NTU Bids Farewell To A Beloved Professor

The NTU community pays tribute to the late Professor Lee Sing Kong
Young and research-intensive, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore is ranked 13th globally. It is also placed 1st amongst the world’s best young universities.

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MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

2017 has already brought with it many exciting achievements and developments for your alma mater. But it is also tinged with sadness. In May, the NTU community mourned the passing of Professor Lee Sing Kong, NTU Vice President (Alumni and Advancement), whose dedication to education, research and alumni relations left an indelible mark on many among us. He will be deeply missed, but I have no doubt that his legacy will continue to inspire us.

The efforts of Prof Lee as well as those of our faculty, staff, students and alumni have helped NTU to fly the Singapore flag up high. In the latest QS World University Rankings, NTU is ranked No. 11 in the world. This is NTU’s highest position in this influential league table of top universities and the highest position ever attained by any university in Singapore and Asia in the QS world ranking. I would like to sincerely thank all of you for your tireless dedication.

Always a hive of activity, NTU’s campus is about to get even livelier: with new residence halls in Nanyang Crescent slated to open in August 2017, some 16,000 undergraduates in total will soon live on campus, and experience fully our NTU culture.

In April 2017, we unveiled The Wave, a mega sports hall built using an innovative timber construction technology. In January 2017, classes began at the NTU Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine’s new Clinical Sciences Building, located at the heart of Singapore’s Novena medical hub.

NTU’s excellent research capabilities have allowed us to establish strong partnerships with industry and academia. This year, we are working with Swedish air filtration industry leader Camfil on technologies to improve indoor air quality, and partnering with the Schaeffler Group, a leading German automotive and industrial components supplier, to develop next-generation personal mobility devices. With our academic partners at RIKEN, we are establishing joint research institutes in Singapore and Japan to explore new methods of detecting and treating diseases.

The mission of the Alumni Affairs Office (AAO) is to engage all NTU alumni in lifelong and mutually beneficial relationships with the alma mater. We have developed and adopted the Three Dimensional Engagement Model, i.e., alma mater to alumni, alumni to alma mater, and alumni to alumni to guide our alumni engagement practices.

As a testimony to our efforts at engaging our 213,000 alumni around the world, NTU has for the first time been selected as one of the two Asia-Pacific regional finalists for the 2017 CASE Circle of Excellence Award - Platinum Categories: Best Practices in Alumni Relations for our alumni engagement in China. We are proud to represent the Asia-Pacific region in the international round of the competition.

We value your support tremendously and encourage you to stay in touch with us and with your fellow classmates.

Professor Bertil Andersson
President,
Nanyang Technological University
Built using green construction technology, NTU’s much-lauded sports hall was officially opened on 24 April 2017. Aptly named The Wave for its 72-metre wave-like roof, NTU’s latest architectural icon is the first large-scale building in Southeast Asia to be built using mass-engineered timber, made using a new timber construction technology.

Not only does the new material provide five times better heat insulation than concrete, it is also able to support a continuous 72-metre roof without the need for internal columns, opening up a cavernous three-storey space the size of three basketball courts.

Other features of the building include 980 mechanised retractable seats, energy-saving LED lighting and solar-powered systems.

It gets even cooler: The Wave has a unique cooling system that chills the air as it enters the hall, so that conventional air-conditioning systems are not needed.

Giving kudos to NTU’s efforts at environmental sustainability was Mr. Lawrence Wong, Minister for National Development and Second Minister for Finance, who was the guest of honour at the launch event.

“The Wave marks a new milestone in Singapore’s push to be more productive in construction,” Minister Wong said. “NTU’s focus on environmental sustainability and openness to new building materials and methods show what we can achieve together.”

By modelling sun and wind patterns, designers of The Wave made sure that the building would be well ventilated, with average wind speeds at about 0.4 metres per second.

Each external wall of the sports hall was designed to have two layers, sandwiching a pocket of air between them for insulation.

A unique feature of the walls is the presence of metal coils with chilled water flowing through them. The coils cool the wind as it enters the hall, while warm air escapes via convection.

Together, these features are estimated to reduce energy use by more than 60 percent, as fans and air-conditioners are no longer necessary to keep sweat at bay.
NTU NAMED ASIA’S TOP UNIVERSITY

NTU placed 11th in the June 2017 Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) global league table of top universities, making it the highest-ranked university in Singapore as well as in Asia. This is NTU’s best performance in this influential university ranking, as well as the highest position ever attained by any university in Singapore and Asia.

“This is fantastic news and a strong recognition of our progress,” said NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson. On the secrets of NTU’s meteoric rise, Prof Andersson said, “There are three success factors: people, people, people. NTU has attracted the best talents—top faculty, promising, upcoming investigators and the brightest students.”

Boasting one of the world’s largest engineering colleges, NTU has built up a strong reputation for innovation and fruitful industry ties. Leading players such as BMW, Rolls-Royce, Lockheed Martin, Delta, and Singapore’s ST Engineering and public transport operator SMRT all have joint research labs on campus, drawing on NTU’s engineering capabilities and ability to translate research into industry applications.

NTU’s campus is also frequently named among the world’s most beautiful. Iconic buildings such as the Hive and the Wave not only have beautiful forms, but also function with environmental sustainability in mind.

“As a university, we have been in hyper-drive—ramping up research, designing innovative academic and research programmes, building new facilities and more. All this has been achieved in a short time because of the firm commitment of the faculty, staff, students and the Board of Trustees, and the strong support of the alumni and our donors,” said Prof Andersson. NTU’s engineering capabilities have helped it build a strong reputation for innovation and fruitful industry collaborations.

On 16 March 2017, NTU staff, faculty, students and alumni gathered at the Nanyang Auditorium for NTU’s signature annual event, Celebrate NTU! The event celebrates the University’s past achievements and exciting future plans.

NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson kicked things off with his State of the University Address. He updated the audience on developments such as NTU’s improved university rankings, the two new schools at NTU (School of Humanities and School of Social Sciences), the new College of Professional and Continuing Education, new degree programmes for students, the campus master plan, and new academic and administrative appointments.

Prof Andersson and NTU Chief of Staff and Vice-President (Research) Professor Lam Khin Yong then presented outstanding faculty, staff and students with the Nanyang Awards.

After the ceremony, the NTU community proceeded to a party at The Quad, with entertainment provided by the University’s very own hall jam bands.
On Campus

Come August, more than 14,000 students will have a place to call home on NTU’s campus.

 Incoming freshmen will be guaranteed a residential place on campus for their first two years, up from the current one year, announced NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson at his annual State of the University address on 16 March 2017. “A residential experience is part of the holistic education we offer,” he said. “Demand has always been high and we have been doing a lot of construction in the last few years to meet it. Talk to any NTU graduate, and they will tell you that living on campus is something not to be missed.”

In September 2016, NTU opened three new halls, adding 2,100 on-campus housing places. This August, three more halls will open at Nanyang Crescent, catering to another 1,820 students. By then, NTU’s total of 24 residence halls—housing some 14,200 undergraduates—will fulfil over 90 percent of current demand.

NOT JUST ABOUT CONVENIENCE

Besides being a place to rest after class, halls regularly organise social, sports and recreational activities that build teamwork, camaraderie and leadership skills.

The new halls—including an annex block with a landscaped rooftop garden—will also be connected by a linkway with BBQ pits and study pavilions. Students will have access to common study and recreational areas such as sky lounges, discussion pods and reading rooms, as well as a multi-purpose hall.

Tan Li Yun, 19, a first-year business student, said, “Living on campus is a milestone experience. For many of us, this is our first time staying away from home and our first taste of becoming independent adults.”

WALKING THE GREEN TALK

NTU is known for its lush greenery and environmentally friendly buildings. Set to become the greenest eco-campus in the world, it aims to reach a 35 percent reduction in energy use, water consumption, and waste by 2020.

In keeping with this, the new buildings were designed with sustainability in mind, and contain features such as solar-powered hot water heaters and motion-sensing systems which turn off when nobody is around.

“The NTU garden campus has been named one of the top 15 most beautiful universities in the world, and we continue to walk the green talk,” said Prof Andersson.

“A residential experience is part of the holistic education we offer”

Professor Bertil Andersson
NTU President
NTU has unveiled its new medical school building at the heart of Singapore’s medical hub in Novena.

Towering 20 storeys, the Clinical Sciences Building (CSB) houses state-of-the-art smart classrooms, the latest medical teaching facilities, and high-tech research laboratories.

“CSB is a symbol of our ambition to bridge the gulf between pre-clinical research or studies and the clinical world,” said Professor James Best, Dean of the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKCMedicine).

**MERGING THE CLASSROOM WITH THE CLINIC**

Classes at CSB began in January 2017. Together, CSB and the Experimental Medicine Building on the University’s main campus form LKCMedicine. LKCMedicine opened in 2013 with an inaugural intake of 54, and currently has 328 students.

The Centre for Clinical Simulation, which spans two floors of the building, houses a number of learning facilities based on clinical environments.

The Simulated Ward, for example, can be configured into various hospital settings such as an intensive care unit or emergency room, allowing students to practise everyday scenarios.

Students gain hands-on experience at the Practical Skills Lab, where they learn clinical skills including venepuncture (drawing blood), suturing techniques, and managing scenarios such as stopping uncontrolled bleeding.

They can also hone their doctor-patient interaction skills at the Communication Suite, where they will be able to interact with actors trained to role play and give patient-focused feedback.

In addition, CSB’s Anatomy Learning Centre supports the learning of the human body’s intricate structures. Students can conduct virtual dissections on the Anatomage Table, a virtual operating table which offers unprecedented realistic 3D, life-sized visualisations of human anatomy.

“**To nurture professionals and leaders of tomorrow, we need to design physical spaces to support new pedagogies that emphasise team-based learning and active problem-solving.”**

Professor Kam Chan Hin

NTU Deputy Provost (Education)
NTU will launch two Bachelor of Fine Arts (BFA) programmes in Design Art and Media Art in August, aimed at helping graduates compete in the ever-changing and expanding creative and digital industries.

The new four-year offerings from the School of Art, Design and Media allow students more flexibility to choose from a broad range of courses within and outside their majors.

The BFA in Design Art combines three current programmes in Interactive Media, Product Design and Visual Communication into an integrated programme in Design.

The BFA in Media Art unifies existing specialisations in Digital Animation, Digital Filmmaking, and Photography & Digital Imaging into an integrated programme in Media.

Students will gain practical experience with a compulsory ten-week internship at top companies, studios and production houses. They will also be able to study abroad at partner universities such as the Royal College of Art in the UK.

“The frontiers of art, design and media are expanding, in part due to the advances in technology, but also because of the increasing complexity of social existence,” said Professor Alan Chan, Dean of the College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences. “The new programmes address these changes, and provide a more integrated learning experience.”

NTU has added Russian to its language offerings, after a survey of 500 students found it to be most in demand. This brings the number of Asian and European languages offered at NTU to 14.

Mr Seah Xiang Yu, a fourth-year Maritime Studies student, was inspired to learn the language after traveling to Russia. “I find the lessons engaging and fun. My favourite word is ‘babushka’, which means grandmother,” he said. “Babushkas have a significant role in Russian families. They may look stern but they care a lot for others.”

In 2015, NTU also introduced courses in Singapore Sign Language, which now attract some 100 students each semester.

Among them is second-year Psychology student Ms Goh Jing Tian, who tutors children who are deaf or hard of hearing through NTU’s Welfare Services Club.

“Learning Singapore Sign Language is fun, and I feel even more motivated to work alongside the deaf,” she said. “I intend to specialise in special needs education, so these classes will definitely give me an edge and help me to be better equipped for my role.”

Besides formal classroom lectures, language tutors have also organised various cultural activities—for example, at monthly Russian Movie Club sessions, students can enjoy Russian films and treats such as meat pies, salad and pancakes.

THE FINE ART OF CREATIVITY

Top Models exhibit wearable technology developed by students from NTU’s School of Art, Design and Media.

Bottom Students from NTU’s School of Art, Design and Media working on a project at the school’s Motion Capture Laboratory.

Opposite page
Top Russian, here taught by tutor Ms Elena Ermilova (standing), is the latest language to be offered by NTU.

Bottom Students in a Singapore Sign Language class practice their signing skills.
Exactly two years after an earthquake ended her quest to summit the world’s highest peak, Ms Nur Yusrina Ya’akob has achieved her dream on her second attempt.

Ms Yusrina, who was climbing as part of the NTU-National Institute of Education (NIE) Everest Team Singapore, reached the summit of the 8,848-metre Mount Everest at approximately 11.55 am Singapore time on 22 May 2017.

Ms Yusrina is a trainee teacher pursuing the Postgraduate Diploma in Physical Education at NIE. The team also comprised Dr Arjunan Saravana Pillai, an NIE teaching fellow, and Mr Jeremy Tong (SSM/2016), a graduate of NTU’s Sports Science and Management programme.

A TREMENDOUS TEAM EFFORT

The team arrived in Kathmandu, Nepal on 26 March 2017, and travelled to Everest Base Camp South, where they have been based for the past two months. During that time, they did acclimatisation climbs—including to the 6,119-metre Lobuche Peak—to adjust physically and mentally to the low oxygen levels, volatile and extreme weather conditions and dangerous terrain.

When it came to the actual summit push, Dr Saravana, who was not feeling well, stayed at base camp, while Mr Tong was forced to turn back just 360 metres from the peak due to breathing difficulties.

“Reaching the top of the world’s highest mountain is a truly remarkable feat. Yusrina’s success today is an event that we can all be proud of,” said Mr Tan Chin Hwee, NTU Board of Trustees member and a keen supporter of the team.

“But this is a team effort, and credit must also go to Dr Saravana and Jeremy. Throughout the entire expedition, they kept supporting and motivating each other on in spite of the very difficult and challenging conditions. As long as one summits, the entire team succeeds.”

IF AT FIRST YOU DON’T SUCCEED

The idea for the NTU expedition began in early 2016, when Ms Yusrina decided to revive her dream of summiting Everest. In 2015, she was co-leader of the SG50 Everest team that was forced to abort its ascent at 5,500 metres after the deadly Nepal earthquake struck.

She teamed up with Dr Saravana and Mr Tong after learning about their plans to climb the mountain.

To fund their expedition, which is supported by NTU and NIE, the trio raised more than S$150,000. They also followed a training regimen to get themselves in top physical form. This included hauling 20-kilogramme backpacks up 40-storey apartment blocks, hiking in Bukit Timah Nature Reserve, endurance runs, and rock climbing.

“We all know how dangerous conditions on Everest can be, and it takes a lot of courage, discipline and persistence to attempt such an expedition. The team has shown that if you work hard and smart, stay disciplined, keep on believing and stay the course, you can eventually achieve your dreams,” said Mr Tan.

“These are lifelong values that NTU believes its students should have—they will not only benefit students throughout their lives, but are also vital to securing Singapore’s future.”

A sweet success for NIE trainee teacher, the second time around.
In the future, you could get off the train and hop onto an electric kickboard that navigates you the rest of the way home. Need to stop by the supermarket? You could also transform the same kickboard into a smart trolley for groceries.

A new joint research lab established between NTU and the Schaeffler Group, a leading German automotive and industrial components supplier, aims to make such next-generation personal mobility devices a reality.

“We aim to develop innovative, safer and more efficient personal transport solutions which will support Singapore’s drive towards a car-lite society,” said NTU Chief of Staff and Vice President (Research) Professor Lam Khin Yong. Researchers at the S$5 million lab, set up as part of the Schaeffler Hub for Advanced REsearch at NTU (SHARE at NTU), will study the behaviour of personal mobility device users in Singapore, and develop portable smart technologies to enhance safety and last-mile experience.

They will also make use of the NTU-NXP Smart Mobility Test Bed, which consists of smart vehicles and street lamp-mounted video cameras located throughout the NTU campus. “NTU is already a living lab for advanced mobility concepts and technologies, with an interconnected network of smart devices in cars, buses and traffic infrastructure,” said Professor Yoon Soon Fatt, Chair of NTU’s School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering. “The campus is the perfect place to develop next-generation mobility devices.”

NTU Chief of Staff and Vice President (Research) Prof Lam Khiin Yong (left) and Schaeffler AG Deputy CEO and Chief Technology Officer Prof Dr.-Ing. Peter Gutzmer (right) test out some of Schaeffler’s smart mobility devices.

Something good is in the air: NTU is partnering with Swedish company Camfil, a global leader in the air filtration industry, to develop technologies to improve indoor air quality.

Researchers at the Energy Research Institute @ NTU (ERI@N), together with Camfil’s experts, will investigate the impact of indoor air quality on the cognitive performance and well-being of adults.

The partnership will also see the testing of air filter technologies in NTU’s buildings, focusing on their performance in tropical weather.

“In today’s urban cities, people spend more than 90 percent of their time indoors,” said NTU Chief of Staff and Vice President (Research) Professor Lam Khin Yong. “We hope that the collaboration will result in innovative solutions that can improve well-being and productivity.”

NTU is partnering with Japanese research institute RIKEN to establish joint research institutes focusing on human biology. A RIKEN-NTU Research Centre for Human Biology will be set up in Singapore, and a corresponding NTU-RIKEN Research Centre will be established in Japan.

Initial research projects include exploring the complex mechanisms by which the mind and body interact; the discovery of novel biomarkers for early disease diagnosis; and the use of machine learning techniques to detect diseases.

Professor Balázs Gulyás of NTU’s Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine and Dr Atsushi Ikki of RIKEN will serve as co-directors of the research centres.
NTU Bids Farewell To A Beloved Professor

The NTU community pays tribute to the late Professor Lee Sing Kong, a champion of education, research and alumni relations.
Professor Lee Sing Kong, a widely respected academic known for his dedication to education, passion for innovation and commitment to alumni engagement, passed away on 19 May 2017 at the age of 65.

Tributes poured in from a saddened NTU community, who remembered Professor Lee as a wise and firm mentor, a passionate speaker and an inspiring yet humble leader.

“Professor Lee was an inspiring figure who left an indelible mark on Singapore’s teaching and higher education system. He was a dynamic leader who firmly believed in the importance of education,” said NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson, who extended his deepest condolences to Professor Lee’s family.

“His dedication to NTU and to NIE and his lifelong passion for education are well known. We will miss him deeply.”

A STALWART OF EDUCATION

A horticulturalist by training, Professor Lee played an instrumental role in advancing Singapore’s teaching and education system. As Director of the National Institute of Education (NIE) from 2006-2014, he rallied the teaching fraternity to take the nation’s education system to greater heights; Singapore’s success in international mathematics, science and reading rankings are a testament to this.

In 2014, Professor Lee was appointed NTU Vice President (Education Strategies). In this role, he led innovations in NTU’s curricula and teaching and assessment methods, and was instrumental in moving NTU into research on higher education learning through the establishment of the Centre for Research and Development in Learning (CRADLE).

“Professor Lee will be remembered as an exceptional leader and friend by generations of teachers and students. He was passionate about education and learning, and lived life to the fullest,” said NTU Board of Trustees Chairman Mr Koh Boon Hwee. “We have lost a very special member of the NTU community.”

AN ALUMNI ADVOCATE

In 2015, Professor Lee was concurrently appointed NTU Vice President (Alumni and Advancement). He initiated fresh efforts to increase NTU’s outreach to alumni and to strengthen donor engagement. Under his leadership, the NTU Alumni Affairs Office (AAO) formed the NTU Alumni Council and Executive Committee, and adopted the Three-Dimensional Engagement Model created by Professor Lee as the guiding principle for NTU alumni engagement.

In addition to these initiatives, Professor Lee favored a hands-on approach. “He was detail-oriented and always listened to the alumni’s concerns in order to understand their needs,” said NTU Chief Alumni Affairs Officer Mr Guo Xian Nan.

“Professor Lee has left a tremendous legacy, which will continue to guide and inspire us to keep working hard, exploring new territories and ascending to new heights,” Mr Guo added.

“He inspired us to share his vision through his single-minded focus, friendly persuasion and sometimes, through the sheer force of his personality,” said NTU Board of Trustees Member and Chairman of NTU’s Alumni and Development Committee Mr Inderjit Singh in his eulogy, delivered at Professor Lee’s wake. “I bid our stalwart, our mentor and our friend farewell. We will always treasure the many memories of Professor Lee, and be thankful that he touched our lives.”

“Professor Lee was an inspiring figure who left an indelible mark on Singapore’s teaching and higher education system. He was a dynamic leader who firmly believed in the importance of education.”

— NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson
Mr Hendri Zhang
(EEE/2007), President, NTU EEEAA

When I first met Professor Lee at a lunch he hosted for NTU alumni leaders, I was truly inspired by his energy and vision when it came to transforming the NTU alumni community into an even more vibrant and engaged one. His speeches were always inspiring and full of enthusiasm; his energy and voice will be dearly missed.

Ms Rasiah Baslyn Agatha
(WKVSCI/2010), President, NTU AA (Gulf Cooperation Council)

Professor Lee was a gregarious, dedicated, wise and firm mentor. I was privileged to have sat in his office countless times, seeking his wise counsel, and getting some of the best advice. Rest in peace, Professor Lee, for your work will be continued, your guidance will be remembered.

Ms Rochelle M. Razo
(NIE/2008), Vice President (Associate Programmes), NTU AA (Philippines)

When I first stepped into NIE, Professor Lee delivered such a powerful speech that everyone in the audience was infected by his passion. It was important, he said, for school leaders like us to prepare the next generation for a highly technological but unpredictable future. If Singapore could do it, he said, so could our country—and maybe even better. He never failed to encourage us to innovate and improve. He was truly a remarkable leader, and we will always remember him and his good example.

With love from the students of The John Dewey School For Children, Quezon City, The Philippines

Professor Lee was a very good example for all of us. He was so passionate about education, and he moulded school leaders who have in turn become motivators for their students, for them to become the next generation’s leaders.

I wish I could have met Professor Lee in person. From the videos and pictures he seemed to be a very friendly person. He will be remembered by everyone who was inspired by his actions in making Singapore great in education.

I would like to express our deepest sympathies over the loss of Professor Lee. We wish his family and friends peace and comfort in these days of bereavement. His kindness will not be forgotten.

It was surprising that a small school like ours would be accommodated by a prestigious, world-class university like NTU. I’m thankful to Professor Lee for his generosity in opening NIE and NTU to us Filipino children. We indeed had a fun and memorable experience during each visit.

Dr Vinay Kalia
(NBS/2003), President, NTU AA (Europe)

NTU AA (Europe) stands in grief with Professor Lee’s loved ones and the alumni community around the world. His determination and a sense of purpose were embedded in his personality. Our AA has greatly benefited from his vision of bringing alumni closer to our alma mater and to Singapore. He will be missed but will continue to inspire the coming generations to greater heights.

Mr Chris Ouy
(CSE/1988), President, NTU AA (Malaysia)

One could never forget Professor Lee, as he always had that cheery smile and booming voice that clearly exemplified a passionate man with a mission to inspire people around him to work towards a better society. Another of Professor Lee’s strengths was his humility, which we saw when he wholeheartedly agreed to cram into a bus from Singapore to Malacca to attend our 2016 Annual General Meeting. Farewell, our friend Professor Lee; while we may have lost a loved one, your passion, voice and mission are still alive within our hearts!

Mr Simon Lee
(CSE/1989), Chairman, NTU Business and Community Partners

My dearest ‘big brother’ and wonderful friend, your sudden passing is a shock to me and my family. I will remember you as a passionate, dynamic, inspiring and humble horticulturist, educator, leader, mentor, mediator and friend. I have learned so much from you, especially from your powerful and inspiring speeches. We hope to continue your legacy and aspirations for the advancement of NTU and the community at large.

Mr Roderick Chia
(EEE/1998)

I met Professor Lee through my involvement with the NTU Alumni Council, but only got to know him better about a month ago when I had a long coffee chat with him. He was energetic and passionate when we shared our views on education. While he was no longer NIE Director, you could tell that his heart had never left. To him, education was not a job but a mission. I’m very saddened to hear about the passing of this great man.

Mr Tan Teck Beng
(NBS/1995), former President, NTU Alumni Club

I had my first informal lunch meeting with Professor Lee in September 2015, just before his appointment as NTU Vice President (Alumni and Advancement). A down-to-earth leader who immediately put words into action, he quickly tailored an engagement strategy to support the various segments of our complex alumni community. The next 20 months were indeed the most dynamic and exciting period of alumni engagement. An encouraging and energetic leader who reached out to every AA around the globe, Professor Lee was always ready to lend his assistance, and has indeed touched the lives of many.

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My dearest ‘big brother’ and wonderful friend, your sudden passing is a shock to me and my family. I will remember you as a passionate, dynamic, inspiring and humble horticulturist, educator, leader, mentor, mediator and friend. I have learned so much from you, especially from your powerful and inspiring speeches. We hope to continue your legacy and aspirations for the advancement of NTU and the community at large.

Mr Roderick Chia
(EEE/1998)

I met Professor Lee through my involvement with the NTU Alumni Council, but only got to know him better about a month ago when I had a long coffee chat with him. He was energetic and passionate when we shared our views on education. While he was no longer NIE Director, you could tell that his heart had never left. To him, education was not a job but a mission. I’m very saddened to hear about the passing of this great man.

Mr Tan Teck Beng
(NBS/1995), former President, NTU Alumni Club

I had my first informal lunch meeting with Professor Lee in September 2015, just before his appointment as NTU Vice President (Alumni and Advancement). A down-to-earth leader who immediately put words into action, he quickly tailored an engagement strategy to support the various segments of our complex alumni community. The next 20 months were indeed the most dynamic and exciting period of alumni engagement. An encouraging and energetic leader who reached out to every AA around the globe, Professor Lee was always ready to lend his assistance, and has indeed touched the lives of many.

Mr Chris Ouy
(CSE/1988), President, NTU AA (Malaysia)

One could never forget Professor Lee, as he always had that cheery smile and booming voice that clearly exemplified a passionate man with a mission to inspire people around him to work towards a better society. Another of Professor Lee’s strengths was his humility, which we saw when he wholeheartedly agreed to cram into a bus from Singapore to Malacca to attend our 2016 Annual General Meeting. Farewell, our friend Professor Lee; while we may have lost a loved one, your passion, voice and mission are still alive within our hearts!

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LEARNING AS A WAY OF LIFE

NTU’s entrepreneurship and continuing education programmes prepare students for the workplace of the future.

In today’s fast-paced, technology-driven world, learning no longer stops the moment students receive their degrees on graduation day. To stay relevant, employees and entrepreneurs must stay up-to-date with new developments in their fields, and sometimes even branch out to learn new skills.

Well aware of these challenges, NTU has established institutes aimed at preparing students, alumni and the public for the workplace of the future.

Founded in 2001, the Nanyang Technopreneurship Center (NTC) offers degree programmes and courses on entrepreneurship, with a focus on technology as an enabling tool. And in 2016, NTU’s College of Professional and Continuing Education (PaCE) was established to offer adult education and professional development courses that will help working adults stay competitive in the face of relentless technological change.

In addition, the NTU Alumni Club has launched an initiative, led by Mr Lee Eng Kian (NBS/1995), to help alumni professionals, managers, executives and technicians (PMETs) network, gain industry knowledge and further their careers.

“We believe in alumni helping alumni,” said Mr Lee. “We would like to build a network that every alumni member can tap into, which will in turn benefit everyone else within the network.”

To find out more about the importance of lifelong learning, read on for NTULink’s interviews with NTC Director Associate Professor Hooi Den Huan and PaCE Dean Professor Ting Seng Siong.

ENTERPRISING FOR LIFE

Entrepreneurship is about so much more than just making a profit, says Nanyang Technopreneurship Center Director Associate Professor Hooi Den Huan.

What is NTC’s mission?

Assoc Prof Hooi Den Huan — Our mission statement is ‘making a meaningful difference to humanity through entrepreneurship education’. A good entrepreneurship education can help a person develop an enterprising mindset, and this is an asset for life.

We love to see our students becoming successful business entrepreneurs, but we also emphasise that entrepreneurship education is for any career, for anything you want to do, whether you work in government, in a charity, for a big MNC or for an SME. If you have an enterprising mindset you can really make a difference to any organisation.

What constitutes an enterprising mindset?

Prof Hooi — The definition of an entrepreneur is someone who can identify and seize opportunities, manage resources and, at the end of the day, create value. This is applicable whether a person is a business entrepreneur or an intrapreneur within an organisation.

For me, perhaps the best example is Singapore’s founding Prime Minister Mr Lee Kuan Yew. Singapore in the 1960s was like a resource-poor start-up; today, some 52 years on, we are like a huge conglomerate. To build that, you need someone who is not only capable, but who also has a very good enterprising mindset.

We don’t want the best teachers; we want the best inspirers. We love to see our students becoming successful business entrepreneurs, but we also emphasise that entrepreneurship education is for any career, for anything you want to do, whether you work in government, in a charity, for a big MNC or for an SME. If you have an enterprising mindset you can really make a difference to any organisation.

What is technopreneurship?

Prof Hooi — A technopreneur is an entrepreneur who leverages technology. A technopreneur doesn’t have to have an engineering or science background—for us, the best class for our programmes is multidisciplinary.

Technopreneurship can involve a highly technical product, but not necessarily. Another way is to make use of technology as a platform, like Uber or Grab. Even if you run a restaurant but you use iPads to take orders, you are leveraging technology to make your processes more efficient.

What is special about NTC’s programmes?

Prof Hooi — We don’t see ourselves as offering just a degree. That’s shortsighted. Instead, we see ourselves as offering a transformational journey. The best measure is whether you feel meaningfully transformed after you leave the programme—do you look at things in a different way, with an enterprising mindset?

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What is your advice for alumni who are interested in entrepreneurship?

Prof Hooi — I would encourage alumni to pay attention to what I call the four Ps of entrepreneurship.

First, purpose. The primary reason for setting up a business is not just to make a profit. That’s important, but your primary reason should also be to fulfill a purpose.

Second, if you have a purpose, you’ll have greater passion, where you don’t see your job as just a job.

Third, with greater passion, you are likely to have deeper perseverance. Life is not easy, and you will encounter obstacles. But if you believe in what you do—this comes from having a purpose—then you will be able to meet the challenge.

Finally, you must have principles. Many people say you need to know how to cheat to be a successful businessman, but I say that trust is most important.

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Why is adult education important?

Prof Ting Seng Kiong — Adult education is something I would say is inevitable—we need to know enough to cope with technology-driven change. It is about reaching out to people who are already out of school, and teaching them to cope with changes that will have an impact on them.

But what level of education is appropriate for each individual? In the past, everyone just took courses, and sometimes there was a mismatch between the level of the course and the individual’s level of understanding.

Now, with SkillsFuture getting the institutes of higher learning involved, the process is more structured and streamlined. Each individual can easily choose the course level that is most appropriate for them.

What future challenges will we face in terms of career development?

Prof Ting — The main challenge we will face is the uncertainty of technology’s impact on us. Nobody can predict upcoming trends—for example, how soon would driverless vehicles become pervasive?

In the face of such uncertainty, I say we should take all the information that we have and do the best that we can. In the past, things were more predictable: you attend university, graduate and work in the same job until you retire. Today, people are surprised if you stay at a company for more than five years. Our world now provides us with many choices, and we should be mentally prepared to cope with change as and when it happens.

Hence, we should be prepared to learn something different whenever necessary. It may not lead to a degree, but it will help us be much more useful to a company than a university graduate who specialises only in one particular area. At the end of the day, we have to ask which is more valuable to companies: paper qualifications or the relevant skill set and experience?

How can PaCE help alumni overcome such challenges?

Prof Ting — From the employer’s point of view, they want to hire someone with the right skills. PaCE plays the role of facilitator, by helping people acquire the necessary skill set for positions on the job market. At PaCE, we find out what skills or courses are in demand, and make them accessible to the general public.

For example, we know there is a demand for power engineers. Power engineering is a more specialised area of electrical engineering, and so if electrical engineers are keen on making a career switch to specialise in it, PaCE can enable this by offering relevant bite-sized modules and packaging three to four modules into a specialist certificate for professional conversion. These professional conversions can be packaged for different areas of high demand, like cybersecurity, data analytics, fintech, medical information systems, social services, and more.

Some of our alumni are business owners. How might these employers benefit from encouraging their staff to pursue continuing education at PaCE?

Prof Ting — For alumni employers, one benefit would be that they are already familiar with the quality of education that NTU offers, and they can be assured that their staff will be receiving good training.

The other advantage is that we are trying to create a market-sensing feedback loop. We usually get feedback on what courses we should offer from government agencies and from industries we are familiar with. But we also want to talk to our alumni employers, who could potentially tell us about positions they find hard to fill, and about the skill sets required for these positions. Such feedback allow us to get a better sense of the market.

What would you say to alumni to encourage them to pursue lifelong learning?

Prof Ting — Enjoy learning; do not fear it. If we take things a step at a time, the learning process becomes less frightening. What is frightening is closing the door and shutting out ideas. By the time you find yourself with no choice but to embark on learning a new skill, you will be under pressure to absorb many new things, and the environment may not be ideal. Do not wait for such a situation to occur—learning should be a part of life.
Alumni Perspective

Taking the Entrepreneurship Leap

More than a hundred alumni and guests attended AAO’s 40th Distinguished Alumni Forum, held on 5 April 2017 at the University’s brand new Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine @ Novena campus.

Themed Start Thinking Big and Leap, the forum began with a talk by Associate Professor Hooi Den Huan, Director of the Nanyang Technopreneurship Center (NTC), who suggested that budding entrepreneurs identify gaps in the market to start new businesses, and keep their businesses relevant by building deep capabilities.

He also shared with the audience some information on the Master of Science in Technopreneurship & Innovation (MSc TIP), a programme offered by NTC that aims to help participants develop an enterprising mindset.

The forum’s second speaker, Mr Ted Chen Chiu-Hao (EEE/2012, TIP/2015), is a co-founder of EverComm Uni-Tech Singapore, which provides energy management solutions that help businesses reduce energy wastage.

A serial entrepreneur, Mr Chen has previously co-founded other companies, including Immersive Soundscape, which features technology that can transform a pair of headphones into surround-sound speakers.

Mr Chen shared anecdotes and practical tips from his own forays into entrepreneurship. He advised the audience to dream big from the very beginning, and to develop interesting ideas so that others would be inspired to help make them a reality.

NEVER SAY NEVER

During the question-and-answer session, NTU Chief Alumni Affairs Officer Mr Gwee Sam Nan asked Mr Chen if he could share the secrets to his success. “Never approach a problem with the mentality ‘cannot’, and you will be able to find opportunities,” Mr Chen replied.

Asked for advice on how to find good mentors, Mr Chen encouraged the audience to take advantage of events organised by NTU’s innovation and enterprise arm NTUitive.

“NTUitive opens the door to opportunities, and they know exactly whom you can approach in NTU,” he said. “Also, if you offer help in exchange for a valuable learning process, people will be more than willing to teach you something they know.”

The talks struck a chord with Ms Ong Sze Ping (EEE/2001), herself an entrepreneur. “I came away with the notion that I should explore all possibilities instead of rejecting them,” she said.

Keen to tap into the wealth of resources available was Mr Teo Chee Keong (SCE/1997), who said, “I’m an entrepreneur myself, and I found the talks really inspiring. I also found out about the platforms and resources at NTU that I can tap into.”

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Some 60 avid alumni golfers had a ball of a time at the inaugural NTU Alumni Golf Tournament, held at the Marina Bay Golf Course on 11 April 2017. Despite teeing off at noon on a sunny day, the players were unfazed by the heat. For some alumni who used to play together regularly in the past, the tournament was an excellent opportunity to reunite for a little friendly competition.

Dr Soh Chee Seng (Commerce/1972) played his way to a first-place finish. In addition to the top three winners, novelty prizes such as ‘nearest the pin’ and ‘longest drive’ were also awarded.

Ms Gladys Wee Ee Lyn (NBS/2012) signed up for the tournament to inject a little variety into her game. “I don’t get to play at the Marina Bay Golf Course very often, and I have always been playing with the same group of people,” she said. “So I thought why not give it a shot and break out of my comfort zone? The new friends I’ve made are very encouraging people.”

Mr Raymond Teh Tham Kim (EEE/1993), a member of the organising committee, said that in addition to being a leisure activity, golf was also a good opportunity for alumni to network. “We are planning bi-monthly golf sessions, through which we hope to build stronger bonds among NTU alumni,” he said.

After the game, alumni gathered at the NTU Alumni House at Marina Square for a well-deserved buffet dinner. NTU Chief Alumni Affairs Officer Mr Guo Sam Nan thanked the alumni for participating in the first-time occasion. “Due to its history, NTU is made up of three major groups: those from Nantah, Nanyang Technological Institute (NTI) and NTU,” he said. “We really hope that these three groups of alumni can mingle through activities and events such as this.”

“We also hope that more young alumni will join future tournaments, so that more senior alumni can share their valuable experience with them to help them in their careers,” he added.
The Nanyang Business School’s (NBS) inaugural alumni homecoming on 11 March 2017 saw more than 300 alumni, students, staff and guests gathering at the North Spine Plaza.

NTU Vice President (Alumni and Advancement) Professor Lee Sing Kong and NBS Dean Professor Neo Boon Siong opened the event, emphasising the importance of maintaining strong relationships between alumni and the School. They also presented alumni who had been particularly supportive of the School and the homecoming event with tokens of appreciation.

One of the day’s highlights was the NBS Valley, which showcased F&B, retail, entertainment and lifestyle businesses started by alumni entrepreneurs. Participants also attended NBS Focus Point forums to learn from faculty and alumni about topics such as disruptive innovation and how to identify business opportunities.

The crowd was treated to live performances from student clubs and NBS alumni musicians Ciao Turtle, Nat Wu and Zachariah Chan.

Not Just Business as Usual

Alumni from the School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences (SPMS) gathered at the Mortar Restaurant in the Alumni House at Marina Square on 10 March 2017 for their first-ever School reunion.

The event was graced by Professor Ling San, Dean of the College of Science. It was a night of fun, friendship and nostalgia as alumni networked and caught up with one another. Many were seen taking photos and sharing memories about their days in NTU.

All photos

SPMS alumni had the opportunity to network and catch up with friends at the School’s first-ever alumni reunion.
The NTU Alumni Council held its third meeting, attended by 38 members, on 25 February 2017. NTU President and Alumni Council Chairman Professor Bertil Andersson opened the session with an update on alumni engagement initiatives, and extended his appreciation to alumni who had generously supported these initiatives.

Chief Alumni Affairs Officer Mr Guo Sam Nan outlined the University’s various strategies for cultivating stronger alumni relations. These included the NTU Alumni Houses, the alumni mobile app, overseas Alumni Circles, alumni-to-alumni engagement and the alumni engagement survey.

Mr Loh Pui Wah, Director of the NTU Career and Attachment Office, and Ms Pauline Hsu, Deputy Director of the NTU Office of General Education and Mobility, spoke about volunteer opportunities for alumni. For example, alumni could offer internship placements, participate in student-employer networking, or host NTU students on semester-long or short-term programme visits.

Other attendees included NTU Vice President (International Affairs) Professor Er Meng Hwa; College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Dean Professor Alan Chan; College of Science Dean Professor Ling San; Chief Development Officer Mr Victor Tay; Office of International Affairs Director Ms Jenny Hallen Hedberg; and International Alumni Network Director Ms Soon Min Yam.

Council members then engaged in a dialogue session on topics such as how to make better use of technology in alumni engagement. They also proposed forming smaller sub-committees to look into matters such as career development and alumni events.

After lunch, some of the members proceeded to the ExCo meeting where they discussed in detail the suggestions and matters raised by the Alumni Council members earlier.

Close to 250 alumni and guests attended the NTU Alumni Ambassadors Appreciation Dinner, held on 3 March 2017 at the Novotel Singapore Clarke Quay.

The dinner honoured NTU’s some 2,000 alumni ambassadors, who set aside time and resources to serve their alma mater in various ways.

NTU Vice President (International Affairs) and guest of honour Professor Er Meng Hwa thanked them for their contributions.

“Our alumni ambassadors are the University’s greatest supporters and advocates. To advance the mission of their alma mater, they have been extremely generous with their time, talent and resources,” he said.

Alumni who wish to volunteer will find no shortage of opportunities, Professor Er shared. They could, for example, interview applicants for NTU student bursaries; share their expertise; or serve on alumni association committees, class reunion committees, or on the NTU Alumni Council.

“NTU needs the support of the whole community—students, faculty, staff and alumni—in its pursuit of global excellence. I sincerely hope more of our alumni will come forward as ambassadors,” he added.

Alumni ambassadors having a pleasant time networking and enjoying the dinner programme.
THE POWER OF THE EVERYDAY

A ten-year veteran of the digital marketing industry, Ms Evangeline Leong (NBS/2008) saw how the lack of familiarity with the internet was depriving small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) of potential revenue growth.

Sensing an opportunity to serve these local 'towkays' (company bosses), the ever-enterprising Ms Leong came up with Kobe, a self-serve, easy-to-use platform with a name that in Chinese (口碑) stands for good word-of-mouth.

Instead of engaging celebrity bloggers, Kobe differentiates itself by offering its clients 'everyday social media influencers'—defined as those with 500 or more followers—who can deliver better credibility and higher engagement to their respective communities of followers.

For example, a celebrity blogger may have 100,000 fans, which may result in a higher reach on social media but lower engagement. Fifty everyday influencers, each with 2,000 fans, however, achieve the same reach and may bring about a higher overall engagement.

In one year, Kobe has gone on to become one of the largest influencer marketing engines in Singapore, with 2,700 influencers and a whopping 9.8 million reach under its belt. It counts government agencies and SMEs as clients, and was one of three technology start-ups featured by Channel 8 on their news programme in 2016.

“On a sunny day I received my first pay cheque from a customer,” recalls Ms Leong, who has won five innovation- and start-up-related awards for Kobe. “It is very fulfilling to know that Kobe has made a difference to that customer’s business.”

None of this would have been possible without NTUitive, the innovation and enterprise company of NTU, which helped Kobe in applying for funding and in getting visibility at key events. “My NTUitive mentors genuinely hope for me to succeed. It is touching to know that they care so much,” Ms Leong adds with a smile.

Visit www.getkobe.com for more information on Kobe. NTUitive, the innovation and enterprise company of NTU, helps start-ups in various ways, whether it is funding applications, mentoring, exposure at start-up events or linking up with potential investors, if you have a great idea, make an appointment with us to see how we can bring your ideas to fruition. Visit www.ntuitive.sg for more information.

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Alumni enjoyed expertly mixed drinks and a mixology demonstration from Mortar Bar manager Mr KC Rahmat (on the right in the left photo).

Kobe founder Ms Evangeline Leong (NBS/2008) sharing her company’s mission.

WELCOMING THE WEEKEND

Some 30 alumni and guests enjoyed a delightful afternoon designing their own terrariums at a workshop held on 11 February 2017 at Millenia Walk.

Participants picked up tips on how best to care for the plants, and brought home their personalised masterpieces.

Supported by the NTU Alumni Affairs Office, the workshop was a great platform for alumni to reconnect while picking up a new skill.

Mr Chim Suan Yew (NBS/2001) said, “I came without any knowledge of wine, but I am going back with a basic understanding of what to look out for and appreciate.”

Alumni putting their newfound wine knowledge to the test.

CREATING TINY WORLDS

A WALK ON THE WINE SIDE

Alumni gathered on 22 April 2017 at the Alumni House at Marina Square to enjoy a wine tasting masterclass. Mr Justin Foo, Food and Beverage Director of Sodexo, introduced Old World and New World wines, explaining their various characteristics, differences and similarities. In addition, Mortar’s bar manager Mr KC Rahmat provided alumni with useful tips on pairing wine and food.

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TOASTING TO A BRAND NEW ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

With a light tap of the gavel, NTU Alumni Toastmasters Club President Mr Ang Ker Ser (MAE/2001) and guest of honour NTU Chief Alumni Affairs Officer Mr Guo Sam Nan jointly officiated the moment the NTU Alumni Toastmasters Club was recognised as an NTU Alumni Association.

The ceremony took place on 8 April 2017 at the Alumni House at Marina Square, as part of the NTU Alumni Toastmasters Club’s 149th Chapter Meeting. Mr Ang presented the opening address, followed by Mr Guo who gave the keynote speech.

Event emcee Mr Cheng Kok Beng (WKWSCI/2008), the 2015 District 80 (Singapore) Humorous Champion and Advanced Communicator Bronze (ACB), entertained the participants with his wit and showmanship.

Founded on 3 May 2004 under the leadership of Chartered President Dr Anand Jude Anthony (CSE/1991), the NTU Alumni Toastmasters Club has since doubled in size from 20 members to 40.

During its 13-year history, it achieved the President’s Distinguished Status in 2009 and 2014; in 2015, it was the first runner-up for the Most Fun and Exciting Toastmasters Club video contest organised by Toastmasters International.

The Club’s objective is to help its members develop good communication skills. Members, who range from new graduates to Nantah alumni, meet up twice a month at NTU’s one north campus. Club members have also travelled overseas for joint meetings with other Toastmasters Clubs in Australia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Thailand and Vietnam.

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With a loud strike of the gong, the Hall 15 Alumni Association (AA) was officially launched on 25 March 2017. Around 100 alumni and guests attended the ceremony, held at the Alumni House at Marina Square and officiated by guest of honour Dr Siriwan Chutikamoltham, Senior Hall Fellow of Hall 15.

It was the first gathering of alumni since Hall 15 opened its doors to residents in 2001; those who came included alumni from the Class of 2002, the hall’s inaugural batch of residents.

Led by Mr Mohamed Muhaimin (SCBE/2014), the new Hall 15 AA committee aims to be the focal point of communication between alumni and current residents by organising social events for them.

Alumni and guests at the launch of the Hall 15 Alumni Association
The NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Shanghai) held its fourth term election on 3 March 2017. It was attended by International Alumni Network Director Mr. Soon Min Yam, NTU Shanghai Office Manager Ms. Zhang Danfeng and alumni. Mr. Soon thanked AA President Ms. Xu Lixia (NBS/2005) for her dedication and commitment over the past three years. The committee also agreed to appoint Ms. Xu as the AA’s President Emeritus. Mr. Shen Genlin (NBS/2008) was elected as the new President.

On 4 March 2017, NTU AA (Beijing) also held its fourth term election, which was co-hosted by AA Secretary General Ms. Li Dongxia (HSS/2001) and Vice President Mr. Zhang Yu (EEE/2004). Mr. Soon, NTU Chief Alumni Affairs Officer Mr. Guo Sam Nan and some 70 alumni were also present. Mr. Guo spoke about NTU’s new Three-Dimensional Engagement Model of alumni relations, while NTU AA (Beijing) President Ms. Sun Xia (NBS/2006) gave an update on the AA’s work and thanked alumni for their support. Ms. Sun was re-elected President, Mr. Zhang Yu (EEE/2004) was elected as Secretary General, and Mr. Ma Xiangyu (MPA/2010) and Mr. Ma Ran (NTC/2010) were elected as Executive Vice Secretaries.

On 11 March 2017, some 90 alumni from the NTU School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) gathered at ION Sky, located on the 55th floor of ION Orchard, for the EEE Alumni Gathering. The 360-degree view of Singapore landscape had everyone snapping photographs. For many, the highlight of the event was the opportunity to play the indoor escape game ‘The Blue Atlantis’. Alumni competed in a battle of wits, using strategy and teamwork to solve puzzles and share their findings. The winning teams walked away with cash prizes.

Flying the Singapore flag up high is NTU’s AAO team, whose entry was chosen as one of two regional finalists of the 2017 CASE Circle of Excellence in the platinum category of Best Practices in Alumni Relations. NTU will represent the Asia-Pacific region at the international round of the competition, which was organised by the Council for Advancement and Support of Education (CASE), a US-based professional association serving educational institutions in alumni relations, communications, development, marketing and allied areas.

AAO’s entry, “NTU’s creative strategies for engaging volunteers in China”, received praise from the panel of judges, which recognised NTU’s efforts at engaging its 213,000 alumni around the world.

On 4 March 2017, NTU AA (Beijing) also held its fourth term election, which was co-hosted by AA Secretary General Ms. Li Dongxia (HSS/2001) and Vice President Mr. Zhang Yu (EEE/2004). Mr. Soon, NTU Chief Alumni Affairs Officer Mr. Guo Sam Nan and some 70 alumni were also present. Mr. Guo spoke about NTU’s new Three-Dimensional Engagement Model of alumni relations, while NTU AA (Beijing) President Ms. Sun Xia (NBS/2006) gave an update on the AA’s work and thanked alumni for their support. Ms. Sun was re-elected President, Mr. Zhang Yu (EEE/2004) was elected as Secretary General, and Mr. Ma Xiangyu (MPA/2010) and Mr. Ma Ran (NTC/2010) were elected as Executive Vice Secretaries.

The NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Shanghai) held its fourth term election on 3 March 2017. It was attended by International Alumni Network Director Mr. Soon Min Yam, NTU Shanghai Office Manager Ms. Zhang Danfeng and alumni. Mr. Soon thanked AA President Ms. Xu Lixia (NBS/2005) for her dedication and commitment over the past three years. The committee also agreed to appoint Ms. Xu as the AA’s President Emeritus. Mr. Shen Genlin (NBS/2008) was elected as the new President.

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NTU’s Chief Alumni Affairs Officer Mr. Guo Sam Nan (right), receiving the honour from CASE President & CEO Ms. Sue Cunningham, at the CASE Circle of Excellence Awards Presentation Ceremony on 26 April in Grand Hyatt Singapore.

In high spirits at the EEE Alumni Gathering held at ION Sky, on the 55th floor of ION Orchard.

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THE SKY’S THE LIMIT

On 11 March 2017, some 90 alumni from the NTU School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) gathered at ION Sky, located on the 55th floor of ION Orchard, for the EEE Alumni Gathering. The 360-degree view of Singapore landscape had everyone snapping photographs. For many, the highlight of the event was the opportunity to play the indoor escape game ‘The Blue Atlantis’. Alumni competed in a battle of wits, using strategy and teamwork to solve puzzles and share their findings. The winning teams walked away with cash prizes.
AN OCCASION TO CHEER

Nearly 50 Hall 4 alumni attended their Graduation and Alumni Night on 1 March 2017 at Collin’s Grill, Marina Square. The event was organised by the 30th Junior Common Room Committee (JCRC), with the support of the new Hall 4 Alumni Association and the NTU Alumni Affairs Office (AAO). Alumni from Hall 4’s pioneer batches were also present. Mr Lau Kian Hwa (NBS/1991), the 2nd JCRC’s Assistant Sports Secretary, regaled the audience with stories of how the hall’s traditional Hokkien cheer came about. Participants ended the event with a blast, by launching into this very cheer.

A RENAISSANCE IN ALUMNI RELATIONS

Some 42 Renaissance Engineering Programme (REP) alumni attended the REP Alumni Networking Dinner on 27 February 2017 at the NTU Alumni House at Marina Square. Alumni had a pleasant time catching up. Some participants expressed interest in setting up an REP Alumni Association to help alumni network and stay connected with NTU.

BUILDING TIES IN CHENNAI

NTU AAO and NTU AA (Southern India) jointly organised a networking event on 12 February 2017 at SRM Hotel, Chennai, to mark the AA’s inauguration. NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson, who was in Chennai to receive an honorary doctorate from SRM University, attended the event. NTU Vice-President (Alumni and Advancement) Professor Lee Sing Kong and Senior Executive Director at the NTU President’s Office Professor B.V.R. Chowdari were also present.

Some alumni travelled hundreds of kilometres to attend the event, at which Professor Andersson officially inaugurated the AA. He then received a beautifully sketched portrait of himself from AA Vice President Mr Gnanavelu Arulmurugan (MAE/2008). The event concluded with AA Secretary General Mr Kota Suman (CEE/2006) sharing about the AA’s future directions.

REUNITING AMIDST NATURE

Some 120 alumni reunited at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information (WKWSCI) building on 11 February 2017 for an evening of friendships, food and fun. The event was initiated by Dr Lee Chu Keong, Programme Director for the MSc (Knowledge Management) and the MSc (Information Studies) programmes, to welcome alumni from the Knowledge Management programme.

Supported by the NTU AAO, the event allowed different batches of alumni and students to connect and share career experiences.

Some 30 WKWSCI Knowledge Management and Information Studies alumni got up close and personal with nature on 19 February 2017 at the WKWSCI Alumni Pulau Ubin Nature Experience. They enjoyed Pulau Ubin’s greenery and charming sights, and even saw some local wildlife. It was a good opportunity to escape the city and explore the beauty of nature.

BREWING UP SOME FUN

More than 60 School of Computer Science and Engineering (SCSE) alumni and guests attended the SCSE Alumni Go Kart Challenge-cum-AGM on 18 February 2017 at the KF1 Karting Circuit in Kranji. Eleven participants made it to the finals, out of which three winners emerged. NTU Chief Alumni Affairs Officer Mr Guo Sam Nan and SCSE Associate Chair (Students) Associate Professor Quek Hock Chai presented the prizes.

SCSE alumni had a brewing good time at the SCSE Alumni Beer Fest, held on 11 March 2017 at Asia Pacific Breweries. Associate Professor Quek and SCSE Assistant Chair (Undergraduate Studies) Associate Professor Nidhika Van Chian Hua were present. On their guided tour of the brewery, participants learned about the history of Tiger Beer and how it is brewed. Some alumni even had the opportunity to test out their beer-pouring skills.

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JOURNEYS OF DISCOVERY
Alumni fondly recall their experiences of discovering true callings, hidden talents and in some cases, life partners at NTU.

THO ZHEE LOONG
CEE/2012
My wife and I met in Hall 14. I was one year her senior. We recently carried out our wedding photoshoot at NTU, and it brought back many fond memories. Our favourite location for the shoot has to be The Hive, which was only completed after we graduated. To us, it represents how much NTU has grown over the years.

I'm now an air traffic controller at the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, and my wife is an airport services development executive at Singapore Airlines.

NTU prepared me for working life, and it was there that I developed self-confidence and the ability to communicate effectively. I also met the love of my life, and lifelong friends whom I can still call upon for help today.

DR LIANG JING
EEE/ 2009
I have many fond memories of NTU. I remember that instead of walking along the sheltered pedestrian pavement to reach the bus stop under the Graduate Hall, students would walk across the road to save time. One day, we realised that NTU had built a sheltered path along the more popular route, showing how much NTU cares for its students.

At NTU, I went from not even knowing what research was to getting a doctorate. I'm now a full professor at Zhengzhou University in China, and continue to carry out research in the same field. Every semester, I tell my students about my experiences at NTU, and encourage them to study there in the future.

MUHAMMAD HAFIZ BIN MOHD JUMARI
SSM/2016
My wife Amira and I held our wedding photoshoot at NTU. We were thrilled to be back at the place where we met for the first time, at the freshmen orientation camp in 2012.

Our happiest NTU moment was graduation day, when we were able to see the fruits of our labour and make our parents proud. It was a special milestone, and we were able to do it together.

NTU prepared us for the working world through internships and project work. It also opened our eyes to the world, helping us to be more aware of global issues and the need to contribute back to the community. Today, I am an educator in a special needs school, and Amira is in the social services sector.

LU WENWEI
EEE/1999
Studying at NTU and living far away from home in China was both an exciting and challenging experience for me. At NTU, I joined the drama club and participated in stage performances. This was a life-changing experience—I had always been shy, but discovered I had the courage and ability to perform in front of a large audience.

After graduation, I explored different career paths, including studying management in Switzerland, managing fitness clubs in Xi-an, and coordinating hospitality programmes at the Beijing Olympics. I now teach International Baccalaureate (IB) economics at an international school in Shanghai, and enjoy encouraging young people to be responsible global citizens and critical thinkers.

NELSON TAN YAN CONG
ADM/2015
My time at NTU was one of the most memorable experiences of my life. I was active in ADM, joining various school social events and helping out at the freshmen orientation camp every year.

I have an interest in film-making and music, and I upload videos regularly to my YouTube channel (nelsontyc). I had many collaborations with friends I knew from NTU. A number of my NTU friends were involved in a Chinese New Year music video that I composed and shot. It was featured on Channel 8 and Capital 95.8FM.

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BIRTHDAY PARTIES

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NTU ALUMNI

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Beijing 101 Hair Consultants has been solving hair loss issues for 43 years. We are dedicated to treating issues such as scalp concerns, greying hair, premature or excessive white hair, and various patterns of hair loss, with 90 percent visible results. Beijing 101 has won multiple international awards. Our treatments use premium-grade natural herbs to treat not just the symptoms, but also the very root of hair and scalp problems in an integrative and harmonious fashion, in line with TCM practices.

OFFER
• Extension of partner rates to all NTU alumni members:
  - Toddler (1-2 years): $23.50 (UP $24.50)
  - Child (2-12 years): $28.50 (UP $29.90)
  - Up to 2 accompanying adults per child: $4.50 (UP $6.00)
• 10% off birthday party packages
• 5% discount off Silver and Gold membership

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• Up to 2 accompanying adults per child: $4.50 (UP $6.00)

KENKO

www.kenko.com.sg

‘Kenko’ denotes health in Japanese, and is written as 健康 in both Kanji and Mandarin Chinese. Founded by Dr Jimi Tan in 1991, Kenko has grown from a humble family health concept to the largest spa and wellness chain in Singapore. Kenko’s nine outlets are mainly located in the island’s tourist attractions and popular shopping areas. With more than two decades of experience in foot reflexology and wellness spa, Kenko offers both Oriental and Western reflexology techniques. We have developed a unique pressure point technique that provides quick and effective relief for aches and pains. Indulge yourself with a luxurious experience at an affordable price!

OFFER
10% off a la carte services at all Kenko outlets

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A forerunner in the optical industry, leading Japanese eyewear brand OWNDAYS is dedicated to providing high quality, fashionable eyewear at affordable prices. Our system is simple and quick. All glasses come in set prices of $98 to $198, inclusive of the optical frame and high index aspheric lenses. What’s more, glasses are available in only 20 minutes upon payment. With over 1,500 styles ranging from basic and functional to stylish and fashion-forward, express yourself with different glasses every day. See your unknown future with OWNDAYS!

OWNDAYS’ OFFERS
• 10% off prescription glasses at OWNDAYS Marina Square (#02-21/22)

FUSS

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No time to clean your home? Fuss is your leading on-demand booking platform for domestic housekeeping. Get your home cleaned by qualified, verified and trusted part-time helpers today. Book your weekly cleaning at just $22/hour.

FUSS’ OFFERS
• 10% off total bill (up to 25% off when bulk & bundle discounts are included) for FussPro.sg services (apply promo code NTUALUMN)

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FLOWERADVISOR
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FlowerAdvisor is an online florist that offers same-day and next-day flower delivery in Singapore and more than 100 countries worldwide. FlowerAdvisor was set up to fill a prominent gap: there was no trusted, 24-hour delivery site that let online customers send flowers, hampers and gifts to loved ones anywhere in the world.

Even when your loved ones are away from home, you can still make them feel special with a beautiful bouquet and gift. Rest assured that your flowers will be fresh upon delivery.

If under any circumstances they do not arrive as fresh as promised, we will provide a free replacement, no questions asked.

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PIERCING CLINIC
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Piercing Clinic specialises in piercings for babies to adults, and is fully equipped for all your piercing needs. It is also the first in Singapore to send its body jewellery to be tested, so rest assured that only the world’s best jewellery with the highest hygiene standards and quality in accordance with international and local safety standards is used.

OFFERS
• 15% off all body jewellery accessories
• Piercing services with free one-time complete review and cleaning (UP $30)

BELIEVER MUSIC
www.BelieverMusic.com

Many people dream of playing an instrument, but few have managed to make it a reality. Realising this, Believer Music has made learning music possible for everyone, especially absolute beginners.

Music nourishes the mind, body and soul. Don’t wait until it’s too late to learn the Guitar, Electric Guitar, Keyboard, Drum, Cajon, Ukulele, or Voice!

For the past 18 years, Believer Music has taught over 20,000 individuals. Its unique syllabus combines thematic content integrated with music pedagogy that can’t be found elsewhere. With class sizes of four to eight, find opportunities for social interaction and fun each week. A three-tier monitoring system and dedicated coaching staff also ensures that no one falls behind!

OFFERS
• 12% off music lessons during online registration (first time members and basic modules only). Apply promo code EVC2017NTU.
• Form your own class: sign up for 3 friends and the 4th gets in free! Call us at 6323 0304 and mention “NTUALUMNI”

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Blackmores is Australia’s leading natural health company. Our quality range of vitamin, minerals, herbal and nutritional supplements, and continued support of the community and environment, are among the many reasons why Blackmores is the most trusted name in natural health.

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Rejuvenate and re-energise yourself each night by creating the premium sleep experience in your home with King Koil’s full range of bedding accessories, fine linen and made-to-order sofas.

Your King Koil mattresses and sofas are handcrafted in Singapore just before delivery. With only the finest filling and comfortable padding, they provide the ideal balance of comfort and support.

OFFERS
• Additional 5% off any purchase of beddings & linens
• Additional 10% off purchase of mattress, sofa and furniture
• Additional discount for regular-priced items; not applicable for nett offer items

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ERGOWORKS is Asia’s leading brand in holistic ergonomic and posture wellness solutions for all commercial and corporate offices, production facilities, educational institutions and homes. It is the only ergonomic brand endorsed and recommended by both the Singapore Physiotherapy Association and The Chiropractic Association (Singapore).

ERGOWORKS offers an extensive range of quality products, including ZeroGravity recliners, treadmill desks, height-adjustable desks, sit-stand desk converters, ergonomic chairs, anti-fatigue standing mats, and footrests. We also offer services such as ergonomic assessment and free product trials at your workplace.

OFFERS
• 10% off all regular priced items
• 5% off all promotional items

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CHEERWRAP
cheerwrap.com

CheerWrap is a digital gifting and rewards platform that allows you to send, store and redeem your electronic gift cards using your smartphone. It combines the convenience of online shopping and the love of gift giving.

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www.ergoworks.com.sg

ZeroGravity recliners, treadmill desks, height-adjustable desks, sit-stand desk converters, ergonomic chairs, anti-fatigue standing mats, and footrests. We also offer services such as ergonomic assessment and free product trials at your workplace.

www.facebook.com/SalonOrient

Salon Orient was established in 1988 and we have been in Marina Square for the past 29 years.

Our services include:
1. Non-ammonia colour, creative highlights with amber and two tone colour
2. Korean perm with bouncy curls, Japanese digital treatment perm
3. Rebonding with volume silky and moisturizing finishing
4. Scalp and hair treatment with relaxing head and shoulder massage

We are renowned, high-quality Shiseido professional products for most of the above. We also provide nail services, including classic manicure/ pedicure and gelish polish. You will be served by a team of professional stylists who will recommend styling and hair solutions to meet your individual needs and preferences.

OFFERS
• NTU Alumni card members who sign up with CheerWrap are entitled to 15% off first purchase on CheerWrap
• 5% off all promotional items

FASHIONISTA

BELIEVER MUSIC
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Many people dream of playing an instrument, but few have managed to make it a reality. Realising this, Believer Music has made learning music possible for everyone, especially absolute beginners.

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BLACKMORES
www.corp.blackmores.com.sg

Blackmores is Australia’s leading natural health company. Our quality range of vitamin, minerals, herbal and nutritional supplements, and continued support of the community and environment, are among the many reasons why Blackmores is the most trusted name in natural health.

OFFER
Up to 30% off all Blackmores’ products @ corp.blackmores.com.sg

HOME AND DECOR SUPER STORE
www.kingkoil.com.sg

Rejuvenate and re-energise yourself each night by creating the premium sleep experience in your home with King Koil’s full range of bedding accessories, fine linen and made-to-order sofas.

Your King Koil mattresses and sofas are handcrafted in Singapore just before delivery. With only the finest filling and comfortable padding, they provide the ideal balance of comfort and support.

OFFERS
• Additional 5% off any purchase of beddings & linens
• Additional 10% off purchase of mattress, sofa and furniture
• Additional discount for regular-priced items; not applicable for nett offer items

ERGOWORKS
www.ergoworks.com.sg

ERGOWORKS is Asia’s leading brand in holistic ergonomic and posture wellness solutions for all commercial and corporate offices, production facilities, educational institutions and homes. It is the only ergonomic brand endorsed and recommended by both the Singapore Physiotherapy Association and The Chiropractic Association (Singapore).

ERGOWORKS offers an extensive range of quality products, including ZeroGravity recliners, treadmill desks, height-adjustable desks, sit-stand desk converters, ergonomic chairs, anti-fatigue standing mats, and footrests. We also offer services such as ergonomic assessment and free product trials at your workplace.

OFFERS
• 10% off all regular priced items
• 5% off all promotional items

FLOWERADVISOR
www.floweradvisor.com.sg

FlowerAdvisor is an online florist that offers same-day and next-day flower delivery in Singapore and more than 100 countries worldwide. FlowerAdvisor was set up to fill a prominent gap: there was no trusted, 24-hour delivery site that let online customers send flowers, hampers and gifts to loved ones anywhere in the world.

Even when your loved ones are away from home, you can still make them feel special with a beautiful bouquet and gift. Rest assured that your flowers will be fresh upon delivery.

If under any circumstances they do not arrive as fresh as promised, we will provide a free replacement, no questions asked.

OFFERS
• 20% off all purchases at www.floweradvisor.com.sg (apply promo code FLOWERNUTU)

CHEERWRAP
cheerwrap.com

CheerWrap is a digital gifting and rewards platform that allows you to send, store and redeem your electronic gift cards using your smartphone. It combines the convenience of online shopping and the love of gift giving.

Send, store and redeem your electronic gift cards using your smartphone.

www.facebook.com/SalonOrient

Salon Orient was established in 1988 and we have been in Marina Square for the past 29 years.

Our services include:
1. Non-ammonia colour, creative highlights with amber and two tone colour
2. Korean perm with bouncy curls, Japanese digital treatment perm
3. Rebonding with volume silky and moisturizing finishing
4. Scalp and hair treatment with relaxing head and shoulder massage

We are renowned, high-quality Shiseido professional products for most of the above. We also provide nail services, including classic manicure/ pedicure and gelish polish. You will be served by a team of professional stylists who will recommend styling and hair solutions to meet your individual needs and preferences.

OFFERS
• NTU Alumni card members who sign up with CheerWrap are entitled to 15% off first purchase on CheerWrap
• 5% off all promotional items

FASHIONISTA
ALUMNI PARTICULARS UPDATE

We deeply treasure the relationship we have with our alumni. Do provide the NTU Alumni Affairs Office with your latest contact details so that we can continue to stay connected.

Full Name as in NRIC (Mr/Ms/Dr/Prof/Others)

NRIC/FIN/Passport No.       DOB (dd/mm/yy)     Race

Nationality                Singapore PR

Marital Status             Yes / No

Year of Graduation         School / Department

Address

Postal Code       Email Address       Home No.

Mobile No.       Facebook Page       Twitter Account

LinkedIn User Name Company Name Designation

Company Address

Postal Code       Industry

Office No.        Fax No.

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

Fax: +65 6792 5048
Email: alumniaffairs@ntu.edu.sg

(Academic Management)
Alumni Affairs Office
Nanyang Technological University
76 Nanyang Drive, N2-1-B3-02
Singapore 637331

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

AAO is committed to keeping all alumni’s personal information private, safe and secure. To view AAO’s personal data protection policy, please visit www.ntu.edu.sg/Pages/Privacy.aspx.

I hereby authorise, agree and consent to allow Nanyang Technological University (NTU) and its employees and agents (collectively “NTU”) and NTU’s third party service providers to:

a. collect, use, disclose and/or process personal data about me that I had previously provided NTU, that I now provide NTU, that I may in future provide NTU with and/or that NTU possesses about me including but not limited to my name, my identification number, my telephone numbers, my address, for the following purposes:

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

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

(i) postal mail and/or electronic transmission to my email address; and
(ii) to my following telephone number(s) : ____________________ by way of:
   (1) [   ] Voice call / Phone call
   (2) [   ] SMS/MMS (text messages)
   (3) [   ] Fax

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

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

Signature/Date

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

EVENTS CALENDAR

July–August 2017

July 01  Class of 1959–1969 Alumni Reunion Celebration
July 15  NTU Alumni 9-pin Tap Fun Bowl
July 20  41st Distinguished Alumni Forum — “What is success in life?”
July 27  Lunch Time Interaction with Alumni
August 05  Welcome Class 2017 Alumni Party
August 17  Lunch Time Interaction with Alumni
August 19  1 Day Interactive Tour to Malaysia with Durian Feast
August 24  Tête-à-Tête with Prof K.K. Luke

Information is correct as of press time. Events and dates may be subject to change. For an updated list of upcoming events, please visit www.ntu.edu.sg/alumni/alumnevents. If you wish to enquire about any of the events, please write to us at alumniaffairs@ntu.edu.sg.

*Subject to change
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TECHNOFUNDREPAIRS AND INNOVATION PROGRAMME ASSOCIATION (TIP)
Mr. Kong Feng Chang
www.tip.asia

UP, UP AND AWAY!

From left to right is the NTU-NIE Everest Team Singapore of Ms Nair Yut Naing Whoo, Dr Ajayana Sivaranjan Pillai and Mr Jeremy Tong en route to Everest South Base Camp with their local guides in the background. Ms Yutina reached the summit of the 8,848-metre Mount Everest at approximately 11.55 am Singapore time on 22 May 2017.
DOWNTOWN

Make yourself at home.

CONNECT IN THE HEART OF THE CITY AT THE NEW NTU ALUMNI HOUSE AT MARINA SQUARE

Whether its networking with business associates, enjoying a gourmet meal with old friends, or unwinding with a drink at the bar to the sound of live music, you’ll feel at home in this cosy, contemporary space.

Alumni House at Marina Square
#02-27/28 Marina Square Shopping Mall

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E. ahms@ntu.edu.sg

www.ntu.edu.sg/alumni/alumnihouse
www.facebook.com/ntualumnihouse