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NTULink is a quarterly magazine mailed free to all alumni of NTU. Articles and Classnotes from alumni are most welcome. Whilst care has been taken in compiling the contents of this magazine, we assume no responsibility for the effects arising there from. Opinions expressed therein do not necessarily represent those of the Alumni Affairs Office, the Nanyang Technological University, or the publisher. Contributions for the April 2016 issue should reach the Editor by 15 March 2016. All information is correct at press time.

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If you would like to check your personal data maintained in AAO’s database, or if you would like to provide corrections/updates to your data, please email infomgt_aao@ntu.edu.sg.

Corrigendum: We apologise for the error in the photograph caption for the article “Celebrating Memories” on page 42 in the November 2015 issue. It should correctly be: MAE Chair Prof Louis Phee (standing) speaking to alumni from the School’s Class of 2015 during the graduation dinner.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

In November 2015, NTU topped the year’s Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) rankings of the world’s young universities for the second consecutive year. Being named the best young university for the second year running is a tribute to the quality of our faculty, staff, students and alumni, and shows that being a young university should not be a hindrance in making an impact on a global scale.

More recently in January 2016, NTU jumped 11 places to be ranked 29th globally in Financial Times’ latest ranking of Master of Business Administration (MBA) programmes. This makes NTU’s Nanyang MBA Singapore’s No.1 MBA programme and places it 6th in the Asia-Pacific. This achievement is part of NTU’s overall drive towards global excellence in education and research.

Our scientists continue to make waves. Visiting Professor Michael Graetzal – Chairman of our Scientific Advisory Board of the Energy Research Centre @ NTU and also the Director of NTU’s Centre for Nanostructured Photosystems – Professors David Lou and Zhang Hua were ranked 7th, 8th and 12th respectively in the ranking of the World’s Hottest Researchers 2015 by Thomson Reuters. In a ranking dominated by scientists from the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, NTU scientists are the only ones from Asia. Indeed, NTU is home to world-class scientists doing cutting-edge research who have been cited as the world’s most influential scientists.

NTU continues its drive to partner notable organisations to accomplish the University’s research and development objectives. To develop sustainable solutions for challenges facing urban cities, NTU is collaborating with Hyundai Engineering & Construction – the first time a major Korean construction company is setting up a research centre outside South Korea. The NTU-Hyundai Urban System Centre aims to tackle critical areas for cities such as the use of underground space, seawater desalination and innovative construction methods.

NTU and SingHealth announced a new five-year research tie-up to encourage collaborations that will generate more patient care innovations. The first joint research grant call worth $82 million will fund six joint research projects enabling NTU scientists and SingHealth clinicians to develop practical healthcare solutions.

We are partnering the Austrian Institute of Technology and the Medical University of Vienna in a joint $10 million research collaboration to spur innovations in medical imaging technologies. NTU has also signed new agreements with Russia’s leading sports retail company Sportmaster, and the Lomonosov Moscow State University, focusing on joint research projects, and student and staff exchanges.

NTU is setting up the Sino-Singapore International Joint Research Institute in partnership with the Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City Administrative Committee, the SSGKC Investment and Development Co. Ltd, and South China University of Technology. The institute aims to develop new technologies ranging from electric vehicles and sustainable urban development to nutrition and food science. We also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Peking University to establish a joint NTU-PKU Research Institute whose research areas include multi-modal big data analytics technologies for smart cities and human-centred technologies for healthy living and lifelong learning.

As part of our global ambitions to bring NTU to the world, we will be consolidating our activities in China with a new headquarters set up in Shanghai. The three existing China offices in Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou will come under the umbrella of this new headquarters – the NTU Shanghai Office – which will further develop the close ties we have with Chinese universities, government organisations and the commercial sector.

Our satellite research and development programme continues to take flight. In December 2015, we successfully launched two more new satellites – a climate monitoring and navigation satellite VELOX-CI, and the University’s first satellite with a commercial payload VELOX-II. They are the fifth and sixth satellites from NTU since 2011.

In February, we received news that these two satellites have successfully completed their first space missions. Experiments in space have proven the commercial viability of several new made-in-Singapore satellite technologies which include a space navigation system, precise and fast-locking GPS receivers and radiation resistant hardware.

NTU scientists also unveiled social and telepresence robots named Nadine and EDGAR. With further progress in robotics sparked by technological improvements in silicon chips, sensors and computation, these robots are poised to become more visible in offices and homes in future. Nadine is powered by intelligent software similar to Apple’s Siri or Microsoft’s Cortana whilst EDGAR is a tele-presence robot optimised to project the gestures of its human user.

In November 2015, as part of SG50 celebrations on campus, Nobel Laureates, leading scientists, policymakers and thought leaders from 20 countries and across diverse disciplines met in Singapore for the Nobel Prize Series, which made its global debut at NTU. Discussions on the ‘Future of Learning’ were held, where key strategic directions, challenges and opportunities for education in the 21st century were identified.

I would like to encourage you to visit the beautiful NTU campus if you have not done so recently. You would have heard about the most iconic building on campus today, The Hive, which will support NTU’s ambitions in pushing the frontiers of innovation in learning and sustainable building design. Very soon, we will also have a new sports hall and ‘Lego-style’ residential buildings, both designed with sustainable features in line with our emphasis on sustainability research.

From the time a freshman enters our campus, he begins a lifelong relationship with NTU. We will continue to nurture the relationship that has already been established when they are students, so that we can support them in their careers. A number of new initiatives and strategies have been put in place to achieve this.

Given the importance placed on alumni affairs and development work and their symbiotic relationship, there is a need for a senior academic leader to provide leadership in these areas in a holistic manner. Professor Lee Sing Kong, who was appointed Vice President (Education Strategies) in July 2014 when he stepped down as Director, National Institute of Education, has been appointed Vice President (Alumni and Advancement). Prof Lee will drive the University’s fundraising efforts to meet NTU’s academic needs and strengthen alumni engagement and governance.

We are also setting up an NTU Alumni Council. Appointed by the University, the Alumni Council will be an important bridge of communication between NTU and our alumni body. NTU will also be identifying a facility within the campus to act as a focal point for interaction between our alumni and the University.

I would like to thank all of you for your strong support over all these years. The progress of NTU would not have been possible without your dedication and commitment. We will continue to build mutually rewarding and enriching lifelong relationships with you.

PROFESSOR BERTIL ANDERSSON
PRESIDENT
NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
NTU alumni who spend time and effort giving back to their alma mater are the University’s alumni ambassadors – a term which aptly reflects the important role they play in the advancement of the University. At NTU, the diverse capabilities of our alumni community drive the University forward in its journey and goal to becoming a world-class university.

The mark of any good university is considerably characterised by the calibre and commitment of its alumni. United by their common connection and commitment to NTU, our alumni ambassadors play a continual role in advancing the good name of the University.

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Our alumni ambassadors are NTU’s strongest advocates. Their dedication, contribution, and enduring spirit of volunteerism have helped to strengthen the NTU alumni community. With a common commitment to reach out further to NTU alumni, our alumni volunteers have made the lives of our students and alumni community even more meaningful.

To date, more than 5,000 alumni ambassadors have come forward and volunteered through many ways. This group of admirable NTU alumni has been extremely generous with their time, talent and resources to advance the mission of their alma mater. With their continuous support, the University is able to strengthen its engagement with its alumni.

VOLUNTEERING PROGRAMMES

Class Agents are NTU alumni who play a role as class representatives, assisting the NTU Alumni Affairs Office (AAO) and the University to stay in touch with its alumni.

Serving as a vital link between their former classmates and the University, Class Agents also help AAO reach out to more alumni when they contact their former classmates and encourage their peers to take part in AAO events and activities.

The University has established 81 Alumni Associations (AAs) both locally and overseas. These AAs serve as a contact point and networking platform for alumni, and also provide efficient communication flow for the exchange of information, sharing of best practices and updates on NTU’s progress and development.

Under the leadership of alumni ambassadors who serve as Presidents and members of the AAs’ committees, these AAs are in a strong position to leverage on our existing alumni network. With the help of the overseas alumni chapters, the culture of giving back to one’s alma mater is firmly becoming ingrained amongst the University’s alumni. NTULink explores the various ways alumni give back.
alumni activities and partnerships are brought beyond the campus and Singapore, to the world stage.

Mr Hendri Zhang (EEE/2007) has been generously giving back to NTU in many ways. As the President of the NTU Electrical & Electronic Engineering Alumni Association (EEEAA), he feels proud of his alma mater and is keen to always support the University and his School.

“As the President of NTU EEEAA, I hope to be able to inspire and encourage my Executive Committee members to do their best in serving our alumni. Through the many activities planned by the AA, everyone is able to have fun and at the same time, work towards a common purpose of supporting the alumni community,” he shares.

Mr Zhang also volunteers as an advisor in his secondary school, Greenview Secondary School Alumni Association.

Mr Vincent Lau (MSE/2009), the President of the NTU School of Materials Science & Engineering Alumni Association (MSEAA) believes that the strength of a School lies in its alumni. He has served in the MSEAA for close to seven years and is glad to have a team which also works hard together to fulfil the AA’s vision of forging opportunities and retracing memories.

He has also been volunteering with the Singapore International Foundation, under its Water for Life programme.

The AAO organises the Distinguished Alumni Forum (DAF) series which features prominent alumni speakers who are experts in their respective fields of specialisation. Through the discussions at the sessions, the DAF engages alumni with relevant topics which make a positive difference in their professional or personal lives.

Some of the prominent NTU alumni who have returned to present at these forums include former Member of Parliament and current NTU Board of Trustees member Mr Inderjit Singh, Minister of State for Manpower Mr Teo Ser Luck, Parliamentary Secretary for the Ministry of Education & Ministry of Trade and Industry Ms Low Yen Ling, Member of Parliament Mr Zaqy Mohamad, amongst many others.

NTU also regularly invites well-established alumni to sit in interview panels for the selection of NTU Bursaries applicants. These alumni ambassadors take time off their busy schedule to volunteer as interviewers where they are able to utilise their years of experience in the corporate world to select applicants who are deserving of the NTU Bursaries.

The alumni speakers share their valuable knowledge on issues such as entrepreneurship, health, wealth management, and many more.

Many NTU alumni have regularly, with much enthusiasm, organised Class Reunions for fellow alumni. These annual reunion events, facilitated by AAO, provide alumni from the same year of graduation the opportunity to network and have fun remembering their wonderful years as NTU students. The alumni volunteers sitting in these class reunion organising committees...
put in much time and effort planning for months ahead for the significant event, ensuring their fellow alumni have a most memorable reunion.

Some NTU alumni also volunteer their service as a mentor to guide students of NTU.

**Mentor-Link** is a programme by NTU’s Career & Attachment Office to connect current NTU students to alumni. Its main objective is to let alumni share their career and life experiences with the students so as to help them better prepare for the working world.

**GIVING TO THE NTU ENDOWMENT FUND**

NTU alumni give to support bursaries, school advancement, student life and campus vibrancy, building the prestige of their alma mater and enhancing the value of their degrees. Fresh graduates, upon their graduation from NTU, celebrate their significant milestone by leaving behind a Class Gift, as they take away with them, the memories of their university life.

**NTU Bursary**

NTU Bursary relies heavily on the generosity of donors to ensure that every deserving student, regardless of their financial constraints, have access to a world class education that will fulfil their academic and personal potential. Students with a monthly family per capital income lower than $1,900 qualify for this bursary, and it is estimated that 20% of the student population are in need of financial aid. In the academic year 2015/2016, a total of 110 students have benefited from the NTU Bursary.

**School/Centre Advancement**

Making a gift to an NTU school of the alumni’s choice empowers them and adds value to the student experience. With the generosity received, Schools are able to obtain the resources they need to deliver an education that focuses on discovery, experience, and practice. This includes inspiring initiatives and collaborations such as intellectually stimulating seminars, pioneering research opportunities and overseas community expeditions.

**NTU Education & Student Life**

Supporting NTU Education & Student Life advances meaningful student activities that shapes character and
Every year, the graduating class gives back to NTU in the form of a Class Gift. An alumnus’ gift to this cause goes into providing a transformative experience for NTU students in every endeavour such as heritage tours, community service, and sports events that will teach them the right kind of values, and skills for a dynamic environment.

Ms Elora Chen Si Ni (SPMS/2014) shared that she gives because she knows that a little help goes a long way. “I hope my juniors will be able to get the most out of university life and participate in meaningful activities that develop their skills which enhance their potential instead of worrying about financial problems,” she adds.

Mr Tan Yew Chong (MPE/2004) donates regularly as he feels it is the right thing to do to give back to the University which has taught and provided him with so many wonderful experiences and memories. “I wish for no qualified students to be denied of this opportunity due to financial constraints and hope my little contribution can help in that cause,” he shares.

Mr Kuan Chien Huang, an alumnus from the Class of 1995, who co-chaired the Class’ 20th Anniversary Reunion Organising Committee, shared: “Being a fortunate recipient of an NTU bursary during my early days, it really makes me see the importance of giving back to assist those who are in need and give them the support needed to strive for a better tomorrow.”

Our alumni ambassadors give back in many ways:

- Playing the role of Class Agents
- Serving in Alumni Associations
- Sitting in Class Reunion Organising Committees
- Speaking at Distinguished Alumni Forums and Freshmen Welcome Ceremonies
- Sitting on interview panels for the selection of NTU Bursaries applicants
- Mentoring NTU students
- Providing internship opportunities to NTU students and career opportunities to NTU graduates
- Donating to the NTU Endowment Fund
In recognition of our outstanding alumni, nominations for the Nanyang Alumni Awards 2016 are now open.

Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award
南洋卓越校友奖

Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award
南洋杰出青年校友奖

Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award
南洋校友成就奖

Nanyang Alumni Service Award
南洋校友服务奖

Nominations close on 30 April 2016

For more details, please visit www.ntu.edu.sg/NanyangAlumniAwards
Contact Alumni Affairs Office by phone: 6790 6789 / 6790 5919
or email: nanyangalumniawards@ntu.edu.sg
He wants to get to know YOU better

*NTULink* chats with Professor Lee Sing Kong and finds out why this is one of his key priorities in his newest role as NTU Vice-President for Alumni & Advancement.

It does not matter which year you graduated from NTU or where you are currently residing, nor whether you are starting your career or a family.

As long as you are an alumnus of NTU, Professor Lee Sing Kong wants to understand you and your needs better.

Since then, Prof Lee has gotten right down to business with the first item on his agenda being to achieve a better understanding of the ‘landscape’. He says: “The alumni landscape is very complex. It stretches from someone who has just graduated to someone from the Nanyang University days.”

He explains that a person who has spent five or less years in the workforce may be focused with building his or her career and family, whereas a graduate with six to 15 years of experience will probably have very different needs. Having a good understanding of the various alumni profiles will allow NTU to know which types of events and communication channels – whether it be printed or social media – can better engage them, and also how to better address their respective needs.

Appreciating the needs of alumni is just the first step. Prof Lee’s time as the Director of the National Institute of Education – where he served for over 25 years with eight years as Director – has reinforced in him the importance of open communication. While at NIE, he could often be found seeking out the thoughts of random colleagues and students in the canteen over lunch.

Similarly, he would like to hear from alumni on how they would like their alma mater to better serve and assist them.
with driving the University’s fundraising efforts to meet NTU’s academic needs. A horticulturist by training who played a role in turning Singapore into a Garden City, he now hopes to grow NTU’s endowment fund by nurturing a culture of giving amongst NTU alumni, akin to that found in the United States.

Says Prof Lee: “In the United States, many private universities are really dependant on the returns of endowment funds to support their work.”

He points to Harvard University as an example of an institute of higher learning that has tapped on the returns of its endowment fund to engage in top-notch R&D work. For Prof Lee, it is not how much a person gives, but the heart and the gesture behind the donation. “I do appreciate that alumni from the different cohorts will have various (differing) financial demands.”

Prof Lee is also keen to extend this support to NTU’s large alumni population based out of Singapore. Currently, there are a total of 45 Alumni Associations across the globe, excluding those in Singapore. NTU is exploring various platforms through which our international alumni and the local alumni can interact, collaborate and serve their alma mater in proactive and meaningful ways.

As a graduate of the University of Canterbury in Christchurch, he is a member of an alumni association for Singapore-based graduates of New Zealand universities. Prof Lee shares: “Whenever some university leaders from New Zealand stop by Singapore, we will meet with them. One of the key features that we can learn from this engagement process is that their High Commission is very proactively involved in facilitating such activities.” Thus, could our diplomatic missions overseas also be involved to facilitate alumni engagement?

Apart from building a sense of belonging, Prof Lee has also been tasked by Prof Andersson with having a good understanding of the various alumni profiles will allow NTU to know which types of events and communication channels can better engage them, and also how to better address their respective needs.

Prof Lee believes that having a good understanding of the various alumni profiles will allow NTU to know which types of events and communication channels can better engage them, and also how to better address their respective needs.

He accepts that giving is something that is very personal “as every alumnus has a passion or a cause... so they will choose to donate to an organisation where they feel that their dollar can make an impact and fulfill their passion”.

But Prof Lee is confident alumni will want to pay it forward once they understand the purpose behind giving to the university.

“Giving to your alma mater is all about the future. If you give in terms of a scholarship, it can support the education of a student in that it can really empower him to learn without the worry of finding financial support for his studies. And when this student graduates, he will contribute (back) to the community.”
NTU topped the 2015 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) rankings of the world’s young universities for the second consecutive year, retaining the No. 1 position and at the same time, widening its lead over second-placed Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST).

In the QS Top 50 Under 50 Ranking published on 24 November, NTU has an overall score of 93.9 compared to HKUST’s 88 points. Last year, NTU pipped HKUST to the pole position by just 0.7 points, with a score of 84 points. This year, NTU has improved its scores in research citations, academic and employer reputation and faculty-to-student ratio. It also scored well for its internationally diverse faculty and student communities.

NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson said: “Being named the best young university for the second year running, right after our big jump to 13th in the world university rankings in September is fantastic news not only for NTU, but also for Singapore which celebrated its Golden Jubilee in 2015. It is a tribute to the quality of our faculty, staff and students and shows that being a young university should not be a hindrance in making an impact on a global scale.”

He also highlighted how the rankings demonstrate the determination of Asia’s young universities which are at the top of the game with their strong drive for excellence.

The top six universities in this league table are all from Asia. NTU is the only one flying the Singapore flag while Hong Kong has three universities and South Korea has two universities within this year’s top 10.

In the last few years, NTU has been successful in attracting both established world-class scientists as well as promising young international researchers.

“I am often asked when I am overseas the reasons for NTU’s rapid rise globally. My answer is simple – it’s people, people and people. NTU today is a talent magnet that draws some of the world’s best professors and students.”

“The quality of students has been rising rapidly each year. Last year, there was an 89 per cent increase in top students enrolling at NTU, compared to 2011 which was the year before we rolled out various innovative programmes like the Renaissance Engineering Programme and the medicine programme offered by our joint medical school with Imperial College London,” shared Prof Andersson.
Nanyang MBA is Singapore’s top MBA programme

NTU jumps 11 places to be ranked 29th in latest Financial Times MBA ranking.

The stellar performance of the Nanyang MBA offered by the Nanyang Business School comes on the back of higher salaries of its graduates. NTU MBA graduates on average more than doubled their incomes three years after completing the programme.

Post-graduate salaries averaged over US$119,000, up from US$110,600 the previous year.

Professor Ravi Kumar, Dean of Nanyang Business School, said: “NTU’s Nanyang Business School has always been recognised as a top business school in the world. Naturally, competition at the top is always intense and we are pleased that our robust curriculum and strong diverse faculty provide training that is rigorous and relevant to boost careers globally.

He added that the Nanyang MBA offers extensive international experience and a multicultural immersion that nurtures global leaders for a sustainable world.

The programme also did well in offering good value for money, coming in 38th globally. This is in consideration of direct and opportunity costs to its participants. For career progression, the Nanyang MBA is ranked 35th. Graduates of the programme were able to secure jobs in larger companies and made advancements into senior positions.

The MBA programme, which admits about 100 students to its full-time and part-time Nanyang MBA programme each year, scored well in international mobility of its graduates, rising from the 23rd spot last year to be ranked 15th. It also did well in its international course experience, leaping to 9th place from the 35th spot last year.

Mr Eric Lian Voon Fui, President and CEO of United Overseas Bank (China), said: “Taking up the Nanyang MBA is one of the best decisions I have made in the course of my career. The strong curriculum, the extensive networking opportunities and the unrelenting support and coaching from our sterling faculty has helped me reach where I am today.”
Nanyang Business School

Young and research-intensive, Nanyang Technological University (NTU Singapore) is ranked 13th globally. It is also placed 1st amongst the world’s best young universities. Nanyang Business School at NTU 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 2-10 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 more.

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For a full listing of programmes, please visit: www.exced.ntu.edu.sg

All programmes can be customised as in-company programmes to tailor to your organisation’s needs.

Please write to nep@ntu.edu.sg for more information.

www.ntu.edu.sg
New undergraduate degree programmes

Nine programmes in business, engineering and science to be made available this August, will cater to demand in emerging industries.

NTU will kick off the new academic year in August with nine new undergraduate degree programmes in business, engineering and science.

The new programmes will widen students’ choices so they can be trained in a core discipline complemented by a related discipline, or diversify their degree by matching it with an offering in an unrelated area. These will allow students to develop interdisciplinary competence and are aimed at increasing their career opportunities and to meet industry demand.

To enhance the career opportunities of NTU’s business or accountancy graduates, the University is offering two new integrated programmes combining two popular degrees from the Nanyang Business School. In just four years, students will be able to graduate with a Bachelor in Business or Bachelor in Accountancy, along with a Master of Science in Financial Engineering (MFE). The one-year MFE programme includes a seven-week study exchange at the prestigious Carnegie Mellon University in the United States.

Along with the new integrated programmes, two three-year Bachelor in Business or Bachelor in Accountancy, with a Minor in Strategic Communication will be introduced. The customisable minor programme will boost graduates’ versatility in areas such as public relations, marketing communication, and media planning.

To cater to the rising demand for engineers and scientists to have qualifications and broad skills beyond their core areas, NTU will launch five new highly interdisciplinary science and engineering programmes with second majors in rapidly expanding fields.

These include the Bachelor of Engineering in Materials Engineering with Second Major in Medical Biology, Bachelor of Science in Biological Sciences with Second Major in Biomedical Materials, Bachelor of Engineering in Bioengineering, Bachelor of Engineering in Materials Engineering with a Second Major in Pharmaceutical Engineering, and the Bachelor of Engineering in Bioengineering with Second Major in Food Science Technology.

With these nine new offerings, NTU will offer 103 undergraduate degree programmes for the new Academic Year 2016/2017 which starts in August.

▶ New students keen to pursue degree programmes at NTU will have more options now.
Two NTU professors in Thomson Reuters’ list of the world’s 19 hottest researchers

Professor David Lou and Professor Zhang Hua are ranked 8th and 12th respectively; Visiting Professor Michael Graetzel also ranked 7th.

Two scientists from NTU – Professor David Lou and Professor Zhang Hua – have made it into the ranking of the World’s Hottest Researchers 2015 by Thomson Reuters. In a ranking dominated by scientists from the Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard, NTU scientists are the only ones from Asia.

In its second year, the global ranking recognises 19 scientists who published at least 14 papers in 2015 with notably high levels of citations.

Also on this list is NTU’s Visiting Professor Michael Graetzel, Chairman of its Scientific Advisory Board of the Energy Research Centre @ NTU (ERI@N) and also the Director of its Centre for Nanostructured Photosystems.

Professor Michael Graetzel, Professor David Lou and Professor Zhang Hua were ranked 7th, 8th, and 12th respectively. This is Prof Zhang Hua’s second time on the list, as he was ranked 13th last year in Thomson Reuters’ inaugural list.

The Hottest Researchers 2015 ranking is the first part of The World’s Most Influential Scientific Minds report, a citation analysis by Thomson Reuters which identifies the world’s scientists who have made the most significant global impact in their respective fields of study.

The second part of Thomson Reuters report lists the world’s Highly Cited Researchers. This list of nearly 3,000 scientists, split into specific disciplines recognises those who had the most number of their published papers ranked among the top one per cent by citation. In the Highly Cited Researchers list, NTU has nine researchers.

Professor David Lou
Prof Lou is one of NTU’s youngest full professors at the age of 37. A professor in the School of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering, he has had many breakthroughs in the areas of supercapacitors and next-generation batteries. Since 2008, he has published about 210 research papers in high impact journals. His papers have been cited over 23,500 times according to the Web of Science, with about 7,500 citations in 2015 alone. He has a H-index of 87, which measures the scientific productivity and citation impact of a researcher.

Professor Zhang Hua
Prof Zhang Hua is among the world’s best materials scientists and chemists, having developed various types of nanomaterials for applications in biosensing, opto-electronic devices, water treatment and clean energy. Since he joined NTU’s School of Materials Science and Engineering in July 2006, he has filed over 60 patents and published over 350 papers in top tier journals, with over 22,500 citations and a H-index of 74.

Professor Michael Graetzel
NTU Visiting Prof Michael Graetzel is the Chairman of its Scientific Advisory Board of the Energy Research Centre @ NTU (ERI@N) and also the Director of its Centre for Nanostructured Photosystems. He received an honorary Degree of Doctor of Engineering (honoris causa) from NTU in 2011. A Swiss scientist best known as the father of “artificial photosynthesis”, Prof Graetzel is the inventor of the Dye-Sensitised Solar Cell. This invention won him the prestigious 2010 Millennium Technology Prize which recognised his solar cells as a more affordable way of harnessing solar energy.
Global premiere of Nobel Prize Series in Singapore

Nobel Laureates, world-leading scientists, policymakers and thought leaders meet at NTU to discuss latest thinking and action on 'The Future of Learning'.

The world’s great minds including Nobel Laureates, leading scientists, policymakers and thought leaders from 20 countries and across diverse disciplines met in Singapore for the Nobel Prize Series, which made its global debut at NTU. Focusing on the theme ‘The Future of Learning’, the event aimed to identify the key strategic directions, challenges and opportunities for education in the 21st century.

Five Nobel Laureates participated in the inaugural event, including German physicist Professor Stefan Hell (Chemistry, 2014), Israeli crystallographer Professor Ada Yonath (Chemistry, 2009), English chemist Sir Harold Walter Kroto (Chemistry, 1996), Scottish economist Sir James Mirrlees (Economic Sciences, 1996), and Nigerian playwright and poet Professor Wole Soyinka (Literature, 1986).

The 2-day event was launched on 5 November by His Excellency, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore.

The event commenced with the Executive Roundtable which was attended by Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) Mr Ong Ye Kung. An exclusive group of 31 thought leaders discussed the new opportunities and trends shaping the future educational landscape worldwide, as well as challenges for society, from the impact on human capital to the evolution of traditional educational institutions.

The Roundtable was followed by the main Conference which included two discussion panels. The first session featured prominent business leader and NTU Board of Trustees Chairman Mr Koh Boon Hwee, Professors Kroto and Yonath and NTU Assistant Professor Juliana Chan, a Young Global Leader of the World Economic Forum.

On the panel for the second session were Singapore’s Ambassador-at-Large Professor Chan Heng Chee, Sir Mirrlees, Professors Hell and Soyinka, and NTU Assistant Professor Chou Meng-Hsuan, an Associate Fellow at EU Centre Singapore.

The following day, four public lectures by the Nobel Laureates were held concurrently at NTU, the Singapore Management University (SMU) and the National Gallery of Singapore. Professor Soyinka discussed ‘Playing Footsy with Terror’ and Professor Hell spoke on ‘The Resolution Revolution’ in NTU. At the National Gallery, Sir Kroto and Professor Yonath both explored ‘The Relationship between Science and Art’, while the lecture on ‘The Causes of Economic Inequality’ by Sir Mirrlees was held at SMU.

A travelling exhibition, The Nobel Prize – Ideas Changing the World was displayed at the ArtScience Museum at Marina Bay Sands, until 24 January 2016. The exhibition told the story of Alfred Nobel’s life, the Nobel Prize, the Nobel Laureates and how Nobel Prize-awarded efforts have shaped and continue to change our world.
NTU successfully launched two satellites on 16 December – a climate monitoring and navigation satellite, and the University’s first satellite with a commercial payload. These two latest satellites are the fifth and sixth respectively from NTU since 2011, when Singapore’s first locally-built satellite X-SAT was launched.

The 123-kg climate monitoring and navigation satellite VELOX-CI, will orbit the Earth for the next three years. Its mission is to study Asia’s tropical climate and to test a new navigation system. The smaller 12-kg VELOX-II is carrying an experimental “communication-on-demand” technology that will be tested over one year.

The two NTU satellites were launched from India’s Satish Dhawan Space Centre on the Indian Space Research Organisation’s Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV-C29) rocket, together with Singapore’s first commercial earth observation satellite TeLEOS-1 and three other Singapore satellites.

TeLEOS-1 is built by ST Electronics (Satellite Systems), a joint venture between ST Electronics (Satcom & Sensor Systems), NTU and DSO National Laboratories.

Shortly after the successful launch, NTU established radio contact with VELOX-II and VELOX-CI during their first ground pass. The telemetry data showed that both satellites had deployed their solar panels and communication antennas successfully.

Associate Professor Low Kay Soon, Director of NTU’s Satellite Research Centre, said: “Our satellite team has worked very hard over the last few years to advance satellite science and technology, and we are proud to see our two new satellites in space. What makes us so unique is that we have the capability to complete the design and development of satellites in different classes – from micro-satellites (20-150kg) to nano (1-20kg) and pico satellites (less than 1kg).

“Besides training our students for a career in the aerospace and space industry, we have also implemented various advanced concepts and new technologies into the present and future satellites in the pipeline. This will further strengthen NTU’s reputation as a centre for excellent and credible satellite technology.”

NTU Singapore is the first university in Singapore to develop a satellite programme for undergraduates and boasts one of the most advanced satellite research facilities in Asia.
Social and telepresence robots for the future

With progress in robotics sparked by technological improvements in silicon chips, sensors and computation, physical social robots will become more visible in offices and homes in future.

Nadine, a humanoid with her own personality, mood and emotions, is the latest social robot developed by scientists at NTU. The doppelganger of its creator, Prof Nadia Thalmann, Nadine is powered by intelligent software similar to Apple's Siri or Microsoft's Cortana.

A humanoid like Nadine is just one of the interfaces where the technology can be applied. It can also be made virtual and appear on a TV or computer screen, and become a low-cost virtual social companion.

Prof Thalmann, the director of the Institute for Media Innovation who led the development of Nadine, said these social robots are among NTU’s many exciting new media innovations that companies can leverage for commercialisation.

"Robotics technologies have advanced significantly over the past few decades and are already being used in manufacturing and logistics. As countries worldwide face challenges of an aging population, social robots can be one solution to address the shrinking workforce, become personal companions for children and the elderly at home, and even serve as a platform for healthcare services in future," explained Prof Thalmann, an expert in virtual humans and a faculty from NTU’s School of Computer Engineering.

Nadine’s robot-in-arms, EDGAR, was also put through its paces at NTU’s new media showcase, complete with a rear-projection screen for its face and two highly articulated arms.

EDGAR is a tele-presence robot optimised to project the gestures of its human user. By standing in front of a specialised webcam, a user can control EDGAR remotely from anywhere in the world. The user’s face and expressions will be displayed on the robot’s face in real time, while the robot mimics the person’s upper body movements.

Such social robots are ideal for use at public venues, such as tourist attractions and shopping centres, as they can offer practical information to visitors.

Led by Associate Professor Gerald Seet from the School of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering and the BeingThere Centre at NTU, this made-in-Singapore robot represents three years of research and development.

“EDGAR is a real demonstration of how telepresence and social robots can be used for business and education,” said Prof Seet.

“Telepresence provides an additional dimension to mobility. The user may project his or her physical presence at one or more locations simultaneously, meaning that geography is no longer an obstacle.”
The Sino-Singapore International Joint Research Institute is set up in partnership with the Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City (SSGKC) Administrative Committee, the SSGKC Investment and Development Co. Ltd. and South China University of Technology (SCUT).

The four-party agreement was inked on 7 November 2015, at the Istana, witnessed by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Singapore’s Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong during President Xi’s two-day state visit to Singapore - his first to the Republic since taking up the presidency in 2013.

The joint institute will focus on research that translates to technological advances for Guangzhou City and Guangdong Province, especially the Guangzhou Development District, Luogang District, and the Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City.

Several research areas have been identified including next-generation electric vehicles and intelligent urban transportation systems; nutrition and food science; sustainable urban development; pollution control and environmental restoration; as well as biomedical materials and medical instruments.

The institute is expected to involve a funding request of RMB200 million (about S$44 million) for the first five years and to occupy up to 20,000 square metres at the Sino-Singapore Guangzhou Knowledge City.

**Strengthening collaborations between Singapore and People’s Republic of China universities**

To mark the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Singapore and the People’s Republic of China (PRC), three universities from each country signed three Memoranda of Understanding with each other on 7 December 2015, building on existing strong collaborations between the universities in student and faculty exchanges, and joint research and development.

The universities and their respective partners were: Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and Peking University, National University of Singapore (NUS) and Tsinghua University, as well as Singapore University of Technology and Design (SUTD) and Zhejiang University.

The collaborations between the Singapore and Chinese universities will be funded through a donation of RMB 150 million (S$33 million) from the family of Mr Ng Teng Fong, with each pair of universities receiving RMB 50 million (S$11 million).

The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NTU and Peking University was signed by Deputy President and Provost of NTU, Professor Freddy Boey, and Executive Vice President of Peking University, Professor Wu Zhipan. The signing was witnessed by Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) Mr Ong Ye Kung.

NTU and Peking University (PKU) will establish a Joint NTU-PKU Research Institute whose research areas include multi-modal big data analytics technologies for smart cities and human-centred technologies for healthy living and lifelong learning. The joint research institute will support Singapore’s Smart Nation vision that harnesses technology and data to improve living standards, strengthen communities, and create more business opportunities.
Hyundai and NTU launch joint research centre on urban systems

To develop sustainable solutions for challenges facing urban cities, NTU is collaborating with one of South Korea’s largest construction firms, Hyundai Engineering & Construction.

The joint research centre, NTU-Hyundai Urban System Centre, which was officially launched on 19 January, aims to tackle critical areas for cities such as the use of underground space, seawater desalination and innovative construction methods. This is the first time a major Korean construction company is setting up a research centre outside South Korea and they have chosen Singapore for carrying out research and development on urban solutions.

The centre, which received a total funding of close to S$8 million for the next three years, is supported by the Economic Development Board (EDB) and will be working on five projects in the first phase.

These projects include finding new ways to reuse sediments through combining it with industrial by-products; developing a low-energy desalination process to turn sea water into clean water; pre-fabricated modules for offshore floating platforms such as oil rigs; and a new system to design and manage rock caverns.

The new research centre will be hosted by NTU’s College of Engineering and NTU’s Nanyang Environment and Water Research Institute (NEWRI) at JTC CleanTech One. It will have more than 20 full time researchers and scientists from NTU and Hyundai working on the five initial projects.

NTU and SingHealth partner to develop healthcare innovations to improve patient care

To encourage collaborations that will generate more patient care innovations, NTU and SingHealth announced a new five-year research tie-up on 21 January.

The first joint research grant call worth S$2 million, which will fund six joint research projects of up to S$300,000 each, was also announced. The funds will enable NTU scientists and SingHealth clinicians to develop practical healthcare solutions, such as biomedical devices, novel drugs and new treatment methods to prevent, diagnose or treat diseases.

The joint grant-call projects will focus on nationally-relevant diseases. It will cover several key clinical areas, which include ageing, diabetes, eye diseases, infectious diseases, skin and plastic surgery, and medical technology.

The plan is to initiate more collaborative research projects that will result in a new range of products, medications, systems and equipment, adding to those currently being developed by NTU and SingHealth.

▲ Officially launching NTU-Hyundai Urban System Centre on 19 January were NTU Provost Prof Freddy Boey (4th from left), EDB Executive Director of Cleantech Mr Goh Chee Kiong (5th from left), and Hyundai Engineering and Construction, R&D Division CTO Dr Lee Seok-Hong (6th from left). Also seen here are, from left, NTU College of Engineering Assoc Dean of Research Prof Tay Beng Kang, NEWRI Executive Director Prof Ng Wun Jern, NTU College of Engineering Dean Prof Chen Tsuhan, Hyundai Singapore Managing Director Mr Choi Won Ho, Hyundai Engineering & Construction R&D Planning Group Deputy General Manager Dr Lee Hong Sung, and Deputy Executive Director of NEWRI Assoc Prof Tan Soon Kast.

▲ (From left) Deputy Group CEO (Research & Education) of SingHealth Prof Soo Khee Chee, Group CEO of SingHealth Prof Ivy Ng, NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson and NTU Provost Prof Freddy Boey at the signing ceremony.
‘LEGO STYLE’ HIGH RISE RESIDENCES ON CAMPUS SOON

NTU’s three new residential halls at North Hill will be Singapore’s first public high-rise buildings built by stacking prefabricated individual rooms on top of each other.

In the PPVC method, entire flats or modules complete with internal finishes, fixtures and fittings are manufactured in factories, and are then transported to site for installation in a Lego-like manner.

Deputy Prime Minister Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, who is the chairman of the National Productivity Council (NPC), visited the NTU campus on 6 January for a first-hand look at the new construction method.

With PPVC, the NTU residential hall is expected to be ready by mid-2016, in time for the new academic year starting this August. With the new hall comprising six blocks each 13 storeys high, 1,850 more residential places on campus will be added. NTU will be able to house close to 14,000 students on campus.

The halls are part of NTU’s campus master plan that aims to transform the campus into a bustling mini-city. The project has also been recognised with the Green Mark Platinum – Singapore’s highest honour for sustainable building design awarded by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA).

Like the other new buildings at NTU, these latest residential buildings have incorporated sustainable features such as energy-saving LED lighting and solar powered systems, and are designed to take advantage of its natural surroundings:

A winner of BCA’s Green Mark Champion award in 2014, NTU has been expanding its campus as well as retrofitting its existing buildings to meet higher BCA Green Mark standards in recent years. To date, 17 building projects in NTU have been Green Mark-certified, out of which 14 have attained the highest Platinum status.

NTU has also embarked on an Eco-Campus initiative that aims to make it the world’s most environmentally friendly university campus by 2020, with a 35 per cent reduction in energy, water and waste output.

Deputy Prime Minister Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam having a look at a fully furnished room constructed using the PPVC method.

An artist’s impression of NTU’s residential buildings at North Hill which will be constructed using the PPVC method, saving manpower and construction time.
The 184-page book, “Making of a Medical School: Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine”, contains reflections from current and former key people involved in the landmark project that represents a major development in the story of medical training and healthcare in Singapore.

Among the prominent people interviewed for the book were former Education Minister Dr Ng Eng Hen, NTU Board Trustee Mr Lim Chuan Poh, NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson, former NTU President Professor Su Guaning, and former President and Rector of Imperial College Professor Sir Keith O’Nions.

Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Health and Mr Ong Ye Kung, Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) also contributed forewords to the book.

The book was unveiled by Mr Lim Chuan Poh, Chairman of the LKCMedicine Governing Board and Chairman of A*STAR, on 1 December at a special celebratory dinner at NTU’s Experimental Medicine Building, home of LKCMedicine’s second campus.

Developing the medical school is a labour of love for NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson who has been deeply committed to the School since its inception. He said: “Our medical school is a rare union of two top global universities. Imperial is one of the world’s top 10 universities, while NTU is a young university that is ranked 13th globally. By combining the strengths of both NTU and Imperial, we have created an innovative and forward-looking modern curriculum and an interdisciplinary learning environment that grooms future doctors who are well-grounded in science, patient-centric in approach and multidisciplinary in practice.

“This book traces the remarkable journey of the School’s rapid growth and it is a heartening tribute to the people who helped shape the School as we know it today,” he added.

The book also reveals how the School’s leadership decided to start with a fresh curriculum, as the general consensus was that a lift-and-shift of Imperial’s curriculum would not have been the correct approach. To meet the healthcare needs of Singaporeans, NTU adopted the best practices from Imperial and created a new customised curriculum for Singapore.

Many aspects discussed in the early planning stages have become hallmarks of the new medical school’s curriculum and pedagogy, including the intensive use of e-learning, simulation technology, and a student-centred pedagogy.

Marking 5th anniversary of LKCMedicine with commemorative book

“Making of a Medical School: Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine” tells the story of the School’s making, detailing the early developments of Singapore’s newest medical school.
s part of Nanyang Technological University (NTU)’s global ambitions to bring NTU to the world, the University will be consolidating its activities in China with a new headquarters set up in Shanghai. The three existing China offices in Shanghai, Beijing and Guangzhou will come under the umbrella of this new headquarters, which will further develop the close ties NTU has with Chinese universities, government organisations and the commercial sector.

With the setting up of the NTU Shanghai Office, a new board of directors, chaired by Prof Liu Hong, has been appointed to oversee NTU’s overall engagement with China, which will include the provision of high-level consultancy services.

As an open city with high-quality resources for education and research, Shanghai is an ideal base for NTU’s China operations. From there, the University plans to expand its reach to other parts of the country and increase its collaborations in research and knowledge transfer.

Nanyang Venture Consulting Companies will be exploring the communication platforms between NTU and the Chinese government, universities, research institutions, and industrial partners, which will assist NTU to better understand China’s new policies, trends and demands on education partnerships and research collaborations.

The University plays an important role as an international think tank. It is able to leverage on its intellectual expertise to develop relevant information, talent and resources pool, in order to provide high-level consultancy services to China’s various organisations.

Not many can lay claim to having circumnavigated the globe in search of the rarest species of shark, or risking danger to film a documentary to reveal hard truths about the illegal ivory trade in Africa.

But veteran award-winning American underwater photographer Mr Brian Skerry and up-and-coming Hong Kong conservationist Ms Laurel Chor can. The duo were at the NTU campus on 22 and 25 January for National Geographic Live, where they share their experiences and knowledge with students, faculty and the public.

In his two talks, Mr Skerry spoke about what inspired him, his experience from working in various locations worldwide, and explained how he prepared for his National Geographic assignments. He also highlighted key concerns and issues facing the environment.

NTU has partnered National Geographic since 2014, bringing a series of exclusive sessions to NTU students and faculty, where National Geographic explorers share their experience and knowledge, including behind-the-scenes stories from the front lines of exploration. The National Geographic Live series are held in more than 30 cities, including New York, Los Angeles and Sydney.
Exhibitions and public programmes at NTU CCA Singapore

The NTU Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) Singapore provides visitors a comprehensive study on the contemporary art ecosystem in Singapore and the region.

Located in Gillman Barracks, the NTU Centre for Contemporary Art (CCA) Singapore is a national research centre of Nanyang Technological University and is supported by a grant from the Economic Development Board, Singapore. The Centre is unique in its threefold constellation of exhibitions, residencies, and academic research and education. The NTU CCA Singapore positions itself as a space for critical discourse and encourages new ways of thinking about Spaces of the Curatorial in Southeast Asia and beyond.

As a research centre, it aims to provide visiting researchers and curators a comprehensive study on the contemporary art ecosystem in Singapore and the region. The Centre’s dynamic public programme serves to engage with various audiences through lectures, workshops, open studios, film screenings and Exhibition (de)Tours. Since the Centre’s inauguration in October 2013, the NTU CCA Singapore has presented several high-profile, first-to-launch exhibitions of leading artists, making it one of the first spaces in the region to present international exhibitions of such a scale. The Centre’s residencies programme is dedicated to facilitating the production of knowledge and research, engaging and connecting artists, curators and researchers from Singapore, Southeast Asia and beyond, and across various disciplines. The Centre’s seven studios support the artistic process in the most direct way – by giving the time and locale to be fully engaged, and the access to an interesting and immersive context to further the space for developing ideas.

Ongoing exhibition:

JOAN JONAS: THEY COME TO US WITHOUT A WORD
22 January – 3 April 2016
The Exhibition Hall, Block 43 Malan Road, Gillman Barracks

The NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore is honoured to present They Come to Us without a Word, video and performance pioneer Joan Jonas’ first large-scale exhibition in Singapore and Southeast Asia. They Come to Us without a Word was organised for the U.S. Pavilion of the 56th Venice Biennale by the MIT List Visual Arts Center and co-curated by Paul C. Ha, Director of the MIT List Visual Arts Center and Ute Meta Bauer, Founding Director of the NTU CCA Singapore. With this exhibition Jonas evokes the fragility of nature, using her own poetic language to address the irreversible impact of human interference on the environmental equilibrium of our planet.

Conversations, Exhibition (de)Tours, Screenings and Workshops, the public programme brings together different approaches to, and points of view on, the artist’s work. Behind the Scenes provides a rare insight into the technical complexities of exhibition-making, and presents the chance to learn how to put together a show from invited professionals. Our Exhibition (de)Tours, structured as a series of presentations, are conceived as opportunities to engage with practitioners from different fields and with different perspectives on the artist’s work. Screenings and Conversations provide new points of entry for members of the public to engage with the exhibited work, revealing thematic correspondences with artists in different media. Workshops are a special form of inquiry and research through art. Consisting of conversation, activities, and presentations, the workshop aims to discuss different aspects of projects closely related to the exhibition.

Education and Public Programmes for They Come to Us without a Word
NTU CCA Singapore provides an array of opportunities for different audiences to engage with the exhibition. The public programme is conceived as an extension of the exhibition, developing themes that will resonate in different fields. Comprising Behind the Scenes, Conversations, Exhibition (de)Tours, Screenings and Workshops, the public programme brings together different approaches to, and points of view on, the artist’s work. Behind the Scenes provides a rare insight into the technical complexities of exhibition-making, and presents the chance to learn how to put together a show from invited professionals. Our Exhibition (de)Tours, structured as a series of presentations, are conceived as opportunities to engage with practitioners from different fields and with different perspectives on the artist’s work. Screenings and Conversations provide new points of entry for members of the public to engage with the exhibited work, revealing thematic correspondences with artists in different media. Workshops are a special form of inquiry and research through art. Consisting of conversation, activities, and presentations, the workshop aims to discuss different aspects of projects closely related to the exhibition.

March

Friday, 18 March 2016, 7.30 – 10.00pm
Screening of selected films by Mark Nash, curator, writer, Visiting Associate Professor at NTU CCA Singapore and the School of Art, Design and Media, Nanyang Technological University (United Kingdom/Singapore)

Saturday, 19 March 2016, 1.00 – 4.00pm
Workshop and Screening of selected films by Mark Nash

Wednesday, 30 March 2016, 7.30 – 9.00pm
Exhibition (de)Tour with Kenneth Dean, Head of Chinese Studies Department, National University of Singapore (United States/Singapore)

All programmes take place at NTU Centre for Contemporary Art Singapore, Block 43 Malan Road, Gillman Barracks.

Admission is free to both exhibitions and public programmes. For updates on exhibitions and programmes, visit www.ntu.ccasingapore.org.

NTU ADM to NTU CCA Singapore free return shuttle bus service: Visiting NTU CCA Singapore at Gillman Barracks has become a lot easier with our Art Bus! Do hop on this free shuttle bus from the NTU School of Art, Design and Media (ADM) building at 5.30pm (Wednesday & Friday) or the NTU Administration Building at 5.40pm (Friday) for evenings of performances, film screenings, interaction with artists and exhibition tours! The bus departs at 9.30pm from NTU CCA Singapore back to NTU ADM.
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Discoveries@NTU

Dead bacteria to kill colorectal cancer

NTU scientists have successfully used dead bacteria to kill colorectal cancer cells. Harvesting the Clostridium sporogenes bacteria found commonly in soil, the NTU team, led by Professor Teoh Swee Hin, was able to harness the bacteria in its dead form, and its secretions, to destroy colon tumours cells effectively.

Traditional cancer treatments like chemotherapy and radiotherapy do not work well in the colon due to reduced blood flow and the lack of oxygen and nutrient flow in the tumour environment. This is because such therapies rely on oxygen molecules to damage the DNA of cancer cells and blood flow to transport therapeutic drugs to the tumour.

In contrast, the NTU team showed that dead C. sporogenes bacteria can kill tumour cells in an oxygen-starved tumour microenvironment.

“While other research groups have experimented with bacteria therapy to destroy cancer cells, the biggest problem is that live bacteria will grow and proliferate, posing a high risk of infection and increased toxicity to patients. In the NTU study, as the bacteria were already killed by heat, there was no risk of the bacteria multiplying and causing more harm than the desired dose meant to kill colorectal cancer cells.”

Saving millions in energy costs

A new technology from NTU could help companies and factories cut their energy bills by as much as 10 per cent.

The new algorithm is able to analyse energy consumption by tapping on sensors in computer chips already found in equipment such as computers, servers, air conditioning systems and industrial machinery. Such computer chips are needed for a host of functions such as to measure temperature, log data traffic and monitor the workload of computer processors.

By combining it with externally-placed sensors, such as those that monitor ambient temperature, the new technology can integrate and analyse all the operational data and recommend energy-saving solutions with almost no upfront cost.

This new algorithm is developed by Assistant Prof Wen Yonggang from NTU’s School of Computer Engineering. It has been licensed by an NTU-incubated company, Evercomm Singapore.

Mr Ted Chen, co-founder and product architect of Evercomm Singapore, who worked with Asst Prof Wen to commercialise this technology, said: “With NTU’s new analytic engine, large semiconductor factories and campuses could save up to S$1 million a year without a need to change much of their hardware, and instead, tune their operation and time their energy usage.”

“The new algorithm allows us to use the most cost-effective way to find out where we can save energy, and our performance can be guaranteed by using real-time data.”

NTU (ERI@N), this smart chip is small enough to be embedded in almost all batteries, from the small batteries in mobile devices to the huge power packs found in electric vehicles and advanced aeroplanes.

Embedded in the smart chip is a proprietary algorithm developed by Prof Yazami that is based on electrochemical thermodynamics measurements (ETM technology). Current lithium-ion batteries have a chip in them which only shows voltage and temperature readings.

In comparison, Prof Yazami’s patented algorithm is able to analyse both the state of health and the state of charge through a 3-dimensional chart.

“In addition to knowing the degradation of batteries, our technology can also tell the exact state of charge of the battery, and thus optimise the charging so the battery can be maintained in its best condition while being charged faster,” said Prof Yazami.
From scaling Island Peak to founding an “Island”

MSc TIP alumni Paul Bao Xuancheng and Mikey Zhu Hao share their story on how they conquered a mountain at their first attempt and founded a company together.

Last year, Paul Bao Xuancheng and Mikey Zhu Hao, alumni from the MSc in Technopreneurship and Innovation Programme’s Class of 2014, conquered a mountain at their first attempt, cemented a lifelong bond, and created an “Island” together.

It all started when Paul, then the owner of a successful chain of travel agencies with an annual turnover of SGD$7.5 million, started to feel that his life was stuck in a boring cycle of working, sleeping and eating.

One night, he shared his idea of climbing Nepal’s 6,189 metre-high Island Peak (Imja Tse) mountain on the social media platform WeChat. Paul’s post received a lot of “Likes” from his friends, but only one person – Mikey, a classmate from NTU’s Master of Science in Technopreneurship and Innovation Programme – showed an interest in making the arduous climb with him.

At the time, Mikey was the youngest CEO of a yacht club in China and also owned a business dealing in wine. But he still felt that there was something missing from his life.

Despite having “zero experience of climbing”, he decided to take the plunge, saying: “At the beginning, I didn’t know how difficult this journey would be. But I think many people dream of scaling the Himalayas, and I decided to go since I had the chance to actually do it.”

Undeterred, the duo went ahead with their climbing expedition.

During their 12-day ascend, they had to brave the cold, with temperatures dropping as low as -20 degrees Celsius, and altitude sickness. There were also new challenges to deal with each time they reached new heights.

Paul recalls how the air got thinner after they had reached an altitude of around 3,400 metres, causing their quality of sleep to deteriorate. At 4,700 metres, he lost both his strength and appetite and began to fear the worst: freezing to death in his sleep.

The night before the duo started their final trek to reach the summit – after reaching the base camp at around the 5,000 metres mark – they made a video recording to capture the moment. Says Mikey: “The outside members did not really support our attempt as they felt it would be too dangerous, they thought I was crazy. Moreover, the movie Everest, based on a tragic true story, was playing in the cinema during that period. Unfortunately, they had all watched the movie.”

The night before the duo started their final trek to reach the summit – after reaching the base camp at around the 5,000 metres mark – they made a video recording to capture the moment. Says Mikey: “The outside members did not really support our attempt as they felt it would be too dangerous, they thought I was crazy. Moreover, the movie Everest, based on a tragic true story, was playing in the cinema during that period. Unfortunately, they had all watched the movie.”

Undeterred, the duo went ahead with their climbing expedition.

During their 12-day ascend, they had to brave the cold, with temperatures dropping as low as -20 degrees Celsius, and altitude sickness. There were also new challenges to deal with each time they reached new heights.

Paul recalls how the air got thinner after they had reached an altitude of around 3,400 metres, causing their quality of sleep to deteriorate. At 4,700 metres, he lost both his strength and appetite and began to fear the worst: freezing to death in his sleep.

The night before the duo started their final trek to reach the summit – after reaching the base camp at around the 5,000 metres mark – they made a video recording to capture the moment. Says Mikey: “The outside
temperature was around -20 degrees Celsius and we were shaking in the tent as we filmed ourselves with our GoPro. We realised that if we were to die, those would be the last words we left behind in the world.”

So he and Paul promised each other that, if they were to make it back down the mountain alive, they would build an innovative enterprise that could change the world as well as give their lives a sense of meaning.

They nearly did not get the opportunity to do so.

First, they had to overcome five cliffs that were each about 80 degrees steep. They also found that, nearer to the pinnacle, there were lesser opportunities for them to rest and recover their energy.

Then, during this six-hour climb towards the peak, Mikey slid on the ice and fell backwards, taking Paul – who was connected to him via a rope – with him. Luckily, Paul reacted quickly enough to use his ice-axe to hack into the ice and get a foothold, preventing them from plunging over the cliff just two metres away.

The near-death experience they shared not only united them in a lifelong friendship, it was also an illuminating moment. Says Mikey: “Our climbing experiences made us feel alive, and were a reminder of how precious our time (on Earth) is.”

Inspired, the two launched an IT start-up – Island Peak Innovation – named after the mountain they conquered. Currently, the company has two key projects: an AI (Artificial Intelligence) travel app and a healthcare app.

The AI travel app project has already had some success in getting funding support from Singapore’s National Research Foundation under its IDM Jump-start and Mentor (i.JAM) programme. Island Peak Innovation is also in talks with Chinese authorities to use the app to create “smart-travel cities”.

Apart from developing apps, the company supports other IT start-ups by helping them to set-up their businesses and providing them with seed funding. Says Mikey: “We hope to become a bridge between China and Singapore.”

Paul and Mikey have also bought a space in Singapore for their company which they have named “Island Peak Space”, and have invited other fledgling start-ups to share their office and resources for free. Says Paul: “We want to assemble people who share our entrepreneurial spirit. We believe that, when all the positive energy is gathered in this space, we can make a difference in the world.”

As for their hopes for their own business, the ambitious pair hope to achieve a company valuation of SGD$6,189 million by the time Island Peak Innovation goes IPO in five to ten years... a fitting tribute to the time two amateur mountain climbers overcame the 6,189 metres-high Island Peak.
Learning from online entrepreneurs

Alumni and guests attend the 37th Distinguished Alumni Forum to hear expert speakers share their views on running a successful online business.

Some 160 alumni and guests attended the 37th Distinguished Alumni Forum which discussed the topic, ‘Drive your online business’, at NTU’s one-north campus on 19 January. The session was chaired by alumnus Dr Xia Zhiqiang (NBS/2002), Director of Graduate Programmes at NTU’s Nanyang Technopreneurship Center.

The first speaker, alumnus Mr Vicknesh R Pillay (EEE/2007), spoke on Southeast Asia’s venture capital ecosystems and the emergence of Singapore’s start-up ecosystem. The General Partner and Co-founder of TNB Ventures, a Singapore Government-backed venture capital firm, highlighted how 2015 saw the launch of government-wide smart nation initiatives, with 380 start-ups being funded that year. He explained the three stages of the start-up funding ecosystem which includes researching, focusing on the developed product and finally, the product undergoing merger and acquisition or Initial Public Offering.

In bringing one’s business online, one needs to obtain a domain name, a hosting provider which can manage the online platform, a software programme with database driven platforms and a good quality shopping cart, and a free or low cost merchant facility which will easily integrate with one’s online store. Lack of funds, heavy competition, evolving technology and localisation around the region are some of the online challenges faced.

Alumna Ms Bay Hwee Eng (NBS/Class 2008 & TIP/2009), the Co-founder of a ready-to-
eat meal business under the brand Foodbox by 1 Percent LLP, was the second speaker at the forum session. She spoke about how her company participated in the 99% SME campaign, emerging as one of the top three SMEs to receive a $100,000 Mediacorp advertising grant. “In order to find early customers, there were food tasting sessions and reviews were posted on Facebook. With the targeted market and great reviews, Foodbox’s sales increased. There were also Qoo10 posted ads with bundle deals,” explained Ms Bay.

Final speaker that evening, alumnus Mr Kevin Chan (NBS/2011), the Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder of Coursepad, a learning and communications platform, shared how he built a start-up without venture capital by having a purpose, a good team, minimum viable product, and a clear process. The purpose would determine his vision for the future and the size of his ambition. And by staying active in the online communities such as Facebook groups, he is kept abreast of trends. With a clear process in mind, he was able to validate the hypothesis with the Lean Canvas model and also brainstorm ideas using the Evernote programme.

The forum session ended with the question and answer segment where the speakers discussed a number of issues surfaced by the participants. They also shared their definition of success. For Mr Vicknesh, it is to be able to make a difference, and to become the biggest venture capital firm in Southeast Asia. In order to do so, his advice is to keep innovating and planning.

“Success is about mindfulness, believing in oneself and being present. My vision is to build intellectual products and to be the vision of the future. Every day is a learning experience,” shared Mr Chan.

Participants at the session were glad to be able to hear from entrepreneurs on how to become successful in an online business.

“An entrepreneur is a doer, not a thinker. I learnt that there is a scientific way to do business. One also has to start with the purpose in mind. This will then have an impact on how broad or narrow the purpose will bring meaning to the entrepreneurs,” shared Ms Lim Huay Ling (NBS/1998).
The newly launched NTU Red Cross Alumni Association aims to connect alumni with a familiar platform to serve society.

On 17 January 2016, the Red Cross Youth NTU Chapter, as well as the Singapore Red Cross Society marked a milestone event with the launch of the NTU Red Cross Alumni Association (RCAA). Established in 1994, the NTU Chapter has been the longest-serving tertiary institution chapter with the Singapore Red Cross. With the newly inaugurated NTU RCAA, NTU became the first tertiary institution to establish a Red Cross alumni chapter in Singapore.

In her heartfelt speech, Dr Chan Soon Keng, founder of the Red Cross Youth NTU Chapter and Council Member of the Singapore Red Cross, commended the NTU RCAA committee members for their passion and dedication in their quest to continue serving society as they had done so during their varsity days. Dr Chan, who has been an advisor to the NTU Chapter for over 20 years, described the event as a dream come true and she urged the committee members to break new grounds with this new beginning.

"I have always been harbouring this dream that the good work you have done in NTU as a chapter should not be forgotten upon graduation," said Dr Chan. "Take this lead as you have taken as a chapter before, and set the pace for other tertiary chapters to form alumni associations with their respective institutions."

Mr Leong Kok Hou (MAE/2012), NTU RCAA President, shared three key objectives that his committee hopes to achieve. First, to engage alumni to continue volunteering after graduation. Second, to mentor and share experiences with the current student management committee. And finally, to organise networking events for alumni and students.

Mr Leong acknowledged that for many graduates, it is challenging for them to continue volunteering as much as they would like to. By providing a familiar platform, he hopes that the NTU RCAA could engage more alumni to make a successful transition in their professional lives to volunteer with the Red Cross again.

"Through the power of networking, we hope to connect with people from different generations, industries, and nationalities, who share a common identity, which is NTU and Red Cross," he said. "With the variety of talents from different backgrounds, we could harness our combined efforts to do greater things."

The ceremony included a symbolic placing of the Red Cross logo onto the NTU RCAA nameplate with Mr Lim Theam Poh, Deputy Secretary General/Special Duties of Singapore Red Cross, Mr Soon Min Yam, Director of NTU Alumni Affairs, Dr Chan, and Mr Leong on stage.

Held at the Red Cross House, the launch was witnessed and celebrated by over 50 alumni and guests. This was followed by a buffet dinner which saw the alumni and guests networking and chatting with one another.
The NTU Tamil Literary Society Alumni Association (AA) was launched on 23 January 2016 at the Orchid Room, NTU Campus Clubhouse, in the presence of 50 alumni, students and guests.

In his welcome address, Mr Thiyagarajan Elamaran (NBS/2012), President of the NTU Tamil Literary Society AA, spoke of the effort and commitment to form the AA within three months, with the unwavering assistance from the NTU Alumni Affairs Office.

“This is an excellent opportunity for alumni to come together to rekindle the friendships forged during student days. There are networking and career opportunities where students can leverage in the NTU Tamil Literary Society AA. We hope to form an identity, build closer relationships with existing members, and be part of this close knit family,” he said. Mr Elamaran also shared that the AA plans to organise four events annually, with the aim of organising larger events with the participation of some 100 to 200 members in the future.

The Guest-of-Honour at the launch event, alumnus Mr R Dhinakaran (MBA/1998), Managing Director of Jay Gee Melwani Group, shared the importance of the alumni family which can provide much-needed support in one’s career progression. He spoke of the significance of Thirukkural, a classic Tamil sangam literature consisting of 1330 couplets, which is considered one of the most important works in the Tamil language. He also emphasised the importance of learning the mother tongue language as it will inculcate the values of the community.

Mr Dhinakaran, Mr Soon Min Yam, Director of NTU Alumni Affairs and Mr Elamaran officially launched the NTU Tamil Literary Society AA by sprinkling coloured powder to complete a beautiful kolam which was prepared beforehand by the alumni emcees. This was followed by the unveiling of the AA’s logo.

Alumni, students and guests then proceeded to enjoy a networking buffet lunch. The event ended with band and dance performances by alumni and students, a game of Charades, and the screening of a video montage showing photos of the alumni during their student days in NTU.

“There was a sense of belonging when we were studying in NTU. We hope the Alumni Association will provide us with some continuity. As alumni, we aspire to provide internship opportunities and become mentors to our juniors in their journey as NTU students and in their careers thereafter,” shares alumnus Mr Shaikh Yasin (MAE/2013).
Remembering the good old days

NTU’s Class of 1995 alumni return to their alma mater to celebrate their milestone 20th anniversary celebration.

It was a memorable gathering of old friends as alumni from the Class of 1995 returned to the NTU campus to celebrate their 20th anniversary. Close to 130 alumni and their family members, together with guests attended the reunion held on 14 November at NTU’s Research TechnoPlaza. This batch was represented by graduates from the Schools of Civil and Structural Engineering (CSE), Mechanical and Production Engineering (MPE), Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE), Materials Engineering (SME), Computer Engineering (SCE), Nanyang Business School (NBS) and National Institute of Education (NIE).

Before the start of the evening’s programme, the alumni participated in a campus tour where they were able to view the University’s new buildings and developments. Whilst they recalled their favourite spots on campus during their student days, they were also just as amazed at the rapid transformation the campus is undergoing.

In their welcome address, Co-Chairpersons of the 20th Anniversary Reunion Organising Committee Dr Liew Kian Heng (NBS) and Mr Kuan Chien Huang (MPE) thanked their fellow alumni for making the time to attend the reunion. They encouraged them to continue staying connected and being engaged with their alma mater. They also extended their appreciation to the organising committee members for their hard work, and to the sponsors for their generosity.

Guest-of-Honour NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson, in his speech, updated the alumni on NTU’s recent progress and developments and some of the new initiatives planned for the University to actively engage its alumni.

Alumnus Dr Francis Goh (MPE) also took to the stage to share his student days’ experience and how his exchange programme to Germany made a positive impact in his life and career.

In conjunction with the 20th anniversary celebration, the organising committee members wholeheartedly supported the idea of fundraising for the Class of 1995 Bursary Fund. Thanks to the generous contributions of the Class of 1995 alumni, more
than $23,000 has been raised with more donations still coming in as at January 2016.

NTU Board of Trustees Member and NBS’ Class of 1995 alumnus Mr Tan Chin Hwee, who was also present at the event, had graciously donated three copies of a book he wrote. Titled ‘Asian Financial Statement Analysis: Detecting Financial Irregularities’, the books will be autographed by Mr Tan and presented to three of the highest donors.

Throughout the evening, alumni were seen catching up with one another, sharing stories of their days on campus and snapping photographs to capture the memorable occasion. The evening concluded with a lucky draw which saw some alumni going home with attractive prizes.
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EXPLORING THE BEST OF THE UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

NTU alumni and their families and friends have an enjoyable time discovering UAE's exotic blend of modern luxury with distinct tradition.

Alumni participating in the six days, four nights trip to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had a memorable time exploring all that Dubai, Abu Dhabi and Sharjah, three of the seven emirates which form UAE, had to offer – from vibrant cityscape to serene desert landscapes.

Starting with the Old Dubai city tour on 26 November, the participants walked through narrow bustling streets and saw the charming wind tower houses at the Al-Bastakiya Historical Area. They also visited the Dubai Museum and took a ride across the Dubai Creek on the traditional water taxi called the abra.

When visiting Dubai, it is a must to see the ‘only 7-star hotel in the world’, the luxurious Burj Al-Arab Hotel. The alumni did just that on the second day, where they stopped at the best viewing point along Jumeirah Beach to take photographs of the iconic hotel building with its eye-catching ‘sailboat-like’ architecture.

Another unforgettable activity for the participants was the adventurous desert safari where they experienced an exciting ride across the sand dunes on a four-wheel drive vehicle, ending with a spectacular sun-setting scenery amidst a serene environment.

At Abu Dhabi, the alumni visited one of the world’s largest mosques, the dazzling Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque, which has a capacity for 40,000 worshippers. The architectural work of art has beautiful marble domes and columns, 24 carat gold gilded chandeliers and the world’s largest hand knotted carpet.

On the last day, the participants toured Sharjah, the third largest emirate of the UAE. They visited the Museum of Islamic Civilization and Art which showcases thousands of rare and important Islamic artefacts. They learnt about the Islamic faith and the achievements of Islamic civilisation, and admired the beauty of Islamic art.

Thirty-six alumni and their families and friends participated in the trip organised by the NTU Alumni Affairs Office from 26 November to 1 December last year.
Guiding entrepreneurs towards success

Budding entrepreneurs receive guidance from NTUitive from the incubation period to becoming a successful start-up.

NTUitive Pte Ltd (“NTUitive”) is NTU’s innovation and enterprise company which manages the University’s intellectual property, promotes innovation, supports entrepreneurship and facilitates the commercialisation of research. It helps entrepreneurially inclined faculty members, students and alumni take their technologies and ideas to market through new business creation.

Additionally, NTUitive provides start-ups with access to early-stage funding, market development, entrepreneurship education, networking, mentoring support and start-up facilities within the Innovation Centre at the University. It is located at the Innovation Centre, a mix of work and social space to incubate and nurture start-ups. It is the place to be for like-minded individuals to work, network, share experiences and create alliances to enhance their value proposition.

Graduating start-ups can take advantage of NTUitive’s new incubation facility located at 79 Ayer Rajah Crescent at OneNorth, also known as the Silicon Valley of Singapore. The full address is 79 Ayer Rajah Crescent, #04-01, and it is within walking distance from One-North MRT station, opposite Fusionopolis.

For more information on NTUitive and its complete suite of incubation services, please contact them at:

NTUitive Pte Ltd
16 Nanyang Drive, #01-109, Innovation Centre, Singapore 637722
Tel: 6790 4954
Email: ntuitiveinfo@ntuitive.sg
www.ntuitive.sg

The story of QLIPP

Mr Donny Soh is confident that his tennis performance IoT wearable sensor will be a big hit.

“The idea of the tennis performance sensor QLIPP came to me in 2012 when I was still working at A*STAR. I was helping to develop part of the technology there. Although I felt that the wearable IoT (Internet of Things) space possessed big potential to be commercialised, the industry wasn’t that hot yet and not many people were convinced by it,” Mr Soh says.

The wearable IoT device, QLIPP, attaches to the strings of a tennis racket and syncs with a smartphone app to measure your tennis playing performance.

Mr Soh is an expert in data mining: a skill well-suited to tackle the complex IoT space.

“The barrier entry for entering the wearable tech space is not low. It is a very unique space because it encompasses both the hardware and an app, resulting in the need for a lot of data analysis. It is very difficult to get it right; there are so many moving parts that affect one another,” he says.

Before zeroing in on the tennis market, QLIPP was exploring different options in the sports industry.

“We looked at golf but there were already many similar products, and we weren’t confident of making an impact there. For running, the incumbents were strong. For tennis [at that time], there was only one player, it was a nascent area,” he explains.

“We also decided that because of our small team size, it would be best to focus on one sport. One that we believed would allow us to capture a sizeable market share,” says Mr Soh.

It was incubated initially with NTUitive, the enterprise and innovation arm of NTU. Through this incubation, QLIPP was able to accelerate its R&D efforts through the iJAM grants from MDA that was administered by NTUitive. It also helped QLIPP to raise awareness and expand its marketing outreach to trade shows overseas. Through NTUitive, the QLIPP team was also able to head to Silicon Valley to promote the device.

QLIPP has signed a partnership deal with Registro Profesional de Tennis (RPT), a leading global tennis coach association with over 20,000 coaches. QLIPP says it will be providing RPT’s coaches and players with its device. RPT will also have access to QLIPP’s newest technologies from the R&D stage onwards and provide consulting services to publish RPT-related material online.

While Mr Soh is more than qualified to tackle the wearable tech space, he is still a first-time entrepreneur and has made a few missteps along the way.

“My tip for entrepreneurs is – you have to get the market right. Coming from a technical background, I focussed too much on the product and team and failed to look into the market size. If I had analysed the market sooner, my progress would have been a lot faster,” says Soh. He also fears the possibility of his technology being rendered obsolete.

“I’m not an aggressive marketing person or hustler. At the end of the day, I just want to build a product that people will use and impact their lives,” he concludes.

This article on QLIPP has been adapted with permission, from the original which first appeared in e27.co on 30 November 2015.
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To find out more about the NTU Alumni Card, please visit http://www.ntu.edu.sg/Alumni/AlumniCard. If your company is keen to join us as merchant, please contact the following persons from the NTU Alumni Affairs Office: Jensen – kctan@ntu.edu.sg / 67906769 or Jennifer – jtcru@ntu.edu.sg / 67905919.
Commemorating 10 wonderful years

NTU’s School of Chemical & Biomedical Engineering (SCBE) 10th anniversary celebration held at Gardens by the Bay South on 31 October attracted some 150 alumni. SCBE students together with faculty and their family members were also present to join in the celebrations. The outdoor event, appropriately themed ‘Back to School on Halloween’, featured a sumptuous dinner, games and entertainment for everyone to enjoy. Chair of SCBE Professor Teoh Swee Hin addressed the crowd via a recorded video message, congratulating everyone on their achievements.

The event ended with a lucky draw where the top prize of a two-days, one-night staycation at a 5-star local hotel was presented to the winner.

Past meets present

‘Past vs Present’, a one-day sports and recreation games event held on 7 November, saw alumni who were former hostellites in the Hall of Residence Six, returning to their hall to play various games against the current Hall Six residents, the Sixians.

It was a full day event comprising five sports and three recreation games namely basketball (male/female), softball (mixed), water polo, sepak takraw, soccer, scrabble, boggle and carrom.

Through this event, the Sixians were able to engage with the alumni and this strengthened their passion for hall spirit and culture through their common interest for sports and recreation games.

This event not only served as a good platform for the Sixians to interact and strengthen bonds, it also provided the players with more experience in a competitive yet fun environment as a lead-up to the Inter-Hall games in December.
Networking amongst fellow alumni in China

Alumni in Chinese cities get-together at gatherings organised by various NTU Alumni Associations in China.

Fujian

NTU alumni residing and working in China’s Fujian province got together in the city of Xiamen on 31 October and 1 November for the NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Fujian)’s annual gathering.

Distinguished guests who attended the event included Professor Er Meng Hwa, NTU Vice-President for International Affairs; Dr Su Guaning, NTU President Emeritus; Mr Soon Min Yam, Director of NTU Alumni Affairs; Mr Tee Ah Heng, Deputy Director of NTU Development Office; Ms Leong Shi Min, Vice-Consul (Visa) of Singapore in Xiamen; Mr Lu Jiasheng, President of NTU AA (Fujian); and alumni representatives from NTU AAs in Beijing, Shanghai, Guangdong, Shan dong, Shanxi, Hunan, Hubei, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Chongqing, Shaanxi, Anhui, Liaoning.

Some 134 alumni and guests were present at the annual gathering held at Xiamen Nanyang College.

President of NTU AA (Fujian) Mr Lu Jiasheng (NBS/2008), who is also the Co-Founder of Xiamen Nanyang College and Chairman of Xiamen Nanyang College Board of Trustees, delivered his speech where he shared his experience in setting up the college. Prof Er also updated the alumni and guests on NTU’s recent progress and development.

An expert in the topic of cross-strait relations and Taiwan-related issues, Professor Liu Guoshen, Dean of Taiwan Research Institute, Xiamen University, gave a talk on ‘The transformation of Taiwan and cross-strait relations’. Mr Jiang Liangzhou (NTC/2013) and Mr Chen Xi (NTC/2008) spoke on topics of ‘How to make use of the internet for traditional industry’ and ‘How to become an angel investor for traditional business owners’ respectively.

At the annual gathering, some alumni also participated in a tree planting activity at Xiamen Nanyang College as well as a tour around Kinmen County on a cruise ship. They also enjoyed entertaining performances and a camp fire at the beach.

Beijing

An alumni gathering was jointly organised by NTU’s Nanyang Business School (NBS) Chinese Programmes and NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Beijing) on 7 November at Four Seasons Hotel Beijing. The gathering featured a forum session which discussed two topics – ‘Which is the best way towards investment’ and ‘Supporting a corporation’s philosophy’. Mr Jiao Shuge, the Chief Executive Officer of CDH Investments and Mr Wang Shengjiang, the Chief Executive Officer of Angel Plus Fund shared their experiences in investment strategies. Mr Feng Lun, Chief Executive Officer of Vantone Group and Mr Zhang Yong, founder of Hai Di Lao Hot Pot spoke on the second topic where Mr Zhang shared the successful business strategies of Hai Di Lao, while Mr Feng explained Vantone Group’s company’s survival philosophy.

NBS Dean Professor Ravi Kumar was also present at the event.
At the event, NBS conferred awards to alumni for their career achievements and contributions. They were, Mr Lu Yiming, Mr Wang Yongming (2013), Mr Fu Jianyong (2014), Mr Luo Liqun and Mr Chen Xiongwei (2008). The NBS China Alumni Advisory Committee was also launched.

A charity auction was held during the dinner, to raise funds for needy primary school students in China.

**Shaanxi**

NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Shaanxi)’s annual gathering was held on 21 November at the Shangri-La Hotel in Xi’an city. About 100 alumni and guests attended the gathering which included NTU Vice-President for International Affairs Professor Er Meng Hwa, Director of NTU Alumni Affairs Mr Soon Min Yam and Deputy Director of NTU Development Office Mr Tee Ah Heng. NTU alumni representatives from Beijing, Shandong, Fujian, Xinjiang, Zhejiang, Henan and Guangdong were also present.

During dinner, President of NTU AA (Shaanxi) Ms Qiang Linmei (NBS/2005) gave an update on the AA’s progress for the year. She emphasised that the aim of the AA is to serve and connect alumni, strengthen the relationship between the alma mater and alumni, and to give back to society.

The respective presidents of the AAs provided an overall review of their associations for the year. They also shared their vision and future plans to encourage alumni to stay connected with their alma mater. Prof Er gave an update on NTU’s recent developments. The alumni also participated in sports and games such as table tennis, badminton and tug-of-war. It was in fact the first time alumni from the three different provinces came together for an enjoyable event.

The alumni event was also supported by Henan Province Federation of Returned Overseas and Wuhan Innovation Supporting Centre for Talent.

**Hubei, Hunan and Jiangxi**

On 21 and 22 November, NTU Alumni Associations (AAs) in Hubei, Hunan and Jiangxi organised a joint annual gathering in the capital city of Hubei province, Wuhan. Some 100 alumni and guests were present, including NTU Vice-President for International Affairs Professor Er Meng Hwa, Director of NTU Alumni Affairs Mr Soon Min Yam and alumni representatives from Beijing, Shandong, Guangdong and Fujian.

The AA also conferred awards to outstanding alumni for their achievements and contributions to the AA.
and recent developments. Deputy Secretary of Party Committee of Chong Qing University, Professor Shu Lichun commended the success of the event which served as a unique platform for the two universities to collaborate and expand their international reputation.

Mr Shi Xiangang (NBS/2006), President of NTU AA (Henan), who is also the President of the Henan Alumni Association of Chong Qing University, thanked the alumni for their strong support. He also shared that the NTU AA (Henan) will continue to ‘connect, communicate, gather, give back and share’, in order to serve the alumni better.

Guangdong
The annual gathering organised by NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Guangdong) was held in the city of Zhuhai on 5 and 6 December. The event also included the launch of the NTU Technology Transfer Southern Centre which was established during the 3rd Conference of China-based NTU Alumni Associations in Qingdao city in September 2015, when a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between NTUitive and NTU AA (Guangdong) by Dr Lim Jui, Chief Executive Officer of NTUitive and Mr Zeng Peng (NBS/2009), President of NTU AA (Guangdong) respectively.

The centre aims to guide NTU’s start-ups to expand into the Chinese market through the NTU alumni network in China, and at the same time create investment and business development opportunities for both parties.

During the gathering, Professor Er Meng Hwa, NTU Vice-President for International Affairs, gave an update on the University’s recent progress while Dr Lim Jui spoke about the development of innovation technology. Mr Zeng Peng presented a review of NTU AA (Guangdong) in 2015.

A cooperative agreement was also signed between Zhuhai National Hi-tech Industrial Development Zone, NTU AA (Guangdong) and Zhuhai Southern Software Park.

Gathering of friends in Taiwan
NTU Alumni Association (Taiwan) holds its annual gathering in Taipei for alumni in Taiwan.

The annual gathering organised by NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Taiwan) in the city of Taipei was held on 1 November. Before the event, Vice-President of the AA Mr Ong Hiap Liew (Science/1978), suggested making a souvenir which would provide a common identity for NTU alumni in Taiwan. A customised cap was hence produced and given to the alumni who attended the annual gathering.

In his speech during the event, Professor Er Meng Hwa, NTU Vice-President for International Affairs, spoke on NTU’s significant improvements in various world university rankings and gave an update on the University’s developments.

During the alumni forum, Mr Lo Li-Chun (NBS/2012) gave a presentation on the topic ‘A tale of two cities from a macro view’. He spoke on what caused the collapse of the Lehman Brothers in 2008 and the adverse effects that followed thereafter. He also shared his views on macroeconomics trends in 2020, the situation in Asia under Sino-US policies, and China’s ‘One belt and one road’ initiative.

After the forum, alumni and guests spent some time networking whilst enjoying a sumptuous dinner.
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**DR FRANCIS GOH (MPE/1995)**

My days in NTU were the most memorable times in my life, managing between studies and multiple extra-curricular activities as I was a member of the Hall’s jam band, NTU symphonic band as well as the NTU Jam Band (leader). As such, I managed to gather enough points to stay in the halls. I settled for Hall 7 eventually where I stayed for my last three years in NTU.

I believe I learnt a great deal about multi-tasking and managing multiple workloads and doing well in all of them at the same time. I would think the greatest learning one can have at the university is not only the academic aspect, but more on the development of personal qualities such as peer and people management, time management and EQ. I also had the chance to go to Germany for my 3rd year industrial attachment. That was an exceptional experience for me during that time as a young man, first time out of the country and living an independent life – a great learning experience!

I’m currently the CEO of Mercer, a company which helps clients in the area of health, wealth and career. In the health area, we are the insurance broker for all major insurance companies and we also provide consulting and advisory in the area of insurance programmes. In the area of wealth, our investment arm advises and manages clients wealth management portfolio. Our talent business does the end-to-end process for talent management and development.

I enjoy pursuing my interests in the area of music, where I continue to write and play new songs. In order to manage the stresses at work and to maintain a healthy work-life balance, I often take breaks to rest and relax at overseas national parks as part of my travel.

I returned to the NTU campus in November 2015 for the Class of 1995’s 20th anniversary. It was fun to catch up with old friends and lecturers, reminiscing the good old days. I do hope that all of us alumni stay connected!

**MS SANDY SOO (NIE/1996)**

I joined NTU’s Centre for IT Services in May 2015 to be part of the Programme Management Office (PMO) for NTU Technology-Enabled Learning (TEL) Initiative.

The TEL team is managing the 5-year programme where we aim to transform TEL courses across Schools. Working with team members, faculty (as school TEL champions) and vendors has been a challenging and enriching experience so far – I have learnt valuable lessons and forged good partnerships with various stakeholders.

Over the last 15 years after I graduated from NIE, I have worked in the education and learning industry. I taught English and Accounts in a secondary school and in enrichment classes. A large part of my career was in instructional design and project management, where I worked with corporate clients to provide training and customise e-learning solutions for their learning and development.

I usually unwind on weekends by spending time with my husband and two boys, aged seven and eight. Besides the usual grocery shopping, we enjoy scootering, swimming and watching movies together.

**MR TED CHEN CHIU-HAO (EEE/2012)**

Whilst studying in NTU, I am glad to be given lots of opportunities to learn about and experience entrepreneurship which was in addition to what I was learning through my EEE course, via the Minor in Entrepreneurship.

Besides picking up skills to become an accomplished engineer, I was also able to learn how best to pitch an idea and prepare a good business plan to support the idea.

Upon graduation, I started Evercomm with my co-founder, who is my fellow alumnus from EEE as well. I am thankful for the chance to work with Assistant Professor Wen to commercialise a technology which will help factories and campuses save energy costs. I hope that very soon we will be able to expand our business to markets overseas. We have also successfully implemented a large scale eco-campus project overseas. We are now exploring potential research collaboration opportunity with Energy Research Institute @ NTU to participate in NTU’s eco-campus initiative.

When I am not busy working, I enjoy spending my time reading, playing basketball and tennis.
**MS BEVERLY LOW YUEN WEI**  
**(WKWSCI/2008)**

I did my part-time Master of Mass Communication (MMC) at WKWSCI from 2005 to 2008, followed by a PhD in Communication Studies with an NTU scholarship. The key reason why I applied to MMC in 2005 was that I had been managing the public relations aspect of In Source Theatre, a non-profit organisation that I founded in 2001, prior to my studies. I thought that pursuing an MMC would provide me with a greater insight into the media system and issues.

I definitely did benefit from the course which even included practical acquisition of multimedia knowledge through the module Multi-media Systems. With the knowledge acquired, I produced, wrote and directed a full length documentary film based on my research of “Spiritual Theatre” in Singapore in 2008, with Research and Development Grant awarded by the National Arts Council. This documentary would not have been made possible without the training that I received from the MMC course.

As for the PhD programme, in addition to receiving guidance from the very comprehensive and vigorous graduate research programme, I have most importantly learnt the lessons of perseverance and humility through the long and winding journey of undertaking the study. These two precious values are ingrained in me, and have benefited me in both the professional and personal aspects of my life. I value very much the wisdom shared by the professors and genuine friendship that I have formed with my Masters and PhD friends.

I have always been passionate about performing arts and education. I am now still performing and writing for In Source Theatre, though I have passed the leadership role of heading the group to another member. When I am not involving in the arts, I am an associate lecturer at various polytechnics and SIM Global Education. With the polytechnics, I am glad that I am able to continue to live by my passion with the opportunities to teach arts and theatre related subjects.

In Source Theatre is turning 15 this year! I would say that though it is a small arts group, it is the small number that ties us strongly together. We work cohesively as one artistically, and we are unified in our vision. This year, the theatre will be presenting 3 plays, two of which will be written by me, while one will be directed by me. Do keep a look up for them! And, oh yes, my stage name is “Beverly Yuen”, if you wonder if “Low Yuen Wei” and “Beverly Yuen” are the same person.

**MR RYAN JIN ZHANHE**  
**(SPMS/2015)**

I graduated from NTU with BSc (Hons) in Applied Physics and was the former President of Earthlink NTU, a student environment club in the University. Typical days in NTU would consist of running from one lecture to the other lecture as I often had classes that were conducted from the far ends of the campus.

Through my involvement in Earthlink NTU, I was involved in multiple overseas projects in Nepal and Laos. Organising these overseas projects requires multiple skills such as fund raising, managing the team, meeting various stakeholders’ expectation, and others. My time in NTU provided valuable project management experience and networking opportunities. In fact, one of the project partners I am working with now was a partner in my earlier Laos Solar Project.

NTU provides various opportunities for students in learning, in both the academic and non-academic fronts. I had the opportunity to organise various activities and projects, one of which cost about $50,000.

I am currently working in NTU as the Programme Coordinator of the EcoCampus Initiative – an initiative aim to achieve a 35% reduction in energy, water and waste intensity in NTU by 2020. I am actively engaging NTU students to support, enable and empower them to initiate sustainability projects on campus. I am also pursuing an MSc in in Project Management jointly offered by NTU and University of Manchester (UOM).

I enjoy trekking and am trying to trek regularly with some of my colleagues now. One day, I hope to go on a Mt Kilimanjaro or Everest Base Camp trekking expedition.
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