COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
Exploring the wonders of science at NTU

MOVING UP AGAIN!
THE MAKING OF NTU - MY STORY
EAST MEETS WEST
SUCCESSFUL WEALTH MANAGEMENT
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Printed by Times Printers Pte Ltd
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NTU alumni,

We are now reaching the halfway mark of 2014 and NTU continues to develop at a remarkable rate. I am pleased to share with you our University's progress over the past three months.

We have, once again, climbed up the world university rankings! NTU is now ranked fifth amongst the world's top young universities in Times Higher Education's Top 100 Young University Rankings; Asia, in addition, NTU rocketed up the global top 100 in the Nature Publishing Index, to be ranked 73rd internationally and 12th in the Asia-Pacific region.

These rankings indicate NTU's rapid progress as we continue to strengthen our academic curriculum with a wider range of innovative and relevant courses and global partnerships. Our LKCMedicine faculty are making their mark, LKCMedicine Visiting Professor Per-Olof Berggren has been selected as a member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO). He joins an elite group which also includes three LKCMedicine Visiting Professor Per-Olof Berggren has been selected as a member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO). He joins an elite group which also includes three

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In April this year, NTU won the Green Mark Champion Award – Singapore's top accolade for sustainable building design – from the Singapore and Construction Authority for our achievements in environmental sustainability. This award speaks volumes about our commitment to sustainability which is the pinnacle of NTU's five multi-disciplinary Excellence. The University is a recognised leader for sustainable research, having attracted more than $1.2 billion in competitive research funding in the area.

In line with NTU’s sustainability efforts, we are transforming our campus into one of the most environmentally friendly university campuses in the world. Through the newly launched EcoCampus initiative, in partnership with Singapore's Economic Development Board (EDB) and JTC Corporation, NTU aims to reduce its energy and water consumption by 35% by 2020. The initiative will focus on buildings and campus-level sustainability solutions which can be adopted in future developments.

NTU is ramping up medical devices and tissue printing research areas with the launch of the new $30 million 3D printing centre, the NTU Additive Manufacturing Centre (NAMC). Additive manufacturing is a revolutionary technology that is changing the face of innovation and that NTU is well placed to excel in the fast growing field. A $5 million joint laboratory agreement with SLA Systems, one of the world’s leading manufacturers of 3D printers, was also signed.

For the first time, NTU will be providing training in research to dental surgeons with the aim of boosting innovative oral health solutions, through collaboration with National Dental Centre Singapore (NDCS). This partnership will also support the formal training of NDCS clinicians in research.

In August last year, we welcomed our first batch of students into our Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine) – a partnership between NTU and Imperial College London. These students are being trained to become a physician – a partnership between NTU and Imperial College London. These students are being trained to become a physician and developmental scientists who can transform healthcare. Our LKCMedicine faculty are making their mark, LKCMedicine Visiting Professor Per-Olof Berggren has been selected as a member of the European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO). He joins an elite group which also includes three

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DISCOVERING SCIENCE AT NTU

NTU’s College of Science is a young and dynamic institution that has grown phenomenally. NTULink learns more about the College firmly committed to its dual mission of excellence in education and research in the sciences.

Science is the cornerstone of modern technological innovations and medical advances. Committed to its mission of excellence in education and research in the sciences, NTU’s College of Science (CoS) contributes to the progress of mankind and Singapore through new discoveries and cutting-edge inventions, and to educate young minds for the world of tomorrow.

HISTORY & BACKGROUND
Comprising the School of Biological Sciences (SBS) established in 2002, and the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences (SPMS), established in 2005, CoS is today home to about 3,600 undergraduate and 700 graduate students. The CoS alumni family is now 4,611 members strong.

SBS provides its students an international education in cutting edge Biomedical and Life Sciences. With faculty from over 20 countries, the students are engaged in stimulating and challenging curricula that meets the demands of the Biomedical and Life Sciences industries today and in the future. The SBS building, with 30,000 square metres of total floor space, contains 60 research laboratories, core instrumentation facilities and an adjoining double-storeyed animal house. The building also has state-of-the-art classrooms, computer suites and teaching laboratories equipped with the latest facilities.

SPMS recognises that the exciting sciences and challenging problems of the future will shift from the traditional disciplines to the interfaces of disciplines. SPMS students are taught by faculty who are conducting innovative research. The School’s state-of-the-art facilities provide a conducive environment for teaching, learning and research. The SPMS complex comprising a cluster of three interconnected buildings totalling 38,000 square metres, houses the Divisions of Chemistry & Biological Chemistry, Mathematical Sciences, and Physics & Applied Physics.

The curricula and standards for the various disciplines are modelled after those of some of the best universities such as Caltech, Yale, UCLA and Cornell. Outstanding students may be selected to join the CN Yang Scholars Programme, a prestigious undergraduate programme at NTU for science and engineering students, named in honour of Professor CN Yang, Nobel Laureate in Physics (1957).

NEW UNDERGRADUATE OFFERINGS
Starting from the new academic year in August 2014, NTU will offer a first-of-its-kind degree in Environmental Earth Systems Science focused on Asia, and a second major in Food Science and Technology for chemical engineering, chemistry and biology undergraduates.

The first such degree programme in Singapore, NTU’s new Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree in Environmental Earth Systems Science will be offered by CoS’ Division of Earth Sciences, in collaboration with NTU’s two national Research Centres of Excellence, the Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS) and the Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCELSE).

The interdisciplinary programme will equip students with both deep and broad interdisciplinary knowledge about the Earth and enable them to examine the interactions between the planet’s systems, including the atmosphere, biosphere, hydrosphere, and the solid earth.
Taught by some of the world’s top professors, including Professor Kerry Sieh who heads the EOS, and tectonics expert Professor Charles Rubin, undergraduates will learn the skills to tackle some of the big global issues facing the world today, with a special focus on Asia.

The second major in Food Science and Technology, to be offered to 30 top undergraduates majoring in Biological Sciences, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and Chemistry and Biological Chemistry, will begin in the coming new academic year starting in August 2014, in partnership with Wageningen University in The Netherlands.

With NTU’s strengths in science and technology, this programme will expose the students to the field of food production processing from an engineering and industry point of view. They will be trained to integrate knowledge and skills in multiple disciplines, making their education more holistic and broadening their career choices after graduation.

Wageningen University’s food technology programme has been in place for over 50 years. It is highly regarded as one of the best and most innovative food science and technology programmes in Europe and the world.

RESEARCH
At SBS, the Biosciences Research Centre (BRC) and the Drug Discovery Centre (DDC) play an important role in the School’s research initiatives. Basic research is conducted within the BRC whilst translating applications from these research efforts to DDC. There is a diversity of expertise in these centres, encouraging thematic research in areas related to cancer, pathogenesis and drug discovery.

The centres are active platforms for cross-disciplinary interaction. Research at SBS is organised along four major disciplines – Chemical & Biotechnology, Structural & Computational Biology, Molecular & Cell Biology, and Genomics & Genetics.

SPMS strives to create an environment that encourages and rewards the pursuit of academic research excellence. Key partnerships are underway to create unique new research initiatives with top overseas institutions through the Divisions of Chemistry & Biological Chemistry, Mathematical Sciences, Physics & Applied Physics, and Earth Sciences.

GLOBAL EXPOSURE
CoS’ undergraduates have numerous opportunities to study, work and conduct research at some of the renowned universities and organisations in Asia, Europe and North America. The Global Education and Mobility (GEM) programmes such as GEM Discoverer, GEM Explorer and Overseas Attachment Programme, the students are able to gain global exposure whilst pursuing their degree programmes at NTU.

GEM Discoverer offers short-term overseas programmes which enable the students to enhance their cross-cultural intelligence and international experience.

GEM Explorer allows students to take courses in an overseas partner institution for one full semester. They can earn academic units whilst expanding their global network and perspective.

Top undergraduates majoring in Biological Sciences, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and Chemistry and Biological Chemistry, may pursue a new major in Food Science and Technology.

The new degree programme in Environmental Earth Systems Science will equip students with interdisciplinary knowledge about the Earth and enable them to examine the interactions between the planet’s systems.
In 1985, when Professor Ling San chose the University of California at Berkeley over Cambridge for his PhD in Mathematics, his Singaporean friends were stunned.

Fast-forward almost three decades later, the doctoral programme in mathematics at Berkeley is ranked as one of the top in the world, and the foresighted Professor – now Dean of NTU’s College of Science (CoS) – has brought his steadfast belief in doing things independently to propel NTU forward as a world-class university.

He first took reins of CoS in 2011 when it was still a young college. Firmly committed to investing in the future, he and his faculty had clear plans.

Says Prof Ling: “We had a very strong vision in crafting a curriculum that has its own unique features, some of which were very bold, I would say.”

Back in 2005, when it was rare to have programming as a compulsory subject in a mathematical sciences curriculum, Prof Ling initiated making it a compulsory component. Again, in 2012, the CoS was questioned by stakeholders for launching a new specialisation called business analytics.

However, a decade on, programming modules and terms in business analytics have become common. In 2013, Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam articulated in his budget speech that Singapore is in dire need for business analytic specialists and cited NTU’s programme that could train the manpower Singapore needed.

"There was tremendous boldness in terms of innovation, testing out ideas, treading into uncharted territories; and related to that, a strong pioneering spirit," shares Prof Ling.

CoS comprises two schools – the School of Biological Sciences (SBS), which is about thirteen years old, and the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences (SPMS), which is just about to finish its ninth year. The Dean has identified two areas to work on, mainly, research and education.

RESEARCH
Prof Ling San has high hopes for CoS – he wants the College to carve out a scientific niche and create a reputation in the community.

“So that’s where I would like to see the College, where internationally it is immediately associated with certain discoveries and certain names,” he says.

To Prof Ling San, the key to excellence in research is investment in the future. He understands the importance of talent and has no qualms about recruiting the people with the greatest scientific potential into his young faculty.

“[A strong person] must have the moral strength to want to stand up for what he or she firmly believes in, and not just drift according to what the most fashionable beliefs are,” he says.

CHALLENGES
Talent is in the heart of advancement and according to the Dean, most of the challenges that the College encounters are related to that.

Firstly, the race to acquire top talent is a global one. CoS has to compete with universities all around the world to attract the best scientific minds.

“If you want to aspire to have an international renown in research, you need to be able to attract and anchor talents,” says Prof Ling.

He explains that Singapore has a small pool of talents to draw from and it has only entered the fray of scientific research fairly recently. Therefore, there is a lack of established scientists here.

However, Prof Ling is a strong believer of hothouse in education, and tries to impart values to students as well.

Emphasises Prof Ling: “I don’t believe in just training of the academic aspect.”

To meet this aim, CoS introduced the College’s Distinguished Undergraduate Award in 2013. Every year, up to three awards are given to students who are not just strong academically, but have also demonstrated leadership and engagement with society.

As part of the criteria, students are required to propose a community project and execute it. In addition, half of the award money must be contributed to the same venture.

“I would regard a graduate successful so long as he or she is contributing meaningfully to the society, leading a happy existence, contented and confident enough to know that he or she is actually successful, not in comparison to others, but just where he or she stands,” explains the Professor.

To Prof Ling, a successful CoS student has to have compassion, strength, passion, a mission and works hard towards goals.

“Locally, I think the perception of local universities somehow lags behind what rankings show [and] what the international academic community perceives,” says the Professor.

He adds that the challenge is to convince parents and students that universities in Singapore are as good as overseas choices.

FUTURE PLANS AND DEVELOPMENTS
As a testament to the boldness of its faculty in experimenting with new ideas, CoS has embarked on various projects.

NTU currently hosts two research centers of excellence – the Earth Observatory of Singapore and the Singapore Centre On Environmental Life Sciences Engineering. CoS has plans to set up another scientific gem.

Within the next year, the Asian School of the Environment would be established as the first batch of International students enters NTU in August. In addition, a new major called Environmental Earth Systems Science has been introduced. It is a multidisciplinary subject, which looks at environment, ecology and earth science from both scientific and social perspectives of view.
Elaborating on the importance of such subjects, Prof Ling explains: “Once the School is set up, we will be able to put together a team of academics and students who are able to interact around the themes of the environment, ecology and earth sciences and these are pressing issues, big challenges.”

Similarly, a new programme called ‘Making and Tinkering’ was recently introduced in SPMS. It brought students together from different majors to work on an open-ended problem.

“We believe that modern day problem solving and modern day innovation requires such multidisciplinary approaches,” explains Prof Ling. In addition, courses like this would also prepare students for the workplace, where they would be required to work with people of diverse backgrounds and varying abilities.

The introduction of self-paced courses is also a fairly new undertaking. Materials for courses are made available both online and in books, and students progress at their own pace under the guidance of a faculty member or professor. As such, they are able to manage the speed according to their abilities.

**MOVING FORWARD**

Prof Ling has observed phenomenal growth over the past decade in the local sciences and mathematical industry, and there are tremendous opportunities in the field.

With such optimism, it is hard not to succeed. New technological innovations are the engines of mankind’s progress and the key to solving major challenges, but underpinning such technologies is science.

“If we think the past fifteen years have been exciting, I think the next fifteen years will be even more mind-boggling,” says Prof Ling.

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**MEET SOME OF COS’ STELLAR INTERNATIONAL FACULTY...**

**Professor Kerry Sieh**
Director, Earth Observatory of Singapore
Division of Earth Sciences, SPMS

A prominent geologist, Prof Sieh is the Founding Director of the Earth Observatory of Singapore (EOS) which aims to conduct basic and applied research related to earthquake, tsunami, volcanic, and climate hazards. A member of the US National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honours that can be accorded a US scientist or engineer, Prof Sieh initiated the field of paleoseismology some 30 years ago. This involves using geological layers and landforms to understand the geometries of active faults, the earthquakes they generate and the crustal structure their movements produce.

**Professor Staffan Kjelleberg**
Director, Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering
Professor, SBS

Prof Kjelleberg takes a keen interest in a community of organisms known as biofilm. Study on biofilms and related research projects are conducted at the Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCELSE), headed by Prof Kjelleberg. SCELSE is harnessing the power of micro-organisms to solve critical water and environmental challenges. He plans to develop this research centre into a world leader on biofilm research, and to transfer knowledge to the industry so as to create a more sustainable earth.

**Professor Paul Tapponnier**
Tectonics Group Leader, Earth Observatory of Singapore
Division of Earth Sciences, SPMS

Recognised as the foremost scientist of his generation in the field of neotectonics, Prof Tapponnier heads the Tectonics Group at EOS. Spending more than three decades at Institut de Physique du Globe de Paris in France, he built France’s leading centre for tectonic science, Laboratoire Tectonique. Besides discovering the great active faults of Tibet, he also pioneered the use of satellite imagery in tectonics research.

**Professor Daniela Rhodes**
Professor, SBS

A professor at SBS with a joint appointment at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Prof Rhodes became internationally recognised for crystallising the nucleosome core (the central unit in DNA packaging), a major scientific breakthrough in 1976, and for her work on chromosome structure, telomeres, transcription factors and epigenetics. Crystallisation and structural analyses of telomerase require large amounts of enzyme that Prof Rhodes hopes to produce in NTU’s state-of-the-art Protein Production Platform, a facility under SBS.

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**CARNIVAL**
Mingle and linger with a buffet of tantalizing food, rambunctious games and shopping treats.

#beyondcarnival

**CONCERT**
Special Guest: Jung In (정인) & Gary (gary)
Embark on a full-day sonic adventure from major headliners and student performances. #beyondmusic

**RUN**
Hit the city roads and trek up the laid-back hills in the iconic Fort Canning Park. #beyondrunning
MOVING UP AGAIN!

NTU is Asia’s 7th best university in the QS University Rankings: Asia; and is 5th in Times Higher’s ranking of best young universities.

ASIA’S SEVENTH BEST UNIVERSITY

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has shot up to seventh place in Asia. The latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) University Rankings: Asia, which provides an overview of the region’s higher education and covers the top 300 institutions, was released on 13 May by QS.

NTU continued its upward momentum, moving up by 3 positions from 2013 and 10 positions within the last two years. The University scored the maximum 100 points in four areas — for its reputation among employers, its highly diverse international faculty, its cosmopolitan student population and for overseas exchanges.

NTU’s high standing among scholars globally saw NTU scoring 99.9 points for academic reputation, with three other indicators – inbound exchanges, for academic reputation, with three other indicators – inbound exchanges, for overseas exchanges, and for NSS (National Student Survey), each achieved a perfect score of 100.

NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson said: “Singapore should be proud to have two universities among Asia’s top seven. Despite being a young university, NTU has, in recent years, made a name for itself by ramping up research and partnering top academic and research institutions and industry leaders worldwide to provide our students with a high quality and industry-relevant education. “The high scores we had for employers’ reputation shows that we are training students who graduate with relevant skills who are well-equipped to meet the demands of the working world.”

FIFTH AMONG THE WORLD’S TOP YOUNG UNIVERSITIES

NTU also climbed three places to be ranked fifth among the world’s top young universities. This was announced by London-based Times Higher Education which released the results of its Top 100 Under 50 ranking on 1 May.

Now into its third year, the Times Higher ranking lists the 100 best universities below the age of 50. NTU is the only Singapore university listed in the young universities’ ranking. With its global upward trajectory, the University has climbed 11 places over the last two years, including eight places to No. 8 last year.

Speaking on the University’s rise, Prof Andersson said: “NTU continues to progress rapidly despite the very competitive global landscape, by strengthening our academic curriculum with a wider range of innovative and relevant courses and global achievements in research. The University’s strengths are well-recognised internationally, especially our commitment to delivering excellence in teaching, research and innovation”.

A new book that charts the untold story of NTU’s early years has been launched at NTU. The book, The Making of NTU – My Story, details the pioneering journey of the University’s first President, President Emeritus Cham Tao Soon, and his team who built the University’s predecessor institution, the Nanyang Technological Institute (NTI), and steered its development into a full-fledged university named Nanyang Technological University. It vividly traces the dramatic transformation of the University which has been named one of the world’s 15 Most Beautiful Campuses.

The book was launched on 7 April by Mr S R Nathan, former Singapore President and former NTU Chancellor, as well as the former Director of NTU’s defence think tank, the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies. The event was attended by distinguished guests and key figures in the University’s history, including NTI’s first chairman Dr Michael Farn and Mr Ch’ng Jit Koon, former Senior Minister of State for Community Development.

Other interesting inside stories by Prof Cham include how thin-MP Lee Kuan Yew used to walk around the campus on weekends and had suggested improvements, such as covered walkways, as it could get very hot walking from one building to another. When a proposal was put up to the Ministry of Finance, their initial response was: “It’s cheaper to give every student an umbrella.” Prof Cham also shared how thorny issues were discussed and key decisions taken by his senior management over fish head curry lunch every Thursday at a Jurong coffee shop.

“It is important that there is a proper account of the NTI story and NTI’s transformation into NTU, told by none other than its first president Prof Cham Tao Soon, who spent 22 years nurturing it,” said NTU President, Professor Bertil Andersson, who took over from the University’s second President, Professor Su Guaning. “I have inherited a wonderful institution built on ideas which were ahead of their time, and powered by ideals that have not waned with time. NTU is where it is today, because we had such a solid foundation to build on.”

The idea for the book came from Prof Andersson and NTU’s Provost, Professor Freddy Boey, who both felt that an in-depth account of the foundation stories of NTU was missing. They broached the idea of a book based on Prof Cham’s recollections of the University’s early days. As NTU’s first president, he was the best person to narrate NTU’s first 20 years of development. The book is also expected to be a useful resource for those interested in the path the University had gone through.

NTU continues its remarkable climb up various world university rankings!
MOVING TOWARDS GREATER SUSTAINABILITY

NTU wins prestigious award for environmental sustainability; ramps up efforts to reduce energy and water consumption.

GREEN MARK CHAMPION AWARD
Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has won the Green Mark Champion Award from the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) for environmental sustainability. Presented to a select group of organisations each year, the Green Mark Champion Award is Singapore’s top accolade for sustainable building design.

The centrepiece of NTU’s campus is the award-winning iconic building that houses the School of Art, Design and Media with its signature sloping green roof. Another unique and water-efficient features, including solar cells and solar heaters to save energy.

NTU’s residential halls at Nanyang Drive are installed with a variety of energy and water-efficient features, including solar cells and solar heaters to save energy.

REDUCTION IN ENERGY AND WATER CONSUMPTION
NTU is also ramping up its efforts to transform into one of the most environmentally friendly university campuses in the world. Under the newly launched EcoCampus initiative, NTU aims to achieve a bold 35 per cent reduction in its energy and water usage, carbon footprint and waste output by year 2020.

In partnership with Singapore’s Economic Development Board (EDB) and JTC Corporation, the $20 million EcoCampus initiative will transform NTU’s 200-hectare campus into a super test bed for research projects in cutting-edge green technologies. They range from smart building systems and renewable energy, to electric transportation and water conservation technologies, complementing the vibrant sustainability radar community in the adjoining 50-hectare CleanTech Park developed by JTC Corporation.

“The EcoCampus initiative is a bold step forward by NTU and a demonstration of our goal to help keep Singapore “future ready” through the use of sustainable technologies,” said Prof Boey.

NTU, together with EDB and JTC, will also work with other national agencies including Building Construction Authority (BCA), Energy Market Authority (EMA) and the National Environment Agency (NEA), to develop practical solutions that will put Singapore in the forefront of research on energy efficiency and sustainable development in the region.

The EcoCampus initiative will focus on buildings and campus-level sustainability solutions that can be adopted in upcoming developments. Seen here at the launch ceremony are, from left, Mr Heah Soon Poh, ACEO, JTC Corporation; Prof Lam Khin Yong, Chief of Staff, NTU; Prof Freddy Boey, Provost, NTU; Prof Alexander Zehnder, Chairman of Sustainable Earth Peak of Excellence, President’s Office and Member of NTU’s Board of Trustees; Mr S. Iswaran, Minister, Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade & Industry; Mr Yeo Keat Chuan, Managing Director, EDB; Mr Png Cheong Boon, CEO, JTC Corporation; and Mr Nilesh Jadhav, EcoCampus Director, NTU.
With the launch of its new $30 million 3D printing centre, NTU will be ramping up on key research areas such as medical devices and tissue printing.

The NTU Additive Manufacturing Centre (NAMC) was officially launched by Mr Lee Yi Shyan, Senior Minister of State for Trade and Industry, on 26 May. At the launch, NTU also signed a $5 million joint laboratory agreement with SLM Solutions, one of the world’s leading manufacturers of 3D printers.

Named SLM Solutions@NAMC, the lab aims to develop next-generation 3D printers that will benefit society.“As more low-cost printers come onto the market, 3D printing is now more accessible to the public and this enables people to see their ideas and designs become reality, something they can see with their eyes and hold with their hands. This is what true engineering is about – creative and practical innovations that will benefit society,” said Prof Chua, the world’s most cited scientist for 3D printing.

The centre will establish joint-lab with industry leader SLM Solutions.

NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson said additive manufacturing is a revolutionary technology that is changing the face of innovation and that NTU is well placed to excel in the fast growing field.

“Our new additive manufacturing centre not only aims to collaborate with industry to develop innovative, practical solutions but also brings together the best talents in the field. The new centre is outfitted with the latest 3D printing machines, such as laser-aided machines for printing metal parts for industry and bio-printers which are able to print real human tissue,” said Prof Andersson.

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To be based at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), NTU's graduate school of international affairs, the Peter Lim-Professorship in Peace Studies will provide for a global expert who can lead the development of RSIS’ peace studies curriculum and research strategies as part of the School’s new Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) programme. The gift is matched dollar-for-dollar by the Singapore Government, bringing the total endowment to $6 million.

Prof Lim said: “We have enjoyed decades of peace because of the harmonious relations amongst Singapore’s different communities. But the world’s many conflicts remind us that we cannot take this peace for granted. I hope that my donation can bring together distinguished scholars and thought leaders to study how we can be one step closer to protecting and promoting the harmony in our country. It is my sincere wish that Singapore will continue to enjoy peace and harmony amongst our increasingly diverse communities.”

On receiving the gift, NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson said: “NTU is very grateful to Mr Peter Lim for his generosity, which is testimony to the significant role RSIS plays as one of the world’s top think tanks. Mr Lim’s gift clearly reflects his personal deep interest in peace studies. His gift will elevate NTU’s ability to ramp up RSIS’ development as a leading centre of scholarship in peace and conflict studies, and more importantly, promote the creation of peaceful communities, which is essential for global progress.”

The SRP is a research programme which focuses on how various religious communities develop their teachings to meet the contemporary challenges of living in multi-religious and multi-ethnic societies, also known as plural societies. The programme, which centres around education, research and community engagement, also seeks to deepen the study of relations between religions, and to formulate new models to promote the positive role of religion in fostering peace and social harmony. It also aims to develop shared knowledge to strengthen social ties within plural communities.

The ceremony was immediately followed by the inaugural SRP Programme Distinguished Lecture by Sheikh Dr Ali Gomaa, the former Grand Mufti of Egypt, and the current Chairman of the Misr Al Khayr Foundation. He spoke on the theme Reclaiming Our Common Humanity–Role of Religion Amidst Pluralism.

NTU receives $3 million gift from Singapore philanthropist and private investor Peter Lim to endow professorship.

NTU receives a $3 million gift from philanthropist Mr Peter Lim. Seen here are, from left, RSIS Dean Ambassador Barry Desker, Singapore President and NTU Chancellor Dr Tony Tan, NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson and Ms Chan Lay Hoon, representing Mr Peter Lim. (02) Dr Tony Tan inaugurating the new Studies in Inter-Religious Relations in Plural Societies (SRP) programme.
Participants attending the 28th Distinguished Alumni Forum on 22 May heard from expert speakers who shared valuable information and provided some tips on investment. Titled ‘Success to Wealth Planning’, the forum session at NTU’s one-north campus was attended by close to 160 participants.

Starting the session was alumnus Mr Tan Chin Hwee (NBS/1995), the Founding Partner of Apollo Global Management. He highlighted the importance of assessing one’s risk appetite and spending needs in order to make a sound decision on investment. It is critical to take into consideration the need, the ability, and the willingness to take risks which will decide on one’s asset allocation and portfolio construction. Mr Tan, who is also the President of the Singapore Chartered Financial Analyst Society, shared more about the different asset allocation models – David Swensen’s Asset Allocation and Optimal Asset Allocation (Merton).

Tax Partner, Financial Services at PricewaterhouseCoopers (PwC) Singapore, Ms Lim Maan Huey (NBS/2001), spoke about why taxation matters in wealth planning and the tax implications when investing. As different countries implement varied tax rates, this would affect one’s decision on where to stay and where to invest. It would be important to understand the foreign tax implications when investing overseas. Ms Lim also went on to explain the different taxes such as income tax and capital gains tax.

The final speaker for the session, Forum Chairperson Associate Professor Yip Sau Leung from NTU’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), Division of Economics, gave an overview of important concepts and recommendations for asset investments. He provided information on the different avenues of investment available, such as property and shares. Prof Yip highlighted the advantages of investing in property for one’s future although the property market may be volatile at times. For example, as long
as one does not purchase property at its peak, its price will continue to rise. This is due to inflation, GDP growth, and innovation, and urbanisation. He also explained the different property market trends in Singapore, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Taiwan and India.

The forum session was then opened to the floor for the question and answer session with members of the audience participating actively. It was an informative evening as the participants gained much knowledge on how one is able to manage one’s wealth and finances successfully for a comfortable future.

Following the forum session, Mr Tan Chin Hwee shares more of his views with NTULink.

THERE HAVE BEEN A NUMBER OF FINANCIAL CRISIS OVER THE PAST FEW YEARS. WHY DO YOU THINK THESE HAPPEN AND WHAT CAN AN INDIVIDUAL DO TO BETTER PREPARE HIMSELF/HERSELF SHOULD IT HAPPEN AGAIN?

Financial crisis are necessary evils and unavoidable in the capitalistic system as the market is effectively driven by greed and fear - what Keynes terms as “animal spirits”. Pre-crisis, the sustained market bull run builds investor confidence which eventually results in irrational exuberance and the under-pricing of risk; crises happen when an event triggers the adjustment of risk-pricing, a large adjustment sends markets into panic. Historically, markets always overshoot at major turning points at the top (green) and at the bottom (bear).

To avoid the pain of financial crises, as an investor, you have to understand what is your risk profile; this is a critical success factor for investors. Key is to be independent and contrarian in your investment decisions, a word of advice from Warren Buffett - “Be Fearful When Others Are Greedy and Greedy When Others Are Fearful”. You have to be able to bet. But you also have to have enough fear to have the caution.

DO YOU THINK SOMEONE WHO IS RISK AVERSE CAN BE TRAINED TO BECOME A RISK TAKER? WHY OR WHY NOT?

Q: Which scenario hurts more to you? Do you feel more pain when you lose money on an investment? Or does it hurt more when you missed an opportunity to invest in something that subsequently rises in value.

Scenario 1: Feeling more pain when you lose money on an investment.

Scenario 2: Feeling more pain when you miss out on an investment opportunity.

This phenomenon in Scenario 1 is a consequence of loss aversion. Loss aversion is a cognitive bias that affects most investors. The theory states that people value gains and losses differently. Extensive research in behavioural economics has shown that people experience twice as much pain when they face a loss in comparison to the pleasure they feel with a gain of the same magnitude.

As a result of this cognitive bias, loss aversion causes investors to hang on to loss-making positions longer than they should in order to avoid realising their losses. They also cash in on profitable positions too soon because the pain of losing their profits exceeds the pleasure they get from seeing additional gains.

On the flipside, people who experience more pain in Scenario 2 are less affected by loss aversion. They derive more pleasure from gains than they experience pain when faced with a loss of the similar magnitude.

Many top successful investors effectively engage in decision making involving an intuitive assessment of situations. This process is often hard for many to accept but is likely a genuine component of successful investing. This intuition comes from experience, and experience comes from bad judgement in the past!

TESE DAYS, MANY PEOPLE IN SINGAPORE FEEL THAT THEY ARE UNABLE TO RETIRE EARLY DUE TO RISING COSTS. HOW DO YOU THINK A PERSON CAN BETTER PREPARE HIMSELF FOR RETIREMENT WHILE STILL GAINFULLY EMPLOYED, THROUGH WEALTH MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES?

For the past 20 years, the STI has generated an average return of 5% per year (vs average CPI inflation of 1.7% pa over the same period); this means that a dollar invested 10 years ago would have accumulated to $2.66 today. Hence it would be advisable to start investing early and bank on the compounding effect. Practice diversification through asset allocation, choose asset classes whose returns exhibit low correlation to optimise your portfolio by lowering overall risk.

WHAT WOULD YOU SAY TO SOMEONE WHO IS PREPARING TO INVEST FOR THE FIRST TIME? WHAT SHOULD HE/SHE LOOK OUT FOR?

Invest only the amount you can afford to lose. Gamble and speculation are not investing; they are not the same at all. To succeed one must respect “risk”. If investing in managed funds or investment schemes, lock out for the management fees involved and evaluate performance on a post-fees basis. Just like all other professions, there are no short cuts in understanding investing basics and hard work is needed, especially in a field that has attracted the best and the brightest.

Mr Tan Chin Hwee explains that successful investors draw lessons from their previous failures, hence becoming better investors.

Participants ask the forum speakers questions on how best to manage one’s wealth.
EAST MEETS WEST

School of Biological Sciences alumni Ms Fung Foon Yin (SBS/2010) and Mr Brandon Yew (SBS/2011) pursued a dual-degree programme in NTU, which trains students in biomedical sciences research and practice of Chinese Medicine. NTULink speaks to them about this unique blend.

Students at NTU’s School of Biological Sciences (SBS) pursuing the double degree Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Biomedical Sciences & Bachelor of Medicine (Chinese Medicine) have the opportunity to spend three years in the NTU campus followed by another two years at the Beijing University of Chinese Medicine.

**BENEFITS OF NTU’S PROGRAMME**
Mr Brandon Yew, who is now practising Acupuncture at the Complementary Integrative Medicine (Acupuncture) clinic in Tan Tock Seng Hospital, was in the single degree Biological Sciences programme before he decided to major in Chinese Medicine after his first semester in university.

“I prefer human interaction more. There is a lot of lab work in life sciences, so you end up staying in the lab for long periods. But as physicians, you can interact with more people. Hence I made the switch,” he shares.

Ms Fung Foon Yin, a Traditional Medicine Executive at the Singapore General Hospital, was in the pioneer batch of graduates from this programme. She is also the President of the NTU Chinese Medicine Alumni Association.

Ms Fung has always been interested in biomedical science and it was also the structure of the degree programme which intrigued her. “I was attracted by the uniqueness of the programme – three years in NTU and two years in China.”

In the first three years of the degree programme, students take on Biology modules and focus on the foundation of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM). They learn and develop under the guidance of knowledgeable professors from China. The last two years of the programme are then spent in China, where students have clinical lessons and are attached to a local hospital, the Dongfang Hospital.

The hospital focuses on both Western and TCM, which Ms Fung said was a real eye-opener, compared to local hospitals in Singapore. “It was very interesting because you get to learn a lot of things you might not have learnt in Singapore,” she says.

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PERSONALITY – East Meets West

practise, based on his young age. When it comes to dealing with young TCM, some are still apprehensive be receptive towards the idea of Chinese medicine and young practitioners. They feel that whilst patients might understand and accept the benefits of Western science so that others can understand better the practices, which is becoming more western and Chinese medical students the exposure to both and if there would be any potential adverse effects.

Both Ms Fung and Mr Yew agreed that the programme provides students the exposure to both western and Chinese medical practices, which is becoming more relevant today. The knowledge learnt allows them to explain TCM “in terms of Western science so that others can understand and accept the benefits easily”. Such exposure is especially useful in today where people strongly believe that Western medicine is generally more reliable than TCM.

FUTURE OF TCM
When asked about the future of TCM, both agreed that there is room for improvement in terms of standards of practice and the society’s acceptance towards Chinese medicine and young practitioners. They feel that whilst patients might be receptive towards the idea of TCM, some are still apprehensive when it comes to dealing with young TCM practitioners. Mr Yew feels that some patients doubt his ability to practise, based on his young age.

“It can be a bit frustrating when some patients step into the clinic with the perceived notion that I can’t do the job.” He is sometimes faced with some patients who ask him difficult questions, and pressurising him. He also added that for most of his patients, their end results turned out positive. “It is a good feeling, the sense of satisfaction I get, when they had so much apprehension and skepticism against you, and yet they walk out of the clinic feeling much better,” said Mr Yew.

Ms Fung said that a large portion of the society has benefitted from TCM and accepted it as part of their lifestyle. However, the lack of support and funding might hinder TCM’s progress, as compared to Western medical. With sufficient financial support, she believes that TCM would be able to emulate the progress shown in Western medical.

“There is the education, research and clinical aspects for Western medical’s progress. I think something similar can be adopted for TCM in order for it to really progress so that people are able to harness its benefits appropriately.”

“We should be aware that there are strengths and limitations to both the current conventional medicine and TCM,” says Ms Fung. She hopes that TCM or Chinese medicine as she prefers to call it, would be incorporated into our standard healthcare as a valid treatment option.

WORKING HAND-IN-HAND
Greater support from the authorities would also help to boost the career pathway options for TCM students. Currently, there are a variety of career opportunities awaiting TCM students after they graduate. They are not just limited to practising TCM; in fact they can choose to focus on research and education or even any healthcare-related positions.

While the current status of TCM may not look as promising as Western medical, the experience of treating their patients is just as memorable. Ms Fung shares: “They’ll find it worthwhile if they’re going to practise TCM. It’s going to be really meaningful that they feel a sense of satisfaction when they treat the patients well.”

She works in the traditional medicine information service section of the Singapore General Hospital pharmacy. Working closely with the doctors and pharmacists, she advises them on the safety aspects of traditional medicines especially pertaining to potential herb-drug interactions and adverse effects.

“This service was set up to (provide) evidence-based information on traditional medicine, including TCM and other alternative medicine like Malay or Indian medicine health supplements.”

There are instances where doctors seek her help on the various TCM products their patients are taking and it is her responsibility to assist these doctors make more informed decisions and advise their patients accordingly.

Mr Yew observes that for most of his patients, TCM complements their regular Western medication. “I observe from my work experience that Acupuncture treatment is highly effective especially in the area of pain management. Most cases of pain conditions can be quickly and significantly relieved with Acupuncture, even without the help of painkillers. Moreover, Acupuncture has been proven to be of lesser and milder side effects as compared to Western Medicine intervention like painkillers and surgery,” he explains. Ideally, it is best for Western medical doctors to work hand in hand with TCM physicians, providing them with the necessary medical reports for the physicians to refer to. However, both Ms Fung and Mr Yew pointed out that some doctors may not be willing to collaborate because they do not quite understand how TCM works and are more concerned about the safety aspects of TCM.

One of the cases Ms Fung recently encountered was when she discovered and reported a TCM product which had been adulterated with Western medicinal components.

“They tried to pass this product off as a harmless TCM medication when in actual fact, I didn’t know if there was any real TCM component inside.” She thought that the product itself and how it was promoted looked dubious so the case was reported to the Health Sciences Authority (HSA).

What was interesting, Ms Fung noted, was that one of the doctors in SGH was the one who asked to check whether her patient with blood disorder is able to take the medicine to treat her frozen shoulder.

“The fact that it worked so well for the frozen shoulder was because of the painkiller or anti-inflammatory components. (TCM medicine) is not so potent.”

Cases such as what she encountered previously showcases the ideal situation in local healthcare, where Western medical are able to co-exist alongside TCM practices. It also showcases the hope that both Mr Yew and Ms Fung have for the future of TCM here in Singapore.

Studying both Western and TCM allowed them both to develop a well-rounded approach when diagnosing illnesses. It provided them with the knowledge to interpret and understand the medicines their patients were taking. The combination of both practices also helped them understand better the interaction between herbs and drugs, and if there would be any potential adverse effects.

GO ONLINE, GO GREEN!
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Despite being a relatively young School, the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences (SPMS) has produced many alumni who have embarked on remarkable careers in the Mathematical Sciences and also Economics fields.

Ms Serena Ho graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Mathematics & Economics) in 2010 and is now an Economist at the Energy Market Company (EMC). She also serves as the Vice President of the NTU SPMS Alumni Association. Mr Aaron Chiang graduated a year later, with a Bachelor of Science (Mathematics) and is now working at the Ministry of Finance (MOF) as a Senior Associate (International Relations).

“I was excited to be able to study two disciplines which I believed would allow me to acquire a broad set of analytical and quantitative skills relevant to today’s job market,” she says. For Mr Chiang, the versatile curriculum appealed to him.

“I felt that the NTU [degree] was fresher and the curriculum would be more flexible which was something I wanted as I already had a very good idea of what kind of core skills I wanted to build up,” shares Mr Chiang, whose mother and sister both studied in NTU as well.

Mr Chiang, who specialised in statistics, explains that his degree had given him a different perspective compared to what he had initially thought. “The idea is to paint a picture that a layman would understand, out of huge amounts of data which might not have made much sense when presented in its raw form,” he adds.

STEEPING INTO THE CORPORATE WORLD

When asked to elaborate about her intriguing job at EMC, Ms Ho shares:

“EMC is the market operator of the National Electricity Market of Singapore (NEMS). We are like the stock exchange for electricity, providing the IT systems, the trading environment and the governance for the market. We operate on a 10-year license from the Energy Market Authority (EMA) which we renew.”

As an Economist, she is responsible for using robust economic principles to represent the overall interest of the wholesale electricity market. “In the Market Administration team, we analyse rule change proposals and make recommendations to the Rules Change Panel with an objective of improving the overall efficiency of the market. Every year, we conduct a work plan prioritisation exercise, where we consult stakeholders of the NEMS, including market participants, Singapore Power (SP) Services, SP PowerGrid and the Power System Operator, on areas they feel should be improved in the market. These issues could range from technical issues to conceptual issues such as achieving price signal integrity and financial equity,” explains Ms Ho. Her team will then work on the issues which the stakeholders rank as higher priority.

Her job also involves conducting quarterly industrial trainings for both local and overseas stakeholders. “Our two-day training course provides an overview of electricity markets with a focus on the unique features of the NEMS. It allows participants to gain a better appreciation of the liberalisation, regulation and design of the electricity market, as well as understand how the NEMS operates on a daily basis in terms of the pricing and settlements,” she elaborates further.

When asked about the energy market trends, Ms Ho explains that electricity spot prices in the wholesale market have decreased significantly due to greater competition from more generation capacity entering the market over the past two years, exceeding demand growth. This year will also be the first time an electricity futures market will be launched in Singapore.

Mr Chiang on the other hand, explains that despite the wide range of data crunching and analysis positions in MOF, he specialises in international relations.

ALL-ROUNDED EDUCATION

Apart from their rigorous academic life in NTU, both Ms Ho and Mr Chiang were actively involved in co-curricular activities. To realise her dream of pursuing dance after years of a sports background, Serena auditioned for the Modern Jazz (MJ) club. Joining MJ was one of the best memories of her NTU days, and she felt so passionate about the club that she also served in the EXCO. “We took part in performances and competitions, as well as charity events, in locations like Junction 8, Causeway Point and the Fullerton Hotel. We performed at NTU events too,” she shares.

At the same time, Ms Ho also undertook the leadership position as the Event Manager of the Nanyang Arts Festival, a special project under the Cultural Activities Club. She continued to engage in competitive sports activities by taking part in the NTU international games and inter-school games.

“POWEr Of NUMbErS

Ms Serena Ho (SPMS/2010) and Mr Aaron Chiang (SPMS/2011) share their experiences pursuing mathematical sciences degree programmes in NTU, and how their careers have developed after graduation.

“Putting it simply, there are two parts to my portfolio. One is incoming and outgoing bilateral visits involving finance ministries of other countries. The other part is taking part in multilateral meetings that could cover a wide agenda, including finance issues,” he explains.

Describing himself as a Jack-of-all-trades, he points out that no specialisation was required for his job. While a broad understanding of the issues is necessary, he would not call himself anywhere near an expert.

Mr Chiang shares that his education in SPMS was vital in preparing him for the workplace. “The professors were helpful and I had peers who were outstanding in their fields of study. I have benefited from the conducive learning environment in SPMS, and above all, my interactions with them,” he says.
Having a sports background from his junior college days, it was apparent for Mr Chiang to be involved in the sports culture in hall. His experience helped him, as he was once the captain of the rugby team. Being quite an opportunist, he immersed himself in the cultural activities in his hall too. “I did three years of hall production, first as an actor, then a producer, and subsequently I had a shot at scriptwriting. And the interesting thing is that all of that was done in Chinese,” he says.

To round up his holistic experience, he was also once the director of the community service division in the Rotaract Club, where the flagship event was a camp for students in Metta School. He had also tried out short stints of community service at places such as the Institute of Mental Health.

BEYOND THE SHORES
For the both of them, the overseas exchange programme stands as a highlight of their experience in NTU. Ms Ho shares her exchange experience at the University of Washington in Seattle, US, where she studied for about six months.

After explaining the necessary core modules she had to take due to the structure of her curriculum, she gushes over how fun an experience it was. “I was the only Singaporean in my Mathematics and Economics classes, so I made friends from diverse backgrounds. Some of them identified Singapore as the place where you cannot eat chewing gum! And some said we are a clean and green city,” shares MS Ho.

Mr Chiang went to the National Sun Yat-Sen University in Taiwan for his exchange as he was more interested in the culture of the regional countries. “I didn’t think that I had a good enough sense of the region. I wouldn’t deny that the food and TV culture had some bearing but little bearing in the sense that I was more interested in exploring the region,” he says.

Despite having to adapt to life in a foreign place, he continued engaging himself in community service at a Red Cross Centre. It was through the weekly tuition sessions that he developed a close bond with one of the kids. The friendships forged during their exchange are admittedly the best part of it, as both Ms Ho and Mr Chiang are still very much in contact with many of their exchange mates till today.
Many people may not be aware of the presence of various farms scattered around the Lim Chu Kang area in Singapore. However, some 185 NTU alumni and their families participating in the NTU Alumni Farm Visit event had the opportunity to explore those farms on 24 May.

It was a chance for them to get away from their busy city lives and enjoy peace, serenity and fresh air, whilst learning more about the little known farming activities in Singapore.

The first farm they visited was the Hay Dairies Goat Farm where they saw how goats are milked, and understood better, the benefits of goat’s milk for people of all ages. They were also given a bottle of fresh goat’s milk to bring home.

The event ended with a visit to Kok Fah Technology vegetable farm, where the alumni and their families learnt how high quality vegetables are produced, harvested, packed and distributed to leading local supermarket chains. There was also a wide variety of fresh produce available for the participants to purchase.

Alumnus Mr Jackie Tan (MSE/1994) was attending the farm visit event for the first time with his wife and son. He said: “The crocodile farm was most eye opening. We were awed by the sizes of the crocodiles, and brief overview of the process in obtaining the skin. It was also an experience for my son who had the chance to see exactly how goats are milked at the goat farm.”

It was then time for the main highlight of the trip – a visit to the Long Kuan Hung Crocodile Farm – the only crocodile farm still in operation in Singapore. As this farm is not open to the general public, the participants were given an exclusive tour of the farm which is the size of twelve football fields and houses some 13,000 crocodiles.

They learnt more about crocodile nests and eggs, and also how crocodile skin is prepared for grading and sale. The most exciting part of their visit to the crocodile farm was probably the chance to touch and carry a gentle midget crocodile named Baobei.

Thereafter, the participants discovered the world of American Bullfrogs at the Jurong Frog Farm, the third farm in the itinerary, where they viewed live displays and demonstrations. They were also invited to sample some good quality home-grown hashima.

The event ended with a visit to Kok Fah Technology vegetable farm, where the alumni and their families learnt how high quality vegetables are produced, harvested, packed and distributed to leading local supermarket chains. There was also a wide variety of fresh produce available for the participants to purchase.
Minister of Education Mr Heng Swee Keat shares his views on educational initiatives at NTU Alumni Club dialogue session.

Held on 20 May at the NTU Alumni Club (NTUAC) located at NTU’s one-north campus, the Dinner cum Dialogue with Minister of Education Mr Heng Swee Keat provided an opportunity for the audience to learn more about educational initiatives and policy changes.

NTUAC President Mr R Sinnakaruppan, in his welcome address, spoke about the education landscape and the important role the government plays in ensuring that the population is educated well.

In his speech, Minister Heng highlighted the difference between getting a university degree and getting a university education. “A degree or paper qualification does not guarantee you a job, much less a good career,” he said.

He explained that a degree would only measure one’s academic ability and that performance on the job would be the ultimate test of students’ capability. What would matter more in the corporate world would be intangible soft skills, problem solving skills and one’s character traits which would enable one to perform better.

“Minister for Education, Mr Heng Swee Keat, emphasises the importance of developing individuals and providing every child the opportunity to be his or her best,” explained Minister Heng.

“We also have to rethink learning. It cannot be just what happens in the classroom and what happens after the exams. It has to be a lifelong process. What is the best way to help students learn and what should they be learning?” added Minister Heng.

To end his speech, Minister Heng called upon NTU alumni to think about how best they can play their part in taking Singapore forward as the nation celebrates 50 years of independence.

During the question-and-answer session which followed thereafter, the audience participated enthusiastically, seeking Minister Heng’s views on matters such as encouraging technology education in schools and educating students on giving back to society. Some members of the audience also asked about the government’s plans on making every school a good school, and the Ministry of Education’s direction and policy changes related to the early childhood education sector.
AN EVENING WITH FRIENDS

NTU alumni from the Classes of 2006 to 2010 network and have fun during memorable reunion.

Close to 150 alumni and guests attended the NTU Classes of 2006 to 2010 Reunion on 11 April, to reminisce old days and build new networks. Held at the rooftop JStage at JCube, the combined gathering attracted many alumni from different Schools who took the opportunity to get acquainted with each other over a pleasant open-air buffet dinner accompanied with good wine.

In his welcome address, Chairman of the Reunion Organising Committee Mr Hendri Zhang (EEE/2007) highlighted the importance of networking and said that “the opposite of winning is not losing; it is learning," which was what sparked him and his committee members to organise this event. Noting the challenge of bringing together a total of five classes, Ms Umarani D/O Muniandy (EEE/2007) and her fellow committee members shared that they met for a number of times over several months to ensure the success of this reunion.

Guest-of-Honour Professor Er Meng Hwa, NTU’s Vice-President for International Affairs, said: “It is very special for all of you, as many of you here have graduated around the same period. You have had similar experiences from NTU. And tonight, you and your fellow alumni will be able to reminisce these memories that hold a special place in your heart. You will be able to catch up with former classmates whom you might not have met for years, reigniting some long lost friendships.”

Prof Er also went on to share some key developments of NTU.

Whilst enjoying dinner ‘under the stars’, many alumni were able to catch up with old friends during the night. “It is not just about career opportunities, we can also find friends of similar interests and exchange valuable information like holiday experiences,” said Ms Ong Ying Ting (EEE/2005), who was spotted with her new friend Ms Fung Foon Yin (SBS/2010). As President of NTU Chinese Medicine Alumni Association, Ms Fung also shared her appreciation for such alumni activities which allow her to reinforce and expand connections after graduation.

The dinner event was spiced up by accompanying activities such as a glamour photo booth, caricature drawing, and the Miss Dim Sum comedy show. The event concluded with a much-anticipated lucky draw which gave out some very attractive prizes, though many alumni lingered around after the event to enjoy each other’s company.

Guest-of-Honour Professor Er Meng Hwa, NTU’s Vice-President for International Affairs, said: “It is very special for all of you, as many of you here have graduated around the same period. You have had similar experiences from NTU. And tonight, you and your fellow alumni will be able to reminisce these memories that hold a special place in your heart. You will be able to catch up with former classmates whom you might not have met for years, reigniting some long lost friendship.”

Prof Er also went on to share some key developments of NTU.

Whilst enjoying dinner ‘under the stars’, many alumni were able to catch up with old friends during the night. “It is not just about career opportunities, we can also find friends of similar interests and exchange valuable information like holiday experiences,” said Ms Ong Ying Ting (EEE/2005), who was spotted with her new friend Ms Fung Foon Yin (SBS/2010). As President of NTU Chinese Medicine Alumni Association, Ms Fung also shared her appreciation for such alumni activities which allow her to reinforce and expand connections after graduation.

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CELEBRATING THE GOOD TIMES!

Graduating students from the Schools of CEE and MSE celebrate in style as they embark on a new journey.

‘ONE NIGHT IN PULAU SING’

Bright talents of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering’s (CEE) Class of 2014 gathered on 19 May at Marina Mandarin Singapore Hotel to celebrate their graduation and to mark the start of a new journey. Themed ‘One Night in Pulau Sing’, the dinner was attended by some 100 graduating students, professors and staff.

CEE Acting Chair, Professor Soh Chee Kiong, congratulated the students in his warm and inspiring speech. Throughout the evening, the audience enjoyed many performances, interactive games and lucky draws. One of the highlights of the evening was a game titled ‘Guess this Professor’, where the audience enjoyed many performances, interactive games and lucky draws. One of the highlights of the evening was a game titled ‘Guess this Professor’, where the professors and staff.

CEE alumni capture memorable photographs to mark the special occasion.

MSE GRADUATION NIGHT 2014

Held on 14 May at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, the School of Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) Graduation Night was attended by 140 students and 15 professors. The event started with speeches by Chair of MSE Professor Subbu Venkatraman, and Director of Alumni Affairs Mr Soon Min Yam; both congratulating the graduates on their completion of their NTU studies and welcoming them into the alumni family.

Besides the table games, there were also entertaining performances and a lucky draw which made the night more enjoyable. Before the event ended, Associate Professor Joachim Loo, MSE Assistant Chair (Alumni), and the two top lucky draw prize winners were invited on stage to lead the graduates with some dancing.

It was indeed an exciting and memorable night for all.

VISIT TO BUNDESHAUS

NTU Alumni Association (Europe) organised a very special visit to The Federal Palace (Bundeshaus) in Bern, Switzerland on 4 June, for alumni and friends residing in Europe. The building houses the Swiss Federal Assembly (federal parliament) and the Federal Council. It consists of a central parliament building and two wings housing government departments and a library. Mr Ruedi Lustenberger, President of the National Council 2013/14 (LU/ PDG), and his team were personally present to welcome the visitors.

The event included guided tours to the visitor’s area during a parliamentary session and through a commission room (Kommissionszimmer), followed by a question and answer session with the parliamentarians. The event concluded with a networking dinner.

The next event planned by the Association is a summer barbecue in Zurich, Switzerland, organised by alumni Marc Hausser on 26 July.

ELECTION MEETING AND ANNUAL GATHERING

The NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Hainan)’s annual gathering and election meeting was held on 18 May at Hainan University located in the city of Haikou. The event started with the AA’s committee meeting which was attended by committee members and Director of Alumni Affairs, Mr Szon Min Yam. Current President of the AA, Ms Fu Lijun (HSS/2006), was re-elected as the AA President whilst Ms Liu Xiang Hong (Executive Prog/2013) was elected as its Executive Vice-President.

Following the election meeting, 60 alumni from various sectors gathered to enjoy the companionship and networking opportunity. Hosted by Ms Liu, the event was also attended by Professor Er Meng Hwa, NTU’s Vice-President for International Affairs. Prof Er delivered his speech and a talk on ‘The fast rising NTU and its new development’ where he introduced NTU’s recent progress in the world university rankings.

NTU alumni based in Europe visit the Bundeshaus; NTU Alumni Association (Hainan) holds election meeting and annual gathering.

ALUMNI GATHERINGS OVERSEAS

NTU alumni based in Europe visit The Federal Palace (Bundeshaus) in Bern, Switzerland. Alumni and guests gather in Hainan for NTU Alumni Association (Europe) and NTU Alumni Association (Hainan) holds election meeting and annual gathering.
Information is correct as of press time. Events and dates may be subject to change.

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/managerysubscription.aspx
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Rejoice in your NTU Alumni Card! It identifies you as a part of the NTU alumni family – and provides you with many exclusive privileges. Here are some of the latest exciting deals for you to enjoy!

**BINTAN LAGOON RESORT**
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Sprawled over 300 hectares of beachfront gardens in the Indonesian island of Bintan, Bintan Lagoon Resort is a tropical lifestyle destination for a relaxing getaway. Guests can now disembark at the Ferry Terminal located in the Resort grounds after a 75-minute direct ferry ride from the Tanah Merah Ferry Terminal in Singapore.

$20 off Golf & Stay and Day Golf Packages with additional complimentary round of golf on the Jack Nicklaus Sea View Course or the Ian Baker-Finch Woodlands Course in Bintan Lagoon Resort*.

**PPP LASER CLINIC**
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In less than 5 minutes, get cleaner, healthier skin with a medical laser facial treatment at PPP Laser Clinic, located island-wide in Singapore. All skin treatments are performed by accredited doctors with medical-grade technology, and do not involve surgery or downtime.

- 3 introductory sessions of PPP Laser & Light Combination System (LLCS) medical facial treatment package at $50*.
- 15 sessions of PPP Laser & Light Combination System (LLCS) medical facial treatment package at $500*.

**SILVERCARE MEDICARE CONSORTIUM**
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A comprehensive range of services that includes health and dental screening, imaging and laboratory services, are available. The health screening packages combine all the necessary elements of preventative healthcare and are specially tailored to suit the needs of men and women of all ages.

- Corporate rates for all General health, Women’s health and Men’s health screening packages*.
- Corporate rates for Dental Screening and Dental Services*.

**my golf kaki**
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A vibrant golf club established with the objective of building a sustainable golfing community of shared values and interests. my golf kaki offers maintenance of handicap index, golf insurance, and organizes monthly golf tournaments.

**New sign-up for 1 year @$171.20 will receive the following goodies worth $53**
- $40 green fee voucher at Marina Bay Golf Course, 1 sleeve of golf balls, MGK ball marker; premium insurance upgrade @$21.40 to receive MGK water bottle

**New sign-up for 3 years @$513.60 will receive the following goodies worth $251**
- 3 years term vouchers, 1 sleeve of golf balls, MGK driver cover and ball marker; premium insurance upgrade @$654.20 to receive MGK premium shoe bag

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SMS ‘NTU <SPACE> NAME’ to 769999 to find out how you can enjoy 50% trade commission rebates (up to $300) for trades done in the first 3 months*.

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A mobile web application that rewards users with cold hard cash for viewing promotional advertisements from various companies – primarily food or fashion retailers. If users view an advert (or otherwise known as a ‘squib’) for 10 seconds or more, a random amount of credit points will be awarded to them. For advertisers, Soki does not charge for displaying advertisements, but only when someone reads it for 10 seconds or more. Contact marcus@sokii.com to get started now!

5% discount for NTU Alumni who engage the advertising service on Soki*.

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10% discount for all a la carte treatments at Feet.

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Mr Choudhury Anshuman Das (SCE/2009)

I spent a significant amount of my university days taking part in various ECAs. Among the numerous activities, I had the opportunity to work with various university students, committee members, university administration and many foreign visiting delegates. These interactions broadened my thinking which has been helpful in my daily activities both professionally and personally.

Ms Pham Thuy Duong (NBS/2009)

I first set foot on the island in a humid summer night, feeling puzzled yet excited as it was the first time I lived on my own in a country of over 2,000-kilometre distance from my hometown. My first impression of NTU was that the campus was well balanced between modern dynamic architecture and environmentally harmonic ambience. My days at NTU eventually unfolded into a journey of eye-opening adventures in academics and extra-curricular involvement; in social interaction and self-discovery.

Ms Zhang Fan (CEE/2009)

六年前,生平第一次离开故乡古城西安的我,略带伤感地踏上了北纬三度这片美丽的花园国度。我依然清晰记得,接机的车飞速行驶在PIE上,司机摇下车窗说,“来,感受一下新加坡的空气吧。”当温暖而湿润的风拂面而过时,离家的失落顿时被新鲜感和兴奋感所取代,温暖、湿润——正是南大给我的深切感受。

在南大我学习生活了五年,我遇到了许多来自不同国家、不同文化背景的人。南大默默而坚实地给每位学子提供各种机遇和平台,承载着我们那一群年轻人永不褪色的青春记忆。如今我们中的许多人已经步入社会,有的在新加坡成家立业,有的走到了世界各地,继续研读万卷书,行万里路。而我,选择了继续在南大求学深造。在这里,我不仅拥有了一个善良耐心、学术能力很强的导师传道授业解惑,得到一个高效且人性化的学生服务团队的帮助,更收获了珍贵的友情和美丽的爱情。记得那时,每逢周末,我昔日的南大同学们就纷沓而来,大家相聚在实惠美味的餐厅里聚会聊天;走南闯北的南大朋友们停下脚步回来坡国,大家又相约南大,举杯言欢,互相更新这分别多日里的见闻。

五年里,我遇到了不少趣事。毕业季,常常在辩论会和演说会的间隙里在咖啡馆里碰撞出思维的火花;在社团活动中,也乐此不疲地与同学们一起探讨着学术、艺术或社会问题。

NTU is where I met many of my best friends. We've been in close touch since graduation through frequent gatherings, professional events, and NTU alumni events. I'm also glad to provide support in a professional capacity to juniors at NTU.

Ms He Xin (RIS/2009)

转眼间,离开南大已经将近5年。但在南大学的一年时光恍若昨天,论文、期末、考试、依然历历在目；图书馆、游泳池、食堂,仿佛仍置身其中。南大的一切,虽然遥远,却点滴在心头。
I am currently working with ANZ Bank as a retail bank analyst which I joined couple of months ago. I had taken a break of roughly 9 months from work (previously working with Standard Chartered Bank) to indulge in personal interests of travel, books and sports.

The formal engineering education has trained my mind to become very analytical in nature. Even though I am no longer in the field of chemical engineering I do get to apply the logical thinking process at work as a banking analyst. The soft skills honed during the days of NTUSU helps me with my daily corporate world interactions.

In short NTU learning is the foundation to my ability to perform well in my career.

My hobbies would be watching and playing soccer. During my break last year, I managed to catch up on some reading and travelling. In recent years I managed to spend about two months travelling across Spain, Germany and the Czech Republic. The way of living was quite different from that of Singapore and it served as a reminder that it is not too bad to occasionally take it slow in this fast paced Asian environment to enjoy some time to ourselves.

As the years pass by, it gets harder to stay in touch with the larger group of friends from NTU. There is a small group from chemical engineering days whom I have continued to be in touch with and we all make a conscious effort to meet once in a while over dinner or a movie. Alumni events also turn out to be a great meeting place which I try to join as much as possible.

Recently, I was part of the organising committee for the 2009 class reunion. In addition to that, I participate in some of the alumni events, and contribute to the iGave programme.

Ms Theresia Handayani Mina (SBS/2011)

I studied Biological Sciences in NTU from 2007 to 2012 and during that time, I was staying at the Hall of Residence 12. I participated in two extra-curricular activities – Red Cross Humanitarian Network as a fund-raising officer; and in the NTU Students’ Union as the raising officer; and in the NTU Students’ Union as the activities – Red Cross Humanitarian Network as a fund-raising officer; and in the NTU Students’ Union as the...
ALUMNI PARTICULARS UPDATE

更新校友个人资料

At NTU, we treasure our relationship with alumni! Do provide Alumni Affairs Office your latest contact details and stay connected!

南洋理工大学非常珍惜与校友们的关系。为与您保持联络，请将您的最新联系资料告知校友事务处，谢谢!

FULL NAME AS IN NRIC 姓名
Mr./Ms./Dr./Prof./Others (先生/小姐/博士/教授/其他)

NRIC/Fin/Passport No. 身份证/护照号码
DOB (dd/mm/yy) 出生日期(日/月/年)

Race 种族
Nationality 国籍
Religion 宗教

Year of Graduation 毕业年份
School/Department 学院/系别

Address 地址
Postal Code 邮政编号

Home No. 住家电话号码
Office No. 办公室电话号码
Mobile No. 手机号码
Fax No. 传真号码

Office No. 办公室电话号码
Fax No. 传真号码

Company Name 所在公司名称
Designation 职衔

Company Address 公司地址
Industry 领域

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I hereby represent and warrant that I am the user and/or subscriber of the telephone number(s) provided by me above, and that I have read and understood the above provisions.

Signature/Date 签名/日期

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I hereby authorise, agree and consent to allow Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and its employees and agents (collectively "NTU") to use and disclose the personal data that I had previously provided NTU, that I now provide NTU, that I may in future provide NTU with or that NTU possesses about me including but not limited to my name, identification number, my telephone numbers, my address, for the following purposes:

(a) to maintain a lifelong relationship with its alumni;

(b) to create awareness and promote alumni relations;

(c) to understand and study the profile of its alumni community for NTU’s policy making and planning;

To involve alumni in NTU's continual development and progress through the engagement of voluntary services and giving back to their alma mater;

(d) to send marketing information to its alumni.

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As a Class Agent and key alumni ambassador, you’ll connect your former classmates to NTU. The Class Agents programme is an initiative of the NTU Alumni Affairs Office (AAO). Becoming a Class Agent is beneficial to you and the University in more ways than one.

Many alumni have volunteered and are playing the meaningful role of being a Class Agent. We welcome more people to come on board.

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Ranked 41st in the world

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