Of Milestones and Memories
Seven valedictorians share their insights with the Class of 2017
Keeping PaCE with Technology-driven Change

"To keep up in today’s fast-changing world, learning must become a way of life"

Professor Ting Seng Kiong
Dean of the College of Professional and Continuing Education

Young and research-intensive, Nanyang Technological University (NTU Singapore) is ranked 11th globally. It is also placed 1st amongst the world’s best young universities.

The College of Professional and Continuing Education (PaCE College) supports the local workforce and alumni in their professional development and lifelong learning journey, enabling them to update their knowledge and upgrade their skills to keep PaCE with the fast-changing economy.

The College offers credit-bearing, bite-sized modular courses drawn from our Undergraduate and Graduate programmes, which are stackable to Specialist and Graduate Certificate respectively. Fee subsidies from MOE and other agencies are available for these industry-endorsed courses/certificates.

www.copace.ntu.edu.sg

Registration is open for January 2018 Intake
Time didn’t just fly—it hurtled forward at top speed. I joined NTU as its first Provost in April 2007, before being appointed as its third President in July 2011. After six years at the helm, this will be my last semester at NTU President, and I have many special memories of my 10 years in this remarkable place.

I am proud to have witnessed how rapidly our University has grown and changed. I have always said that three factors to NTU’s success—people, people, people—are the bedrock of our University and our achievements. Our faculty and students have helped NTU surge in the rankings to become the world’s No. 1 young university for the fourth consecutive year. NTU jumped from 74th position in 2010 to an all-time high of No. 11 globally in the QS World University Rankings this year. This makes NTU the highest ranked university in Singapore as well as in Asia ever.

NTU now leads the top Asian universities in normalised research citation impact (Clarivate Analytics’ InCites 2015), and in the last five years, NTU has established joint labs on its campus with leading international organisations such as Rolls-Royce, BMW, Siemens, Johnson Matthey, Lockheed Martin and Singapore’s ST Engineering.

We worked together to spearhead the establishment of NTU’s joint medical school with Imperial College, whose first batch of medical students will graduate in July 2018. The medical school, now with its full suite of quaking new facilities fully operational, was officially opened by Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean in August. The dual-campus school comprises the Experimental Medicine Building at NTU’s main campus and the new Clinical Sciences Building in the healthcare hub of Novena.

I am grateful to all my colleagues, the Board of Trustees, in particular Chairman Mr Koh Boon Hwee, students, alumni, partners, donors, as well as the education and research fraternity in Singapore, whom I have had the privilege to work with.

The Board of Trustees and I are happy to announce that I will hand over the baton to Professor Subra Suresh, who will be NTU’s President in January 2018. Prof Suresh is considered one of the United States’ leading scientists and engineers, having been chosen by former US President Barack Obama to head the US National Science Foundation (NSF) in 2010. He was most recently President of Carnegie Mellon University in the US. Earlier in his career, he was Dean of Science and Technology at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Prof Suresh holds the distinction of being the only university president elected to all three US national academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, and is one of the few elected foreign members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. He has had numerous high-level interactions with Singapore for nearly a quarter century, having served as a consultant to the National Science and Technology Board, as well as on the Advisory Boards or Councils of A*STAR Institutes and several schools at the National University of Singapore. He hold the inaugural Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Chair for visiting appointments at the National University of Singapore from 2006 to 2010.

I warmly welcome Prof Suresh and hope that he will enjoy his time here as NTU President as much as I have. We are pleased that the NTU Board of Trustees has just appointed Prof Suresh as NTU’s inaugural Distinguished University Professor, recognising him as one of NTU’s most accomplished faculty. I know the future leadership of NTU is in safe hands and I look forward to working with Prof Suresh and the NTU Board of Trustees to ensure a smooth transition.

More than 9,500 graduates marked the start of a new chapter in their lives at this year’s Convocation. Singapore President and NTU Chancellor Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam presided over the first ceremony, which was also attended by the Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills), Mr Ong Ye Kung. As President Tony Tan finishes his second term in office, he will also step down as NTU Chancellor.

We are deeply appreciative of his contributions to Singapore and his unwavering support of NTU over the past six years. I am honoured to have been conferred the 2016 President’s Science and Technology Medal by President Tony Tan, and to be awarded the Meritorious Service Medal this year.

From Israel to Thailand and Germany, NTU is finding new research partners around the world. In Israel, NTU is setting up an innovation centre called NTU Innovation in Haifa. To improve fuel efficiency and reduce carbon dioxide emissions, NTU is collaborating with Thailand’s PTT Global Chemical to develop advanced materials to 3D print vehicle components. Together with Germany’s Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, we are launching a research institute located in NTU to develop virtual and augmented reality technologies.

Closer to home, we will be contributing to our community via educational public talks and events in the South West District. Through the newly established Wealth Management Institute at NTU, we will cater to the rising demand for advanced training for professionals in wealth and asset management industries in Singapore and Asia.

And as our alumni ranks swell, we are working even harder to foster meaningful relationships with alumni. One of the ways we do so is by providing spaces where we can engage them, such as at the newly renovated NTU Alumni House at one-north, which has restaurants, a gym, a spa, tennis courts, a swimming pool and playground, as well as meeting and function rooms. With two alumni houses, including one in the city, there are more dining and recreational options for our alumni. We hope you enjoy all these with your family, friends and fellow graduates.

Professor Bertil Andersson
President,
Nanyang Technological University

Dear Alumni,

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Professor Bertil Andersson
President,
Nanyang Technological University
After six years of outstanding leadership under Professor Bertil Andersson, NTU is getting a new president on 1 January 2018. Prof Andersson will hand over the reins to Professor Subra Suresh, an eminent American scientist, engineer and entrepreneur.

With an illustrious career that has seen him take on leadership roles in government, academia and industry, Prof Suresh brings considerable insights and expertise to NTU. He was President of Carnegie Mellon University for the past four years and, prior to that, had been the director of the US National Science Foundation (NSF) from 2010 to 2013 under the Obama administration. He is also currently an independent director of HP Inc, Palo Alto, and an advisor to the senior leadership of Siemens AG, Germany, on science, technology and innovation.

“I warmly welcome Prof Suresh and hope that he will enjoy his time here as NTU President as much as I have,” said Prof Andersson.

**TOP PICK FOR THE JOB**

The global search for a new president began in 2016, in line with international best practices of universities. Mr Koh Boon Hwee, Chairman of the NTU Board of Trustees, said that the eight-member search committee unanimously selected Prof Suresh for the top role at NTU.

“The appointment of the next President is crucial to sustain NTU’s progress and elevate her to the next significant phase of growth and development. As a world-class university, NTU will need a leader with vision, global stature, a thorough understanding of the environment in which it operates, and the larger international backdrop that the university and Singapore fit into,” said Mr Koh.

“Professor Suresh is an educator, scientist, advisor, inventor, entrepreneur and leader all rolled into one. The Board of Trustees and I are delighted that he has agreed to take the top job to lead NTU in its next phase of development.”

**A HOMECOMING OF SORTS**

Over the past 25 years, Prof Suresh has had numerous high-level interactions with Singapore. He served as a consultant to the National Science and Technology Board—the predecessor of the Agency for Science, Technology and Research—and helped set up the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART) centre in 2006. From 2006 to 2010, he also held the inaugural Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Chair for visiting appointments at the National University of Singapore.

While serving as Dean of Engineering at MIT, Prof Suresh continued his scholarly work in partnership with colleagues from the National University of Singapore and NTU in the first SMART centre programme on infectious diseases. For the past several years, he has also served as a member of both the Academic Research Council and the International Academic Advisory Panel of Singapore’s Ministry of Education.

On his appointment as the fourth President of NTU, Prof Suresh said, “I have had a very special affinity for Singapore and numerous interactions with colleagues here in academia, industry and government. I look forward to working with the NTU community, including its outstanding faculty and administrative staff, global alumni, trustees, and exceptional students to realise the great opportunities that lie ahead.”

**HANDBING OVER THE BATON OF NTU’S PRESIDENCY**

**AT A GLANCE**

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<th>2010–2013</th>
<th>Director of the National Science Foundation, USA</th>
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<td>2013–2017</td>
<td>President of Carnegie Mellon University, USA</td>
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- 300 research papers
- 26,000 citations
- 25 patents
SOARING TO GREATER HEIGHTS

Leading the charge of rapidly-rising universities, NTU took the number one spot in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Top 50 Under 50 league for universities that are less than 50 years old. This is the fourth straight year that NTU has emerged top among the world’s young universities.

Unlike the QS World University Rankings that assess institutional performance regardless of age, the QS Top 50 Under 50 is designed to be forward-looking, showcasing young universities established within the last 50 years with the potential to make tremendous impact in higher education and research in the future.

"NTU is honoured to once again plant the Singapore flag at the top of QS’ global league of young universities," said NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson.

For his exceptional leadership and service to NTU, Prof Andersson received the prestigious Meritorious Service Medal (Pingat Jasa Gemilang) at the National Day Awards ceremony 2017. He is the first European recipient of the medal in the past ten years. Beyond NTU, Prof Andersson has been an ardent ambassador for Singapore and has attracted global talent to the island nation, raising the standards of higher education and research here.

"It is a great honour to receive this National Day Award and I appreciate all the support from Singaporeans and the Singapore government in the last 10 years of my time here. I share this huge honour with everyone on the NTU Board of Trustees, my fellow NTU colleagues, students, alumni, partners as well as the education and research fraternity in Singapore, whom I have had the privilege to work with."

EXCELLING ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

In addition to being the best in the region, NTU has continued to climb up the QS world university rankings over the past seven years—it moved up two places this year to be ranked 11th among the world’s top universities. This is the highest position ever achieved by an Asian or Singaporean university.

"We can expect to see more intense healthy competition among the region’s universities," Prof Andersson remarked. "This will motivate them to adopt global best practices that can spur the region’s development in higher education and research."

As the world heads towards a more technologically-driven future, young STEM universities from Singapore, Hong Kong and South Korea have stood out as the Asia Pacific’s up-and-coming dynamos.

"NTU is not only cementing our place as the world’s number one young university, but we have also moved up in the main league table to 11th place, just shy of the global top ten. NTU will continue to place top priority on enhancing the quality of our education, research and innovation programmes," said Prof Andersson.
On Campus Community
Gratitude, generosity and graciousness—more than academic qualifications, these are the values that institutes of higher learning hope to instil in their graduates and alumni. Hence, NTU will be launching more community-based activities and social initiatives that benefit residents in the South West District, including Jurong, Choa Chu Kang and West Coast.

“A university does not exist by itself. It is also defined by its ties with those around it,” said NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson. “NTU is committed to giving back and remaining relevant to society. Our decision to ramp up our engagement activities in our ‘neighbourhood’ is aimed at better serving the needs of those around us by leveraging NTU’s resources, expertise and research capabilities.”

He added that closer ties with the community will enable NTU to better understand evolving issues and challenges which are being shaped by changing local and overseas trends.

SMALL STEPS, BIG IMPACT
NTU’s community engagement plan is guided by three key strategies—collaboration with partners, leveraging on research capabilities to improve the quality of life, and education and enrichment. One of the community-based research projects that has already begun is the test-bedding of energy-efficient solutions developed by the Energy Research Institute at NTU (ERI@N).

In addition to hardware upgrades, communities will receive help in terms of coursework and skills upgrading. NTU’s College of Professional and Continuing Education and South West Community Development Council will co-develop industry-specific courses for professionals, managers and executives. Public events and talks by NTU faculty showcasing NTU’s research projects are also in the pipeline.

Expanded Horizons
A key objective of the centre is to encourage the exchange of ideas across multiple scientific disciplines. NTU will thus collaborate with Hutchinson Kinston and Israel’s universities on a wide range of science and technology projects.

“The technologies will primarily focus on the clean-tech sector, including energy management and storage, as well as energy-efficient technologies and sustainable solutions for industry in water and waste management,” said Professor Lam Khin Yong, Acting Provost, Chief of Staff and Vice President (Research) at NTU. “We will also explore other cutting-edge developments in technology, such as the Internet of Things and advanced materials.”

The arrangement is a clear win-win situation for both countries. Haifa has plans to build a second new US$1 billion deep water port that will double its current capacity. Singapore, with its significant expertise in the maritime sector, can help steward the construction process.

“Haifa has set a strong foundation in positioning itself as a global stage for incubating startups in Israel and beyond,” said Mr Yona Yahav, the mayor of Haifa. “We welcome NTU Innovation in Haifa into our startup ecosystem to expand our international presence in research for the real world.”

GOING HIGH-TECH IN HAIFA

C
ome 2018, NTU students will have the opportunity to rub shoulders with tech experts in one of the most innovative countries in the world—Israel. It has launched NTU Innovation in Haifa, scaling fresh agreements with the Israel Institute for Biological Research and Hutchinson Kinston, a leading seed investor in water-related technologies. The joint innovation centre will be located at the Tiltan School of Design and Visual Communication in Haifa.

Haifa, located in northern Israel, is the nation’s hub for research and development and home to two of the country’s respected institutions—the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology and the University of Haifa. Global high-tech giants such as Google, Phillips, Intel, Microsoft and Apple all have headquarters in Haifa.

Top
Haifa Mayor Yona Yahav (far left) launches NTU Innovation in Haifa with NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson. NTU Board of Trustees member Mr Inderjit Singh looks on.

Bottom
NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson (8th from right), Haifa Mayor Yona Yahav (9th from right) and distinguished guests at the launch ceremony.

“Did You Know” Monthly Talk Series
Local Community Engagement Office

Issue 99 / Jul–Sept 2017
GEARING UP FOR A DIGITAL FUTURE

The future economy will increasingly depend on digital technologies, and enterprises that do not adapt risk being left behind. In anticipation of a digital future, NTU and Fraunhofer-Gesellschaft, a renowned German institution for applied research, are launching a research institute to develop digital technologies to help companies remain competitive in the digital era.

Supported by funding from industry partners and receiving up to S$23 million from the National Research Foundation (NRF), the new institute will boost Singapore’s Smart Nation ambitions and promote the adoption of digital technologies across all sectors of the economy.

DRIVING THE GREEN REVOLUTION

Fancy driving in a 3D-printed car? That day may arrive sooner than you think. NTU has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Thailand’s largest petrochemical and refining company, PTT Global Chemical (PTTGC), to jointly develop new materials that could be used to 3D print vehicle components, improving fuel efficiency and reducing carbon dioxide emissions for sustainable growth of the automotive industry. "This partnership is very timely, especially when many countries are developing advanced manufacturing technologies to make more complex components, yet with a greener carbon footprint," said Professor Lam Khin Yong, Acting Provost, Chief of Staff and Vice President (Research) at NTU.

"Our support of the Fraunhofer Singapore Institute represents another step forward in using research in digital areas such as visual analytics, virtual and augmented reality and human-computer interaction to add value to work processes and training in our companies," said NRF Chief Executive Officer Professor Low Teck Seng. Fraunhofer is already working with NTU’s Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine to develop interactive learning models for anatomy, while in collaboration with the BMW Future Mobility Lab in NTU revolves around human-machine interfaces to improve driving safety.

NTU Prof Karl Wolfgang Mueller-Wittig, Director of Fraunhofer Singapore, said, “The long-term collaboration with NTU and the strong support of NRF were the foundation to achieve this milestone. I’m happy to see the substantial implementation of the Fraunhofer model in Singapore delivering visual solutions with impact on industry and society.”

"With the combined expertise of NTU in translational research and innovation, and the industrial application experience of PTTGC, we will be able to achieve new technological innovations and scientific breakthroughs," he said. Mr Supattanapong Pummechawon, President & Chief Executive Officer of PTTGC, agreed that PTTGC and NTU have mutual interests and complementary strengths, hence the collaboration will create synergy for faster innovation.

NTU has built up its expertise in 3D printing in recent years through partnerships with industry leaders. Led by Professor Chua Chee Kai, one of the most cited scientists in the field of 3D printing, NTU’s Singapore Centre for 3D Printing has created many innovative technologies in the healthcare, aerospace, marine and construction sectors.

Top
Launch of Fraunhofer Singapore by (Left to right) NRF Deputy CEO Dr Cheong Wei Yang; NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson; Ambassador of the Federal Republic of Germany to Singapore His Excellency Dr Michael Witter; Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry) Mr S Iswaran; Director of Fraunhofer IGD, Prof Dieter W. Fellner; NTU Acting Provost, Chief of Staff and Vice President (Research) Prof Lam Khin Yong; and Director of Fraunhofer Singapore Prof Wolfgang Mueller-Wittig.

Centre left
An augmented reality app on a tablet that shows an aircraft engine and how information can be overlaid virtually. It could be used to aid maintenance and manpower training.

Bottom right
Minister Iswaran testing out an augmented reality headset with an app developed by Fraunhofer Singapore for the automotive industry.

NTU Singapore and PTT Global Chemical (PTTGC) will collaborate to develop advanced 3D printing materials for the next-generation automotive industry. (From left) Prof Lam Khin Yong, NTU Acting Provost, Chief of Staff and Vice President (Research); Mr Prasert Bunsumpun, PTTGC Chairman; and Mr Supattanapong Pummechawon, PTTGC President & Chief Executive Officer.
A flight of passion

Of Milestones & Memories

As the dust settles on this year’s convocation ceremonies, past valedictorians had inspiring words for the Class of 2017.

From the elaborate gowns to the mortar boards, convocation ceremonies are always a sight to behold. In the blink of an eye, wide-eyed freshmen have grown into confident graduates, and as they saunter on stage to receive their degree certificates, their family and friends in the audience erupt into thunderous applause.

This year, nearly 9,600 graduates were conferred bachelor’s or higher education degrees during 19 convocation ceremonies held from 26 July to 3 August 2017 at the Nanyang Auditorium.

Among the graduating class were 34 Lee Kuan Yew Medallists, which is awarded to the top student in their respective programmes, and 12 Koh Boon Hwee Scholars Award winners, which recognises outstanding students and the teachers who have made a difference in their learning journey.

Even against the gloomy backdrop of economic uncertainty, more than 60 percent of graduates have already received job offers from local and international companies, testament to NTU’s excellent reputation among employers.

“Despite the uncertain economic conditions, about two in three of our graduates this year have secured jobs before graduation,” said NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson to the Class of 2017. “This shows the high standing of NTU graduates with employers.”

“As a new batch of graduates are inducted into the ranks of NTU alumni, NTULink took the opportunity to check in with seven valedictorians from previous graduating classes, to see what they’ve been up to and what advice they have for their juniors.

CLASS OF 2017 AT A GLANCE

9,595* graduates in total
6,307 Bachelor’s Degree graduates
3,341 Higher Degree graduates
71 pioneer graduates from the Public Policy and Global Affairs programme
195 Bachelor’s graduates receiving double degrees
649 graduates receiving Doctorate degrees
2,692 graduates receiving Master’s degrees

*Consists of bachelor’s degree graduates, higher degree graduates and 53 Renaissance Engineering Programme graduates who are each awarded a bachelor and Master’s degree.

Don’t let the fear of making mistakes stop you from trying new things. Step out of your comfort zone, and if you fail, you’ll still learn something compared to someone who didn’t try at all.”

A Saravanan
Bachelor of Engineering (Electrical & Electronic Engineering), Class of 2016

When Mr Saravanan first graduated, he settled for a job that paid well but did not align with his interests. He later realised that passion trumped paycheque and decided to seek another job that truly appealed to him. He now works at Airbus as a researcher and project manager.

“I develop solutions to the challenges facing aircraft maintenance, repair and operations, adapting state-of-the-art technologies to the specific needs of the highly regulated aircraft maintenance industry,” said Mr Saravanan, an avid marathon runner.

For recent graduates who may be uncertain of their career goals or worried about making wrong career decisions, Mr Saravanan assures them: It’s okay!

“Don’t let the fear of making mistakes stop you from trying new things. Step out of your comfort zone, and if you fail, you’ll still learn something compared to someone who didn’t try at all.”
Nurturing young minds

Sheena Lai Siew Chan
Master of Education (Curriculum & Teaching), Class of 2013

Unlike some educators who always felt a calling to teach, Ms Sheena Lai had a ‘no harm trying’ mentality when she became a teacher. A six-month teaching stint quickly opened her eyes to the impact she could make on the next generation of thinkers.

“I began to see how this job had put me in a privileged position of touching lives,” said the English Language Level Head at Tanjong Katong Primary School. “The satisfaction in my job comes from seeing the growth of the children under my charge.”

Ms Lai, who enjoys travelling and reading, said that fresh graduates must be adaptable as the real world is much more uncertain and complex than textbook case studies. “Always be ready to learn, relearn or unlearn to stay flexible and relevant.”

A healing touch

Victoria Tan Wan Yan
Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Sciences (NTU-Beijing University of Chinese Medicine Double Degree Programme), Class of 2016

Ever the curious individual, Ms Victoria Tan’s interest was piqued by the Double Degree Programme in Biomedical Sciences and Chinese Medicine.

“I was already determined to practice traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) when I entered the course,” said the TCM Physician and Corporate Communications Manager at PULSE TCM Clinic. “The modules definitely helped me understand the human anatomy and the difference in theories between Western and Chinese medicine.”

As part of her job, Ms Tan enjoys the challenge of diagnosing a wide range of conditions in her patients, and takes pride in knowing that she is improving lives every day.

Asked for her advice to recent graduates, Ms Tan encouraged them to keep an open mind, set goals for themselves, and take small steps towards achieving those goals. “Having a thirst for new knowledge and skills will enable fresh graduates to add value to any company, and to survive in any work environment.”

“Always be ready to learn, relearn or unlearn to stay flexible and relevant.”
Riding the waves of change

Harm Hauke Ross
Master of Business Administration (EMBA), Class of 2014

Be interested—in people, the planet and the things that are happening out there in the world.

This was the insight that Mr Harm Hauke Ross wanted to share with graduates who are starting out in their careers. As the Vice President for maritime industries at a German bank, Mr Ross puts his own advice to good use on a daily basis, as his work intersects global transportation infrastructure, energy resources and clean energy.

Having graduated from the Nanyang Executive MBA Programme (General Management) in 2014, Mr Ross appreciates the exposure he received during his higher degree studies.

“One thing I enjoyed most was the close interaction with people from so many different countries, cultures and business backgrounds,” said Mr Ross. “The MBA also provided me with a valuable network of contacts within my industry, across Asia and globally.”

Coded for success

Elysia Ong Wei Xi
Bachelor of Engineering (Computer Engineering), Class of 2014

Computer science is a male-dominated profession, but that has not stopped Elysia Ong from making inroads as a front-end web developer at Autodesk, Inc., where she produces quality code for product releases and drives technical discussions.

Despite having no prior knowledge of JavaScript when she first started working, the programming fundamentals that she picked up during her undergraduate studies helped her to adapt quickly.

Although it has been three years since she graduated, Ms Ong feels that she is always learning something new every day and encourages fresh graduates to be humble and adventurous.

“Give it your all!” said Ms Ong, who enjoys reading, hiking and rock-climbing in her spare time. “Be like a sponge and absorb as much as you can when you embark on your career journey. Learn from your peers, make more connections and remember to always be positive!”
April Voon Siew Lian
Bachelor of Engineering (Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering), Class of 2016
2nd Year Medical Student

Sheer determination earned Ms April Voon a place in medical school after she obtained her bachelor’s degree.

“I had wanted to pursue an undergraduate medicine degree, but I didn’t qualify because of my A Level grades. My time in NTU, therefore, was one of reflection on whether I really wanted to go into medicine,” she recalls.

Now a second-year medical student at the Duke-NUS Medical School, the one thing that keeps Ms Voon going during the long hours between ward rounds in the morning and exit rounds in the evenings is the smiles of her patients. “It seems so simple, but the smiles on their faces as they get better and stronger by the day keep me going,” she said.

For those who are considering pursuing graduate studies, she mused, “Graduate studies can take a lot of time, resources and energy, so seize the opportunity while you’re still young and have relatively few commitments.”

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Bok Zhong Ming
Bachelor of Arts in Chinese, Class of 2016

If you tune in to MediaCorp Radio’s Capital 95.8FM on your morning drive to work, you may be familiar with Mr Bok Zhong Ming’s voice. The part-time deejay credits his Bachelor of Arts in Chinese for his critical thinking skills, which have enabled him to conduct in-depth interviews and inject cultural elements into his talk show.

“The teachers from the Chinese programme have had a great impact on my professional life,” said Mr Bok. “They made knowledge from the past come alive, and helped me see the current world in a different light. This greatly influenced my worldview and how I interact with my listeners.”

Mr Bok is currently pursuing a Masters in Arts in Chinese degree at NTU and is a strong advocate of lifelong learning. To fresh graduates, he urged, “Stay hungry for knowledge and be willing to learn and adapt. In everything you do, give your best and reach for the stars!”

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“Graduate studies can take a lot of time, resources and energy, so seize the opportunity while you’re still young and have relatively few commitments.”
The NTU alumni community is diverse and multi-faceted, reflecting the rich history of the university which spans more than six decades.

The university’s roots can be traced back to 1955 with the establishment of Nanyang University. As Singapore’s economy matured, there was a need to educate a generation of practice-oriented engineers, hence the Nanyang Technological Institute (NTI) was set up in 1981. A decade later, NTI was merged with the National Institute of Education (NIE) to form the NTU of today.

The alumni rolls of the former Nanyang University were transferred to NTU in 1996, and the graduates from NIE and its predecessors also came to be part of the NTU alumni family.

Together, this 222,630-strong alumni community hail from 158 countries across the world. Some 80 percent of the total alumni population reside in Singapore while the remaining 20 percent live and work overseas.

Where are our Alumni now?

**222,630** alumni

**Top 10 Countries Where NTU Alumni Reside**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Number</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>USA</td>
<td>784</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>25,097</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>1,563</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vietnam</td>
<td>1,560</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thailand</td>
<td>306</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Malaysia</td>
<td>3,521</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Singapore</td>
<td>176,161</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indonesia</td>
<td>1,038</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Australia</td>
<td>423</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philippines</td>
<td>334</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rest of the world 10,784

**Age Groups**

- Male: 54%
- Female: 46%

- 29 and below: 23%
- 30-39: 35%
- 40-49: 27%
- Above 50: 15%

**Courses**

- Engineering: 34.9%
- Business/Commerce: 21%
- Science: 5.4%
- Humanities/Arts/Social Sciences: 9.7%
- International Studies: 0.7%
- Executive Programmes: 19.2%
- Accountancy: 8.7%
- Technopreneurship: 0.4%
- Other: 8.7%

**Institutions**

- Nanyang Technological University (NTU): 138,052
- Nanyang University (NU): 11,006
- National Institute of Education (NIE): 46,410
- Nanyang Technological Institute: 5,654
- Associates: 21,508
Mr Sonny Bensily, Managing Director of Prime Structures Engineering, shares his journey of entrepreneurship and gives advice on how to turn dreams into reality.

Amidst the many iconic structures to grace our island’s cityscape, the Marina Bay Sands (MBS) is arguably the most remarkable. Standing nearly two hundred metres tall, the MBS’ three towers and ship-like Skypark are world renowned for their unique design and impressive engineering.

As Ms Sonny Bensily (CEE/1985) strolls along the Marina Bay area, he is wont to feel a sense of pride surging up within him. After all, it was his company, Prime Structures Engineering Pte Ltd (Prime Structures), that built several of the distinctive features of the MBS.

“Prime Structures was established 22 years ago on 23rd March 1995 as a subcontracting firm that performed structural steel work,” Mr Bensily told NTULink. “It has since grown into a multimillion-dollar construction company with a focus in four geographies—Singapore, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and recently, Dubai.”

A RUNNING START

It was the height of Singapore’s post-independence recession when Mr Bensily graduated from NTU in 1985 with a degree in civil and environmental engineering. Jobs were scarce, yet he received three offers and eventually chose to kickstart his working life at the construction arm of the Wah Chang Group of companies.

“That was where I had completed my industrial attachment. Initially, I was reluctant to go back there because my uncle, Giam, was working there. My colleagues didn’t call me Sonny during my attachment—I was always Giam’s nephew,” Mr Bensily recalled with a smile. “But the lure of working for a big company—and the chance to learn how it operated—proved too tantalising to resist.

“At a big company, you observe how they operate and you learn about systems,” he said. “The right systems are what keep a company going in the long run.”

A FATHER’S WISDOM

Even as he toiled at his first job, Mr Bensily knew at the back of his mind this was only a stepping stone for his greater ambitions. Since he was a young boy, his father had advised him to be his own boss rather than work for someone else.

“I give credit to my dad who influenced me to become a businessman,” said Mr Bensily. “He himself was in the construction business, but unfortunately, his business folded and we were quite poor. Still, he told me that as an employee, I would be trading time for money, whereas having my own business would let me secure a better future.”

Mr Bensily carried the wisdom of his father’s words with him through the years. He gave himself a decade to learn the ropes of how to manage a large company, picking up mentors and a diploma in marketing along the way. In 1995, exactly ten years after his graduation, he took the leap of faith and incorporated Prime Structures.

“I knew that business has its risks, but I learnt from my father that failure is not permanent. I saw that we grew up poor, but we still survived, so I was willing to take the risk.”

A TRAINED MIND

While his family and upbringing gave him the heart to start his business, it was his engineering training that gave him the mind to excel at it.

“I am a civil engineer by training, and engineers are ingrained with an analytical and practical thought process,” said Mr Bensily. “We don’t make decisions based on emotion—we rely on facts and figures. This is essential in business.”

All this training was brought to bear when Prime Structures bid for the MBS project.

“At the time, Prime Structures’ turnover was only $17 million. Compared to our competitors, we were tiny! Yet, we were fighting for contracts worth over $60 million!” Mr Bensily quipped. “But I live by a saying: the only way to eat an elephant is to chop it up into smaller pieces. So, we did the math, came up with a plan and faced down with the competition.”

This calculated risk paid off exponentially. Not only did his company win contracts for the Skypark, the Ned Khan Art Wall, the podium and the canopy of the MBS, Mr Bensily also gained an international network and reputation which became a springboard for Prime Structures to venture overseas on a full-time basis.

“A RUNNING START

As impressive as Mr Bensily’s achievements are, he maintains that there are no secrets or shortcuts to success, and he freely shared with NTULink how he got to where he is today.

“First and foremost, you must have a dream,” he said. “Next, you must have a goal with a timeline attached to it. Then you make a plan and you act on it.”

Another key ingredient: perseverance. “Business is not easy, and there will most certainly be challenges, but if you cling on to all your dreams and goals, you will find a way through those difficulties,” said Mr Bensily. Saving the best for last, he advised alumni not to neglect family in the pursuit of greatness.

“Most importantly, keep in mind that success is nothing if you have no one to share it with. So, even as you chase your dreams, don’t ignore your family—your parents, your wife, your children. You must balance all these aspects of life. Otherwise, success becomes hollow.”

“A GLIMPSE OF GREATNESS

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“I knew that business has its risks, but I learnt from my father that failure is not permanent. I saw that we grew up poor, but we still survived, so I was willing to take the risk.”
Dr Victor Sim, Deputy Director of NEWRIComm, is on a mission to help neighbouring countries develop sustainably and preserve Singapore’s reputation as a garden city.

Why is environmental sustainability research important to you?

Today, the human population stands at more than seven billion people. This number is expected to increase to nine billion by 2050. Such rapid population growth not only places a tremendous strain on the Earth’s resources, but also generates a massive amount of waste that negatively impacts the environment. As an illustration, Singapore, despite being a small country, generated 7.67 million tonnes of waste in 2015—enough to fill 3,000 Olympic-sized swimming pools! Hence, we need to start adopting a circular mindset—how much we use determines how much we dispose. This mindset is even more critical for resources such as water—essential, finite and increasingly scarce. Any growth in the water supply is largely overshadowed by the increase in water demand. Therefore, we need to start investing in environmental sustainability research so that we can better manage natural resources and ensure that future generations enjoy the quality of life that we currently have.

At the end of the day, we must remember that the environment is a legacy that we leave behind for our children. As a father of two kids, I want my family to inherit this garden city in a pristine state.

What is one challenge that Singapore will face in the future in terms of sustainability?

While Singapore has largely resolved the issues of waste and the balance between urbanisation and environmental protection, water management remains a major challenge. Singapore only has one landfill in Pulau Semakau that is filling fast even though waste incineration has reduced the volume of refuse by 90 percent. Hence, the National Environment Agency is working with NEWRI to further reduce the volume of ash generated by up to 80 percent through waste gasification.

Another method developed at NEWRI is the use of microbes to anaerobically digest food waste, which bypasses the need to remove water content from waste before energy extraction. The digestion process reduces the amount of waste generated and produces biogas which is a valuable energy source.

What is one interesting project that you are currently working on?

All our projects at NEWRIComm are interesting, but if I had to choose, I would name two favourites—a lake remediation project in Sri Lanka and a clean water project in Indonesia. In July 2017, NEWRIComm won the IES Prestigious Engineering Achievement Award for its Kandy Lake remediation project in Sri Lanka. We are now expanding these efforts to Kurunegala Lake in the Northwestern province of Sri Lanka which has shown signs of eutrophication due to sewage, urban and agricultural runoff.

Together with Dr Shameen Jinadasa from the University of Peradeniya, we are assessing Kurunegala Lake to develop sustainable solutions for Kurunegala Town. The project will benefit approximately 30,000 residents in Kurunegala City. The second project is led by Mr Agus Suyanto from the University of Technology Yogyakarta and aims to improve water security for communities in the drought-prone district of Gunungkidul in Indonesia. Doline lake protection and the construction of bank filtration wells will improve water access to the district’s 2,000 residents.

How do you feel about society’s awareness of sustainability and environmental issues?

The sustainability movement has evolved globally, and most governments and private entities are now acutely aware of environmental issues. For example, climate change is now grabbing news headlines and the United Nations has laid out sustainable development goals. However, the environment does take a back seat to economic pursuits in developing countries, and there is still some way to go in convincing developing countries that the environment is a strategic asset and a source of economic opportunities. In this aspect, Singapore can be an advocate of how economic growth need not come at the expense of the environment. Part of our economic progress stems from managing sustainability very early on, and we can share our experience and expertise with the rest of the region.

What is your advice for alumni who want to make an impact on the environment?

One of the four strategic focus areas of Singapore’s Research, Innovation and Enterprise 2020 plan is urban solutions and sustainability, so there are many opportunities to contribute to environmental efforts. A multidisciplinary approach to sustainability is necessary, so whether your educational background is in engineering, finance, project management or architecture, look out for projects that allow you to make an impact in some way.

Importantly, be willing to learn and build up skillsets that are relevant to the sustainability movement. I have been fortunate to turn my passion into a career that supports other countries in their quest to save their environment, and it is something that I do not take for granted.

As a father of two kids, I want my family to inherit this garden city in a pristine state."
JOURNEY TO THE SOUTHERNMOST CONTINENT

With a burning passion to tackle climate change head-on, Naveen Srivatsav crowdfunded his way to an expedition in Antarctica and hopes to inspire action against global warming.

Life is an adventure, and everyone forges his or her own path. But some odysseys are admittedly more breathtaking than others. As Naveen Srivatsav (SCBE/2007) gazed at the vast plateaus of ice in Antarctica, the grandeur of the secluded southernmost continent—and the freezing winds—quite literally took his breath away.

Yet, in the tranquillity of that cold and white expanse, a shuddering notion lurked at the back of his mind. One day, all this could be destroyed—is already being destroyed—by global warming.

Climate change is a topic close to the heart of Mr Srivatsav, who graduated from NTU with a Bachelor’s degree in Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering and a Minor in Entrepreneurship. Now working as an emerging technologies researcher at PricewaterhouseCoopers Europe, he shares with NTULink his motivations for crowdfunding his way to Antarctica and the valuable lessons he has learnt from the ten-day expedition.

**What motivated you to go to Antarctica?**

While pursuing my Master’s degree at Delft University, I was exposed to powerful concepts such as wicked problems and the tragedy of the commons. These theories drastically changed my worldview, awakening me to the fact that climate change is a wicked problem that has widespread and varied impact. Hence, I was drawn to climate change activism.

I spent the better part of my life championing environmental causes. Listening to a few of Rob’s recorded presentations, I was floored by his passion, magnetism and charisma. I hesitantly emailed the Foundation about my interest in the expedition, explaining my intentions. Within minutes, Rob himself smiled back with an enthusiastic, “Yes, you’re just the kind of person we need!”

How could I not go after an invitation like that? It turned out to be the best decision of my life!

**Why did you turn to crowdfunding to raise money for the expedition?**

The reality is that the expedition was pretty expensive, costing about US$10,000. Almost 75 percent of that was for the cabin on the ship itself, and the remainder was for travel costs and cold-weather gear.

Initially, I was uncomfortable with asking favours from strangers, but some sage advice changed my mind. I started thinking of how I could show appreciation to people who might fund me, and conceived many ‘perks’ for different amounts of donation.

I raised almost US$7,500 via crowdfunding. A large percentage of that was contributed by my mentors at Konsep, the agency where I completed my Master’s thesis. My family, friends and the NTU Alumni Affairs Office also pitched in. Knowing that so many people believed in my passion makes me feel thankful, touched and inspired.

**What was most memorable about the expedition?**

Three things really stood out for me on the expedition. Firstly, I was amazed at the amount of ice in Antarctica. There was so much of it that I felt as if I was on an alien planet!

The second thing that impressed me was the fauna. I saw hundreds of penguins from three different species and came within meters of various seals. And the best sightings of all! Whales! Humpback whales, orcas, Minke whales and even a fin whale. It’s astounding to have an 18-meter-long beast surfacing right next to your boat with such easy grace that betrays their massive size.

And of course, the people made the expedition really special. We had a truly international crew, and each person had such interesting stories to tell about their passions and projects. I was also humbled to have met Rob himself—a most patient, engaging and encouraging person.

**What’s next for you now that the expedition is over?**

I continue to run a climate change solutions group with renewed vigour. It really helps that the research aspect of my role means that I inevitably find exciting new developments that are synergistic to my interests in this space. I am also participating in a competition to reimagine global governance and empower citizenry to have more influence in local policymaking processes.

Professionally, I’m working with a small group of passionate teammates to grow the sustainability and circular economy propositions in the consulting world. Ultimately, helping even one Fortune 500 company become one percent more sustainable annually can have a disproportionately larger impact than targeting and changing the behaviours of millions of individuals. It is a daunting task, but I enjoy challenges.

**What do you hope to inspire with your experience?**

I hope to inspire optimism. I hope people will look beyond the doom-and-gloom and appreciate that with the ‘superpowers’ technology has given us, we can make a difference in the world. For students, I challenge you to ask yourself what you are passionate about and to explore why you feel so strongly about it. A helpful question I’ve learnt to ask is, ‘What am I willing to struggle for?’ instead of ‘what makes me happy?’

To my fellow alumni, I ask that you look at your networks and gauge the resources available to you. In this case, I find it helpful to ask, ‘what can I solve’ rather than ‘what can I sell?’ Our ambition is not just to survive, but thrive, and I’m confident we can find ways to make that happen. Good luck! •
Some 120 alumni and guests gathered at NTU's spanking new Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine @ Novena Campus on 20 July 2017 for the 41st Distinguished Alumni Forum. Speaking on the theme ‘What is Success In Life?’ were Mr Henry Tan Song Kok (NBS/1988), Chairman and Managing Director of Nexia TS Public Accounting Corporation, and Mr Kong Fern Chiang (NBS/2002, TIP/2008), Founder and CEO of Four Media Private Limited. Both speakers are prominent businessmen who have taken their companies beyond Singapore’s borders to break into the vast Chinese market.

The session began with Mr Tan sharing about success versus significance. Citing the example of a friend who has spent 20 years in South Africa helping the less privileged, Mr Tan said, “Making a difference to one person, one family—it may not sound successful, but it is significant.”

By Mr Tan’s measure, success or significance is based on meaningful outcomes. However, the second speaker of the evening, Mr Kong, challenged the notion of success as an end point. In his opinion, the journey towards success is equally, if not more important than the destination.

“I made a lot of mistakes during the course of establishing my company,” Mr Kong shared. However, he treated each mistake as an opportunity for growth, noting that “If you find yourself not making mistakes, you’re not trying something new.” Having such an attitude kept him going and helped him to become who he is today, he said.

ENLIGHTENED PERSPECTIVES
Opportunities to tap the minds of successful individuals are rare, and audience members seemed acutely aware of this fact. In a no holds barred question-and-answer segment, even the speakers’ personal mantras came under scrutiny.

Mr Tan’s personal mantra was to be nice and to treat people with respect. “Who wouldn’t want to work with a nice person?” he asked rhetorically, emphasising that camaraderie and trust were intangible but critical elements of running a successful business.

Mr Kong’s mantra, on the other hand, was to “keep trying.” In his opinion, by persevering and continuously stepping out of one’s comfort zone, success will come naturally. “So when things get tough, I always tell myself to keep trying—and keep drinking!” he said, to laughter from the audience.

Both Mr Tan and Mr Kong agreed that being able to quickly adapt to foreign business cultures is a key ingredient for success when it comes to venturing into overseas markets. They also called for greater unity among Singaporean businesses questing abroad, saying that such enterprises should band together and leverage one another’s strengths to claim a bigger slice of the global pie.

Mr Sherwin Goh (SSM/2017) appreciated the profound insights that were shared during the forum. “Everyone has their own definition of success, but the speakers are older and wiser, and they have broadened my perspective on what success in life means.”

Also impressed by the meaningful discussion was Mr Tan Peck Chuan (EEE/1990), who remarked, “This evening’s forum is lovely because it establishes a connection between different generations of alumni. The speakers, by sharing their success stories, are giving back to the NTU community.”
After graduating from university, some of us might think that we are done with learning. But for Professor Er Meng Hwa, Vice President of International Affairs and Professor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) at NTU, education never stops. “In any company, every position is an opportunity to learn, and education is the best gift,” said Prof Er, speaking to some 65 alumni at the NTU Alumni Affairs Office’s inaugural Tête-à-Tête session on 18 May 2017, held at NTU Alumni House in Marina Square.

In 2016, Prof Er was the only Singaporean among 126 people honoured at an exhibition featuring the world’s most influential engineers, held at the Institution of Engineering and Technology in the UK.

Besides his engineering background, Prof Er also credits his success to constant readings of the *I Ching*—the ancient Chinese text that is the source for many ideas in Confucianism and Taoism. Over the past 20 years, Prof Er has drawn from the book many insights related to leadership and leading change.

**BEING A PEOPLE-ORIENTED LEADER**

For Prof Er, great leadership boils down to one thing: creating an environment where people can trust each other. Regardless of one’s position or title in a company, he believes that everyone should be treated with respect and dignity. “I treat my colleagues with fairness and respect. In fact, I don’t call them my ‘staff’, because I’m just one of them,” he shared. “We all want to make sure that the school is functioning well, and to contribute our share towards producing excellent students for the nation.”

**LEADING CHANGE**

Change presents a challenge for leaders because it creates uncertainty, said Prof Er. When leading change, leaders should recognize the importance of making team decisions, he added. “One important element in leading change is how you communicate your vision to your team, and thus show them the quality of your decision-making process,” he explained. Doing this well, he added, would also help to encourage the right attitudes among people who may remain sceptical about the change.

Audience members were inspired by the talk. “I enjoyed what he shared about the key traits of a leader, especially when he talked about leading change,” said Ms Ong Fang Zheng (ADM/2011). “It was exactly what I needed and why I came here. It reaffirms some of my principles, and guides me when it comes to building a team.”

“Professor Er’s sharing was very philosophical,” said Ms Joyce Chee (EEE/2013). The talk left her with insights that she could definitely apply to her career, she added.

“In any company, every position is an opportunity to learn, and education is the best gift.”

“Top Participants asking questions during the inaugural Tête-à-Tête session.

Opposite page Prof Er Meng Hwa, Vice President of International Affairs and Professor of Electrical and Electronic Engineering at NTU, giving an impassioned speech about learning and leadership.
Welcome to the Family, Class of 2017!

To the best of some of the most popular DJ mixes, close to a thousand graduates of the Class of 2017 celebrated their graduation at Suntec Singapore, parrying through the night.

Organised by NTU’s Alumni Affairs Office, the Welcome Class 2017 Alumni Party was attended by Mr Inderjit Singh, a member of the NTU Board of Trustees and Chairman of NTU Alumni and Development Committee.

“This is indeed a milestone for all of you,” said Mr Singh to the packed audience. “You’ve completed a major part of your education’s journey at NTU. Congratulations!”

NTU Alumni Affairs Office Director, Mr Wu Heng (CEE/2017) told NTUWatch that he had received a job offer from a cosmetics company and was celebrating the good news with his friends.

A ‘foodie’ at heart, Mr Chua Mi Gin (ADM/2017) said she was exploring job offers to start. Mr Wu Heng (CEE/2017) who roped in unsuspecting couples to participate in stage games. The NTU Breakdance Club was up next, dazzling the crowd with their acrobatic dance moves.

What’s next after graduation?

When asked about their plans for the future, some alumni commented that they had already found jobs and were rearing to start. Mr Wu Heng (CEE/2017) told NTUWatch: “I want to assure you that your relationship between you and your alma mater is life-long; and at NTU, we’ll continue to support your needs,” he said.

Mr Singh then officially launched the party with four alumni representatives from the Class of 2017—Russell Graeme Britton, Choa Mi Gin (ADM), Ashish Nayan (CEE) and Jaynie Anne Margareth Tan Pineda.

Mr Inderjit Singh congratulating the new graduates on their accomplishment of another milestone.

A Reunion to Remember

On July 1, 2017, some 250 alumni who had graduated from Nanyang University between 1959 to 1969 came together in the atrium of the School of Biological Sciences for a class reunion. Prof Er Meng Hwa, NTU Vice President for International Affairs, graced the lunch event, which was followed by a short visit to NTU’s herb garden.

Mr Lim Cheng Eng (Science/1967), Alumni from the Classes of 1959–1969 said he had received encouragement and support from other members of the emcee club and friends, “I’m looking to get into freelance emceeing. Although it’s not related to what I’ve studied, I’ve received encouragement and support from other members of the emcee club and my friends,” she said.

As for the emcee, Ms Wu, it appears that she was jumpstarting her career that very evening. “I’m looking to get into freelance emceeing. Although it’s not related to what I’ve studied, I’ve received encouragement and support from other members of the emcee club and my friends,” she said.

Click wise from top:
Mr Inderjit Singh (centre) kicking-off the Welcome Class 2017 Alumni Party with (from left) Mr Ashish Nayan, Ms Chua Mi Gin, Mr Russell Graeme Britton and Ms Jaynie Anne Margareth Tan Pineda.
Mr Inderjit Singh congratulating the new graduates on their accomplishment of another milestone.

Lively chatter and hearty laughter were heard throughout the eight-course Chinese lunch. For entertainment, the NTU Chinese Orchestra played a heartwarming piece on their gaulhongs (Chinese string instruments) and the Chinese Dance Club gave a rousing performance. As the lunch event drew to a close, Prof Er treated the alumni to a rendition of two songs, ‘A Spray of Plum Blossoms’ and ‘Full Moon, Beautiful Flowers’.

After the lunch, some alumni were taken to visit NTU’s herb garden, where they were introduced to plants with medicinal properties.

“This is really nice having this herb garden on campus. We don’t get the chance to see many of these plants in our surroundings,” said Mr Wong Jit Kang (Arts/1970).

Bottom: Prof Er Meng Hwa, Vice President of International Affairs, raising a toast to alumni.
Lights, camera, action!’ and the festivities broke out at the annual Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) Dinner and Dance 2017. Dressed to the nines and raring for a good time, some 80 graduating students, alumni, staff and guests were treated to interactive games, magic and music in an Oscar-themed night of glitz and glamour.

Associate Professor Qin Xiaosheng, CEE’s Associate Chair (Students), mingled with the revellers over dinner, and the invited faculty and staff even erupted into Cantonese song, to thunderous applause from the audience.

The academics then handed the stage over to professionals—a local band that led a sing-along session, giving everyone one last chance to unite with one voice before heading separate ways.

**MAE WE MEET AGAIN**

It didn’t matter if you wore black or white at the Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE) Graduation Night 2017. More than 100 professors, alumni, staff and graduating students arrived at the Fullerton Hotel on 12 May dressed in accordance with the night’s ‘monochrome’ theme, and all were ready to party.

Ms Norris Lim, Chairperson of the organising committee, congratulated the students on their achievements while Ms Jean Chan Sook Chong, President of MAE Alumni Association (AA), encouraged the graduates to keep in touch with one another. Professor Louis Phee Soo Jay, Chair of MAE, wished the students all the best in their future endeavours.

Laughter filled the air over a sumptuous eight-course meal served during an engaging acoustic performance by Sam Driscoll and Elwin Chua. ‘New Spectrum’ and ‘Baker’s in Space’ also took the stage to provide massive entertainment value, and the event concluded with a lucky draw with Prof Phee presenting the top three prizes to the lucky winners.

**I’LL MSE YOU**

For all the musical talent showcased at the Materials Science and Engineering (MSE) Graduation Night 2017 on 9 May at the Mandarin Orchard Hotel, you might have guessed MSE stood for Music and Sound Experts. Some 100 graduating students and faculty members attended the event, which included MSE Chair Professor Subbu Venkatraman and NTU Chief Alumni Affairs Officer Mr Guo Sam Nan, among others.

Ms Ong Jia Jia, a current MSE student, opened the night with a beautiful rendition of ‘The Climb’ by Miley Cyrus and ‘Perfect’ by Ed Sheeran. This was followed by stage games, with emcees Mr Moh Zhiqiang Hua and Mr Lai Sheng Lin egging on audience participation.

Mr Sam Xi and his band also sang popular songs in English, Mandarin and Cantonese before celebrations drew to a close with prize presentations and a lucky draw.

FAREWELL, AND CEE YOU SOON

Issue 99 / Jul–Sept 2017
Further extending its reach across the globe, NTU officially launched its 47th alumni association in Cambodia on 29 July 2017 at the Himawari Hotel in Phnom Penh. More than 100 alumni were present at the ceremony which was officiated by Mr Inderjit Singh, a member of the NTU Board of Trustees and Chairman of NTU’s Alumni and Development Committee. Also in attendance were Singapore’s ambassador to Cambodia, His Excellency Mr Michael Tan Keng Siong, and Prof Lam Khin Yong, Acting Provost, Chief of Staff and Vice President (Research) at NTU.

“It was my honour to have been an NTU student, having received a scholarship from the Singapore Government in 2005,” said Mr Ngor Pengty (EEE/2009), who leads the AA in Cambodia. “There are now 225 NTU alumni here in Cambodia, and they are successful, owning businesses and holding important positions in both the public and private sectors.

Mr Singh said the NTU diaspora is a testament that NTU’s education has equipped alumni to excel in the global economy. “Our alumni in Cambodia now have a contact point and networking platform to NTU. I hope that all of you here will continue to proactively build a more extensive NTU alumni network worldwide, creating boundless opportunities for intellectual, economic and cultural exchanges,” he said.

Number of Alumni Associations worldwide: 47
Number of alumni in Cambodia: ~200

NTU LAUNCHES ALUMNI ASSOCIATION IN CAMBODIA

Asthma sufferers can heave a sigh of relief—a new device to better identify and manage respiratory diseases is in the works. AdvicHealth, an NTUitive startup founded in July 2016 by Mr Adrian Ang (CoE/2014) and Professor Ser Wee from the School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, is currently developing the world’s first wearable device for children which allows doctors to accurately diagnose asthma and enables parents to detect the early signs of an asthma attack in their children.

What sets this young company apart from their competitors is their ability to measure all critical asthma symptoms—coughing, wheezing and breathing patterns—over extended periods of time. Because of their unique approach, AdvicHealth was the only startup from Southeast Asia to be invited to deliver keynote presentations to international audiences twice, in Finland (Slush, Helsinki) and the United Arab Emirates (Dubai 100, Dubai).

“NTUitive has been a very good mentor to AdvicHealth since we started this journey last July,” said Mr Ang. “NTUitive has provided us with hot-desking space within the campus, which is very strategic due to our close proximity to the laboratories for our prototyping.”

For more information on NTUitive and its complete suite of incubation services, please contact:
NTUitive Pte Ltd
16 Nanyang Drive, #01-109, Innovation Centre, Singapore 637722
Tel: 6790 4954
Email: ntuitiveinfo@ntuitive.sg
www.ntuitive.sg

Looking ahead at the next phase of growth, the AdvicHealth team will be raising a seed round of funding to recruit top talents to join their team, and accelerate product development with the goal of entering the market by the end of 2018.

“AdvicHealth has provided us with hot-desking space within the campus, which is very strategic due to our close proximity to the laboratories for our prototyping.”

The team of AdvicHealth: (from left) Rex Tan Xiao, Adrian Ang and Edmund Shao.
ALUMNI STRIKE GOLD AT THE SUPERBOWL

You could definitely hear a pin drop in the bowling alleys of SAFRA Mount Faber’s Superbowl, where 43 alumni and guests gathered for the inaugural NTU Alumni 9-pin Tap Fun Bowl on 15 July 2017.

Avid bowlers, many of whom were part of NTU’s bowling team as undergraduates, were happy to catch up with old classmates and mingle with other generations of NTU alumni over the game they all love. For their outstanding bowling skills, winners each took home a trophy, a power bank and Mortar F&B vouchers.

“My friends and I used to bowl for NTU,” said Ms Lee Hui Yi (NBS/2012). “This is a great event because it gets all my ex-NTU friends together and it’s a great experience to be bowling together again.”

Ms Helena Lee (WKWSCI/2012) had a different take on the bowling competition—it’s good for health! “Today’s event is cozy and fun and allows NTU alumni come together to participate in a healthy sport. I’m enjoying it!” she said.

“Bowling is my passion,” said Mr. Chong Hoong Sang (Science/1979), who placed second with a total pinfall of 1269. “I would love to see more bowling competitions organised by the NTU Alumni Affairs Office.”

Some 71 alumni and their family members unleashed their Master Chef skills at the NTU Alumni Family Fun Bake-off on 27 May 2017. Leading the gastronomical adventure was Ms Delphine Ho (EEE/2005), who taught the participants how to bake French-themed delights.

From checking the consistency of the batter for the macarons, to poking holes in the crust of fruit tarts, Ms Ho shared insider tips and tricks to make sure that even the amateur bakers could come up with presentable delicacies.

At the end of the class, the participants proudly showcased their macarons with buttercream filling and fruit tarts generously topped with mango, kiwi and lychee pieces. The icing on the cake was quality time with their family, and everyone walked away with warmth in their bellies and in their hearts.

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NURTURING NETWORKS

SINO-SINGAPORE RELATIONS GET A BOOST

NTU Alumni Affairs Office is partnering with Business China to strengthen Sino-Singapore bilateral relations. The signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on 13 July by NTU’s Vice President for International Affairs, Prof Er Meng Hwa, and Business China CEO, Ms Sun Xueling, was witnessed by Deputy Prime Minister Mr Teo Chee Hean, who was the guest of honour at the 2017 Future China Global Forum held at Shangri-La Hotel.

This collaboration aims to promote bilingualism and biculturalism, foster cultural and talent exchange, and create a platform for NTU alumni residing in China to identify collaboration opportunities. 30 of NTU’s 47 overseas alumni associations are in China.

ELECTION FEVER HITS USA-EST ALUMNI

NTU alumni gathered in New York City for the third term NTU AA (USA-East) election and dinner on 10 June at Trattoria Dell’Arte. Mr Guo Sam Nan, Chief Alumni Affairs Officer, and Mr Soon Min Yam, Director of the International Alumni Network, were also present. Dr Yager Rachel (EEE/1990) was elected President and outgoing President Mr Daniels Gregory Michael (RSIS/2012) took on the role of Secretary General. The NTU AA (USA-East) plans to continue its close collaboration with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) Alumni Association USA (RAA USA).

USA-EST ALUMNI ASSEMBLE FOR ELECTIONS

It was a meaningful gathering for the alumni who gathered for NTU AA (USA-West)’s third term election at the Merlion Restaurant in Cupertino on 11 June. Mr Guo Sam Nan and Mr Soon Min Yam represented NTU at the elections. Mr Myo Thu Maung (MPE/2004) was re-elected as the third term President. With over 200 alumni working on the West Coast of the United States, Mr Myo aims to organise a few events per year for alumni to network. WhatsApp and WeChat groups have also been set up to encourage interaction among members.

A TOAST TO GOOD TIMES

Alumni and guests gathered at NTU’s one-month campus on 13 May to celebrate the NTU Alumni Toastmasters Club’s 13th Anniversary. Following his opening address, Club President Mr Ang Ker Ser (MPE/2001) received a plaque and awards on behalf of the club from Ms Patricia Lam, the District Director, Distinguished Toastmasters.

The NTU Alumni Toastmasters Club also held its Annual General Meeting on 10 June and elected a new team of executive committee members to lead the club from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. During the same evening, representatives from the club attended the Division B Achiever’s Nite held at The Chevrons, which recognises clubs and toastmasters who have done well during their respective terms.

Then on 1 July, the NTU Alumni Toastmasters Club held their 152nd Chapter Meeting in conjunction with the Hari Raya Aidilfitri celebrations. A new Executive Committee team was also installed to serve from 1 July 2017 to 30 June 2018. Mr Roy Yeo, Area B4 Director, installed the new Exco team led by Club President Ms Azizah Binte Sapari (MPE/1998). In her inaugural President’s speech, Ms Azizah unveiled the motto for the new term, “Enhancing members’ experiential learning journey is our priority”.

PARTNERING TO SUPPORT EDUCATION

NTU AA (Beijing) has partnered Wenyuhe Sub-School to launch the AA’s public education scheme titled ‘Enlightening the hearts’. A public educational forum was held on 9 July to mark the launch. The forum was presided by Secretary-General of NTUAA (Beijing) Mr Hong Jianwei, while President of the AA Ms Sun Xia commenced the event by delivering a speech where she thanked all fellow alumni and guests for their strong support.

Through sharing sessions, NTU’s Beijing-based alumni encouraged students to participate in social causes and provided them with advice and guidance.
CONNECTING OVER CLAY

Some 38 alumni from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) attended a pottery workshop at The Mud Rock on 4 June, where they learnt how to create a ceramic bowl from scratch. They brought home their personalised masterpieces as souvenirs after the workshop.

A RELAXING GETAWAY IN KUKUP

On 16 June, more than 45 NTU Chinese Society Alumni (NTUCSA) members and their families embarked on a three-day, two-night trip to Kukup, a fishing village in Malaysia, where they indulged in activities such as mahjong, karaoke and guitar sessions and foot massages. NTUCSA also celebrated its 21st anniversary, Father’s Day and several 21-year-olds’ birthdays together. They had the opportunity to visit the fishing village, mangrove swamp and even brought home 40kg of durians.

SHARING INSIGHTS ON THE ARTS

During the ‘Making Things Happen’ dialogue session on 15 June at the Alumni House at Marina Square, 70 alumni showed up to discuss topics ranging from negotiating organisation objectives to operational hiccups. The speakers were alumni practitioners Mr Andre Wang (HSS/2015), Ms Patricia Karunungan (SOH/2017), Mr Thong Kay Wee (WKWSCI/2014) and Ms Yap Jia En (ADM/2014), who are working either independently or with recognised arts and cultural institutions such as the Esplanade, the National Library Board and Singapore Art Museum.

MEETUPS OVER MAKAN TIME

Over 30 alumni attended the first-ever lunchtime interaction series held on 26 June at the Alumni House at Marina Square. It was a wonderful opportunity for alumni to network while enjoying the chef’s specials during the hour-long event.

A BITTERSWEET GATHERING

Alumni from the School of Civil & Environmental Engineering (CEE) (Maritime Studies) had a joyous gathering-cum-farewell celebration on 24 June for Mr Teh Kong Leong, Programme Director, NTU BSc (Maritime Studies), at Picnic Urban Food Park, Wisma Atria. CEE Chair Professor Wang Rong graced the event, and presented Mr Teh with a gift and plaque in appreciation of his contributions to the school.

HALL 4 FOREVER

Alumni from the Hall of Residence Four (Hall 4) had a wonderful time reminiscing about the good old days of staying on campus when they returned for a staycation in their hall on 26 May. Mrs Yong-Lee Chooi Ling, a long-serving staff of 18 years at Hall 4, also attended the event. This event was especially poignant as the remaining section of the old Hall 4 building is scheduled to be demolished.
Karthy Krishnan
MAE 2014

Returning to NTU brought about a wave of nostalgia. It was great to see all the changes that have happened on campus since I graduated in 2014. Even walking past McDonald’s brought about memories!

I met my partner Weihong Ouyang on the first week of Year 1 in a tutorial room as we both did not know that there were no tutorials in the first week. We are back to take our wedding photos, and our favourite filming location is at the Yunnan Garden. We planned to visit the garden since 2011 when we became an official couple, but we somehow never got around to doing so.

NTU has shaped the both of us in so many ways. It turned us both into engineers, gave us amazing friends and provided great memories of the first few years of our relationship. Outside of work, both of us are interested in environmental conservation, astronomy, travelling and food.

Yang Jingfan
SCBE/2017

My most memorable experience at NTU was joining a laboratory for the first time and working on a scientific research project. The CN Yang Scholars Programme and SCBE provided me with ample opportunities to see what real scientists work on, how their ideas flow, and how a research project is designed.

As a new alumnus, I am deeply thankful to NTU as I look back at my undergraduate years. I forged great friendships and learnt from the best. I will continue my studies in the US at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where I will be studying towards a PhD degree in chemical engineering.

To my fellow alumni in the Class of 2017, well done! Let us continue to be passionate and audacious as we move on to the next quest of our lives.

Lynn Tay Ern Hwee
NIE/2017

Late night suppers at McDonald’s at the North Spine was a regular affair for my friends and I after lessons and club activities. The place holds many fond memories for me as it was here where we bonded, laughed and, of course, gossiped.

My time at NTU was a very fulfilling one. I cycled through the night with my friends from hall, gazed at stars with classmates, took my first dancing lesson with NIE DanceFuzion, and even organised a blood donation drive for NIE staff and students.

I am proud to be an NTU alumna and to see my alma mater develop and grow in so many ways. I am proud to say that I graduated from a place that promotes the spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship.
EXCITING DEALS

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The name Mr Bazaar is inspired by the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, Turkey, which is one of the oldest and largest markets in the world. If you are looking for quality food and beverages, Mr Bazaar is proud to be at your service.

While Mr Bazaar travels all over the world in search for its products, which are now retailing in NTUC Fairprice supermarkets and Cheers convenience stores.

Mr Bazaar was started by an NTU graduate student, who believes in giving back to his alma mater by providing discounts to fellow graduates.

Extraordinarily constructive in his feedback for improvements. I really did feel a significant improvement since I started learning from him (Mr Teo Zuo En).” – Xin Hui, Pop Vocal Student

Freehouse is a craft beer bar tucked away in a heritage shophouse in Singapore's vibrant Central Business District. We have 16 rotational taps as well as a range of bottles and cans to showcase craft breweries and cideries from all over the world.

Mr Bazaar offers 15% off all items with promo code “NTUALUMNI”

COALESCE SG
www.facebook.com/coalesce.sg

The team behind Coalesce Sg is the same team from the extremely successful and popular student run NTU cafe – Pitchstop Cafe. As NTU alumni, their goals remain unchanged, which is to excite and tantalise the taste buds of fellow NTU students, alumni and staff. The inspiration for Coalesce Sg comes from the harmonious multi-racial, cosmopolitan society of Singapore. Combining techniques, ingredients and cuisines, they bring to you a truly cosmopolitan dining experience.

Where:
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Alumni house, #03-01, S138664
Open:
11am to 9pm (Mondays to Sundays)
Bar open:
4pm to 12 midnight
Reservations:
Call or SMS to 91860685

Freehouse is a craft beer bar tucked away in a heritage shophouse in Singapore's vibrant Central Business District. We have 16 rotational taps as well as a range of bottles and cans to showcase craft breweries and cideries from all over the world.

We take pride in offering a range of quality beers and ciders, and endeavour to educate consumers about the stories behind them.

Good food and good drinks go hand in hand. Our kitchen serves up modern Asian-fusion cuisine that are great for sharing. All dishes are created to pair well with beers or to have on its own.

Freehouse offers 10% off total bill

INTUNE MUSIC
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Freehouse is a craft beer bar tucked away in a heritage shophouse in Singapore's vibrant Central Business District. We have 16 rotational taps as well as a range of bottles and cans to showcase craft breweries and cideries from all over the world.

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Your purchase goes a long way, as all our profits go to a fund that provides financial assistance to needy NTU students. Come visit us at the North Spine Plaza, right beside Frank OCBC! We can’t wait to welcome you back.

OFFER:
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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.
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Twitter Account
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Company Name
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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

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:

- 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) : __________________

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.
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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) and/or a specified text message (as defined in the Exemption Order) 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

September–November 2017

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>09</td>
<td>Scented candle &amp; clay ornament workshop</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>NTU Alumni Homecoming</td>
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<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>NTU China Convocation 2017 &amp; 5th Conference of China-Based NTU Alumni Associations cum Alumni Get-together Dinner</td>
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<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>CSE Class of 1987 30th Anniversary Reunion</td>
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<tr>
<td>08</td>
<td>Title-a-Tete with Ms Tan Aik Na, NTU Chief Administrative Officer and Chief Financial Officer</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>HSS Alumni Reunion</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Oktoberfest @ Munich &amp; NTUAA (Europe) AGM</td>
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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/alumninews. If you wish to enquire about any of the events, please write to us at alumniaffairs@ntu.edu.sg.

*Subject to change
Although pride and gratitude often fall on opposite ends of a spectrum, both emotions harmonised beautifully during NTU Convocation 2017, which took place from 26 July to 3 August 2017. A total of 9,595 students graduated that year.

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Prawn Boulevard

MORTAR'S Nasi Istimewa

MORTAR'S Banana Fritters

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