COLLEGE OF
HUMANITIES, ARTS & SOCIAL SCIENCES

CELEBRATE NTU!
NEW UNDERGRADUATE OFFERINGS
PHOTOGRAPHER FROM THE HEART
PURSUE YOUR ENTREPRENEURIAL DREAMS
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear NTU alumni,

As we begin the year, I am pleased to share with you NTU’s recent developments and progress in this first issue of NTU Link for 2014. We close the first quarter of 2014 on a high note as we celebrate our University’s achievements.

NTU continues the upward trend in international university standings. In the 2014 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Top 50 Under 50, which is a global ranking of young elite universities under 50 years old, we have successfully maintained our 2nd position.

We have also broken into the top 10 of the world university subject rankings. For the first time, NTU has three subjects ranked among the world’s top ten. The 2014 QS World University Rankings by Subject, released in February, places NTU’s Communication & Media Studies 6th in the world, while Materials Science is 8th and Electrical & Electronic Engineering is 10th. Overall, NTU improved in 12 out of 23 subjects, and held steady in another three. It now has five disciplines ranked among the world’s top 20, and 10 disciplines in the top 30.

The result for Communication and Media Studies is an affirmation of the international standing of the Lee Kien Wee School of Communication and Information. NTU’s global reputation as one of the world’s biggest engineering university which produces top quality graduates is validated again in the high rankings of its engineering subjects, with Materials Science and Electrical & Electronic Engineering ranked close to renowned universities such as MIT, Stanford and Cambridge.

Our Nanyang Business School has once again been ranked among the world’s top 40 business schools for the sixth consecutive year. It was placed 38th in the Financial Times 2014 Global MBA Rankings. Within the Asia-Pacific region, the school’s Nanyang MBA was ranked among the world’s top 7, and a new second major in Food Science and Technology for chemical engineering, chemistry and biology undergraduates, where we are partnering with Wageningen University in The Netherlands.

Last year, we welcomed our pioneer batch of students at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine), and this year, we are about to establish the Asian School of Environment, which will become the third School under the College of Science. Sustainability is the major Peak of the School of the College. Our Nanyang Business School has once again been ranked among the world’s top 40 business schools for the sixth consecutive year. It was placed 38th in the Financial Times 2014 Global MBA Rankings. Within the Asia-Pacific region, the school’s Nanyang MBA was ranked among the world’s top 7, and a new second major in Food Science and Technology for chemical engineering, chemistry and biology undergraduates, where we are partnering with Wageningen University in The Netherlands.

NTU’s global reputation as one of the world’s biggest engineering university which produces top quality graduates is validated again in the high rankings of its engineering subjects, with Materials Science and Electrical & Electronic Engineering ranked close to renowned universities such as MIT, Stanford and Cambridge.

Our Nanyang Business School has once again been ranked among the world’s top 40 business schools for the sixth consecutive year. It was placed 38th in the Financial Times 2014 Global MBA Rankings. Within the Asia-Pacific region, the school’s Nanyang MBA was ranked among the world’s top 7, and a new second major in Food Science and Technology for chemical engineering, chemistry and biology undergraduates, where we are partnering with Wageningen University in The Netherlands.

NTU is offering free online courses on the leading Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platform Coursera. This is a strategic step forward to engage a wider international audience. By making some of our courses accessible to anyone anywhere in the world, we offer a taste of NTU’s world-class curriculum and teaching. We have already launched Beauty, Form and Function: An Exploration of Symmetry and very soon, we will be launching Introduction to Forensic Science, Chinese Philosophy, E-commerce and Technology, and a course on natural hazards. The first two MOOCs have already attracted 42,000 participants globally.

To drive teaching excellence across the University, NTU has established the NTU Teaching Excellence Academy which will promote best teaching practices by award-winning NTU professors and lecturers, to raise teaching standards. It will also drive projects to develop innovative teaching and learning pedagogies and other initiatives for more effective learning. NTU has set aside $400,000 in research funding in 2014 for the Academy to spur faculty members to develop practical and innovative teaching tools. The Academy will help shape the development of NTU Education in the long run.

This year, the Nanyang Award for Excellence in Teaching was expanded to a multi-tier Nanyang Education Award which will collectively recognise outstanding teachers at the School, College and University levels. For the award year of 2013, 12 College Award recipients joined the 18 recipients of the School Award. Next year, the College Award recipients will be eligible to compete for the highest level of distinction – the University Award. College and University award winners are inducted as Lifetime Fellows of the Teaching Excellence Academy which was inaugurated during our Celebrate NTU event.

NTU has been steadily strengthening its reputation as a global research powerhouse and research intensive university. We are receiving increasing amount of grants for the Tier 2 research grants from the Ministry of Education (MOE). We have also received $68 million in grants under the Tier 3 MOE research grant, the highest for a local university. One of our most pronounced success in research funding is the funds we have received from industry, totalling not less than $150 million.

Life Sciences and Biomedical research may not have been the niche for NTU previously, but that is changing. We have our Medical School, our Research Centre of Excellence Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCLESE), the new Institute for Structural Biology and our established School of Biological Sciences (SBS). These four form a dedicated Life Science / Biomedical Science cluster with formidable resources, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and remarkable high-level researchers, promoting NTU in this rapidly developing research area.

Very recently, we launched the new Future Studios Research Lab to boost our new media research efforts further. The $7 million lab will develop the next generation of technological and process breakthroughs in Singapore’s entertainment and media industry.

NTU has partnered with Northwestern University’s International Institute for Nanotechnology to develop new healthcare technologies. The $70 million NTU-Northwestern Institute for Nanomedicine will focus on the medical application of nanotechnology. The medical field is an area where nanotechnology is expected to have the most positive impact and benefit to society.

We have also launched a $5.3 million joint lab with British chemicals giant, Johnson Matthey, to conduct research on new materials and renewable energy solutions. A leader in sustainable technologies, Johnson Matthey’s partnership with NTU will focus on three key areas of energy storage, air purification and membranes, and energy and catalysis.

The Governing Council of Singapore’s first Air Traffic Management Research Institute (ATMRI) – jointly set up by the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) and NTU – has been established. The ATMRI conducts research to develop or adapt solutions to enhance air traffic management in Singapore and the Asia-Pacific region. Co-chaired by Director-General of CAAS Mr Yap Ong Heng, and NTU Provost Professor Freddy Boey, the Governing Council consists of Members (by invitation) who come from various organisations with strong interests and involvement in air traffic management operations and development in Singapore and beyond.

>>
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

New Year greetings, I am delighted to share with you the achievements of NTU in 2014. For many years, NTU has been steadily progressing and developing at an impressive rate with the support of everyone in the NTU community. NTU is committed to being a world-class university to make significant contributions to science and technology, all of which is made possible with the support of everyone in the NTU community.

We have achieved these notable milestones and more in 2014. I would like to thank all our alumni and friends for your continued support on this journey. We will continue to progress and develop and make more remarkable achievements in the years to come. I wish you continued success in all your endeavours.

In February, we welcomed 9700 new students, including Singapore citizens, Permanent Residents, Malaysian citizens, and international students. The new students come from 90 countries and regions, with China and the USA leading the list. The international intake has increased by 10% compared to 2013, now constituting 19% of the total intake. This year, 15% of our student intake is all from overseas, while 26% are Singapore citizens and Permanent Residents. We are very pleased to welcome our international students, especially those from China and the USA.

We welcomed the first batch of students for the new Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Media course which will prepare them for careers in the media and communications industry.

To date, we have 11,700 full-time faculty and staff, 94% of whom are with advanced degrees. Our faculty number has increased by 1500 since 2008. We have 73 National University Professors and 71 Full Professors. There are 160 members of our Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and 290 members of our Faculty of Science. We also have 470 members of our Faculty of Engineering and 1600 members of our Faculty of Business.

In 2014, we launched the new Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Environmental Science and Technology which was established to meet the growing demand for professionals in the environmental sector. We have also launched the new Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Nanoscience and Technology which was established to meet the growing demand for professionals in the nanotechnology sector.

Our academic staff has been publishing at an unprecedented rate. In 2014, we published over 12,000 research papers in all disciplines. This is an increase of 25% compared to 2013. We have also received over 50% of the research funding for Singapore universities.

In 2014, we received over $1.5 billion in research funding, which is a 25% increase from 2013. This is the highest amount that we have received in a single year. We are very grateful to all our donors for their support.

We have also received over 10,000 applications for admission to our undergraduate programmes. This is an increase of 25% compared to 2013. We have also received over 10,000 applications for admission to our graduate programmes. This is a 25% increase from 2013.

Our alumni have been very active in their careers and have made significant contributions to society. We have also received over 1000 applications for admission to our postgraduate programmes. This is a 25% increase from 2013.

We have also received over 10,000 applications for admission to our postgraduate programmes. This is a 25% increase from 2013. We have also received over 1000 applications for admission to our postgraduate programmes. This is a 25% increase from 2013.

In 2014, we launched the new Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Environmental Science and Technology which was established to meet the growing demand for professionals in the environmental sector. We have also launched the new Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Nanoscience and Technology which was established to meet the growing demand for professionals in the nanotechnology sector.

Our academic staff has been publishing at an unprecedented rate. In 2014, we published over 12,000 research papers in all disciplines. This is an increase of 25% compared to 2013. We have also received over 50% of the research funding for Singapore universities.

In 2014, we received over $1.5 billion in research funding, which is a 25% increase from 2013. This is the highest amount that we have received in a single year. We are very grateful to all our donors for their support.

We have also received over 10,000 applications for admission to our undergraduate programmes. This is an increase of 25% compared to 2013. We have also received over 10,000 applications for admission to our graduate programmes. This is a 25% increase from 2013.

Our alumni have been very active in their careers and have made significant contributions to society. We have also received over 1000 applications for admission to our postgraduate programmes. This is a 25% increase from 2013.

We have also received over 10,000 applications for admission to our postgraduate programmes. This is a 25% increase from 2013. We have also received over 1000 applications for admission to our postgraduate programmes. This is a 25% increase from 2013.

In 2014, we launched the new Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Environmental Science and Technology which was established to meet the growing demand for professionals in the environmental sector. We have also launched the new Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Nanoscience and Technology which was established to meet the growing demand for professionals in the nanotechnology sector.

Our academic staff has been publishing at an unprecedented rate. In 2014, we published over 12,000 research papers in all disciplines. This is an increase of 25% compared to 2013. We have also received over 50% of the research funding for Singapore universities.

In 2014, we received over $1.5 billion in research funding, which is a 25% increase from 2013. This is the highest amount that we have received in a single year. We are very grateful to all our donors for their support.

We have also received over 10,000 applications for admission to our undergraduate programmes. This is an increase of 25% compared to 2013. We have also received over 10,000 applications for admission to our graduate programmes. This is a 25% increase from 2013.

Our alumni have been very active in their careers and have made significant contributions to society. We have also received over 1000 applications for admission to our postgraduate programmes. This is a 25% increase from 2013.

We have also received over 10,000 applications for admission to our postgraduate programmes. This is a 25% increase from 2013. We have also received over 1000 applications for admission to our postgraduate programmes. This is a 25% increase from 2013.
One of NTU’s newest colleges, the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences, has been progressing remarkably. Its subjects score high points in rankings and its faculty win awards. NTULink finds out more about the University’s young and rising star.

Committed to delivering a stimulating education in humanities, social sciences, art, design and communication studies, the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences (CoHASS) is an institute of multiple capabilities, thriving with one common heartbeat of accomplishment.

**HISTORY & BACKGROUND**

CoHASS was formed in 2006, bringing together the three Schools – the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS); the School of Art, Design and Media (ADM); and the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information (WKWSCI) – to effectively create holistic education pathways that meet the diverse needs of students today.

When HSS started operations in 2004, 53 students made up its pioneer batch. Today, with the three Schools combined, there are some 5,000 undergraduate and graduate students in the College.

Through the three Schools, students study a wide range of subjects in their respective degree programmes, in pursuit of their arts and humanities education and career.

| HSS | Chinese, Economics, English, Psychology, History, Public Policy & Global Affairs, Sociology, Philosophy, Linguistics & Multilingual Studies |
| ADM | Digital Animation, Digital Filmmaking, Interactive Media, Photography & Digital Imaging, Product Design and Visual Communication |

In December 2009, the College welcomed into its fold the Nanyang Centre for Public Administration (NCPA), which offers the renowned Master in Public Administration and Master of Managerial Economics programmes, also known as the ‘Mayors’ Class’, specially catered for senior Chinese government officials. In April 2010, the Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) was reconstituted as the College research hub.

Research plays a critical role in CoHASS and there is strong focus on diversity and an interdisciplinary focus. Students have the opportunity to work both within and beyond their primary discipline, and at the exciting fringes of where disciplines meet. The College’s seven research centres and numerous research projects from diverse areas play a critical role in developing specialised, multi- and inter-disciplinary research capabilities.

**ACCOLADES**

Soaring subject rankings

In February this year, NTU broke into the top 10 of the world university subject rankings as per the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject. It placed NTU’s Communication & Media Studies – from CoHASS’ Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information – 6th in the world, while Materials Science is 8th and Electrical & Electronic Engineering is 10th.

Communication & Media Studies jumped an impressive 17 positions within two years since QS started ranking this subject, to become Number 1 in Singapore and in the Asia-Pacific.

NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson said that the result for Communication and Media Studies is an affirmation of the international standing of the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information.

NTU fared well in other arts, humanities and social science subjects, particularly Politics & International Studies (55th), Linguistics (42nd), Psychology (45th) and English Language & Literature (48th).

Award-winning director

Assistant Professor Wong Chen-Hsi from the School of Art, Design and Media, brought honour to CoHASS when she won the Best Director award at the world renowned Shanghai International Film Festival last year.

Her film, ‘Innocents’, is a coming of age story about Syafiqah, a young girl who, after being abandoned by her parents, befriends an ostracised boy. The film investigates memories of childhood within the landscape of a swiftly evolving city state. The film premiered at the Rome International Film Festival in November 2012.

Asst Prof Wong Chen-Hsi from ADM won the Best Director award at the Shanghai International Film Festival last year.

Fims that Prof Wong has directed have screened at more than 30 international festivals. Some of her other short films include the award-winning ‘Who Loves the Sun’ (2000), about urbanism and trauma in three teenagers growing up in East Los Angeles, “Conversations on Sago Lane” (2010), a documentary portrait of elderly immigrants ageing in place on government assistance in Singapore, and “Open City at the Smell” (2013), an experimental installation video about the avant garde music scene in Los Angeles.

International Summer School in China

CoHASS offers a unique five-week summer school programme where selected students from NTU, Chinese and other international partner universities spend five weeks in China which includes a one-week study tour.

When the programme first started in 2012, 28 students participated in the programme held at Tianjin University. In 2013 however, the programme was held in Singapore due to the bird flu outbreak in China. That summer school included a 5-day study trip to Cambodia (Siem Reap and Phnom Penh).

The Summer School programme encourages interaction amongst students from different countries, where they learn more about the various cultures. It allows for dynamic exchange between international faculty, students and environment, delivering a unique cross-cultural and multi-disciplinary learning experience.

Students who complete the Summer School programme are able to earn the credits towards their NTU degree programmes. For the Summer School of 2014, NTU will be partnering Bryn Mawr College, Haverford College, Australian National University, Stockholm University, University of Leeds and University of Toronto. Some 40 students are expected to participate in this year’s programme to Tianjin, China.

Centre for Contemporary Art

The Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) is a key initiative to bolster the visual arts landscape in Asia through its international artist residency, research, and exhibition programmes.

It will be a focal point at Gillman Barracks, which is being heralded as Asia’s up-and-coming destination for contemporary art. With a total of 13 art galleries from 10 countries, and more to come, Gillman Barracks will distinguish itself as a vibrant centre in Asia for the creation, exhibition and discussion of contemporary art.

CCA works closely with the School of Art, Design and Media (ADM) under CoHASS, leveraging its strengths and expertise to establish graduate programmes with an emphasis on Asian art history in the context of world art histories.

NTU International Summer School participants visiting Cambodia last year.
From January to March this year, three acclaimed artists showcased their video installations for the first time in Singapore in a curated exhibition at NTU’s Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA).

CCA’s inaugural international exhibition, Paradise Lost, at Gillman Barracks was co-curated by the Centre’s Founding Director and Professor at School of Art, Media and Design, NTU, Ute Meta Bauer and Anca Rujoiu, curator at the centre.

Paradise Lost features three audio-visual installations of moving image: Surname Viet Given Name Nam by Trinh T. Minh-ha, Yellow Patch by Zarina Bhimji, and Disorient by Fiona Tan.

In Surname Viet Given Name Nam (1999),Trinh T. Minh-ha questions the conventions of documentary film and interviewing. Juxtaposing archival footage, proverbs and poetry, voice-over narrations, and written text, the film features interviews with five Vietnamese women. The interviews were originally recorded in Vietnamese, translated into French and finally re-enacted in interviews with five Vietnamese women. The installation aims to bridge different centuries and raise critical questions about modern globalism and its origins.

In Yellow Patch (2011), Zarina Bhimji traces her father’s migration from India to East Africa, revelling an array of buildings and landscapes in Bombay and Gujrat. The locations loosely refer to her father’s migration in colonial times. Though Yellow Patch is the result of an extensive and in-depth research conducted by the artist, the film refrains from dwelling on the journey of the artist’s father. Rather, Bhimji allows stories to take a life of their own in the physical structures of abandoned buildings that evoke a hauntingly metaphorical presence.

Inspired by Marco Polo’s travels, Fiona Tan’s Disorient was conceived for the Dutch Pavilion at the Venice Biennale in 2009. This project questions stereotypical representations of the East. The installation begins with The Travels of Marco Polo, a 13th century travelogue reflecting the journeys pursued throughout Asia by the famous Venetian merchant. Comprising two video works, one was filmed in the Dutch Pavilion in Venice prior to the biennale’s opening where the artist created an encompassing installation of artefacts and goods, whilst the other is a montage of news footage and archive materials. Flising contrasting time, place, facts and fictions, Disorient epitomises the strategic geopolitical position held by Venice in the distant past. The installation aims to bridge different centuries and raise critical questions about modern globalism and its origins.

FUTURE PLANS

College development is an all-encompassing term that covers the work of CoHASS with potential students, undergraduates and alumni.

“We really start from the time before our students join our College, and then the time they spend here, until the time they leave and continue as alumni,” says Prof Chan.

The CoHASS has conducted outreach programmes with polytechnics and junior colleges. Once a student has enrolled as an undergraduate, the College will provide an education that has both breadth and depth, and opportunities to cultivate his interests. According to Prof Chan, three new degree programmes have been introduced for the past three years – public policy and global affairs, history, and philosophy.

Even after students graduate, they remain a “full-fledged” member of the CoHASS community, as the three constituent schools have formed their respective alumni associations.

Referring to the NCPA Mayors’ Council network, Prof Chan says: “That network is really an asset, not only to the college, but to the University, and I dare say, to Singapore as a whole.”

Lastly, the College has played its part in the career advancement of graduates by engaging companies in providing internship and job opportunities. It has also held its inaugural College-wide career fair, which would be able to better cater for CoHASS graduates.

INTERATIONALISATION

Prof Chan also aims to introduce new interdisciplinary programmes in areas such as Environmental Studies and Global Asia.

This focus reflects the Dean’s aim to provide a platform for students to obtain a deeper understanding of Asia in a globalised environment. He believes that current graduates will find themselves in jobs that require such extensive knowledge.

In addition to these courses, the College has struck up partnerships with overseas universities to develop exchange programs in line with the theme of Global Asia.

For example, the International Summer School in Tianjin, China was launched in 2012 and is in its third year running. Stretching for five weeks – from the end of June to first week of August – students participate in field visits...
Students at CoHASS pursue a variety of degree programmes at the three Schools.

ROY WANG (ADM/2012)
Owner of 2 Creative companies, Factory 1611 and Coalition.

“I have always been interested in cross-contextual approaches towards art making, and ADM provided that perfect platform as I was able to pursue modules from various creative disciplines other than my own. Moreover, I was excited at the prospect of being able to collaborate with other creatives with vastly different skill sets from mine to work on projects that pushed my creative boundaries.

The history modules (Graphic Design History, Asian Film History, Animation History, Shanghai Modern Art) which I took at ADM allowed me to generate knowledge from a new and different perspective through blending theory with practice.

My experience in ADM had been wonderful. The course helped me to develop my conceptual thinking skills in many ways. Often, the projects offered me chances to break the rules/boundaries, to test out new ideas and delivery methods that may or may not have been accepted/feasible had it been clientele work. More importantly, the networking opportunities were great, for I have had the privilege to collaborate with many of the best designers and artists from fields other than my own, and such collaborations are priceless."

AKEYSHA BTE MIZRAH ALAM ARIF
(wKwSCI/YEAR 2 STUdENT)
President of wKwSCI Student Club

“I chose wKwSCI because I felt that the programme gave me enough depth and breadth to be able to effectively work in the media industry. I was able to conclude that it would equip me with the relevant skills and technical experience that I would be able to apply into a multitude of fields. I am keen on pursuing an interdisciplinary major as I like how I have the option of specialising in the aspects I know I have strengths in."
Coming to WKWSCI has been one of the best decisions I have made. The school is like my second home and everyone here is just so friendly and willing to help. Even the professors here strive to get to know you as a person and are generous with their wisdom. I feel extremely privileged to be able to learn from people who have so much experience in their own fields because it prepares me for what is to come when I go out into the working world.

Here in WKWSCI we work hard, and play harder. I have learnt so much in the short time I have been here while having the time of my life. Having entered with no experience in video/photo editing, writing copies or news articles, I initially thought that I would struggle to keep up. Thankfully, with the guidance of my professors and very importantly, my peers, I have picked up these necessary skills and will continue to hone them further during my time here. The WKWSCI family has helped me grow so much as a person.

**DARLENE MACHELL DE LEON ESPENA**
(HSS/PHD HISTORY STUDENT)
Co-Chair of the HSS Graduate Student Committee

*HSS, as a young and vibrant school offers a wide range of opportunities and intensive training to cultivate a generation of scholars who are competitive academically and professionally. The roster of faculty members both at the school and division level indicates the outstanding capacity of the school to hone young academics to pursue novel ways of knowing and to produce new, socially relevant, and highly critical knowledge.

My experience in HSS has been fulfilling and challenging at the same time. The Graduate Students Office has been very effective in making sure that we maintain a stimulating academic environment essential in forming future scholars. Aside from the excellent training I acquired from my professors at HSS, I was also given opportunities to expand my academic experience beyond the confines of NTU as an exchange student to Waseda University in Tokyo, Japan and as a paper presenter at an international conference in Oxford University. These occasions helped me widen my perspective in my own research and deepen my relationship with fellow young scholars from different parts of the globe.

The professors in HSS are always willing to help and they constantly motivate me in my research. CoHASS is committed to help you cultivate your talents and skills, broaden your experiences, and ensure your academic and intellectual growth.*

**LIM QI XUAN** (ADM/YEAR 4 STUDENT)
Vice President of Final year Grad Show Committee

*I am currently pursuing the Visual Communications major at ADM. The School has good programmes, great faculty and a very, very beautiful building. I entered ADM deliberating between Visual Communications and Animation. I like drawing and telling stories, but I also like solving problems through design. I eventually chose Visual Communications as it was able to provide me that platform which I can explore a very diverse range of works.

The great thing about being in a creative environment such as ADM, is that everyone around you is just so individualistic and special in their own ways. Bouncing ideas off one another becomes a great way to learn and see things differently. Many ADM professors have very different philosophies and beliefs, depending on their experiences and backgrounds. I think this diversity provides great exposure and taught me to experiment, embrace mistakes, challenge myself to new styles and break out of old habits.

In the course of my studies in ADM, I had many opportunities to work with students and professors from other schools within CoHASS. I have worked with professors from Linguistics on an illustrated children’s book, and have contributed to various projects by students from WKWSCI. These projects — backed by intense amounts of research — can only be realised through the contributions and hard work of many individuals in specialised fields.

This close connection between the different schools within CoHASS is definitely one of the plus points that differentiate CoHASS from other institutions. These collaborations are great ways to fuse ideas and generate new, interesting concepts that harness both research and appeal.*
University community comes together to celebrate NTU’s achievements at annual event.

Celebrate NTU!, an annual event now in its second year, brought together students, faculty, staff, and alumni to celebrate the University’s achievements.

The event commenced with NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson’s State of the University Address where he highlighted the University’s accomplishments over the past year, and future directions in research, education, and service. Prof Andersson spoke on NTU’s dramatic rise to first position in Asia for research impact based on data gathered by Thomson Reuters and Elsevier, as well as the University’s strong performance in research funding.

He also updated the audience on the formation of a new Life Science and Biomedical research cluster comprising the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine, Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCELSE), the new Institute for Structural Biology and on top of the established School of Biological Science (SBS). The cluster will promote NTU in this very competitive and rapidly developing research area.

NTU will soon establish the third School under the College of Science – the new Asian School of Environment. It will have strong links with the Earth Observatory of Singapore and SCELSE, the two Research Centres of Excellence. A new initiative to engage different segments of the NTU community, the NTU Dialogue, was also announced. The dialogue, to be coordinated by Professor Angela Goh, Associate Provost for Faculty Affairs, will start with faculty and later include researchers and admin staff. The NTU student experience survey will also form part of the dialogue.

Prof Andersson said NTU’s new Teaching Excellence Academy will drive a strong culture of teaching and learning excellence at NTU by promoting best teaching practice demonstrated by award winning faculty. NTU will also engage in Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs), with the first two MOOCs already attracting 42,000 participants globally. Following NTU President’s address, NTU’s new Teaching Excellence Academy was launched by Prof Andersson and NTU Provost Prof Freddy Boey.

The annual Nanyang Award for Excellence in Teaching has been expanded into a multi-level award scheme to acknowledge exceptional teaching at the School, College and University levels. The College Award was presented to 12 recipients who were also conferred as lifelong Fellows of the Teaching Excellence Academy.

In total, the Nanyang Awards were presented to 35 individuals and 3 teams in recognition of the outstanding achievements and contributions by faculty, staff and students.

Celebrate NTU! then moved to the Party at the Quad, which kicked off with The Beatles’ hit song, “Let it Be”, performed by Prof Andersson and Prof Boey, much to the delight of the crowd. The party also featured live games and performances by student bands and dance groups, two of Timbre’s biggest bands, 53A and Goodfellas, as well as DJs from The Butler Factory.

NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson updates the University community on NTU’s recent developments and achievements. | 02, 03. Members of the NTU community have fun at the Party at the Quad. The University mascot, Lyon, also made an appearance! | 04. The highlight of the party! NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson and NTU Provost Prof Freddy Boey jamming together with student members of the NTU Cultural Activities Club Jazz and Blues as they perform The Beatles’ hit song, ‘Let It Be’.
Nanyang Technological University (NTU) have done Singapore proud by clinching a total of four awards at this year’s Shell Eco-marathon Asia, a race for fuel efficiency and innovation.

NTU emerged as the university winning the most awards in the four-day international competition at Luneta Park in Manila, Philippines. One of its cars, the diesel powered Nanyang Venture VI, won three awards, the most for any single car in the competition which saw 109 teams from 15 countries in Asia and the Middle East taking part.

Two student-built eco-cars from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) have done Singapore proud by clinching a total of four awards at this year’s Shell Eco-marathon Asia, a race for fuel efficiency and innovation.

NTU emerged as the university winning the most awards in the four-day international competition at Luneta Park in Manila, Philippines. One of its cars, the diesel powered Nanyang Venture VI, won three awards, the most for any single car in the competition which saw 109 teams from 15 countries in Asia and the Middle East taking part.

Four awards make NTU the best performing university.

NTU’s two entries at this year’s Shell Eco-marathon Asia, Nanyang Venture VI and Nanyang Venture III, an electric-powered solar assisted car, won the following awards:

- Silver award in the Prototype Category (diesel) - Nanyang Venture VI
- Award for Vehicle Design - Nanyang Venture VI
- Award for Safety - Nanyang Venture VI
- Award for Technological Innovation - Nanyang Venture III

The judges observed that safety was built at the core of NTU’s wooden diesel car, which had impressive risk assessment studies and was built through clever use of materials. Its key safety feature include a frame made from laser-cut strips of wood, which would absorb energy in case of impact and was designed to break up into small parts instead of fragmenting into large and dangerous shards.

The Nanyang Venture VI team was also lauded for their exceptional safety practices in their garage by maintaining a very orderly work environment free from avoidable hazards.

Mr Sheral Crescent, 23, who worked on Nanyang Venture VI as his Final Year Project last year, said the team started building the wooden diesel car in 2012.

“Using wood was a new challenge to all of us, so we are very grateful to our team mentor, Dr. Francis Nickols, who trained us in the techniques of wood working. With top quality craftsmanship driving our ambition, we went on to build the entire car with our hands, producing a work of art that was driven on the streets of Manilia,” said Sheral who graduated with a degree in Aerospace Engineering in 2013 and who is now a research engineer at NTU’s Satellite Research Centre.

Nanyang Venture III, the champion in the solar category at the inaugural Shell Eco-Marathon Asia in 2010, now converted to an electric-powered solar assisted car, clinched the Award for Technological Innovation this year.

It featured a unique electromagnetic clutch, which eliminates energy losses through the drive-train, thus enabling the car to coast along smoothly, and its innovative aerodynamic design which reduced drag.

Mr Matthew James, 22, the student driver for Nanyang Venture III, said that being the lead driver was an extremely challenging task, as he felt an immense pressure to perform well on track, so as to not let his teammates down.
LKCMedicine’s Integrated Research Strategy

Team of top global scientists led by renowned Professor Philip Ingham FRS to drive research to meet Singapore’s future healthcare needs.

Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine)’s research strategy comprises four themes: Infectious Disease, Metabolic Disease, Neuroscience and Mental Health, and Dermatology and Skin Biology. These four research themes are underpinned by the cross-cutting technology platforms in Developmental Biology, Structural Biology, Metabolomics and Sequencing Technologies, and Translational Imaging and Health Services Outcome Research.

Influential world-class scientist Professor Philip Ingham FRS, recently appointed as the School’s Vice-Dean of Research, will lead the research strategy. A Fellow of the Royal Society and the UK Academy of Medical Sciences, Professor Ingham is widely credited for his ground-breaking work in modelling human disease in the zebrafish.

Metabolic Disease
This research theme is anchored by an eminent group, including Professor Bernhard Boehm, a prominent clinician scientist, Professor Per-Olof Berggren, a renowned experimental endocrinologist, and Professor Michael Ferenci who set up the first research lab in LKCMedicine, the Muscle and Cardiac Biophysics Laboratory.

Infectious Disease
The medical school will partner NTU’s School of Biological Sciences and the Singapore Centre on Environmental Life Sciences Engineering (SCELSE), focusing its research on drug resistant bacterial infections, bacteriology including pulmonary tuberculosis; malaria and dengue, inflammation as well as global health. Among those driving the research theme is Professor Annelies Wilder-Smith, a clinician scientist investigating vaccine preventable diseases and emerging infectious diseases.

Neuroscience and Mental Health
NTU will focus on advancing our understanding of the brain function at the molecular, cellular, circuitry and systems level in health and disease, and developing novel pharmacological and behavioural approaches for therapeutic treatment for neurodegenerative disease, neuropsychiatric disorders and young strokes.

The research faculty driving this theme includes clinician scientist Professor Balázs Gulyás, and Professor George Augustine who conducts research to develop molecular and cellular neuroscience.

Dermatology and Skin Biology
The medical school’s research theme in Dermatology and Skin Biology is driven by skin biologists, bioengineers and clinician scientists, including Professor David Becker who focuses on tissue injury and repair, wound healing, with reduced inflammation and scar formation.

The NTU Future Studios Research Lab will develop the next generation of technological and process breakthroughs in Singapore’s entertainment and media industry and beyond.

Innovations expected from the $7 million NTU Future Studios Research Lab (NTU FSR Lab) will help design artists, producers of high-quality animation and games, and institutional industry players lower their cost of production, shorten the time to market and enable work to be executed across borders more powerfully and effectively than before.

The NTU Future Studios Research Lab will develop the next generation of technological and process breakthroughs in Singapore’s entertainment and media industry and beyond.

The use of these technologies for The Boy and His Robot is estimated to have reduced the film’s production costs by up to 80% and reduced the team size by 30%, compared to a traditional production team. The entire film was produced in less than 18 months, and is expected to be ready by the end of 2014.

"In the past, many film production and post-production studios like mine had to struggle as our vision was hampered by the cost and time restrictions from traditional technology in film making,” said Mr Rich Ho, director and producer of The Boy and His Robot.

"Compromise in quality always seems to be spoken about, and much time is spent on making things work rather than focusing on the artistry of creation and storytelling.”

"Now, with the advent of cloud computing and GPU (graphics processing unit) rendering specific to the creation of films, things might just change for the better,” Mr Ho said.
New students keen to pursue degree programmes at NTU will have more options now.

### NEW UNDERGRADUATE OFFERINGS

NTU widens options for students with introduction of four unique programmes starting this August.

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; a new double major programme in Engineering and Business for top students; a new Philosophy degree with unique emphasis on innovative thinking 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 is offered by the 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 (SCE). 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.

NTU has combined the strengths of its two foremost colleges – the College of Engineering and the Nanyang Business School – to offer a new double major programme in Engineering and Business, which takes in only top students. The four-year curriculum integrates the requirements of both the Engineering and Business majors, where qualified students can choose from 11 engineering majors and four business tracks.

In addition to emphasising critical thinking and analytic writing, NTU’s Philosophy programme features a distinctive interdisciplinary curriculum that includes courses on innovation and innovative thinking, such as the Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Technology, and the Philosophy and History of Great Ideas.

The pioneering class will be exposed to innovative thinking beyond a particular area, whether technology or business or public policy, and as a process that takes place in every sector of society. The coursework also encompasses Asian philosophy.

Last month, NTU announced the introduction of a second major in Food Science and Technology, offered in collaboration with Wageningen University from The Netherlands, one of the world’s leading research centres in food science and technology.

The new major will be open to top NTU students pursuing undergraduate degrees in Biological Sciences, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and Chemistry and Biological Chemistry. Upon graduation, they will receive a certificate in food science and technology in addition to their degree conferred by NTU.

### NEW SECOND MAJOR IN FOOD SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Upon graduation, these students will receive certificate in food science and technology in addition to their NTU degree.

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. Wageningen University also offers high-level courses and research in all areas of food science; ranging from advanced technical fields such as process engineering or chemistry, to fields with a more economic or sociological focus such as marketing and gastronomy.
NTU’s Free Online Courses Attract Huge Global Response

The two courses are offered on the leading Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) platform Coursera, which has tie-ups with more than 60 universities around the world to offer free online courses.

Through the first course launched on 17 February 2014 titled Beauty, Form and Function: An Exploration of Symmetry, students learnt how to identify symmetrical forms and appreciate their importance in nature, art, architecture, crystallography and technology.

The second course to come on stream by May this year, Introduction to Forensic Science, will offer a peek into the science behind the tools used by investigators to analyse crime scene evidence.

The two courses are offered as a Signature Track programme which means participants will get a certificate from Coursera and NTU if they pass the course.

Besides attracting an international audience, NTU will also offer the MOOC courses to its undergraduates who will earn academic credits for them. Prospective students who had taken and passed the NTU courses will also be able to transfer their credits to NTU should they enrol as an undergraduate later.

NTU Associate Provost for Undergraduate Education, Professor Kam Chan Hin, said the university has put in a lot of effort in designing these online courses. The aim is to deliver to an international audience the same quality education enjoyed by NTU students.

The course ‘Introduction to Forensic Science’ is offered by Associate Professor Roderick Wayland Bates from the School of Physical & Mathematical Sciences.

NTU has at least another three MOOC courses in the pipeline. Professor Alan Chan, Dean of NUT’s College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences is planning a course on Chinese Philosophy. Professor Vijay Sethi, star professor at the Nanyang Business School is designing a course on E-commerce architecture, crystallography and technology.

First to kick off NTU’s foray into MOOCs is Professor Tim White, from NTU’s School of Materials Science and Engineering, the instructor for ‘Beauty, Form and Function: An Exploration of Symmetry’.

Associate Professor Roderick Wayland Bates

Professor Tim White

‘Beauty, Form and Function: An Exploration of Symmetry’. Prof White is confident of putting a personal touch to online learning and delivering excellent educational content.

“By enabling students to form their own study groups through social media, and embedding in-video quizzes and specialised interviews on key topics within the course, we are able to match and stimulate students’ interests, to encourage them to learn in-depth about the topic at their own pace,” said Prof White.

Prof White also draws on his expertise as a renowned scientist in the field of microscopy and his experience in running a popular online course at NTU, named Symmetry and Crystals. In addition, his online teaching modules designed for material and biomedical scientists in Australia, called On-line Micro- and Nano-characterisation Instruction (OMNI) was so successful that it was adopted as the national curriculum in microscopy and imaging.

The course ‘Introduction to Forensic Science’ is offered by Associate Professor Roderick Wayland Bates from the School of Physical & Mathematical Sciences.

NTU has at least another three MOOC courses in the pipeline. Professor Alan Chan, Dean of NTU’s College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences is planning a course on Chinese Philosophy. Professor Vijay Sethi, star professor at the Nanyang Business School is designing a course on E-commerce architecture, crystallography and technology.

First to kick off NTU’s foray into MOOCs is Professor Tim White, from NTU’s School of Materials Science and Engineering, the instructor for ‘Beauty, Form and Function: An Exploration of Symmetry’.

Associate Professor Roderick Wayland Bates

Professor Tim White

‘Beauty, Form and Function: An Exploration of Symmetry’. Prof White is confident of putting a personal touch to online learning and delivering excellent educational content.

“By enabling students to form their own study groups through social media, and embedding in-video quizzes and specialised interviews on key topics within the course, we are able to match and stimulate students’ interests, to encourage them to learn in-depth about the topic at their own pace,” said Prof White.

Prof White also draws on his expertise as a renowned scientist in the field of microscopy and his experience in running a popular online course at NTU, named Symmetry and Crystals. In addition, his online teaching modules designed for material and biomedical scientists in Australia, called On-line Micro- and Nano-characterisation Instruction (OMNI) was so successful that it was adopted as the national curriculum in microscopy and imaging.

NTU Marks 10th Anniversary of Defence Science Research Laboratory

Over the past decade, TL@NTU has seen several achievements, including the prestigious Defence Technology Prize in the area of Monolithic Microwave Integrated Circuits, won by a joint research team from TL@NTU and DSO National Laboratories.

Associate Professor Gan Chee Lip, Director of TL@NTU and a faculty at NTU’s School of Materials Science and Engineering, said the lab’s success in defence science and technology can be traced back to the founding director, Dr Shang Huai Min, and the second director of TL@NTU, the late Professor Mu Jan, who contributed immensely in the areas of material science and defence technology.

TL@NTU’s High Speed Dynamics Laboratory, which does research and development in composite and ceramic armour materials for use against various ballistic threats, was earlier renamed the Mu Jan High Speed Dynamics Laboratory in his honour last year.

To advance the strong partnership that NTU already has with MINDEF through the many collaborations over the past two decades, Prof Andersson announced the establishment of NTU’s Office of Research and Technology in Defence and Security, which will consolidate NTU’s expertise and capabilities in this vital sector. “Our aim is to create a new peak of research excellence in defence science and facilitate the development of key in-country defence and security capabilities,” said Prof Andersson.

The new office will bring under its wing all the defence-related centres and laboratories in NTU, including TL@NTU and the Electromagnetic Effects Research Laboratory. Dual-purpose research programmes, involving research that has both defence-related and non-defence applications, will also be featured prominently.

NTU Marks 10th Anniversary of Defence Science Research Laboratory

New office for Research and Technology in Defence and Security established
Held on 18 February, the forum session featured speakers sharing their experiences. The forum titled ‘Pursue Your Entrepreneurial Dreams’ held at NTU’s one-north campus received good response from close to 150 participants, some of whom were prepared with interesting questions for the speakers.

Forum Chairperson Associate Professor Hooi Den Huan, Director of NTU’s Nanyang Technopreneurship Center (NTC) and the author of two best-selling books, started the session with his influential sharing on the Spirit of Entrepreneurship and the Essence of Entrepreneurship. He shared that to become an entrepreneur, one does not simply chase the economic prospect. He emphasised on the importance of giving back to the family unit and community when one has a successful business.

Following up on Prof Hooi’s presentation, alumnus Mr Patrick Lim (NBS/2001), Deputy Director of the Spirit of Entrepreneurship and the Essence of Entrepreneurship. He shared that to become an entrepreneur, one does not simply chase the economic prospect. He emphasised on the importance of giving back to the family unit and community when one has a successful business.

The presentations were wrapped up by final speaker Mr Sam Kang Li (WKWSCI/2009), Director of Little Red Ants Creative Studio who gave an entertaining presentation of his personal journey in the creative industry as well as the challenges he faced. He stated that there were other unconventional ways to success other than the textbook route.

The forum was then opened to the floor for the question and answer session. The audience actively participated and inquisitively enquired regarding the entrepreneurship industry.

The speakers share more with NTULink.

Associate Professor Hooi Den Huan, Director of NTU’s Nanyang Technopreneurship Center (NTC)

How does the University’s business/entrepreneurship programmes assist students who are keen to pursue an entrepreneurial career in the future?

NTC provides a strong foundation to students’ knowledge of both business and entrepreneurship. NTC has a Master of Science in Entrepreneurship and Innovation Programme (MSc TIP) and a Minor in Entrepreneurship (ME) where both impart knowledge of entrepreneurial business theories for students to then apply in the real world.

The MSc TIP programme has been uniquely designed according to the Venture Creation Cycle where there is a course for each important phase of this entrepreneurial ventures life cycle; from conception to exiting. It is important for students to understand these concepts and how it works, so that they can apply it to their future entrepreneurial career and make a meaningful contribution to society. In addition to the theoretical element, NTC encourages students to be engaged and aware of what is currently happening in the business and venture capitalist world, hence, the MSc TIP programme has an ‘immersion’ syllabus. This is where NTC brings MSc TIP students to the USA to submerge them in the environment with corporate visits to tech companies and to visit Silicon Valley. This is important to aid with widening the students’ perspectives to encourage them to develop an entrepreneur mindset.

What kind of assistance can current students receive if they wish to start a small business whilst still studying?

At NTC, we have recently started a “Clinic Consultation” where students can bring their idea proposal to these sessions for feedback and guidance. In addition, we have free talks to continue to educate and inspire students on entrepreneurial topics and also host events, such as ideascity and JWEF (Junior World Entrepreneurship Forum). These avenues to help students to reach their goal in starting a small business and to learn along the way on how to make the business sustainable.

Why do some people succeed as an entrepreneur whilst others fail? What do you think they are doing right to succeed?

There are many possibilities why entrepreneurs succeed or fail but one of the driving factors for those who succeed is passion. Passionate to make a meaningful difference to society and when someone has that burning desire they will find means to ensure their business is sustainable in order to continue to contribute to society.

Mr Marcus Cheng (SCE/2005), Chief Executive Officer of Acclivis Technologies & Solutions Pte Ltd

You mentioned that clients are very important. Are there any good customer relations tips you could share with us?

It is important to listen to the customer and understand what their objectives are in order to help them. It is not just about selling, it is about building a sustainable partnership where we can advise and help our customers to be successful in their roles, and in the process help the company to achieve its bottom-line. The late Steve Jobs was not only incredibly effective at listening and understanding what people want, but also at innovating and providing a product to meet the needs customers didn’t even know they would have. This unique ability was a huge contributing factor to his success. Another key tip is to deliver on what you promise. That is the be-all and end-all of your credibility in the industry.

Is there any mistake that you have learnt from which eventually helped you succeed?

An important lesson is learning to realise that what worked in the past may not work in the future, and thus the need to adapt to changes without wasting too much time. I have learnt to keep adjusting to the environment and to the customer’s needs as everything is dynamic and changing. Time is always critical because somebody might beat you to the punch.

What is the most important advice you have received from a mentor?

Mr Marcus Cheng (SCE/2005), Chief Executive Officer of Acclivis Technologies & Solutions Pte Ltd

You mentioned that clients are very important. Are there any good customer relations tips you could share with us?

It is important to listen to the customer and understand what their objectives are in order to help them. It is not just about selling, it is about building a sustainable partnership where we can advise and help our customers to be successful in their roles, and in the process help the company to achieve its bottom-line. The late Steve Jobs was not only incredibly effective at listening and understanding what people want, but also at innovating and providing a product to meet the needs customers didn’t even know they would have. This unique ability was a huge contributing factor to his success. Another key tip is to deliver on what you promise. That is the be-all and end-all of your credibility in the industry.

Is there any mistake that you have learnt from which eventually helped you succeed?

An important lesson is learning to realise that what worked in the past may not work in the future, and thus the need to adapt to changes without wasting too much time. I have learnt to keep adjusting to the environment and to the customer’s needs as everything is dynamic and changing. Time is always critical because somebody might beat you to the punch.

>> What is the most important advice you
would like to share on how to run a successful business?

Always be humble and always be willing to learn from others. Learn from your customers on what makes your company tick or what you need to do better to gain a share of their wallet. Learn from your employees who may offer ways to do things more effectively. Learn from people who are more successful than you are. They are wise sounding boards whom you can learn from their successes and mistakes and these will speed up your learning curve. Most importantly, you must see learning as a continuous journey so always aim higher to improve yourself.

Mr Sam Kang Li (WKWSCI/2009),
Director of Little Red Ants Creative Studio

What is the most meaningful part about your entrepreneurial journey so far?

The most meaningful part would be seeing my employees grow, making a difference in their lives. I hope that when they look back, they know that their experiences in my company has made them a better person for the route they will end up choosing.

Is there any mistake that you have learnt from which eventually helped you succeed?

I am very idealistic, so I am glad that I have partners who watch the bottom-line and cash flow more stringently that I do. If you know that you are that sort of person, find someone who will neutralise you a bit in that aspect.

What is the most important advice you would like to share on how to run a successful business?

In the creative industry like I am in, your staff are your most important assets, so take the time, resources' and effort to select and groom them.

Lead with logic, inspire with emotions. They have mouths to feed, yet they have individual dreams to fulfill. We would need to understand that.

Mr Patrick Lim (NBS/2001),
Deputy Director of Infrastructure & Partner Management of SPRING Singapore

From your presentation, we learn that the government is very keen to support new start-ups. Why is entrepreneurship important? How successful are we in creating an entrepreneurial landscape in Singapore?

There must have been many start-ups which benefited from government support. Could you share an example of such a start-up with us?

Entrepreneurship is an important part of Singapore’s economy. By bringing to life new products, services and business models, entrepreneurs serve as engines to renew and re-energise the sectors. They help create meaningful jobs and drive the renewal of our local business landscape. Over the last decade, the government has been supporting start-ups by working hand-in-hand with the community to make the environment more conducive for starting up, so aspiring entrepreneurs will be motivated to convert their ideas into commercial products and services.

The Action Community for Entrepreneurship (ACE), a movement borne out of a partnership between the public and private sectors in 2005, led many of the initiatives to make Singapore more entrepreneurial. ACE focused its efforts on three areas – encouraging an entrepreneurial culture, facilitating networking and learning opportunities, and building a pro-enterprise environment. ACE had the support of seasoned entrepreneurs, businesses and partners, who lent their support towards promoting entrepreneurship and building a community of start-ups.

Start-ups need support at various stages of growth and securing funding at the early stages is especially critical. Hence, SPRING and other government agencies offer financing schemes to cater to start-ups at different stages of growth. For instance, first-time entrepreneurs can apply for a $50,000 grant to start a business through ACE, while technology start-ups can receive a grant from SPRING for proof-of-concept and proof-of-value product development.

SPRING also works with incubators and venture accelerators to mentor innovative start-ups, co-invest with angel investors and venture capitalists third-party investors in promising ventures, and extend tax incentives to those who invest in start-ups. Most recently, SPRING collaborated with JTC to launch a new cluster for start-ups in one-north. Called JTC LaunchPad@one-north, the cluster will provide more space for game-changing entrepreneurs – a milestone in our journey to build a vibrant and sustainable entrepreneurial landscape.

We are already seeing some initial results of these efforts. Start-ups such as Clearbridge Biomedics, Biocax, and Histohelix have won international awards such as the Wall Street Journal’s Asian Innovation Award and Red Herring Award, secured millions in funding from investors, and ventured into overseas markets with their market-changing technologies. Others have been acquired by bigger companies, such as Lightning Eliminator by Hitachi, YFind by Ruckuswireless, and more recently, Mozat by Taiseed Company Ltd. Today, the entrepreneurship landscape has improved. Singapore has been called the start-up hub of Asia, and entrepreneurs today have access to better government support, resources, and opportunities.
Talented Ms Sarah Choo (ADM/2013), an award winning photographer, shares her thoughts on her passion and love for photography.

Ms Sarah Choo may be a latecomer to the world of photography, but her talent has earned her the prestigious ICON De Martell Cordon Bleu 2013. Originally a painter, the 23-year-old reveals that she picked up photography only after she left college.

"Whilst embarking on my paintings and even some sculptures then, I realised that I was making exceptionally close references to photographs," Ms Choo says. In addition, she had also used photography as a medium in her early art pieces.

Elaborating on her love for the form, Ms Choo shares: “I enjoy the ironically close relationship which photography and paintings share. I love how there is an element of a documentation of reality present in most images when they are revealed and portrayed as photographs.”

Ms Choo graduated from NTU’s School of Art, Design and Media in 2013 and is currently pursuing her MFA in Fine Art Media at the Slade School of Art, University College London. Focusing on the relationship between space and time, her work depicts identifiable moments and characters within contemporary society, at the same time reflecting on social and cultural norms.

Besides the ICON De Martell Cordon Bleu 2013, the young photographer has numerous awards under her belt.

“I am honestly pleasantly surprised and very humbled to have been nominated and to have subsequently won,” she says, adding that she was fortunate to have been nominated by Ms Kelley Cheng, director of the Print Room.

Ms Choo represented Singapore at Cinema Total, organized by Collegium Hungaricum, Berlin, The Santa Fe International New Media Festival in New Mexico, USA and Nordart 2013, a contemporary art fair in Germany. She has exhibited locally and internationally at venues such as: The Pingyao Photography Festival (China), Nordart 2013 (Germany), Photographies L’ailleurs, FIABA (Paris), The Harper’s Bazaar Art Fair (Jakarta), Marsio Fine Art (Jakarta) and the Nancy Victor Gallery (UK), Galerie Sogan and Art (Singapore), The Wiggins Gallery (USA).

Ambition, perseverance, attitude and sustenance are key qualities of a successful artist, according to Ms Choo. “I have always believed that one must continually strive forward and be open to new technologies and art forms. It is pertinent to embrace changes as one develops,” she says.

But perhaps her secret to stunning and meaningful photography lies somewhere else. Says Ms Choo: "Someone who has played a large part in my artistic development once told me ‘Always photograph from the heart.’ I have followed this advice ever since.”

Ms Choo represented Singapore at Cinema Total, organized by Collegium Hungaricum, Berlin, The Santa Fe International New Media Festival in New Mexico, USA and Nordart 2013, a contemporary art fair in Germany. She has exhibited locally and internationally at venues such as: The Pingyao Photography Festival (China), Nordart 2013 (Germany), Photographies L’ailleurs, FIABA (Paris), The Harper’s Bazaar Art Fair (Jakarta), Marsio Fine Art (Jakarta) and the Nancy Victor Gallery (UK), Galerie Sogan and Art (Singapore), The Wiggins Gallery (USA).

Ambition, perseverance, attitude and sustenance are key qualities of a successful artist, according to Ms Choo. “I have always believed that one must continually strive forward and be open to new technologies and art forms. It is pertinent to embrace changes as one develops,” she says.

But perhaps her secret to stunning and meaningful photography lies somewhere else. Says Ms Choo: “Someone who has played a large part in my artistic development once told me ‘Always photograph from the heart.’ I have followed this advice ever since.”

Ms Choo represented Singapore at Cinema Total, organized by Collegium Hungaricum, Berlin, The Santa Fe International New Media Festival in New Mexico, USA and Nordart 2013, a contemporary art fair in Germany. She has exhibited locally and internationally at venues such as: The Pingyao Photography Festival (China), Nordart 2013 (Germany), Photographies L’ailleurs, FIABA (Paris), The Harper’s Bazaar Art Fair (Jakarta), Marsio Fine Art (Jakarta) and the Nancy Victor Gallery (UK), Galerie Sogan and Art (Singapore), The Wiggins Gallery (USA).

Ambition, perseverance, attitude and sustenance are key qualities of a successful artist, according to Ms Choo. “I have always believed that one must continually strive forward and be open to new technologies and art forms. It is pertinent to embrace changes as one develops,” she says.

But perhaps her secret to stunning and meaningful photography lies somewhere else. Says Ms Choo: “Someone who has played a large part in my artistic development once told me ‘Always photograph from the heart.’ I have followed this advice ever since.”

Ms Choo represented Singapore at Cinema Total, organized by Collegium Hungaricum, Berlin, The Santa Fe International New Media Festival in New Mexico, USA and Nordart 2013, a contemporary art fair in Germany. She has exhibited locally and internationally at venues such as: The Pingyao Photography Festival (China), Nordart 2013 (Germany), Photographies L’ailleurs, FIABA (Paris), The Harper’s Bazaar Art Fair (Jakarta), Marsio Fine Art (Jakarta) and the Nancy Victor Gallery (UK), Galerie Sogan and Art (Singapore), The Wiggins Gallery (USA).

Ambition, perseverance, attitude and sustenance are key qualities of a successful artist, according to Ms Choo. “I have always believed that one must continually strive forward and be open to new technologies and art forms. It is pertinent to embrace changes as one develops,” she says.

But perhaps her secret to stunning and meaningful photography lies somewhere else. Says Ms Choo: “Someone who has played a large part in my artistic development once told me ‘Always photograph from the heart.’ I have followed this advice ever since.”
Mr Tan Yu Xin had always been passionate about writing. Starting at a young age, Mr Tan wrote poems about what he observed every day and about incidents that made an impact on his life. In NTU, he majored in Chinese at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS).

Graduating with a Bachelor of Arts (Chinese) (First Class Honors), Mr Tan is today a Correspondent at zaib NOW with Lianhe Zaobao.

Were there any experiences you received whilst at NTU that helped shape the person you are today, professionally and personally?

I am really grateful for what I have learnt and picked up during my time in NTU. I remember very clearly, one of my lecturers, Associate Professor Quah Sy Ren who started the first lesson asking us ‘What is literature?’. That lesson opened my eyes and thoughts to the great ocean of literature. I have always found learning cultural and critical theories as very cool. I learnt more about literature?’. That lesson opened my mind. The hardest part is that sometimes the inspiration is not automatically when ideas start flowing. I have plans to publish my first book anytime and we have to be ready to cover such stories no matter when or where. It is also very heart wrenching whenever we crime reporters have to report a tragic incident involving a death. We understand how people feel about these kinds of unfortunate incidents, but it is our job to try and find out as much as possible. At times it might feel that we are being insensitive but at the same time, we know that members of the public are also keen to learn more through newspaper articles.

What would you like to share with students and alumni who wish to pursue Chinese writing as a career?

Writing is all about passion and being a journalist is a good way for keen writers to further develop their passion. However, if you love writing and are passionate about it, you should continue to write no matter which industry your career brings you to.

Who are some of your favourite writers?

I love Italo Calvino’s works. It is amazing how he keeps on trying new narrative strategies. “If on a winter night a traveller”, “Invisible cities” are some of his works which are pure genius. I have also read quite a few novels of Haruki Murakami. His language and tone, and the way he feels about urban life is quite similar to our daily life. Writing is something that blossoms beyond our experience and digs deep into our heart.

The rich Chinese literature tradition is always important to me. From Zhuangzi (庄子) to Dream of Red Mansion (红楼梦), all these classics have nurtured my inner self. The words and language are always so beautifully crafted, which I always have been wishing to achieve in my own works. There are many other writers I love to read, such as Li Yu (李煜) – ‘The Romance of Three Kingdoms’, Shen Congwen (沈从文), Eileen Chang (张爱玲), Lu Yichang (余华), Xi Xi (西西) – ‘A Dictionary of Maqiao’ (马桥词典).

What are your future plans?

I have plans to publish my first book in the second half of the 2014, titled “类似过敏症的布尔乔亚之轻” (Like Allergy, Lightness of A Bourgeoisie).

FOR THE PASSION OF WRITING

Alumnus Mr Tan Yu Xin (HSS/2010) started writing poems, and winning numerous awards, long how I started writing poems. One day I happened to see a line of ants crawling on an old wall. At first glance, I thought it was just a big crack but upon closer inspection, I realised it is a moving line of ants!

That was how I wrote the poem, “裂痕”, meaning ‘Cracked Wall’ where I mentioned ants and rainy days. I submitted it to the 9th Singapore Tertiary Chinese Literature Awards, and surprisingly the poem was awarded the 2nd prize. It was then I decided to write more.

I wrote mostly poems during my NTU days and I tried writing some short stories after my Creative Writing classes. During that time, I was fascinated by the post-modernisation literary expressions. It was soon after that I wrote a short story with fragmented narrative strategy which was awarded the 2nd prize in the 11th Singapore Tertiary Chinese Literature Awards, and also the Lianhe Zaobao Gold Award.

As a journalist, I also have many opportunities to meet people from all walks of life and visit places I might not have gone otherwise.

Please share with us more about your piece “四分之一世纪进化论” (“Quarter-century of Evolution”) which won the Huazong Literary Award in 2013. Where did you find your inspiration for this piece?

This piece talks about my childhood, my growing up and thereafter moving out of my home in Johor Bahru, Malaysia. It is always very difficult to move out of a place you have known since birth. But our family decided to make the move to a safer place with better security. Sometimes we have to make decisions based on circumstances beyond our control, no matter how hard that decision may be.

Some of Mr Tan Yu Xin’s awards:

2007: 第九届新加坡大专文学奖 - 诗歌奖
2009: 第九届新加坡大专文学奖 - 散文组第二名：《蚂蚁》
2010: 第十届新加坡大专文学奖 - 散文组银奖兼首届联合早报金奖：《我们不走’的抵抗与反思》
2011: Singapore Tertiary Chinese Literature Awards, Prose, Second Award for Excellence for ‘We are not going’, but we look long’
2010: 第十一届新加坡大专文学奖 - 散文银奖兼首届联合早报金奖：《主题 – 主体性的流徙》
11th Singapore Tertiary Chinese Literature Awards, Short Story, Silver Award, and Lianhe Zaobao Gold Award for ‘Theme: Loss of Subjectivity’
2010: 第十二届马来西亚大专文学奖 - 诗歌佳作奖：《我最初的乌托邦》
12th Malaysia Tertiary Literature Awards, Poem, Honourable Mention for ‘My Last Utopia’
2010: 第十二届马来西亚大专文学奖 - 小说组银奖胜出者：《年代之前》
12th Malaysia Tertiary Literature Awards, Prose, Silver Award Winner for ‘Before and After the 90s': Xiao Zai Shi Qian Er 及‘90年代的抵抗与反思’
12th Malaysia Tertiary Literature Awards, Malaysia-Chinese Literature Critics, 2nd Prize for ‘Before and After the 90s’; Xiao Zai Shi Qian Er 与 His Postmodernisation Writing Resistance and Reflection of Malaysia-Chinese Literature”
2012: 第十三届马来亚文学奖 - 诗歌优胜奖：《I have plans to publish my first book in the second half of the 2014, titled “类似过敏症的布尔乔亚之轻” (Like Allergy, Lightness of A Bourgeoisie).
Established about a year ago, the NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Malaysia) was officially launched on 18 January at a ceremony at Intercontinental Hotel, Kuala Lumpur, attended by about 120 alumni and guests. The AA is headed by Founding President Mr Chris Choy, alumnus from NTU’s School of Civil and Environmental Engineering’s Class of 1986.

There are about 12,000 NTU alumni from Malaysia, out of which around 3,000 of them are currently working and residing in Malaysia.

Some of the distinguished guests who were present at the launch ceremony included Professor Bertil Andersson, NTU President; Mr Adrian Chan, Counsellor for Admin & Consular, Singapore High Commission in Malaysia; Professor Lee Sing Kong, Acting Dean of NTU’s College of Engineering; and Mr Soon Min Yam, Director of Alumni Affairs, NTU.

Twelve months of hard work brought together alumni from various cities in Malaysia, gathering in the capital city Kuala Lumpur for the milestone event. They were pleased to meet fellow NTU alumni and wasted no time in chatting with friends and taking photographs to remember the special occasion.

In his speech, Mr Choy shared his vision for NTUAA (Malaysia). He said: “The association will connect each of us like connecting the dots. Such connection would somehow connect into our future.”

Professor Andersson was delighted to be invited to the launch dinner and shared NTU’s latest progress and developments with alumni. “NTU is going through very exciting times. I urge our alumni to continue to be engaged with the University and to play an active role in NTU’s progress and development. With the support of our alumni, I am confident that NTU will continue to soar to even greater heights,” added Prof Andersson.

Following the speeches, the launch of NTUAA (Malaysia) was officially signified by the sounding of the gong jointly by Prof Andersson and Mr Choy, and the presentation of the NTU flag to Mr Choy by Prof Andersson.

Mr Adrian Chan enjoyed his interactions with Prof Andersson and was impressed by the strong support given by the NTU alumni network in Malaysia. “The alumni I spoke to all held high regard for NTU and had fond memories of the University. The achievements of NTU also make me proud to be a Singaporean,” he added.

Throughout dinner, alumni and guests were treated to photo montages and entertaining performances. In one segment, Prof Andersson and Mr Choy sang a song, ‘What a wonderful U’ with lyrics specially written by Mr Choy. That special performance received thunderous applause from the guests.
新成立的马来西亚校友会

南洋理工大学马来西亚校友会的成立，为身在马来西亚的校友们提供了属于他们的小天地。

南洋理工大学马来西亚校友会大约在一年前就已经成立，于今年1月18日在吉隆坡洲际大酒店举行正式成立典礼，共吸引了约120位校友和来宾参加。该校友会的创会会长是由南洋理工大学土木与环境工程学院1986年毕业生蔡国诚先生担任；该校友会将成为马来西亚的校友们同母校联络的平台。目前我们已有大约12000名来自马来西亚的校友，而其中大约3000名现居住在马来西亚。

出席正式成立典礼的嘉宾有南洋理工大学校长安博迪教授、新加坡驻马来西亚最高专员公署行政事务参赞及领事陈益专先生、新加坡国立教育学院院长李盛光教授、南大工学院代院长傅文杰教授、南大校友事务处处长孙敏炎等。

校友会通过12个月的筹备工作终于使马来西亚各地的校友们聚集在首都吉隆坡，出席这个具有里程碑意义的成立仪式。他们兴高采烈地同其他校友会面，并且抓紧时间和朋友们交谈、拍照，以纪念这个特别的时刻。

校友会会长蔡国诚先生在讲话中，谈到了南洋理工大学马来西亚校友会的愿景。他说：“校友会要把我们每一个人都连接在一起，就像把所有的点连接起来一样。这种联结将勾勒出我们的未来。”

安博迪教授对受邀出席成立大会感到高兴，并向校友们介绍了大学的最新发展和动态。他说：“南洋理工大学正在进入激动人心的时刻，我呼吁校友们积极参与母校进步和发展的每一步。有了校友们的支持，我坚信大学将继续攀登高峰。”

在所有致辞结束之后，南洋理工大学马来西亚校友会的成立典礼，在安博迪校长和蔡国诚会长一起敲打铜锣，并在安博迪校长向蔡国诚会长赠送南洋理工大学校旗后正式标志着成立。

在整个晚宴中，校友们尽情地参与合影照的拍摄，并且欣赏精彩的节目表演。其中有一段是，安博迪校长和蔡国诚会长一起演唱一首歌曲《你多么美好》（What a wonderful you）。歌词是由蔡国诚会长专门谱写的，这个特别的节目赢得了来宾们雷鸣般的掌声。
BUILDING STRONGER BONDS

NTU CN Yang Scholars Alumni Association launched to provide bridge for former scholars to stay connected.

The launch of the 32nd local-based alumni association, NTU CN Yang Scholars Alumni Association (AA), was held in conjunction with the University’s CN Yang Scholars Club annual dinner and dance event. Themed ‘A Victorian Masquerade’, close to 120 alumni, students and guests attended the glamorous event on 8 March at the Goodwood Park Hotel.

Some of the alumni and students attending the dinner came decked in beautiful Victorian costumes and gowns, whilst everyone was given a decorative eye mask to tie in with the event theme.

At the event, Director of the NTU CN Yang Scholars Programme, Associate Professor Tan Choon Hong, encouraged all the students and alumni to stay connected, and congratulated the alumni on the formation of the AA.

President of the AA, Mr Mohammad Zaidi Bin Ariffin (MAE/2013), said: “To our present and past scholars, the Association will connect our alumni to you through the Scholars Club and source for opportunities such as internships and research opportunities. We hope to provide a glimpse of the diverse career paths embarked by your seniors and help you with yours.” He also urged more alumni to come forward and serve as the AA’s committee members.

Throughout the dinner event, the alumni, students and guests were treated to performances, games and a lucky draw. A special one-hour salsa workshop was also conducted for them, by student dancers from the NTU Cultural Activities Club. Some students participated in a singing competition, “CN Yang Talent Time 2014” where the winner was chosen through audience votes.

Close to 230 alumni, students and guests attended the NTU International Alumni Lunch to catch up with former classmates and forge new friendships with alumni of diverse nationalities. The gathering was made especially vibrant with keen participation of both junior and senior alumni, who took the opportunity to get to know one another over a casual get-together lunch.

Guest-of-Honour Professor Er Meng Hwa, NTU’s Vice-President for International Affairs, said: “For today’s event, our NTU alumni of different nationalities are able to come together for a pleasant time over lunch. You are able to exchange news and network with fellow alumni who bring along with them varied and vibrant cultures; allowing you the opportunity to widen your horizon and gain a global outlook.”

International alumni from Malaysia, China, Indonesia, Vietnam, Myanmar, Thailand, the Philippines, Laos, India, Iran and Singapore attended the lunch which featured performances from international students such as traditional song and dance, musical instruments, as well as a live Chinese calligraphy demonstration accompanied by a student playing the ocarina.

The lunch gathering was spiced up with engaging games and the Best Dressed Competition. Nominees showcased colourfully embellished áo dài (Vietnam), intricate kebaya and batik shirt (Indonesia), and the subtle yet vibrant longyi (Myanmar).

Mr Valdy Oktafianza (EEE/2005) from Indonesia clinched the Best Dressed Award with his beautifully patterned batik shirt that won over the audience’s vote. Mr Valdy, who is the President of the Nanyang Alumni Association Indonesia had flown in from Jakarta just that morning and made his way to the venue to join in the lunch event.

Mr James Lee (NBS/1993) from Malaysia said that he has been attending the lunch gathering almost every year, and was pleased to see a good mix of senior and junior alumni attending the lunch. He volunteers as a mentor under the Nanyang Business School (NBS) mentorship programme and keeps regularly in touch with his former classmates from NBS via various social media platforms.

The NTU International Alumni Lunch organised by the NTU Alumni Affairs Office was held at SAFRA Jurong on 22 March.

NTU’s international alumni from various countries gather for an afternoon of networking and fun.

BLENd OF CULtUReS FroM AroUND tHe gLoBe

NTU alumni immerse themselves in diverse cultures at the annual NTU CN Yang Scholars Programme students and alumni, and guests at the launch of the AA held in conjunction with the annual dinner and dance. O2. NTU CN Yang Scholars Programme Director Associate Professor Tan Choon Hong (3rd from left), NTU CN Yang Scholars AA President Mr Mohammad Zaidi Bin Ariffin (2nd from left), NTU Alumni Affairs Director Mr Soon Min Yam (far left), and NTU CN Yang Scholars AA Vice-President Mr Tan Ming Han (far right), launching the NTU CN Yang Scholars AA.
The National Institute of Education (NIE) held its first Teachers' Investiture Ceremony for 2014 on 14 January, where 329 newly qualified teachers received their NIE diplomas.

The ceremony was graced by Mr. Hawazi Daipi, Senior Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Manpower. In his speech, Mr. Hawazi shared that in Singapore, a framework to equip students with the appropriate 21st century competencies has been introduced, enabling the students to work and thrive in the future. “According to the 2012 results of the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA), a triennial international benchmarking study organised by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Singapore students do possess a range of knowledge and skills that are valued in the 21st century,” highlighted Mr. Hawazi. “Apart from their individual effort supported by their parents and the community, our students’ strong showing also reflects the support from our schools and the professionalism and dedication of our teachers. Our schools are relatively well-resourced by international standards, and provide a good learning environment,” he added.

Mr. Hawazi also presented the following four outstanding teachers with prizes for their academic achievements.

- Mr. Puah You Kai – History Association of Singapore Book Prize & NIE Gold Medal
- Mr. Lee Chun-Hsien – Singapore Teachers’ Union Book Prize
- Ms. Sophia Lim Wan Jie – Association of Mathematics Educators Book Prize
- Mr. Ng Hong Kin – Singapore Association for the Advancement of Science Prize

Double award recipient and Valedictorian for the ceremony, Mr. Puah You Kai shared in his speech to his fellow teachers: “What then is needed of us, as beginning teachers – as teachers of the Singapore Education Service? Perhaps more than ever, we need clarity of vision and a deep sense of purpose in what we are doing, no matter where we are in the Service – a vision and a sense of purpose that is guided by doing what is right and best for the child. “It is this inner compass that will remind us that we cannot waver or shirk from the heavy responsibility that has been entrusted to us, because everything that we do (or not do) impacts our students’ development.”
TEACHERS COLLEGE EXPERIENCE IN SINGAPORE

School leaders and senior educators bring impetus to leadership as the first graduates from the inaugural Master of Arts in Leadership and Educational Change (MALEC).

In July 2014, 16 school leaders and senior educators will bring new impetus to leadership as the first graduates from the inaugural Master of Arts in Leadership and Educational Change (MALEC), a one-year, full-time joint degree offered by two world-class institutions in partnership: National Institute of Education (NIE), Nanyang Technological University and Teachers College (TC), Columbia University.

The MALEC is positioned as a programme that seeks to nurture a new generation of educational leaders who are both organisational and curriculum leaders, open to multiple perspectives, are critically reflective and are sensitive to multiple contexts, diversity and difference as they develop and implement educational change and innovation.

Conducted at NIE and co-taught by accomplished senior faculty from TC and NIE, a highlight of the programme is the TC summer experience, which participants described as a thoroughly enriching summer course stay, and a key feature of the programme that would be both meaningful and attractive to prospective students. She says: “I would recommend the programme to anyone, in Singapore or anywhere else in the world considering taking up educational leadership roles or interested in understanding what education is for and how they might contribute to creating purposeful learning experiences and educational opportunities for children”.

With new found sense of agency and conviction, Ms Reshu says she is more compelled than before in her mission to create opportunities for children to engage more meaningfully in life and learning, and support them in becoming self-determining, socially and ecologically conscientious and knowledgeable individuals.

For more information on the programme, please visit www.nie.edu.sg/malec.

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 blockbusters 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 member) whose research work is a source of inspiration for our community, do not hesitate to send in your suggestions!

TEACHING CHINESE AS AN INTERNATIONAL LANGUAGE

The Office of Graduate Studies and Professional Learning and the Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group will be launching a new Master of Arts in Teaching Chinese as an International Language (MA TCIL) programme in January 2015. The programme aims to train and prepare student teachers who are bilingual in both English and Chinese to teach Chinese in countries where Chinese is not the dominant language. It is primarily targeted at student teachers who desire to specialise in the theory and practice of teaching Chinese as a second language to learners whose first language is English. Teachers who undergo the programme will have an opportunity to participate in an internship with an English-based international school in Singapore where they would have an opportunity to observe at first hand. Application is open this June for admission in January 2015.

For more details on application, please visit www.nie.edu.sg/gpl/appl_course.htm

For more information, please visit our website at www.nie.edu.sg/matcil or e-mail us at nieadmpp@nie.edu.sg.

Contributions for the June 2014 issue should reach us by 10 May 2014.

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.

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 2014 issue should reach us by 10 May 2014.
Celebrations Amongst Friends

Alumni in Taiwan gather to commemorate first anniversary of their Alumni Association,
TAIWAN

Launched in October last year, NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Taiwan) recently celebrated its first anniversary at an annual gathering held in Taipei on 30 November. With the formation of this AA, alumni in Taiwan have had many opportunities to stay connected and maintain strong bonds amongst each other through the activities organised for them.

As part of the AA's annual gathering, the alumni watched the renowned performance OVO by Cirque Du Soleil, immersing themselves into a magical world of insects for two hours. This was followed by a dinner get-together during which NTU's Vice-President for International Affairs, Professor Er Meng Hwa, updated alumni on NTU's recent developments. Secretary General of the AA Mr Song Jie (HSS/2009) provided an update on the AA's events, initiatives and finances. Current President of the AA, Ms Qiang Linmei (NBS/2005), was re-elected as its President and a new committee was formed. This new AA committee will continue to provide the platform for alumni in Taiwan to stay connected with NTU. In her speech, Ms Qiang shared her fond memories whilst studying in NTU and expressed her appreciation to her alma mater.

During the dinner gathering, alumni and guests enjoyed the companionship as well as the many song and dance performances put up by alumni. As the night came to an end, they bid farewell to 2013 and celebrated the coming of the New Year.

SHAANXI

NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Shaanxi)'s successful election meeting and gathering was held on 14 December in the city of Xi'an. Attracting some 90 alumni and guests, the event was also attended by Professor Er Meng Hwa, NTU's Vice-President for International Affairs; Mr Soon Min Yam, Director of Alumni Affairs, NTU; and alumni from Shaanxi and other provinces.

During the election meeting hosted by Vice-President of NTU AA (Shaanxi) Mr Zhang Shu (NBS/2007), the conference heardwent through the cigarette reports, and the new committee was elected in the meeting. The new committee will continue to provide the platform for alumni in Shaanxi to stay connected with NTU.

Celebrating the New Year, alumni and guests enjoyed the leisurely dinner and conversation as the night came to a close. The newly elected Leaders of the new AA committee thanked the alumni for their support and expressed their commitment to continue providing a platform for alumni in Shaanxi to stay connected with NTU.

Shaanxi Alumni Association (AA) (Shaanxi), under the leadership of its President Ms Qiang Linmei (NBS/2005), and Vice-President Mr Chu Sui-Lung (HSS/2006), is committed to continuing to provide a platform for alumni in Shaanxi to stay connected with NTU.
### EVENTS CALENDAR

Upcoming attractions for Alumni!

- **24 May 2014**
  - NTU Alumni Farm Visit
  - 南大校友农庄之旅

- **28 June 2014**
  - NTU Alumni Sports Fiesta 2014
  - 南大校友体育嘉年华

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/management/subscription.aspx
Mr Ng Woon Lam (MSE/1995)

I am currently an Assistant Professor at NTU’s School of Art, Design and Media. My research interests include areas in Art Education, Scientific study of art materials, Oriental Art History and Culture, South East Asia Art, Classical Painting language in Contemporary Art and Digital Animation and Digital Painting.

In my watercolour paintings, I draw inspiration from the philosophy behind the ancient Chinese practice of Taij and I try to achieve balance and harmony in my creative process. The Chinese calligraphy strokes evident in my pieces display the strong influence late local watercolour maestro Mr Gog Sing Hooi has had on me.

I am very honoured to have been awarded the AWS Bronze Medal of Honor for the second time by the American Watercolor Society (AWS), during its 147th Annual International Juried Show 2014. My painting is titled ‘A sunlit morning, companions’.

I actually received four consecutive rejections, not being able to make it to the show after my last Bronze Medal award, until this year. The AWS annual show is the most competitive world watercolour competition held annually with more than 1200 national and international participants. This year 130 entries were selected into the show.

Mr Zheng Guohong 郑国洪 (NIE/2007)

时光荏苒，岁月如梭，转眼已经进入2014年。我是2005年到南大国立教育学院教育管理硕士班学习，2006年9月回国。几年来，每天上班下班，如陀螺般忙忙碌碌。闲暇之余，偶有想起在南大的学习岁月，无论是教室、图书馆、运动场，还是组屋、社区，以及俗称“大榴莲”的滨海艺术中心，恍如昨日，历历在目。只是看到我已经上小学一年级的儿子，才会想起，我从南大回来已经7年多了。

我去南大学习时已经42岁，从教多年，一直没有孩子，从南大回来，当月就有了孩子，2007年4月28日，我儿子出生。有朋友调侃说，教育别人的孩子，没有自己的孩子；给别人当了学生，有了自己的学生。所以要想有孩子，特别是要想有儿子，必须去当学生，而且必须去南大当学生。最近中央政策层面正在研讨“一方为独生子女的夫妇可生育两个孩子”即“单独两孩政策”，有朋友和我开玩笑，问是否……
还想要第二个孩子，是否还要去南大学习，我已经50岁，无意恐怕也无力要第二个孩子，再说我们也不符合“单独两孩政策”要求。我也和朋友玩笑说，如果想要第二个孩子，建议先去南大学习，我可以帮助联系。在这里我还要分享我所欣赏的语录：学习即生活，生活即学习。学习不仅是书本上的知识，不仅是课堂上的讲授，是衣食住行的方方面面，学习是一种历练，是一种蜕变，是人类的一种生存方式。

还想要第二个孩子，是否还要去南大学习，我已经50岁，无意恐怕也无力要第二个孩子，再说我们也不符合“单独两孩政策”要求。我也和朋友玩笑说，如果想要第二个孩子，建议先去南大学习，我可以帮助联系。在这里我还要分享我所欣赏的语录：学习即生活，生活即学习。学习不仅是书本上的知识，不仅是课堂上的讲授，是衣食住行的方方面面，学习是一种历练，是一种蜕变，是人类的一种生存方式。

虽然没有做到‘学以致用’，但是经过南大的洗礼，培养了我高效的学习能力和坚持认真的态度，即使在完全没有会计基础的情况下，我也可以快速掌握工作内容，抓住要点，连续两年升职。要感谢母校的这段成长的日子，使我变得更加强大自信，相信自己凭着在校打下的根基，事业上会有更好的发展。

身边有一群挚友，都是一起从南大毕业的。曾经一起在校园读书、一起生活、一起外出旅行、一起走来，我们一起依靠、相互扶持、相互陪伴。至今我们比亲弟弟还亲，母校为我们这些只身一人来到异国的人提供了第一个温暖的家，有很多人在这个温暖的大家庭里找到了自己的另一半，组建了自己的小家庭。

对内而言，走出校门，就像以色列人走出埃及。母校，她就像一扇窗，敞开让我去看看外面的世界；她也是一扇门，通过她让我步入一个预想之外的人生；她又像一把钥匙，使我满怀信心的去挖掘自己的宝藏，终于帮我找到了我的命定之光。

我很庆幸我选择了南大，才会遇见这一路绝美的风景。无论我们走过多少岁月的沧桑，都要感恩老师，感恩友情，感恩我的母校！怀着一颗感恩的心，继续在未知的路上奋力前行，我想待到我到耄耋之年，再次翻开封尘的记忆，回味往昔那些精彩的片段时，母校的这一篇章永远都是最绚烂的一笔，炫映着无悔的笑容！

偶尔，当我回望南大校园，当我从我的办公桌前走过，甚至当我一想起南大的诸位老师、毕业校友，都会回想起我在母校的那段日子，那段艰苦而快乐的日子，那段让我终身受用的日子，那段让我热泪盈眶的日子。

Occasionally, when I go back to the NTU campus, as I pass by my previous office, the seminar rooms, lecture theatres, and all the places I have ever been, I recall the memories I had of my days in NTU.
I was frequently invited to weddings and parties, and we made many good friends here in Singapore. Well-known NTU/NIE supervisors helped me to conduct my research well which yielded a patent in USPATENT; a few detection techniques were registered under our names and some 20 papers were featured in peer reviewed journals with a high citation.

After completing my PhD, I obtained a job in Iran’s second top technological university, AmirKabir (Tehran Poly. Technique). I started with the 4th International Workshop on Plasma Science and Technology, WPSA2011, as the director, and then the 29th International Young Physicists’ Tournament, IYPT, and 9th International Junior Science Olympiad, USJO.

With the good scientific knowledge I obtained from NTU, I started a project of building a Tokamak. This device is used to generate the energy for future based fusion reactions. My interests are to work on new energy resources, producing radiopharmaceuticals for medical imaging and radio therapy.

Singapore is my second hometown and what I learn I would like to share with NTU. My souvenirs from NTU are peace of mind, scientific knowledge, and nice memories.

Ms Zhao Jing (W KK WSCI/2012)

The first time that I came to NTU was in 2010 when I visited Singapore as a tourist. NTU is so beautiful that I took the shuttle bus several times around the Campus. When I returned to Beijing, I made a decision to quit my job and pursue a master degree in NTU.

When I returned to Beijing, I made a decision to quit my job and pursue a master degree in NTU. The school is very beautiful and all our professors are kind and knowledgeable. As a foreign student studying in NTU, I certainly encountered quite a number of challenges in the first few days after enrolment. Thankfully, with kind support and help from professors and school admin staff, I managed to adapt to the new environment very quickly.

My classmates of the Information Systems programme came from all over the world with diverse backgrounds. Therefore, we had the chance to share our own stories and learn from each other’s experience in and after class.

Since almost all the assignments were required to be completed by team efforts, I had the opportunities to cooperate with classmates from other countries such as, India, Singapore, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Kazakhstan and Vietnam. During the whole year, we spent a lot of time discussing and debating with each other. Eventually, we became very good friends and we maintain close contact with each other after we started working in different places.

Then I realized the beautiful scenery and the marvellous buildings are only part of the NTU, what matters the most is that this is a place where so many intelligent and ambitious youth learn and grow together.
A rigorous full-time programme designed to equip senior executives to lead in a fast-changing world.

Nanyang Fellows MBA

Receive NTU MBA & certificates from 3 top US schools

• **1 week Overseas Business Study Mission**: To enrich participants’ broad knowledge of global developments through learning from a focused classroom study and an overseas field trip while working on their MBA dissertations. Exposure to the cultural, social, political and business dynamics that form part of the larger regional or international platform for competitive players in the marketplace.

• **A 4-weeks in US**: UC Berkeley, MIT Sloan and Wharton Residential Programmes go beyond the usual MBA curriculum and cover advanced concepts and practical tools and skills needed to lead effectively in today’s knowledge-based global economy. Through a combination of lectures, case studies and group discussions, UC Berkeley’s focus is on innovation and entrepreneurship, MIT Sloan’s focus is on sustainability and Wharton’s focus is on leadership and finance.

• **Business Leadership Seminar Series**: Meet and engage with top Asian and international leaders, to learn from their experiences and the challenges faced in senior leadership and government positions.

Contact us at +65 6790 5744 or email fellows@ntu.edu.sg
www.nfp.ntu.edu.sg