Celebrating our Alumni Stars
Dear NTU alumni,

A very Happy New Year!

The start of 2015 will bring more exciting tidings for NTU and our alumni. As we celebrate and welcome the New Year, allow me to update you on NTU’s recent achievements.

In a new research index by Nature, the world’s leading weekly international scientific journal, NTU debuted strongly at No. 42 amongst Asian institutions for its MBA Master in Business Administration (MBA) programme, our Nanyang EMBA is ranked second in the world after the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton ranked second in the world after the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton programme, our Nanyang EMBA is ranked second in the world after the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton programme. As we celebrate and welcome the New Year, allow me to update you on NTU’s recent achievements.

Our Nanyang Business School (NBS) was once again, for the 11th time, ranked as Singapore’s top business school based on the 2014 global ranking of full-time Master in Business Administration (MBA) programmes, released by The Economist. It also maintained its fourth best placing amongst Asian institutions for its MBA programme.

In another ranking of the world’s top 100 Executive MBA (EMBA) programmes by the Financial Times, NBS jumped five spots to eighth place. As a standout programme, our Nanyang EMBA is ranked second in the world after the University of Pennsylvania’s Wharton School, and top in Singapore.

We are also collaborating with LightLab Sweden AB, a Swedish firm specialising in low-energy lighting, to develop the next generation low-cost, energy-efficient lighting technology. The joint research programme will be hosted by NTU’s LUMINOUS Centre of Excellence for Semiconductor Lighting and Displays which specialises in energy efficiency and quality lighting and displays.

Our scientists and researchers too continue to excel in their line of work, winning awards and making research breakthroughs for the benefit of all mankind.

In November last year, Professor Subbu Venkataraman, Chair of the School of Materials Science & Engineering, NTU Provost Professor Freddy Boey and Associate Professor Tien Wong from the Singapore National Eye Centre won the 2014 President’s Technology Award for developing a novel anti-glaucoma drug that can be injected into the eye. Assistant Professor Zhong Bao, inventor of the world’s first optical ‘invisibility cloak’, and Assistant Professor Wang Qile, who developed an ultra-sensitive photo sensor made from graphene, received two of the three Young Scientist Awards presented to promising researchers aged 35 and below.

NTU Professor Sun Xiaowei and his team from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering developed a smart window which can darken or brighten without the need for an external power source. It does not require electricity to operate and is also a rechargeable battery.

Our scientists have also recently discovered how the malaria parasite is developing resistance towards the most important front-line drugs used to treat the disease. As malaria affects millions of people worldwide and can be fatal, this important discovery will help healthcare workers better treat patients suffering from malaria infections.

Associate Professor Zbynek Bozdech from the School of Biological Sciences discovered how the malaria parasite suffers from malaria infections. Associate Professor Zbynek Bozdech from the School of Biological Sciences discovered how the malaria parasite suffering from malaria infections. Just as you have supported NTU over the years, I hope that you will continue to do so in the coming years. NTU will excel with your support and on behalf of the University, I thank you for your invaluable contributions.

PROFESSOR BERTIL ANDERSSON
PRESIDENT
NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
Mr Ho Ho Ying
Faculty of Arts/Class of 1962

A pioneer of Singapore modern art, Mr Ho Ho Ying accomplished stellar achievements in the Singapore art scene and is a renowned visionary artist employing an innovative approach to art by way of his avant-garde Chinese calligraphy and abstract expressionism, works of art unique to Asian ideology.

Mr Ho gained a strong foundation in Chinese calligraphy and ink painting; as well as techniques in the Western traditions of oil, acrylic and watercolour painting, from pioneer artists Liu Kang and Chen Wen Hsi. He began impressionistic painting focusing on portraits and sceneries early in his career.

Mr Ho developed his own unique artistic style by marrying traditional Chinese ink painting, from pioneer artists Liu Kang and Chen Wen Hsi. He began impressionistic painting focusing on portraits and sceneries early in his career. Mr Ho had a great impact on me,” he said.

Amongst his many works, Mr Ho considers very special, his semi-abstract statue titled ‘Survivors from Holocaust’ which describes scenes in human civilization after a nuclear war.

When sharing some advice on how one can succeed in the arts, Mr Ho said that one must widen one’s thoughts, learn the creative techniques of famous artists, observe all surroundings and absorb whichever is the best for one’s own work.

“Artistic creation is not solely for money and fame. It is for the realisation of one’s artistic concept and the confirmation of one’s efforts in his creative work in his own unique style,” he added.

Mdm Zuraidah Abdullah
School of Civil & Structural Engineering/Class of 1985

Senior policewoman Mdm Zuraidah Abdullah has blazed a trail where no woman had gone before – to become the highest-ranking female officer in the Singapore Police Force as Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police (SAC).

Mdm Zuraidah has made similar achievements in other public service organisations. Presently, she is the Chairman of the Malay Heritage Foundation and a member of the National Library Board. In 2007, she became the first woman to be appointed a Council member of the Islamic Religious Council of Singapore (MUIS).

In 2008, Mdm Zuraidah was seconded to Yayasan MENDAKI and she went on to helm the organisation as its Chief Executive Officer from 2007 to 2009. Most recently, she was appointed as the new Commander of Airport Police Division on 23 October 2014.

Mdm Zuraidah’s exemplary public service has received national recognition. She received the Public Administration Medal (Silver) and the Long Service Medal at National Day 2011 and 2012 respectively.

The first Malay woman graduate to join the police force in 1980, Madam Zuraidah credits her university training for giving her the foundation on which to build a successful career. The biggest lesson she learned in university that has stayed with her today, she said is, “To turn challenges into opportunities and never give up.”

“My cohort was the first batch of students who went to Nanyang Technological Institute (NTI). Although NTI was new, we made the best of the situation and benefited from it as we had many excellent lecturers and facilities in NTI, which students continue to have at NTU. Later, when we graduated in 1985, the economy was bad and jobs in engineering were hard to come by. We did not give up. Instead, many of us took the opportunity to venture into non-engineering careers and did well.”

For Mdm Zuraidah, her most memorable experience whilst in NTU was the strong camaraderie shared amongst not only the students but also with the lecturers and their families. Most of the students stayed in hostels where a number of foreign lecturers and their families also resided.

“We not only studied together but lived together in the same campus. We studied hard and also played hard (i.e. always have some events to enjoy ourselves and destress). And one of the activities we did together was the “bird” sculpture at the entrance to the sports complex,” she shared.
Ms Stefanie Sng
Nanyang Business School/Class of 2000

Singapore’s pop princess has created waves in the Mandarin arena and cemented her position as one of the region’s top musical artists to hail from Singapore. The top-selling artiste has released 12 studio albums and amassed over 30 million copies in album sales since her debut. With such a spectacular track record, Ms Sng is often considered one of Singapore’s most successful pop exports.

Throughout her career, Ms Sng has received much acclaim for her music, amassing over 200 music awards to date. In 2013, she bagged the Most Popular Female Singer Award and the Most Popular Local Female Singer Award at the 6th Singapore E-Music Awards. International recognition was bestowed in the form of prestigious awards such as the Golden Melody Awards, MTV Asia Awards and the Global Chinese Music Awards.

The 36-year-old songstress has been actively involved in local and international community projects. As Mercy Relief’s Goodwill Ambassador, she has made humanitarian visits to Indonesia, India and Africa. In 2008, she helped raise funds for the charity’s reconstruction projects in Ziyang prefecture in China after the devastating Sichuan earthquake.

In recognition of her exceptional achievement and as an inspiring example to youth, Ms Sng was presented the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award in 2011, and the Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award in 2005 by her alma mater.

Reflecting on her achievement, Ms Sng said: “I would like to thank my alma mater NTU for bestowing this honourable award on me. My parents were both teachers, my father incidentally, was an Associate Professor in the Electrical and Electronic Engineering department for 20 years. My world for many years had been mostly focused on academia, Mathematics was my forte and I would never have imagined myself having a 14-year career – and counting – in the entertainment industry.”

Sharing her tips for success, the stellar singer shared: “I urge all of my juniors to do as I do, to not just pursue what you truly adore doing, but to endeavour to take it to a pinnacle of excellence, even if it did not seem like a future, even if, not by other people’s standards, but in your own mind, that there is this level of perfection that you could imagine and it may never appear to get any lower, and barring all, to go for it.”

Ms Sng feels that her time in NTU would not have been the same without her stay at Hall of Residence Six. She remembers having to plan, host and perform for a show during social night, as well as performing at the Hall Six pond with the resident band.

NANYANG ALUMNI ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

Mr Lau Tai San
Faculty of Science/Class of 1969

As the Chairman of Kim Ann Engineering, Mr Lau Tai San has made remarkable accomplishments in specialty metals and contributed significantly to the Chinese business community in Singapore. Established in 1974, Kim Ann Engineering’s core business revolves around buying and selling of engineering steel and now has 10 service centres across ASEAN, China and India. Servicing clients in the oil and gas, marine, aerospace, electronics, automotive and precision engineering industries, Kim Ann Engineering supplies specialty metals to both Multinational Corporations and Original Equipment Manufacturers, as well as companies that manufacture intermediary parts or components.

Under Mr Lau’s stalwart leadership, Kim Ann Engineering took home top honours at the Enterprise 50 award, jointly organised by Accenture and The Business Times from 2002 to 2007. As a result of his steady watch and careful guidance through the years, the business has made successful overseas ventures and undergone robust business diversification.

Mr Lau is a long-standing council member of the Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCCI) and has been an active voice in the Chinese business community in Singapore. He is the current Vice-President of SCCCI’s 57th Council and was the Chairman of the 55th and 56th Industry Committee at SCCCI. Mr Lau is a Board Member of the Chinese Development Assistance Council since 2010 and also chairs the SME Centre® at SCCCI. He is also the Chairman of the Internationalisation Committee of SME Committee @ SBF. In addition, he sits on the Singapore Chinese Chamber Institute of Business as its Management Committee Chairman.

Ever ready to lend a helping hand to students at NTU, Mr Lau established the Kim Ann Bursary which provides financial assistance to needy undergraduates who demonstrate good academic grades from the School of Materials Science and Engineering, now extended to other schools.

Dr Chua Chee Kai
School of Mechanical and Production Engineering/Class of 1985
Ph.D. (GINTIC) / Class of 1996

Dr Chua Chee Kai is the Executive Director of the Singapore Centre for 3D printing (SC3DP), a brand new $143 million 3D printing centre. As a testament to the high regard commanded by SC3DP, SLM Solutions - one of the world’s leading manufacturers of 3D printers - signed a $5 million joint laboratory agreement with the Centre.

Dr Chua has been involved in the area of 3D printing since 1990. Some of his ongoing research projects at NTU include the development of new systems and techniques in biomedical applications such as prostheses, implants, devices and tissue scaffolds. In 2013, he received the Academy Career Award at the 6th International Conference on Advanced Research in Virtual and Rapid Prototyping (VRAP 2013) in recognition of his expertise in 3D printing. Dr Chua was also a recipient of the Public Administration Medal (Silver) 2014.

Dr Chua was also a recipient of the Public Administration Medal (Silver) 2014. Over and above the sterling results he has achieved in the advancement of 3D Printing, Dr Chua has made significant contributions as an academic at NTU. He was the Chair of the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE) from May 2011 to June 2014. Under his stalwart leadership, MAE won an unprecedented $160 million worth of grants during his tenure as Chair, including four major grants funded by the Economic Development Board (EDB).

He played an instrumental role in spearheading the setting up of two national institutes – the Institute for Sports and the Maritime Institute @ NTU. He too, established the Centre for Optical and Laser Engineering, funded by EDB, and three joint laboratories with the Singapore Institute of Manufacturing Technology. The most significant funding of $50 million by Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS) was to set up the Air Traffic Management Research Institute at NTU.
Ms Wong Mern Ney  
Nanyang Business School/Class of 1993

Ms Wong Mern Ney had been volunteering with the Singapore Police Force (SPF) for 16 years. In October 2011, Ms Wong was appointed the first female gazette Volunteer Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) Head of VSC Division in recognition of her leadership ability.

In recognition of her dedicated service to the SPF, Ms Wong was awarded the Good Service Medal (5 years) and the Long Service Medal (10 years). She was also presented the SPF Commissioner of Police’s Award in 2010 and the VSC Commander’s Award in 2012.

Ms Wong has given back to NTU by serving as a Nanyang Business School Mentor and Career Advisor since 2009. Her expertise lies in analysing latest market economy and needs, exploring and identifying new business trends, and investment knowledge on viable products and solutions.

Mr Fang Koh Look  
School of Civil and Structural Engineering/Class of 1993

Mr Fang Koh Look is the Executive Chairman of Absolute Kinetics Consultancy (AKC) Pte Ltd, the multiple award-winning company which has business interests in a myriad of fields. Mr Fang is the proud recipient of the “Singapore SME 1000 2014: Sales/Turnover Growth Excellence Services” award and “Singapore SME 1000 2014: Promising SME crossing $50 million” award. AKC was ranked 15th out of 50 in position at the 2013 Enterprise 50 (ESG) Award – jointly organised by The Business Times and audit giant KPMG in honour of both local and privately-held companies that have brought about significant economic developments in Singapore.

In 2014, Mr Fang was awarded the Enabling Champion and the Token of Appreciation Awards at the SGenable Enabling Employers Awards ceremony. He was also recognised by the National Trade Union Congress (NTUC) Woman Development Secretariat (WDS), winning the Most Enabling Companies for Dads Award. AKC was also awarded the NTUC Model Partnership Award (Category B/Human Resources/Supervision).

In 2013, Mr Fang was awarded the National Trade Union Congress (NTUC) Woman Development Secretariat (WDS) Best Companies for Mums Award. In the same year, Mr Fang and his organisation were awarded the Singapore Corporation of Rehabilitative Enterprise (SCORE) Spark of Hope Award.

The inspiring Mr Fang has actively led his AKC colleagues in participating alongside him in a variety of social voluntary projects. These include assisting Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) at the Society of the Physically Disabled and organising social activities for beneficiaries of NTUC’s WDS. Mr Fang also collaborated with various government and social enterprises in offering employment and training opportunities to the underprivileged and persons returning to work.

Mr Fang’s generosity extends to giving back to his alma mater – the AKC-NTU Endowed Bursary Award was established to provide financial assistance to needy students at the School of Civil & Environmental Engineering.

Mr Tan Chade Meng  
School of Computer Engineering/Class of 1995

Mr Tan Chade Meng is the first Singaporean to join Internet giant Google and one of their pioneering engineers. His current job designation at Google is that of a Jolly Good Fellow. He presently serves with Google’s People Development Team and his job is to “Enlighten Minds, Open Hearts, Create World Peace.”

One of the highlights of Mr Tan’s career includes helping build Google’s first mobile search service. He headed a team that kept a vigilant eye on Google’s search quality. Previously, Mr Tan had had a successful eight-year stint with the Engineering department and spent two years as GoogleEDU’s Head of Personal Growth.

A significant milestone in Mr Tan’s career at Google was his key involvement in a groundbreaking, mindfulness-based emotional intelligence course titled “Search Inside Yourself”. Armed at developing effective, innovative leaders using science-backed mindfulness and emotional intelligence training, the highly popular in-house course debuted in 2007 and remains extremely well subscribed today.

Beyond his professional career at Google, Mr Tan is a passionate proponent of certain values and has established organisations to serve as platforms for the cultivation of these ideals. He is the Founder and President of the Tan Teo Charitable Foundation, a foundation dedicated to promoting the qualities of “Peace”, “Liberty” and “Enlightenment” in the world.

His outstanding calibre and notable achievements have been acknowledged by NTU by way of the conferment of the Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award in 2008. Mr Tan continues to hold his alma mater close to his heart and has contributed back to NTU through his Tan Teo Charitable Foundation to support the Tan-Teo Scholarships.

Mr Tan Chin Hwee  
Nanyang Business School/Class of 1995

Mr Tan Chin Hwee is the founding partner in Asia for Apollo Global Management, a leading alternative investing firm with a portfolio worth approximately US$168 billion. In addition, Apollo Global Management counts as one of the top three largest global investors in the world. In 2010, Mr Tan was voted by the Hedge Fund Journal as one of the top 40 emerging absolute return investors globally and was given credit for managing the Best Asia Credit Hedge Fund by Hong Kong based publication, The Asset. Mr Tan was recognised as a Young Global Leader at the World Economic Forum in the same year.

Mr Tan’s exceptional capabilities was acknowledged by his alma mater when he was presented the Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award in 2011.

In 2013, he was the proud recipient of the Distinguished Financial Industry Certified Professional (FICP) award from the Singapore government. And, earlier last year, Mr Tan was honoured as a World Cities Summit Young Leader.

Apart from his professional commitments, the active alumna is a member of the Resource Panel for the Government Parliamentary Committee for Finance and Trade & Industry. He also sits on the Advisory Panel for the Volunteer Youth Corp, under the Ministry of Community, Culture and Youth. Mr Tan also plays an active role in serving the community and sits on a number of Boards in both for profit and not-for-profit organisations. These include the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) Society Singapore where he served as its President for the 2013 to 2014 term, Singapore Press Holdings, Keppel REIT, and Lien Aid Foundation. Mr Tan also sits in the advisory committee of CAFÉ, the new NTU banking and finance course at NTU’s Nanyang Business School.

Mr Tan is a firm believer of paying it forward and giving back to society. He pioneered the KK Hospital Endowment Fund which pays for surgeries needed by premature babies from needy families.
Ms Low Yen Ling  
Nanyang Business School/ Class of 1996  
Ms Low Yen Ling was appointed as Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong to head the South West Community Development Council as its Mayor on 27 May 2014. She was also appointed the Parliamentary Secretary in the Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth, concurrent with her present appointment in the Ministry of Social and Family Development.

Since 2011, she has been a voice for the people of Singapore as a Member of Parliament (MP) representing the Chua Chu Kang Group of Parliament (MP) representing the Development. In public service, Ms Low’s strong bicultural and bilingual skills make her a candidate of choice to serve as a Board Member of Singapore Centre for Chinese Language (SCCL) and Chinese Development Assistance Council (CDAC).

In 2011, Ms Low was presented the Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award by her alma mater for her achievements.

Mr Wang Zhongwei  
Nanyang Business School/Class of 2005  
At the age of 20, Mr Wang Zhongwei embarked on his public service career at the Shanghai Communist Youth League (CYL) under the mentorship of Mr Han Zheng, the then Secretary of the Youth League. By the age of 38, Mr Wang had been made the Deputy Secretary of the Shanghai CYL. Thereafter, he was transferred to the Shanghai culture system whereupon he took on two portfolios – namely Party Secretary of the Shanghai Municipal Press and Publication Bureau; and Party Secretary cum Deputy Editor-in-Chief of Wen Hui Bao.

Mr Wang served successfully under Party Secretaries Huang Ju, Chen Liangwu, X. Jinping and Yu Zhengsheng. In the following years, Mr Wang served as the Deputy Secretary-General of the CPC Shanghai City Committee and went on to become the Director of Shanghai Party Foreign Propaganda Office (Shanghai Municipal Government Information Office). Next, he helmed the Wen Hui Xin Min Newspaper Group as its Party Secretary cum Director.

Following which, he held positions such as the Deputy Chief of the Propaganda Department of the CPC Shanghai City Committee, and Party Secretary of the Eastern News Website. In 2002, the prolific Mr Wang was elected as a Standing Committee Member cum Propaganda Chief of the CPC Shanghai City Committee, and was conferred the rank of Deputy Provincial Governor.

Mr Wang was transferred from Shanghai to the capital city of Beijing in 2006, where he was made Deputy Director of the CPC Central Foreign Propaganda Office (State Council Foreign Propaganda Office). Thereafter in 2012, he became a Member of the Party Group as well as the Deputy Minister of Culture. By 2013, Mr Wang had joined the prestigious Chinese State Council as its Deputy Secretary-General.

Above and beyond his career as a government official, Mr Wang carves time out of his busy schedule to contribute to his alma mater by serving as the Honorary President of NTU Alumni Association (Shanghai).

Mr Chen Ou Leo  
School of Computer Engineering/ Class of 2005  
Mr Chen Ou Leo is the co-founder and Chief Executive Officer of Jumei.com, the first China-based cosmetics group-buying site. Mr Chen’s company achieved sales of 6 billion yuan in 2013 alone and is now valued at approximately US$3.5 billion. In May 2014, Jumei was listed at the New York Stock Exchange in the US, making Mr Chen the youngest CEO in NYSE history. Mr Chen’s remarkable success in co-founding a billion dollar business empire also made him into Forbes China’s “30 Under 30”.

The successful entrepreneur established Jumei.com in China in 2010, together with two other co-founders. Jumei’s strategy to focus only on the vertical of make-up and skin-care brands proved to be its winning formula, securing the loyalty of its core users comprising young Chinese women. Mr Chen also employed a unique way of endorsing his own company – by making himself the company’s public face, starring in an online commercial and appearing in advertisement billboards and television shows. He ensured that Jumei is in every Chinese women’s life.

Initially a cosmetics group-buying site, Jumei.com has further evolved to become a major B2C (business to consumer) platform for cosmetics, retailing the world’s best-selling cosmetic brands. Over and above his busy work schedule, Mr Chen has devoted time to participating in alumni activities and served two terms as the Deputy Secretary-General of NTU Alumni Association (Beijing) till December 2013.

Ms Qiang Linmei  
Nanyang Business School/Class of 2011  
Ms Qiang Linmei is co-founder of Shu Xie Innovation and Technology Development Co., Ltd. In 2015, the company successfully listed in the Shenzhen stock market. As a woman entrepreneur, Ms Qiang Linmei is also the first Member of the National People’s Congress (NPC) (National People’s Congress) elected from the Shenzhen municipal government.

The Nanyang Alumni Awards  
The Nanyang Alumni Awards were launched in 2005 for the all-round recognition of alumni in various fields who have brought honour to the University. Nominations are accepted for four award categories – the Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award, the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award, the Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award and the Nanyang Alumni Service Award.

These Awards are presented to alumni, who have attained exemplary achievements in their field of specialisation nationally, regionally or internationally, or have contributed significantly to the betterment of the University, the community or the society.

To read the complete citations of all the awardees, please visit www.ntu.edu.sg/NanyangAlumniAwards/Recipients/2014
For one balmy October evening, NTU’s Nanyang Auditorium and the Quad @ NTU were transformed into the stage for the highly-anticipated NTU Alumni Homecoming 2014 celebration. Close to 1400 alumni and their families, and guests, made the time to attend this year’s homecoming held on 18 October. The event featured the presentation of the Nanyang Alumni Awards where 31 outstanding alumni were honoured.

Prior to the evening’s awards presentation ceremony, a campus tour and English and Chinese forums titled ‘Key recommendations for property and share investments’ and ‘Acupuncture and moxibustion for health care’ respectively, were also held.

The forum was followed by the highlight of the evening – the Nanyang Alumni Awards presentation ceremony – where alumni who have performed exceptionally in their fields of specialisation either nationally, regionally or globally; and those who have contributed to the University, are recognised. Guest-of-Honour, Minister for Education Mr Heng Swee Keat, and NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson presented trophies and certificates to the well-deserving alumni.

Alumni and guests were treated to entertaining musical and dance performances by NTU students during the concert after the awards presentation. One of the performances included a thrilling Wushu display by students from the NTU Cultural Activities Club (CAC)’s Wushu Club. The concert ended with a grand finale featuring all performers back on stage singing along to two songs performed by the CAC Jazz & Blues – *Stand by Me* by Ben E. King and *Happy* by Pharrell Williams. Alumni and guests were seen tapping their feet to and clapping along the catchy tunes.

As the night wore on, the crowd drifted towards the stage where the NTU Cultural Activities Club Jazz and Blues band held court, delivering their renditions of a wide variety of music, ranging from contemporary pop tunes like *Mercy* by Duffy to Bob Marley’s reggae anthem *I shot the sheriff*. And it was NTU’s own ‘sheriff’, NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson, who got the loudest cheers from the crowd when he gamely danced to the band’s cover of the Jackson 5’s Motown classic *I Want You Back*.

There was a delightful treat in store for the attendees as the celebrations continued into the night at the University’s Quad area for the Oktoberfest-themed celebration, complete with free-flow premium beverages, live performances and interactive activities for every member of the family. From caricatures to calligraphy; photo booths to keychain customisation stations; kid-friendly pong to live stage games, the Homecoming celebration provided a wonderful finish to a day packed with activities for returning alumni.

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CONSIDERING PROPERTY AND SHARE INVESTMENTS

What are some of the factors to pay attention to when planning investments? Esteemed speaker Assoc Prof Yip Sau Leung shares his views at the alumni forum, particularly urging caution for all property buyers.

While most property observers acknowledge the inherent cyclical nature of the housing market, few are as bold – or as qualified – as Associate Professor Yip Sau Leung when it comes to predict the next crash.

Speaking at the NTU Alumni Forum on 18 October, Prof Yip opened the two-hour long session by urging caution for all property buyers, first-timers and seasoned investors alike.

“The expected three to five per cent cumulated rise in Hong Kong’s mortgage (say, due to a three percent cumulated rise in the US interest rate) would burst the property bubble in Hong Kong, triggering a correction in Singapore,” said Prof Yip, adding that the resulting ripples could plunge the region into “another Asian financial crisis” which would take years of painful recovery.

Hong Kong-born Prof Yip, who currently lectures at NTU’s Division of Economics within its School of Humanities and Social Sciences, combined his deep understanding of economic policy with publicly-available housing data to present a strong case for caution to an audience of more than 150 alumni and their guests.

HK property bubble ‘almost certain’ to burst

“This is not a phrase that economists or statisticians often use, because it implies a confidence level of over 99 per cent - but I am ‘almost certain’ that the Hong Kong property bubble will burst between the beginning of 2016 and the end of 2018,” said Prof Yip.

According to Prof Yip, this will push mortgage repayment levels even further beyond the reach of the salaried locals in Hong Kong, resulting in mass foreclosures and a collapse in the banking system reminiscent of the US sub-prime mortgage crisis.

This is a situation which Prof Yip said is exacerbated by the national inclination towards speculation.

“I am from Hong Kong, so trust me, I know,” said Prof Yip. “Hong Kong people will speculate anything and everything - property, taxi licenses, even parking lots!”

Singapore to rebound more swiftly

In comparison, Singapore’s recent property cooling measures introduced by its central bank have resulted in a moderate correction in housing prices.

“Singapore has done quite well,” said Prof Yip, commenting on the government’s strong public housing programme, adding, “yet it will still fall into a banking and financial crisis once its neighbours in the region collapse.”

Prof Yip predicted that a collapse of the banking system across Asia would result in at least two years of recession for Singapore, with unemployment heading north of five per cent.

He remained confident that authorities here would do everything possible to further shield Singaporeans from the impact, having met frequently to advise the Monetary Authority of Singapore and its counterparts in Hong Kong and China.

Opportunity in crisis

Responding to questions from the audience on the right investment strategy against the looming property crash, Prof Yip advised alumni to withhold from investing further in the current overheated property market.

“What you pay now for a two- to three-room apartment, you can easily get a four- to five-room apartment near the MRT or even in the city in a couple of years,” said Prof Yip.

In addition to tips on property, alumni who were keen to diversify their portfolio by investing in shares were advised to shift their investments out of Asia and into the US by the end of the year. Prof Yip explained the “rules” interested investors should pay close attention to when investing in shares. For example, how the share price is affected when the GDP of a country increases or decreases; and the effect on share prices when financial crisis hits (global financial tsunami, European debt crisis).

According to Prof Yip, the US is the only economy which could potentially ride out the financial storm caused by an Asian housing collapse.

At the Chinese alumni forum, Dr Yong Choon Lian who is a registered Traditional Chinese Medicine physician and acupuncturist, shared with the audience more about acupuncture points or acupoints for short. These are the locations on the body which are the focus of acupuncture treatments.

He introduced the concept of acupuncture, which refers to the use of needle stimulation and moxibustion heat to specific acupoints on the body for the treatment of illnesses and for promoting good health. “It’s one of the intangible cultural heritage listed by United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation,” he said.

Dr Yong went on to explain that alumni can make use of moxibustion at home by themselves, and introduced some acupoints such as ‘Nei Guan’ on the arm. He explained that by releasing heat at different combinations of these acupoints, one is able to undergo different treatments.

During the question and answer session, the audience participated enthusiastically in the discussion, asking Dr Yong more questions related to the health benefits of acupuncture.

The forum held at NTU’s School of Biological Sciences was attended by 160 alumni and guests.
Dr Muhammad Nazir Amir, a PhD graduate from the National Institute of Education (NIE), recently received the President’s Award for Teachers 2014 for using creative and innovative methods to teach science and design. The Greenview Secondary School teacher of 11 years inspires and captivates his students in the Normal Technical (NT) stream by using scientific toys to teach science.

What led you to do a PhD in NIE as a teacher? In what discipline did you receive your PhD?

I teach Science and Design & Technology (D&T) to students who are placed in the Normal Technical (NT) stream in Greenview Secondary School, Singapore. These students are often viewed as those who are academically-less inclined because they have not done well in their Primary School Leaving Examinations (PSLE). When I first started teaching, I noticed that several step-through experiments in science did not necessarily motivate my NT students intrinsically, despite offering them a hands-on approach in learning. A number of these experiments also provided little opportunity for my NT students to put their imaginative and inventive skills to good use. This is when I initiated my PhD research study with NIE to explore and develop instructional approaches that will work well for my NT students in the teaching and learning of science and D&T, and eventually received my PhD in Science Education (Design & Technology Education).

What can you say about your course for the doctoral programme at NIE?

I had an enriching learning journey going through the doctoral programme in NIE. Completing my PhD research studies has allowed me to realise how I can be a good teacher through doing classroom research. Gaining knowledge and skills in doing classroom research has also helped me develop solutions to plug gaps in instructional approaches that I find in my own teaching practices.

How has the NIE course helped you as an educator?

Doing research in NIE has allowed me to explore, identify and develop teaching strategies that work well for my students. Being a teacher-researcher (doing research while teaching) also led me to improve my teaching craft, which in turn had a positive effect on my students’ learning. I’ve also developed skills to share my research work at international platforms. In the past, I’ve used these skills to share my teaching strategies (that I developed through my research) through conducting workshops for fellow teachers, presenting papers at international conferences and getting my work published in peer-reviewed international journals and book chapters.

Can you give an example of teaching science through ‘toys’, and how does this instil confidence and self-esteem in your students?

A way I present science content and foster inventiveness amongst my NT students is by getting them engaged in design based science activities such as designing and fabricating science-based toys. An example of a design-based science activity is the toy story-telling project, which has been developed as a Community Involvement Project (CIP) for my secondary two NT students (14 years of age). This project aims to promote in them a consciousness of community needs, while at the same time allowing them to pick up content in physics and showcase their creativity through knowledge from physics. The project requires the students to design and produce science-based toys that have to work on physics principles, and suitable to be used as story-telling aids for young children (5-12 years of age) who are less fortunate than them, such as those who are intellectually disabled in MINDS (Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore) and in the orphanages.

(Adapted from Exquisite Magazine, November 2014 issue)
President of Singapore Dr Tony Tan lays foundation stone at each of the two new buildings; designs for world-class research facilities unveiled.

President of Singapore Dr Tony Tan (front, 2nd from left) pulls a lever to signify the laying of the foundation stone. Accompanying him are, (front row, from left) NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson, Chairman of LKCMedicine’s governing board Mr Lim Chuan Poh, and Imperial College London President Professor Alice Gast.

and Clinical Sciences Building. This promising young medical school builds on the strong foundations of the Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Imperial College London. I look forward to seeing the School flourish and make its mark on the world stage through state-of-the-art training of doctors who put patient care first and push the boundaries of care through multidisciplinary research."

Designed by DP Architects, the award-winning architect for many of Singapore’s iconic landmarks, the two buildings are designed to promote collaboration between students, faculty and clinicians through the use of multidisciplinary and interactive spaces and facilities.

To achieve this, they will have custom-built facilities namely the Learning Studios, Alcove Clusters, Simulation Wards, the Clinical Skills Laboratory and Communication Centre.

The Experimental Medicine Building will also play a key role in enhancing life sciences at NTU and is part of the Life Sciences cluster – comprising LKCMedicine, the School of Biological Sciences, the School of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering and the Research Techno Plaza.

NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson said: “With the two new buildings completing the University’s new Life Sciences cluster, we will bring together pioneering experts from different schools at NTU.”

He added that together with Imperial College London, NTU is creating a multidisciplinary hotbed for innovative new ideas and approaches to solve tomorrow’s healthcare issues.

The close proximity of the Clinical Sciences Building to Tan Tock Seng Hospital, LKCMedicine’s primary clinical partner, will also ease students’ integration into clinical settings and facilitate a closer level of clinical research between researchers and clinicians.

Imperial College London President Professor Alice Gast said: “Today’s ceremony celebrates the creation of modern facilities for our joint medical school in Singapore. It also signals the ambition of our far-sighted collaboration. Together NTU and Imperial College London are laying foundations for research discoveries and for the innovative integration of education and research in LKCMedicine.”

Dean of LKCMedicine Professor James Best highlighted that the dual campus of NTU’s medical school will expose students to the crucial aspects of modern medicine which include familiarity with emerging technologies through novel teaching methods, and systems-based research and treatment approaches through continuous contact with researchers and clinicians.

“Combined with early patient contact, we nurture a patient-centric approach to medicine in our students. With our firm commitment to an innovative and forward-looking education, we aim to continue to attract Singapore’s brightest young aspiring doctors,” he said.
MARKING THE HERITAGE OF SINGAPORE’S NEWEST MEDICAL SCHOOL

NTU launches book chronicling history of LKCMedicine’s headquarters building at 11 Mandalay Road.

The commemorative coffee table book, 11 Mandalay Road, details the former medical hostel’s dramatic growth and transformation through the past 90 years as told by the personal stories of its former occupants, and the significant historical moments in Singapore’s medical and healthcare system tied to the building.

NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson said: “It is very exciting that the building at 11 Mandalay Road is once again at the heart of medical education, reclaiming its rightful place as a vibrant hub of medical student life. This heritage building stands as an enduring reminder of the pioneering spirit of Singapore’s founding fathers.

“With this commemorative book, 11 Mandalay Road, we hope to pay a fitting tribute to them and their legacy as well as the heritage and historical significance of this important piece of Singapore’s architectural history.”

The book vividly details the former medical and nursing hostel’s history through the colonial government’s archival records and memories of medical and nursing students who had called 11 Mandalay Road their home in the early years of modern Singapore. It also documents the painstaking attention to detail that NTU took to preserve the building’s historical features while making it fit to be the home of Singapore’s newest medical school.

Among the most dramatic episodes in the book was the aerial bombing by the Japanese during the World War II. Despite these air raids, classes went on at the King Edward VII College of Medicine and the students continued to stay at the hostel then also known as the Tan Tock Seng Hostel.

The book also features about 100 photographs, including rare photos of students at the hostel from the late 1940s, and the first group of licentiates of the Straits Medical School dated May 1910. Constructed in the 1920s as a hostel for medical students and subsequently as residential quarters for nurses, the Palladian-style building at 11 Mandalay Road was transformed into the headquarters of the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine) – a joint medical school by NTU and Imperial College London – last year, restoring the vibrancy of its heyday after more than a decade of disuse.

LKCMedicine Dean Professor James Best said: “Like this building, which forms a cornerstone of Singapore’s colonial architectural history, we hope to create a legacy as an innovative medical school that trains doctors who advance the practice and science of medicine. Building on the traditions set by the building’s former occupants, we hope to continue to attract the brightest young minds and are very encouraged by the continued strong interest in the School.”

Today, the three-storey building is a stone’s throw from major healthcare facilities including Tan Tock Seng Hospital, the school’s primary teaching hospital, the KK Women’s and Children’s Hospital, National Skin Centre and the Communicable Disease Centre.

NTU’s Novena campus consisting of the medical school’s HQ building and the upcoming Clinical Sciences Building will be part of Singapore’s single largest healthcare complex, the Health City Novena which will be completed by 2030.
NTU LIGHTS UP PHOTONICS RESEARCH WITH $100 MILLION INSTITUTE

The Photonics Institute, one of the most advanced in the world, will comprise five different research centres related to the field of photonics and optics. The Photonics Institute will be headed by three co-directors. They are NTU professors Tin Swee Chuan and Nikolay Zheludev, and Prof Sir David Payne, the director of the Optoelectronics Research Centre at Southampton. Prof Nikolay Zheludev, who is also the director for the Centre for Disruptive Photonic Technologies, said the new institute will be a new model which spans both universities in Singapore and the UK, aimed at “developing disruptive ideas in next-generation photonics.”

The Photonics Institute will comprise five different research centres, all related to the field of photonics and optics. These are: the Centre for Optical Fibre Technology, Centre for Disruptive Photonic Technologies, LUMINOUS! Centre of Excellence for Semiconductors, and Centre for Optical & Laser Engineering, and OPTIMUS! Photonic Centre of Excellence.

The Photonics Institute will be a cradle of knowledge and intellectual property, as well as a focal point for developing groundbreaking applications of light-enabled technologies,” he said.

The new institute will have a total of 120 scientists and staff from its five research centres, with a combined floor space of 4,000 square meters.

NTU’s official opening of the institute also marked the launch of its Centre for Optical Fibre Technology, which houses one of the world’s most advanced fibre manufacturing facility. This new research facility gives Singapore the ability to manufacture experimental fibre optic cables for the first time.

The centre is set up jointly by NTU and University of Southampton, in partnership with the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) and DSO National Laboratories.

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The Photonics Institute will be a unique platform for its integrated lighting technology by allowing the company access to the University’s world-class research facilities. It will also allow the company to explore and evaluate new cost-effective architectures and structures for general lighting and industrial solutions.

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Mr Steve Wah Zi Yuan (MAE/2007 & MSc TIP/2009) was already running his own business during his freshman year in NTU. NTULink speaks to him and finds out more about his entrepreneurial journey.

While his schoolmates were worrying about which hostels they were going to in their freshman year at NTU, Mr Steve Wah Zi Yuan was already busy running his own backpacker’s hostel, The Hive, with a group of his friends along bustling Serangoon Road.

The entrepreneurial bug caught Mr Wah very early and he continued sharpening his skills whilst studying in NTU. Before he even graduated, he co-founded Smoov, a company that aims to provide a platform for content and community-driven business models. He said that the overseas trips during TIP helped him get a closer look at companies like Google as they looked at companies like Google and Alibaba, Larry Page, Sergey Brin and Jack Ma as his entrepreneurial models. He said that the overseas trips during TIP helped him get a closer look at companies like Google and Alibaba, Larry Page, Sergey Brin and Jack Ma as his entrepreneurial models. He said that the overseas trips during TIP helped him get a closer look at companies like Google as they went to Silicon Valley and China to gain exposure.

As part of TIP, postgraduate students travel overseas and form business teams with students from other universities and pitches business ideas to venture capitalists. Mr Wah believes that those waiting to take the plunge into entrepreneurship should just jump into it. “Just go for it! I have never worked in an MNC before, but if five years down the road, will I, as an entrepreneur, be just as employable as my classmates who went to MNCs? I would say yes,” shares Mr Wah.

“Entrepreneurship is all about creating a value and selling it. There is no venture that lasts forever, but I think it’s the experiences which do.”

Trepped for ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr Wah said that his time in NTU was “nothing short of exciting”. Apart from coping with school work, Mr Wah was busy splitting his time between his business endeavours and CAC projects. “It was a privilege if I could sleep three to four hours,” Mr Wah quips.

He cycled between the roles of business manager, programmer and vice presidents throughout his undergraduate days in order to garner enough points to stay in the hostel.

“This was like a prelude to life, to problems. And that is what entrepreneurship is about. You identity the problem, bridge the problem and the gap in the quickest way possible,” Mr Wah said that back then, there was never a refund policy and who is managing the refund policy – be it the business itself or a third party company.

Over the years of experience, Mr Wah has understood that change is the only constant and in order to be successful, one needs to have strong focus. That was why when he started focusing on Smoov, he began selling most of his shares in his backpacker’s hostel, The Hive.

“I always believe in being focused. Since I would no longer be in the management team of The Hive, as I was concentrating on Smoov, I decided to sell my shares,” he explains.

Mr Wah highlighted that when shopping online, consumers must always know if there is a refund policy and who is managing the refund policy – be it the business itself or a third party company.

Overseas exposure

Mr Wah considers the founders of Google and Alibabas, Larry Page, Sergey Brin and Jack Ma as his entrepreneurial models. He said that the overseas trips during TIP helped him get a closer look at companies like Google as they went to Silicon Valley and China to gain exposure.

Since its inception, Smoov has racked up a few local and regional awards in the info-communication industry and most recently won the Notable Award in the SME One Asia Awards 2014.

“Nothing short of exciting” During his undergraduate days at the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE), Mr Wah started a mobile service company for the school, similar to the voting system used in American Idol.

“I had to ask myself if I could still run a business, participate in extra-curricular activities in the Cultural Activities Club (CAC), and study at the same time? I am so glad I managed to do it!” said the 32-year-old. His mobile testing service was used during NTU forums and events like Impressario.

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Having met the pioneers of the Masters in Technopreneurship and Innovation Programme (TIP), offered by the Nanyang Technopreneurship Center, before he even started university, Mr Wah was convinced he wanted to join the programme just after his second year in MAE.

It was during his time in TIP that Smoov was founded. Mr Wah credited the mentors and lecturers at the programme in helping the company get off the ground. Apart from guidance, they directed Mr Wah to the various necessary government grants available.

Smoov

For Mr Wah the three main components to starting a business are resources, opportunities, and a good team. It was important to form a strong core team, in order to become a successful start-up.

“At the end of the day it’s all about how well the lead entrepreneur and other people can quickly get resources together,” he says.

“In the face of every new technology change and new era, there will be problems. And that is what entrepreneurship is about. You identity the problem, bridge the problem and the gap in the quickest way possible.”

Smoov started out in 2008 as a content and community driven platform and navigation developer, and has now moved towards e-commerce. But the company’s focus on mobility remains the same. The initial challenge was the sheer number of operating systems that smartphones were offering back when they first started in 2008.

Mr Wah said that back then, there was a huge issue on how to build content on mobile platforms, and how to get people interested in the mobile scene. Smoov created the platform for this purpose which attracted the attention of Spring Singapore. Spring Singapore went on to invest $31 million in Smoov.

“In the IT phase, there is a huge fundamental shift every five years and if you can’t execute (the idea) in five years, it’s gone,” emphasises Mr Wah. Smoov is now turning its focus onto checkout cashiers or point of sale (POS) equipment for the future.

With Smoov increasingly becoming a prominent player in the online payment scene, Mr Wah noted that to be successful in Asia, it is key to provide a certain standard of assurance. He said that assurance in delivery was a major focus point in his company.

“I focus on assurance and that means that if you meet a merchant who doesn’t deliver as promised, Smoov can assist to get your refund swiftly,” he says.

Mr Wah highlighted that when shopping online, consumers must always know if there is a refund policy and who is managing the refund policy – be it the business itself or a third party company.

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“It’s not about which companies you have joined, it’s about the achievements you have made.”

▲ Mr Wah believes that anyone who is keen to become an entrepreneur should give it a try as long as one is able to obtain the resources, identify opportunities and form a strong core team.
Managing Manpower Challenges

Manpower Minister Mr Tan Chuan-Jin shares more about how the government is addressing issues on managing the current demand of labour, and more, at a dialogue session.

At the dialogue session on 3 December at the Singapore Management University (SMU), Minister for Manpower Mr Tan Chuan-Jin spoke about Singapore’s workforce situation, the government’s manpower objectives, and how the government is assisting the community through various manpower policies.

The dialogue session was jointly organised by the NTU Alumni Club (NTUAC) and SMU Alumni Association (SMUAA), and supported by the NTU Alumni Affairs Office and SMU Office of Alumni & Advancement. In his welcome address, NTUAC President Mr R Sinnakaruppan, spoke about the international political environment and some of Singapore’s social phenomenon. “This topic is something that is close to the hearts to many Singaporeans,” he said.

In his speech, Minister Tan highlighted the importance of the manpower policies initiated by the government, as they are for the benefit of the individuals, the society and the country. He also spoke about why the government focuses on the country’s economy growth. He said: “The economy has to keep growing so that we can make sure jobs and opportunities can be created.”

He also spoke about the opening up of labour resources and foreign immigration policies which help to facilitate economy growth.

A country needs to ensure a healthy GDP growth in order to maintain or improve its standard of living. Minister Tan highlighted that productivity growth will help in reducing the reliance on foreign manpower. “It is not only about reducing foreign manpower. We need to ensure our manpower is lean,” he emphasised.

In closing, Minister Tan highlighted the importance of continuing education which will allow one to have varied career choices even when one is older.

During the question and answer session, the audience participated enthusiastically with some of them sharing problems they face as human resource professionals and CEOs of small-and-medium sized enterprises. Minister Tan assured them that the government is able to provide them with the necessary services to assist them, if they require.

Tonight, WE ARE YOUNG

Alumni from the Class of 1994 celebrate their 20th anniversary reunion over dinner with former classmates and lecturers.

Meeting friends – both old and new – seemed to be the common agenda of the night for most at the NTU Class of 1994 20th anniversary reunion dinner held on 15 November. They had the opportunity to reunite and rekindle friendships with former classmates and lecturers from 20 years ago.

For Ms Amy Ser and Mr Osman s/o Abdul, who went from being classmates at the National Institute of Education (NIE) to colleagues 20 years later, the event was the perfect occasion for them to catch up on a non-work related basis.

“Osman and I are now teaching in the same school but we rarely have much chance to speak to each other because of our busy schedules,” said Ms Ser. “Together with our other former classmates, some of whom we have not seen for years, we can finally have a proper catch up over dinner and drinks tonight.”

Themed ‘Tonight, We Are Young,’ the night also transported the Class of ‘94 back to their university days – from lectures and tutorials to sports competitions and final year projects.

“I still remember this competition that my classmates and I participated in, which we took on various roles to ‘build’ a section of a canal. There were around 30 to 40 people in a team and I was the project manager. Our team emerged the champion of the competition and the experience also shaped my dream of becoming a builder. That was my best memory at NTU,” said Mr Lee Kay Chai, who graduated from the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering and is now the Executive Director of a construction company.

Reminiscing on the carefree days where they danced to the music of Pet Shop Boys in his opening speech earned Mr Jimmy Han (EEE), Chairman of the reunion organising committee, a rapturous response from the crowd. Beyond reviving the past, Mr Han also highlighted the importance of living the present and appreciating the future.

“Other than having a good time, it is also important to remember the less fortunate and serve our fellow citizens to make Singapore a better place,” he added. He also shared that his NTU degree had put his peers and himself in good stead so paying it forward by setting up the Class of 1994 Term bursary was a way to celebrate and to give thanks.

Mr Han went on to proudly announce that the Class of 1994 has contributed $41,000 – a sum which would provide bursaries for up to eight students from financially needy backgrounds. A student bursary recipient, Ms Madeleine Liou, a final year student at NTU’s School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences, went on stage during the dinner to personally thank the Class of 1994 for generously supporting needy students like herself and to appeal to those who have yet to make a gift to consider doing so.

Amidst endless conversations and laughter over dinner, the alumni also took part in stage games and were treated to an entertaining performance by a talented impersonator. The hilarious Michael Jackson and Elvis Presley impersonation sent the crowd into hysteric while the rendition of classic songs got several alumni off their seats to their own makeshift dance floor in the ballroom.

The Class of 1994 20th anniversary reunion held at the Alumni Ballroom at NTU’s one-north campus was attended by some 70 alumni and their partners and guests.
ROLLING BACK THE YEARS AT
Silver Jubilee Reunion
Class of 1989 alumni gather on campus for a memorable 25th anniversary reunion.

More than 140 Class of 1989 alumni and their partners, together with guests, made a trip to NTU on 8 November to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Class of 1989. This batch was represented by graduates from the Schools of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE), Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) and Nanyang Business School (NBS).

Prior to the evening’s programme, the alumni participated in a campus tour which brought them to a lab where they learnt more about NTU’s student-built eco-cars; as well as a 3D printing facility.

The stories continued to flow throughout the evening, with the loudest cheers reserved for Guest-of-Honour, Professor Cham Tao Soon, President Emeritus, NTU, who gave an engaging speech in his characteristically forthright manner.

For Mr Lim Thian Fatt, Chairman of the organising committee, the class reunion was the culmination of six months of planning meetings and hours on mobile messaging application, WhatsApp, spent hunting down former CEE classmates and informing them of the gathering.

“I am just eager to catch up with old friends. I have not seen some of these guys for 25 years, so there is plenty of catching up to do,” he said.

One of them was fellow CEE graduate, Mr Siah Chee Seng, whose skills acquired as an undergraduate has seen him manage infrastructure projects in neighbouring Vietnam and Bangkok for the better part of the two decades since leaving NTU.

Flying in from Vietnam, where the father of three is now based, he said: “The 25th occasion of anything is definitely worth celebrating,” before adding with a grin, “who knows if we will be able to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary!”

Mr Siah had also planned on catching up with some of his old lecturers, saying: “We are what we are because of them. We were given a really solid foundation at NTU and that gave us a lot of confidence at the start of our careers as civil engineers.”

Mr James Ng was another who had travelled quite a distance to attend the festivities. The Malaysian

recalled with fondness the many memories he had of his time living in Hall 3 as a CEE undergraduate – but one clearly stood out.

“More than half of our batch at CEE were Malaysians, which meant that we stayed back in hall even on the weekends, when the Singaporeans went home to be with their families. One weekend, someone decided to collect one side of every Hall 3 resident’s shoes and placed them in a huge pile in the hostel canteen!” he recounted.

Nanyang Business School graduate, Ms Low Yin Leng, also had fond memories of hostel life as an undergraduate, for it was there that she met the man she would eventually marry.

“There was a period of time, before the Pan-Island Expressway cut through Yunnan Gardens, where we got to live in three- and four-room HDB flats while our hostel rooms were being renovated,” she recounted.

“The gifts got the corner 4-room units while the boys were housed in the 3-room-flats along the corridor. As it turned out, my husband lived just next door,” she said with a smile.

The girls got the corner 4-room units while the boys were housed in the 3-room-flats along the corridor. As it turned out, my husband lived just next door,” she said with a smile.

The evening’s programme also included motivational sharing sessions by alumni Mr Lim Nghee Huat (Commerce/1975) who spoke about his experience running various ultra-marathons; and by alumna Ms Eileen Chai (NIE/2005), an author who recently published her book ‘Teach a Life, for Life’, who shared about her growing up years as a national athlete and violinist.

In conjunction with the 25th anniversary celebration, the organising committee members wholeheartedly supported the idea of fundraising for the Class of 1989 Term bursary. Thanks to a very generous anonymous benefactor who pledged a $1,000 for each dinner attendee, as well as the Class of 1989 who generously contributed to the Class of 1989 Term bursary and Project Enkindle, a grand total of $140,460 was raised. Project Enkindle was founded in 2013 as a response for the growing need for energy in communities in the Philippines following the devastation of Typhoon Haiyan. It aims to provide mid-term to long-term renewable energy solutions to these communities to support them in their rehabilitation efforts.

Throughout the evening, alumni were busy seen catching up with one another, sharing stories of their days on campus and snapping photographs to capture the memorable occasion. They had a wonderful time meeting some of their former lecturers who were specially invited to the event. The evening concluded with a lucky draw which saw some alumni going home with attractive prizes.
ALUMNI GATHER IN CHINA

NTU alumni in various cities across China gather for their lively annual gatherings.

SHANGHAI
The alumni gathering jointly organised by NTU’s Nanyang Business School (NBS) and NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Shanghai) was held on 6 December in Shanghai, which were present by more than 300 alumni and guests. Some of the distinguished guests who attended the gathering included NTU Board of Trustees member Ms Lien Siau-Soo, NTU President Emeritus Professor Siew Guan Lur, NBS Dean Professor Rav Kurner, Associate Dean (Globalisation & International Studies) Associate Professor Tan Kok Hu and Director of NTU Alumni Affairs, Mr Soon Min Yam. During the gathering, forums titled ‘Sustainable development of China’s private enterprises’ and ‘Sustainable development of commercial real estate’ were held.

During the gathering, forums titled ‘Sustainable development of China’s private enterprises’ and ‘Sustainable development of commercial real estate’ were held.

Mr Lu Yiming, Ms Xi Jing and Mr Wang Kai who was formerly with CCTV, were the hosts for the dinner. Ms Lien Siau-Soo and Ms Xu Xi Xia (NBS/2005), President of NTU AA (Shanghai), together with other alumni, presented a fashion show showcasing beautiful exquisite scarves which were sold for charity. The proceeds were donated to China Project, Hope for Hope Primary School in Sichuan Province.

During the dinner, the NTU’s Vice-President for International Affairs, Professor Er Meng Hwa provided updates on NTU’s recent developments, whilst President of NTU AA (Shaanxi), Ms Zhang Limin (NBS/2005), reviewed the AA’s progress in 2014. “With the hardwork and commitment of the committee members, the AA has reached its goal of organising at least one event every month, and an annual gathering,” she said. NTU AA (Shanghai) has also focused on organising charitable events to give back to the community.

Over dinner, alumni were seen chatting, whilst some were eagerly using their smartphones to join the exclusive WeChat group created for alumni in Shaanxi.

The alumni then attended two forums, ‘Entrepreneurial spirit’ and ‘Differing views on a city’s development strategies’. During dinner, Professor Er Meng Hwa, NTU’s Vice-President for International Affairs, provided an update on the University’s latest developments, whilst Mr Shi Xiangang, President of the NTU AA’s (Shaanxi) reviewed the work of the AA in 2014, and introduced their plans for 2015.

ZHENGZHOU
NTU alumni in Shaanxi gathered at the Innovation and Entrepreneurship Base for high-level overseas talent in Binjiang district, Hangzhou city. Some alumni entrepreneurs and professionals from the emerging and high-tech industries shared their views during a talk on ‘Innovation and the future’.

Alumni representatives from Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Sichuan, Hunan, Liaoning and Hunan were also present. NTU’s Vice-President for International Affairs Professor Er Meng Hwa also delivered a speech on ‘NTU’s rapid development and new directions’.

ENGAGING NTU ALUMNI IN NEW YORK

NTU Alumni Association (USA-East) concludes second term elections and hosts a cozy dinner gathering in the Big Apple.

A group of NTU alumni in the US gathered for a cozy dinner event hosted by NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Shanghai), Mr Soon Min Yam, Director of Alumni Affairs, NTU, on 22 October at Villagio on the Park in New York, Mr Soon marked the milestone by meeting with alumni attending an alumni relations commission meeting in Washington DC.

During the dinner, the second term elections for NTU Alumni Association (USA-East) were held where Mr Daniels Gregory Michael (RSIS/2012) was elected as the new President. Excited about ongoing engagement, the alumni also discussed future events and initiatives for the Association.

The launch of the NTU AA (USA-East) in August 2011 marked a milestone in NTU’s commitment to providing alumni worldwide with local platforms that enable them to connect and leverage each other’s expertise. There are over 250 NTU alumni on the East Coast of the United States, in cities such as New York, Boston, Chicago, Washington, and many other neighboring cities and towns.

Mr Daniels Gregory Michael and the NTU AA (USA-East) committee members will collaborate to organise events for graduates and provide a professional support network for alumni residing and working in the US.

Mr Daniels Gregory Michael, the newly elected President of the NTU Alumni Association (USA-East) look forward to taking part in the international alumni family’s effort to expand the Alumni Associations further and create efficient communication flow for exchange of information, sharing of best practices, and receiving updates on the development of the University.”

The NTU AA (USA-East) is planning a dinner event sometime during the summer of 2015. NTU alumni working or residing on the East Coast of the United States who are keen to learn more about the AA’s upcoming events, may email Mr Daniels at gregory.m.daniels@gmail.com.
MR JIMMY HAN (NBS/1994)

I remember when I first started studying in NTU in 1991, my first year was more like an orientation for me when I spent time getting to know my classmates. It was also in 1991 that NTU was officially inaugurated. My learning and growth took off mainly in the second and third year when I enrolled into the HRM specialisation and learned about the traditional profession whom many associated as personal management in the 1980s.

I had great lecturers! The HRM community was small and close-knit and this showed up in healthy competition to improve and raise the standard within the HRM group. Lecturers were very committed and they tried to inculcate the values of critical thinking and analysis.

The opportunity to obtain a university education was something I treasures not for the prestige, fame and wealth, but for the life-long education gained through critical thinking skills. The community, lecturers and infrastructure made it possible to have a meaningful experience about life.

I am currently working for a leading global semiconductor company which has a major R&D unit in Singapore – MediaTek Inc. The interesting thing about HRM in a global company is that you learn to relate and engage different nationalities from diverse countries and acquire some insights on what makes everyone motivated and engaged.

As for my interests, I frequent the gym and try my best to keep an active lifestyle. With proper diet and exercise, one is able to thoroughly enjoy work and leisure.

Having been working for 20 years since I graduated in 1994, I am grateful to NTU to give me this experience which sometimes in life, you need that opportunity and you fully use it to the best of your ability. But over and above it all, now that we have more or less settled down, it is also timely to remember where we came from and how we can also help the less privileged to attain these shared goals. Everyone in Singapore should be given these opportunities to attain success if they work hard, persevere and have a never-give up attitude. These lie the ethos of success where our forefathers came and made this land their home. May the grace of God and His enduring mercy be upon our beloved Singapore always as we celebrate our SG50!}

MS ANISHA BAGHUDANA  
(WKWSUi/2009)

After graduating from NTU, I worked with Procter and Gamble in Singapore for close to four years, and spent some time in Ghana consulting for tech startups as a result of knowledge I gained on information and communication technologies (ICT) for development during my FYP research. I am currently doing my masters at the Rector School, Tufts University in Boston, USA.

I have very fond memories of WMWSUi and NTU. I learnt a lot at WMWSUi, especially during my last year thesis with Prof Anil Chib, which continues to help me in my academic and career pursuits today. I started the NTU Addiction society - a student and agency - with a bunch of WMWSUi friends, which was a lot of fun and learning too. Beyond School, I was able to do some absolutely amazing general electives like Magic Realism and Science Fiction Literature, which made the NTU experience so much more rewarding. My standard studying routine at NTU was starting with kaya toast breakfast at Clement A and proceeding to the Media Resource Library for the rest of the day, where I worked movies during study breaks or so I deceived myself into believing. I also met some of my best friends today while staying in the halls of residence. I feel extremely grateful for the exposure, rigor of education and diversity of experiences NTU gave me as it has been my home in good steady years since graduation.

MR YAN YEW WAI  
(SBS/2011)

Graduating from NTU’s School of Biological Sciences (SBS) with a double degree in Biomedical Sciences and Chinese Medicine was no easy feat. A demanding timetable during undergraduate days aside, most to-be-graduates also have to prepare for a major licensing exam in the midst of their convocation while their peers from other courses might be enjoying a little break before commencing work. Yes, it had been a tough road for us, but the rewards can be more than satisfying - satisfaction derived from grateful and appreciative patients which keeps a group of us working towards being a new generation of young but skillful TCM physicians.

Since young, I have often sought TCM treatment for ailments such as flu and sprain and was impressed by the immediate relief that it brought me. In school, Biology had always been my favourite subject, especially those topics involving the human body.

Therefore, opting for this Double Degree Programme came naturally as it not only enables me to deepen my knowledge in Biomedical Sciences, but also explore the oriental art of healing that has been close to my heart and health.

I am grateful to have met many wonderful faculty staff in SBS, in particular my final year-project supervisor, Dr Andrew Tan, who had not only been a patient mentor to me in conducting quality research and writing good thesis, but also a wise teacher who inspired me in making career decisions.

Looking back at my undergraduate days never fail to bring back fond memories. Overall, it had been an enjoyable experience, especially the last two years spent in Beijing, where I had great fun exploring Beijing and its surrounding cities in the midst of lessons, exams and internships. Climbing the various segments of The Great Wall of China in different seasons with friends is truly a remarkable experience which will stay etched in my mind for many years to come. The numerous friendships and bonds forged during these 5 years is also something that I treasure a lot and I am glad that some of us still keep in close contact through alumni activities and professional activities.

MR CHEONG THENG WAN KENNETH  
(SCBE/2010)

Studying at NTU was the best time of my life. Besides having the best facilities and dedicated teachers at SCBE for my BIE degree, the degree programme was robust and has indeed prepared me well into my career in a regional role of a pharmaceutical MNC.

During my freshman orientation in 2006, I was glad to have been able to participate in three orientation camps, which I termed as “Thrill”, SCBE Camp, Hall 13 Camp, and the well-known NTU Sports Camp. I enjoyed those camps so much that I still continue to share my experiences with my friends widely, even today.

I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to experience overseas exposure. I was fortunate to go for both GISP USA in Seattle and GIP China in Shanghai. Travelling is essentially my hobby, and I was really happy to travel across USA and China.

Out of all these, the most significant event at NTU for me was knowing Sze Wai, who is now my wife. It all started when we travelled to China together for the GIP China Work and Study Programme in Feb 2009. Being housemates from the same BIE batch in a foreign land, we shared our thoughts and experiences with one another and love blossomed.

Right after we graduated in 2010, with our overseas experience from NTU’s GISP programme, Sze Wai started work in a pharmaceutical MNC near Philadelphia USA, and I started work in another pharmaceutical MNC near Boston USA. Another period of overseas time together and our love deepened. We got married in December 2014, and had our pre-wedding photographs taken in Shanghai where it all started. As we celebrate our first year of marriage together, I wish to take this opportunity to thank NTU for providing me all these wonderful moments of my life. I am proud to be an NTU alumnus and I look forward to seeing NTU continue to rise up the ranks of top universities in the world.

MS FENG LAN  
(NBS/2014)

I enjoyed my days in NTU as they were quite carefree. After attending classes and completing my assignments, I had time to do whatever I wanted and pursue my other interests. I also spent some time working at the NTU Alumni Affairs Office during the holidays and whenever my schedule permitted. It was a great experience as it enhanced my communication skills and learnt how to interact with different people effectively.

I value the fact that how most of my NTU professors are very well versed in the industry. I still meet some of them who are invited to facilitate professional development workshops that I attend on weekends. It shows how they are recognised for their knowledge and expertise. Having them teach in NTU really enhances the learning experience.

I enjoy travelling, especially to places with rich historical monuments. I took the chance to see two different cities - the Great Wall last June and it was certainly life-changing to be there and experience this ancient artefact that my ancestors built without modern technology, considering how I even had trouble just ascending and descending it. And it was fascinating to learn how this structure was used to defend ancient China from invasions.

Kenneth and his wife Sze Wai (nbs/2014) in Shanghai.

Jenny together with her wife, Cindy (nbs/1993)
**ALUMNI PARTICULARS UPDATE**

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

Fax: +65 67941036  
Email: alumniaffairs@ntu.edu.sg

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

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

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

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- To understand and study the profile of its alumni community for NTU’s policy making and planning;
- To involve alumni in NTU’s continual development and progress through the engagement of voluntary services and giving back to their alma mater;
- To assist ministries and government agencies in the development of national policies and guidelines through the sharing of necessary data.

(b) send me such alumni-related marketing, advertising and promotional information through the following modes of communication:

(i) postal mail and/or electronic transmission to my email address; and

(ii) to my following telephone number(s) : ____________________ by way of :

(1) [ ] Voice call / Phone call  
(2) [ ] SMS/MMS (text messages)  
(3) [ ] Fax

Please indicate that you agree to NTU and its employees, agents and third party service providers using that mode of communication by inserting a √ in the box.

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

________________________________  
Signature/Date

Note: Regardless that you do not sign or complete this form, please note that the NTU reserves its right to send a specified fax message (as defined in the Personal Data Protection (Exemption from Section 43) Order 2013) (the “Exemption Order”) and/or a specified text message (as defined in the Exemption Order) (i.e. a marketing fax message or marketing text message) to your Singapore telephone number, if there is an ongoing relationship between the NTU and you and the purpose of the message is related to the subject of the ongoing relationship, pursuant to the requirements and conditions of the Exemption Order.

**EVENTS CALENDAR**

**JANUARY TO APRIL 2015**

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<td>20 JANUARY</td>
<td>Distinguished Speaker Series – ‘Dynamics of e-Business’ by Prof Vijay Sethi</td>
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<td>25 FEBRUARY</td>
<td>Student Alumni Associates Appreciation Reception</td>
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<td>27 MARCH</td>
<td>NTU International Alumni Dinner 2015</td>
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<td>9 APRIL</td>
<td>31st Distinguished Alumni Forum</td>
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Nanyang Business School offers Nanyang Executive Education (NEE) to enhance the leadership skills of executives. Based in Singapore, NEE programmes attract participants from Asia and across the globe, presenting significant opportunities to learn, while working with internationally renowned faculty members. With state-of-the-art business education conducted within a practical and interactive learning environment, these 3-10 day programmes enable busy executives to keep pace with cutting-edge management issues and business trends. NEE programmes include courses in finance, marketing management, strategy and much more.

**ADVANCED MANAGEMENT**
- Advanced Management Programme in International Tax
- Global Business Management Programme
  
  20 - 24 Apr 2015; 01 - 03 & 06 - 07 Jul 2015
  TBA

**BUSINESS MANAGEMENT**
- Enterprise Risk Management
  
  29 Jun - 02 Jul 2015; 28 Sep - 01 Oct 2015

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT**
- Valuation and Accounting for Financial Instruments
- Finance for Senior Executives
- Mergers and Acquisitions
  
  04 - 08 May 2015; 17 - 21 Aug 2015
  20 - 23 Apr 2015; 28 Sep - 01 Oct 2015
  27 - 29 Apr 2015; 28 - 30 Oct 2015

**GENERAL MANAGEMENT**
- Management Development Programme @ Nanyang
- SME Hi-Potential Leadership Programme
  
  12 - 21 Jan 2015
  TBA

For a full listing of programmes we offer, please go to [www.execed.ntu.edu.sg/](http://www.execed.ntu.edu.sg/)

All programmes can also be organised as an in-company customised programme tailored to your organisational needs. Please write to nep@ntu.edu.sg for more information.