges* at Aranda Country Club, Happy Days, Scarlet City, Union Square & Jem D’Place
- Up to 30% OFF* at Singapore Zoo, Jurong Bird Park & Night Safari
- Discount Privileges* at Orchid Country Club, Tanjong Puten Golf Resort, Tiara Melaka Golf and Country Club, Batam View Beach Resort and Ria Bintan Golf Club
- $100 Discount per child monthly for Member’s children at Infant Care & Childcare Centre*
- Member’s Birthday Treat & Network Opportunities

Member-Get-Member
Refer your friend to join us and both you and your friend will be rewarded

For March & April, for each successful referral, you will be rewarded with 2 gifts from:

a. $100 Cash
b. $120 Yunnan Garden Restaurant Voucher*
c. Atos Wellness Face or Body Treatments worth $180* PLUS Physiotherapy Chiropractic Assessment and Back Therapy worth $280*
d. Vital Gear Backpack Leo 40 worth $129.40*
e. Asus OPlay Mini Digital Media Player worth $109*

Your referred friend will receive a Yunnan Garden Restaurant Voucher worth $120 and Atos Wellness Face or Body Treatments worth $180 PLUS Physiotherapy Chiropractic Assessment and Back Therapy worth $230 upon approval of the Membership.

Membership Hotline Tel: 6777 1101 or Email: michael@ntualumni.org.sg Website: www.ntualumni.org.sg

* Terms & conditions apply to all promotions & Offers, while offer lasts.
* GST applies
Ms Mona Lim (NIE/1999)

I was in one of those unique batches of NIE research scholars who were not required to be on campus as we worked on our research projects individually. I was only on campus when I needed to meet my supervisor, tutor a class, attend or perform in concerts, or to work on my research project in the library.

I am a freelance music consultant and educator. I teach English, music and music-related programmes. I write curriculums and deliver them for music and movement workshops to both children and adults. I work with corporate people for events and music and movement workshops. I also train teachers in music education and music pedagogy.

I was honoured to have the opportunity to choreograph for the ‘Welcoming the Flame’ event during the 2010 Singapore Youth Olympic Games. In recent years, I have had also choreographed for ‘Chingay’, the Asian Street Parade in Singapore, and for the St Patrick’s Day Parade in Singapore, working with the Irish community.

When I am not working, I go shopping! I like to read and compose music too. I love to travel and have driven from Singapore to China, and also to Vietnam, crossing countless borders and meeting many people from different cultures. It was a great experience driving through so many different countries like Malaysia, Thailand, Laos, Vietnam and China. Although the trip took many days, it was well worth it.

Mr Edy Susanto (EEE/2002)

Coming from Indonesia, when I first started studying in NTU, it was an eye-opener but I am glad to have been able to adapt to the strict studying methods many of my classmates followed. I actually preferred sleeping in the evening after my dinner, and spending my time studying overnight. I was able to concentrate better during that period.

During the semester break in my first year, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to be able to assist in the laboratory of one of my lecturers. I volunteered to help in his project on fiber optic and that provided me with knowledge on research methodology. In my third year, I went to the Hong Kong University for a one semester exchange programme. It was fun and I gained valuable experience and exposure. In fact I even picked up some basic Cantonese!

I am now working as an engineer at ST-Ericsson, working on top level simulation for integrated chips with GPS, Bluetooth, FM, WLAN and NFC functions. There were a few occasions when I had to travel for work to The Netherlands and France. During those trips, I also visited cities such as Lisboa, Porto, Fatima, Luxemburg City, Paris and Berlin.

When I am not busy working, I am playing sports. I picked up badminton, running and swimming after graduation, and I have participated in marathons since 2006.

Edy Susanto met his wife, Yulia, whilst they were students in NTU. They now have a five-year old daughter, Clare, and another baby on the way.
Ms Charlotte Tok Joo Imm (MAE/2005)

I was a part time student in NTU, pursuing the MSc (Logistics). Classes were held in the evenings so I had to travel to NTU after work. I knew I wanted to take up a Masters programme in logistics, and since NTU had it in part-time classes, coming here was a natural choice. I have been working in the logistics industry and in the IT department for the past decade.

What I enjoy most about my work are the frequent interactions I have with different working teams in various countries. Travelling is something I enjoy the most and due to my job requirements, I have been able to travel to different countries. The experience I have gained has definitely made me grow wiser and appreciate home even more.

Ms Wong Kai Jun (NBS/2006)

Although my days at NTU were intense, they were also very interesting. During my final year, I had the opportunity to represent NTU in an international business case competition in University of Washington, Seattle. I had a profound interest in analysing business cases, where we breakdown a problem and try to find a solution. This laid down the foundation to begin my career as an entrepreneur which I started after four years with PricewaterhouseCoopers. I started my own business, Play Nation and went on to create Hungry Chimps with my team and partner as we saw it as an expansion fit to our first business.

I decided to pursue my studies at NTU as I felt that it had a world class education with very accomplished faculty. When I was competing in Seattle against teams from 16 other renowned universities, I appreciated even more the education I received in NTU – when you are able to stand up, compete, and realise that you do not lose out, in terms of quality of education – you then realise the real value of a ‘world class education’ that NTU has always been renowned for.

The strong technical foundation that I acquired in NTU’s accountancy programme has been very valuable to me. I also appreciated the opportunity to compete in an international competition. With this kind of support from NTU, I was able to grow academically and gain more exposure.

I enjoy travelling and I have been to Germany for tradefairs, China for business scouting opportunities, and many other countries like Japan, Korea, US, for leisure. Some of my trips have added a different perspective to the way I view the world and things around me.

Since I started my entrepreneurship journey, I found a deep love for reading business books, understanding how others excel as entreprenuers, and how they have created sustainability for their businesses. I now realise how small I am in this big eco-system, and just how much more hard work and years of perseverance I have to put in to make the business work.
Dr Novella Sudarmadji (MAE/2005)

My days in NTU were colourful and always interesting. When I first came to NTU in 2001, it was my first time going overseas, living alone and using the internet. NTU was the place where I first met my husband too. After graduating with a Bachelor in Mechanical Engineering in 2005, I continued to pursue a PhD in the same School. This, I believe, helped me get my dream job in the oilfield business.

Studying in NTU for nine years has moulded me to become the person I am today. My time in NTU and the skill sets I have learnt have helped me secure my dream job today. As I had to live on my own, my NTU education trained me to become an independent and responsible person.

I have been working in Schlumberger and am based in Singapore since May 2012. Immediately after completing my PhD in 2010, I joined the company and was posted to work in Colombia, South America, as a field engineer.

Whilst in Colombia, I visited the capital, Bogota, and also some oil fields around Villavicencio, Putumayo and Melgar. I also travelled to the San Andreas Island with my husband. It was a beautiful island with its white sandy beaches and blue sea.

Mr Ng Hong Peng (NIE/2008)

I graduated from the National Institute of Education (NIE) with a Post Graduate Diploma in Education. NIE provided me with a great learning opportunity and gave me insights on both the theoretical and practical aspects of teaching and learning. I learnt a lot from my NIE tutors – to keep the passion for teaching burning despite possible setbacks and regardless of the number of years in teaching; to be humble and treat all individuals with respect and humility; to constantly try our best to improve our pedagogy to become a more effective teacher; and to care sincerely for others. NIE is a respectable educational institution and I was glad to be able to join the teaching fraternity through the induction at the institute.

What I value most about my teacher training education is the inspiration that I received, both from my peers as well as from my tutors and lecturers. They gave me an important affirmation – that teaching is a meaningful profession, and that we teachers teach because we care for students and hope the best for them in life.

I am currently teaching at Anderson Junior College. My students are a constant source of motivation for me and I am truly happy to be able to learn something from them every day. My colleagues are also always ready to help and support one another. I know I can always turn to them for advice and help when needed.
Ms Ma Sha 马莎 (MAE/2012)

在南大的日子精彩纷呈，而最后的半年绝对令我永生难忘。

2011年2月份我意外怀孕，预产期是11月25日，而大学最后一次考试是从11月18日到30日，共五科；最终我决定孩子文凭都不放弃，所以就挺着日益变大的肚子，拖着用来装书本和电脑的行李箱，忙碌地穿梭于校园之中。可是怀孕六个月后，单独行走就已经很喘了，更何况还拖着行李，我必须在学校里面找到一个能保管行李的地方，可以让我在那里学习，地点最好是靠近教室和餐厅。但除了博士生有办公室外，多数学生只能四处漂泊。所以我找到管理博士生办公室的教授，跟他哭诉了我的处境，这位教授虽然不能帮我，但他介绍我跟学生福利官认识。大家了解了我的情况后，答应找地方给我，但需要时间。我还担心这会不会只是托词，没想到就在第二天早上9点就接到电话告诉我有着落了。那一刻的狂喜，正如那天充沛的阳光把我心里捂得快发霉的忐忑不安通通晒的一干二净。

还有一直关照我的行政人员和对我的毕业论文给予极大帮助的博士生。这几位都在我人生的关口上帮了我至关重要的一把，并且不求任何回报。

11月13日我顺产下健康的婴儿，四天后就拖着浮肿的双腿进入考场，坚持把所有的试都考完了，拿下了这一波三折的学位。除了个人的努力外，我始终坚信：如果没有这几位无私的支持，我根本无法走到终点。也正因如此，将来不管有多么艰难，都要尽到本分。

Ms Li Qian 李茜 (NBS/2012)

2012年对我来说很特别，我参加了南大举办的两个毕业典礼，在新加坡和北京举行的毕业典礼，还有在自己家乡南京举行的毕业典礼。这不仅是对自己在南洋理工大学学习生涯的一个总结，更是一个千载难逢的机会，让我能和旧时同学、母校叙旧，延续友谊并获悉学校最新发展的消息。我的同学中，有的从老远的成都、北京、深圳赶来，有的则是来自近处的上海。大家都非常珍惜这个难得的聚会。当我看到同学穿上硕士袍，上台领取毕业证书的时候，自豪和感动涌上了心头——那是为了曾经在著名的南洋理工大学学习而自豪，为自己的努力学习终于有了一点点的回报而感动。同学们之间分享心得，都很珍惜在学校学习的时光，珍惜教授每一次认真的授课，珍惜同学之间的缘份，更加珍惜和新加坡和南洋理工大学之间的联系。虽然只是半年不见，但大多数同学毕业后都纷纷走上工作岗位，大家聊着工作、家庭、生活，一切都没有变，仿佛又回到了学生时代。希望这份难能可贵的同窗之情可以通过学校这样的活动延续下去。

对母校有着深深感情的我，非常希望可以为母校做出更多贡献。南大每年举办的校友活动，我都希望可以参与。去年我主持了南大校友回校日的校友之夜活动。非常感激学校给我机会，让我为母校尽一份自己的力量。我也会鼓励身边的同学和南大校友都积极参与到学校的活动中去。
## ALUMNI PARTICULARS UPDATE

### 更新校友个人资料

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

为了使我们更好的为所有校友服务，请您通过电邮、传真更新您的个人资料，或将此页寄到下列地址：

Fax +65 6794 1036  
Email: alumniaffairs@ntu.edu.sg

(Information Management)  
Alumni Affairs Office  
Nanyang Technological University  
60 Nanyang View #02-08  
Nanyang Executive Centre  
Singapore 639673

If you receive duplicate copies of NTULink, or know of fellow alumni who are not receiving the magazine, please call us at +65 6513 8073 or email us at alumniaffairs@ntu.edu.sg

如果您定期收到超过一份《心系南洋》季刊，或者知道某个校友没有收到这份刊物，请拨电与我们联络（电话 +65 6513 8073）或者发送电邮至alumniaffairs@ntu.edu.sg 谢谢！

### FOR CHANGE OF ADDRESS 更新地址

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Full name as in NRIC (Mr / Ms / Dr / Prof / Others)</th>
<th>姓名（先生／小姐／博士／教授／其他）</th>
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### FOR EMPLOYMENT UPDATE 更新就业信息

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### ALUMNI FAMILY MEMBERS 校友家庭成员信息

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<tr>
<td>Relationship</td>
<td>与本人关系</td>
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Please tick here if you wish to remove the names of alumni family members from the NTULink mailing list.

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- Keeps you in touch with your former classmates
- Offers you a platform to do your part for your alma mater
- Ensures that your former classmates receive first-hand news about NTU when you update us with their contact details

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