Of Change & Continuity

Professor Subra Suresh takes on the mantle of NTU's presidency
In recognition of our outstanding alumni, nominations for the Nanyang Alumni Awards 2018 are now open.

For more details, please visit www.ntu.edu.sg/NanyangAlumniAwards

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Nominations close on 15 May 2018

Please mail your correspondence to:
Editor - NTULink Alumni Affairs Office
Nanyang Technological University
76 Nanyang Drive N2.1-B3-02
Singapore 637331
Tel: 6792 1078
Fax: 6792 5048
Email: alumniaffairs@ntu.edu.sg
Website: www.ntu.edu.sg/alumni

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MESSAGE FROM
THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

Warmest greetings. I am delighted to bring you the latest news from your alma mater.

It has been an exhilarating three months since I began my tenure as NTU’s fourth president. Many new initiatives are now in place, which will enable NTU to continue in its upward journey to becoming a great global university.

Twenty years ago, when I was invited to join a group of colleagues to advise the Singapore Government on the future of engineering education at the National University of Singapore and NTU, we were challenged to address the question: What is a great global research university?

To me, a great global research university aspires to excellence in education, research, creativity and service. It inspires and challenges its students, faculty and alumni to continuously seek new knowledge, acquire new skills, and contribute in creative ways to our community and the world at large. Certainly, technological innovation will play a central role in shaping a better society in the age of the fourth industrial revolution.

However, for society to truly flourish, a fine balance needs to be struck between technology and humanity. This will be our clarion call as NTU embarks on a new phase of development.

In my inauguration address, I shared my vision to transform NTU into a Smart Campus, leading the way in Singapore’s larger Smart Nation initiative. The NTU Smart Pass, which enables cashless payments and access to services on campus and around Singapore, has already been launched. Leveraging the size and location of our campus, NTU will serve as a test bed for many Smart Nation technologies, including autonomous and electric vehicles, advanced robotics and the Internet of Things. Our beautiful campus is a wonderful asset, and I invite you to come back to visit often.

Many of these significant changes are being driven by collaborations with prominent multinational companies. Let me cite a few examples here: We have just launched a joint research institute with China’s Alibaba Group that will focus on artificial intelligence technologies. This is the first joint research institute that Alibaba has established outside China, and Alibaba has chosen NTU as its partner. Sweden’s Volvo Buses is also collaborating with NTU researchers to develop autonomous electric buses, and French-owned BlueSG has a 22-seater fast-charging electric bus plying NTU’s roads.

In all these developments, NTU remains committed to environmental sustainability and education. I recently opened The Arc, a new learning hub with 56 smart classrooms that has been awarded Green Mark Platinum status for sustainable building design. Such facilities will strengthen our ability to prepare our graduates and alumni to flourish in a new era that promises both challenges and opportunities.

To ensure that new technologies do not lead to adverse consequences, intended or unintended, we need to develop responsible innovation and robust governance and leadership in the age of the fourth industrial revolution. To that end, I have also announced the establishment of a new NTU Institute of Science and Technology for Humanity, which will spearhead research and focus public discourse on these issues. Last but not least, I have made lifelong learning for our alumni a top priority in my administration.

With all these changes afoot, it is my sincerest hope that you, our alumni, will find a reason to connect with and contribute to your alma mater. It doesn’t matter where you are in the world—reach out to us, take part in our events, and enlist our services for personal and professional growth. May our paths cross again in the future, and until then, I wish you all the best.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Subra Suresh
President,
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
Singapore President and NTU’s new Chancellor, Mdm Halimah Yacob, made her first visit to the campus on 17 January 2018. Welcoming her to the garden campus was NTU President Professor Subra Suresh, who also took the opportunity to brief President Halimah on the University’s education, research and innovation initiatives, sharing with her the University’s Smart Campus vision. Penning a message in NTU’s guestbook, President Halimah lauded NTU for helping to place Singapore well in the global higher education landscape.

During a tour of NTU’s latest facilities, including the new residential halls at North Hill and Nanyang Crescent, President Halimah got a close-up look at the University’s Residential Education programme, which offers a variety of learning activities hosted by the halls of residence for students staying on campus.

President Halimah sampled ondeh-ondeh, bubur cha-cha and other traditional desserts prepared by students at a halal kitchen studio at North Hill Hall. The students had learned to prepare the dishes at one of the halls’ residential education programmes that exposes participants to Southeast Asia’s culinary diversity. She then proceeded to plant a tamarind tree at Tamarind Hall, one of the new residential halls at Nanyang Crescent.

Speaking at the lunch, NTU Board of Trustees Chairman Mr Koh Boon Hwee said, “President Halimah continues the long tradition of eminent Chancellors of this University, who between them have conferred degrees on more than 160,000 students since 1991 when NTU was inaugurated.”

He noted that President Halimah had emphasised in her inauguration speech that “all Singaporeans should have the opportunity to get a good education and a good start in life, no matter where they come from or who their parents are.”

“This task will become even more pertinent as NTU’s international reputation and impact continue to grow,” he said. “On behalf of all of us at NTU, we look forward to working together with President Halimah on an exciting journey to bring this world-leading institution to greater heights of achievement and impact.”
Professor Subra Suresh was formally inaugurated on 22 February 2018 as the fourth President of NTU at an inauguration ceremony that included Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills); Mr Koh Boon Hwee, Chairman of NTU’s Board of Trustees; ambassadors and members of the diplomatic corps in Singapore; the NTU Pro-Chancellors and Board of Trustees; faculty, staff, students and alumni of NTU.

Speaking to an audience of nearly 2,000 people at NTU’s Nanyang Auditorium, Prof Suresh credited NTU alumni for their role in the remarkable rise of NTU to become a globally recognised research university. He encouraged alumni to take on leadership positions in industry, government, academia and society.

“Nanyang University, or Nantah in short, was founded in 1955 on this very campus. Then came the Nanyang Technological Institute in 1981, before the establishment of NTU ten years later. The pioneering spirit of the Nantah alumni and the transformation of NTU into its current status and stature as one of the leading global research universities in Asia and the world speak to the rich legacy of our predecessors, and alumni, more than 224,000 of whom currently live in about 157 countries around the globe,” Prof Suresh said.

Prof Suresh pledged to defend the University’s values and to lead NTU to greater heights, while also strengthening its collaborations with other universities in Singapore.
He announced three bold new initiatives: the establishment of an institute to spearhead research on the challenges that technological change brings to society, a global digital arts prize and the NTU Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship to attract outstanding early-career scientists.

He also elaborated on NTU’s plans to build a world-leading Smart Campus, leveraging the size and location of its Yunnan Garden campus to serve as a test bed for new technologies such as autonomous vehicles and service robots. The Smart Campus project will also focus attention on governance and management of new technologies, aligned with Singapore’s broader Smart Nation initiative.

During the ceremony, Prof Suresh was also conferred the title of Distinguished University Professor, in recognition of his outstanding achievements in research, academic leadership and contributions to the development of science.

In closing, Prof Suresh acknowledged the three previous presidents of NTU, and said he accepted his appointment with great humility and responsibility. “I very much look forward to working with all of you as we collectively enhance and realise the full capacity and potential of this university which is poised to reach much greater heights,” he said.

Complementing the inauguration ceremony was the launch of the Through the Lens: Colours Across Seven Continents photo exhibition. This collection of photographic works by Prof Suresh embodies an intuitive awareness of the surrounding natural or built environment. The beauty of fleeting moments—whether aboard a taxi, hurrying in the city, or mid-air on a US Air Force plane, carrying members of a special government mission—is captured permanently in these frames.

The NTU Museum is proud to present this exhibition and is honoured to receive the donation of 11 artworks from Prof Suresh for the University’s art collection.
On Campus

GETTING SMART
ON CAMPUS

At his first university town hall meeting with staff and faculty, NTU President Professor Subra Suresh announced his vision to transform NTU into a Smart Campus, one that harnesses the power of digital technology to support better learning and living experiences, the discovery of new knowledge and the sustainability of resources.

On the urban mobility front, there are plans to deploy 22-seater fully electric shuttles on NTU’s roads, and journeys from halls of residences to classrooms will be complemented by last-mile options such as e-scooters and e-bicycles. Robotics may also become a more common sight on campus, as robot cleaners and roaming tray-return robots are developed and tested in real-life scenarios.

NTU will also accelerate research efforts in smart infrastructure to improve energy efficiency. Partnering global tech giant Siemens, NTU will develop various infrastructure solutions using advanced data analytics that allow for the optimisation of green buildings and self-driving vehicles. Furthermore, all data streams from the campus will be funnelled into a single central analytics platform known as the integrated Building Management System (iBMS).

“We are working hard to ensure that NTU will be Singapore’s largest Smart Campus, and that it will take the lead in Singapore’s drive to become a Smart Nation. NTU will also strive to serve as a model for other communities in Singapore and around the globe by demonstrating how advanced tech-enabled solutions can help improve everyday life in a sustainable manner,” said Prof Suresh.

“It is not just about technology. It is equally important for us to focus on the impact of technology on humans, the natural and built environment, and local and global society,” he added.

The Launch of the NTU Smart Pass

Prof Suresh also launched the first of many innovations under the broad and multi-pronged Smart Campus initiative—the NTU Smart Pass. Embedded with a contactless identity chip, the NTU Smart Pass can be used for numerous activities on and off campus. Some of its functions include:

Cash-Free Payments
Pay school fees, buy a meal and stock up on groceries at the supermarket simply by tapping the NTU Smart Pass to complete the transaction.

Personal Identification
Besides serving as an identity card for students and employees, the NTU Smart Pass will be used for registration at the campus medical centre for health checks and consultations.

Security Access
Never lose your keys again—the NTU Smart Pass grants personalised access to hall rooms, offices, laboratories and facilities.

Campus Services
Borrow books and audio-visual materials from the libraries, operate network printers, and reserve campus facilities such as sports venues and study rooms with the NTU Smart Pass.

Off-Campus and Island-wide Services
Equipped with the FlashPay function, the NTU Smart Pass can be used to pay for public transportation, car park access and merchandise from retail stores all over Singapore.

It is not just about technology. It is equally important for us to focus on the impact of technology on humans, the natural and built environment, and local and global society.”

NTU President
Professor Subra Suresh
LEARNING CHINESE, THE NTU WAY

The Confucius Institute of NTU (CI-NTU) has developed a new Chinese curriculum for preschools and kindergartens in Singapore. Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) Mr Ong Ye Kung launched the curriculum at the PCF Sparkletots Preschool at Gambas Block 408 in Yishun on 3 January 2018.

Since 2015, CI-NTU’s Teaching Resource Team has worked closely with academics and preschool educators to design and develop lesson plans, book content and nursery rhymes from scratch. CI-NTU also conducted pilot tests of the new content in a few preschools as well as in its own preschool enrichment programmes.

Titled ‘Chinese for Early Learners’, the curriculum comprises 68 books, 544 lesson plans, 2,800 flashcards and 16 student activity books, and features illustrations by local comic artist Mr Wee Tian Beng. To help young learners pronounce Chinese characters, the books are compatible with reading pens that can read the text aloud when pressed against the words on a page. Five Singaporean children contributed to the project by recording their voices in a studio at NTU’s Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information in June 2017.

The curriculum—which caters to four preschool levels: nursery one and two, as well as kindergarten one and two—is aligned with the Ministry of Education’s Nurturing Early Learners framework and features locally relevant content, with scenes from the daily lives of Singaporeans that children can identify with.

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Also contributing to the project is a group of 12 students from ITE College Central, who designed five complementary desktop computer games during an internship at CI-NTU. The games have been made available online (http://ci.ntu.edu.sg) so that children can access them at home.

“We set out to develop a localised Chinese curriculum for pre-schoolers because materials used by some preschools are sourced from other countries, or may not be of high quality,” said Dr Neo Peng Fu, Director of CI-NTU. “Our newly developed curriculum would also be helpful to preschool operators that may not have the resources to design their own curriculum.”

CI-NTU is planning to meet anchor operators and private childcare centres to share the newly developed curriculum.

Top (From left) Dr Neo Peng Fu, Prof Alan Chan and Minister Ong launching the innovative curriculum.
Left
Minister Ong interacting with children from the PCF Sparkletots Preschool at Gambas Block 408 in Yishun.
Right
Dr Neo Peng Fu (3rd from left) with the teaching resource team who developed the localised curriculum.
Imagine drones zipping through the air, delivering goods and inspecting buildings for structural defects. Meanwhile, artificial intelligence crunches data to ensure that transportation systems run without hiccups, and machine learning helps doctors make more accurate diagnoses. These are just some of the endless possibilities of a Smart Nation, and NTU is teaming up with telecommunications providers Singtel and M1 to develop disruptive technologies which may turn those ambitions into reality.

**SCALE-ING THE HEIGHTS OF SUCCESS**

Under a five-year partnership, Singtel, NTU and the National Research Foundation Singapore (NRF Singapore) will establish the S$42.4-million Singtel Cognitive and Artificial Intelligence Lab for Enterprises at NTU (SCALE@NTU), which will develop technological applications for public safety, smart urban solutions, transportation, healthcare and manufacturing.

“As businesses face the rising threat of technological disruptions, companies are constantly seeking innovative ways to gain deeper insights through data analytics, better engage their customers and transform their operations through digitalisation. To help companies address these challenges, we are stepping up our R&D efforts to develop deep capabilities in these focused areas,” said Mr Bill Chang, CEO, Group Enterprise at Singtel.

Some 100 researchers from Singtel and NTU will work at SCALE@NTU, while another 200 research engineers, graduate and undergraduate students will be trained in the lab.

Mr George Loh, NRF Singapore’s Director (Programmes), added, “This latest collaboration between Singtel and NTU underscores the significance of developing research expertise and capabilities in advanced analytics for Singapore to be a leading provider of smart city solutions.”

Singtel and A*STAR will also work together on projects including smart building automation systems, robotics and Internet of Things (IoT) applications that could help boost operating efficiencies in various industries.

**FLIGHTS OF FANCY**

Meanwhile, NTU and M1 have conducted successful trials using M1’s 4.5G Heterogeneous Network (HetNet) to provide command, control and communication capabilities required for safe and efficient drone operations.

To further the collaboration, M1 and the Air Traffic Management Research Institute (ATMRI), a joint research centre between NTU and the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore, have signed a Memorandum of Understanding to develop M1’s 4.5G HetNet for the traffic management of drones in Singapore’s urban environment. This project could provide valuable guidance for future unmanned operations using 5G networks.

“Mobile technology has the potential to expand and extend the capabilities of drones to enable incredible new applications such as search and rescue operations, aerial infrastructure surveillance and parcel delivery, among others,” said Mr Denis Seek, Chief Technical Officer of M1.

NTU Professor Vu N. Duong, Director of ATMRI, also noted that command and control of drones is a topic of critical importance, especially when commercial usage of drones is taking off. The joint project is expected to last three years. M1 will provide use of their network and engineering expertise, and NTU will provide expertise in the traffic management of unmanned aircraft systems.”
NTU is set to play a bigger role in the development of the finance and wealth management industry in Singapore and Asia. The Institute of Banking and Finance (IBF), in consultation with the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and industry, has selected NTU’s Wealth Management Institute (WMI) as the lead training provider to design and develop a new set of programmes that will equip wealth managers in Singapore with the relevant skills, competencies and expertise to meet global demands.

Mr Robin Hu, Head, Sustainability & Stewardship Group, Temasek, presented a S$11.9-million gift to the then NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson on 7 December 2017. The funds will be used to set up the Temasek Wealth Management Endowment, which will support Singapore’s finance and wealth management industries through mentorship and community building.

“We will lead the exercise to re-define wealth advisors’ skills and competencies for the future, including the accreditation and assessment for approved persons. Jointly, with industry expert panels, we will also design and develop systematic skills upgrading and certification programmes to help private banking professionals be future ready, whether they be newbies, experienced hires or team leaders,” said WMI’s CEO Ms Foo Mee Har.

WMI’s programmes will be accredited by IBF, and qualified professionals who are Singapore citizens and permanent residents can enjoy financial support. New initiatives also in the pipeline include the Temasek-WMI Professorship; Temasek Visiting Professorship in Wealth, Asset and Risk Management; the Temasek Fellowship; and a Temasek Distinguished Lecture Series.

THE MELODY OF CHARITY

Initiated by the NTU Business and Corporate Partners (BCP) programme committee, a charity concert in support of the Lee Sing Kong Endowment Fund was organised at Shanghai Dolly in Clarke Quay on 18 November 2017. The Fund supports the establishment of the Lee Sing Kong Professorship in Early Childhood Education, as well as the Lee Sing Kong Bursaries, which help needy students pursue a quality education at NTU.

Professor Lee Sing Kong, NTU’s former Vice President of Alumni and Advancement and former Director of NIE, was a widely respected academic known for his lifelong dedication to education and passion for innovation. He played an instrumental role in advancing teaching training in Singapore when he led the NIE from 2006 to 2014.

During the charity event, the then NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson paid tribute to the late Prof Lee, remembering him as an academic who made significant contributions to education. He also expressed his gratitude to the sponsors of the charity concert and the supporters of the Fund for their generosity and contributions.

Guests at the charity concert were treated to a special performance by singer Ms Olinda Cho, who participated in the popular Chinese talent show Sing! China. Geomancer Grandmaster Mr Tan Khoon Yong contributed a painting to the charity auction, which Prof Andersson won with a successful bid of S$7,500. Also up for auction were some bottles of whiskey contributed by Mr Richard Goh of Megatech Industries, which raised more than S$7,000.

The Fund has received more than S$179,000 in donations and S$500,000 in pledges. If you wish to donate, please visit: https://bbis.ntu.edu.sg/do/lee-sing-kong-endowment_charity-concert-pledge.
Ever dreamed of shedding body fat without having to exercise? This may soon be possible with a micro-needle patch developed by scientists at NTU’s School of Chemical and Biomedical Engineering.

The patch contains hundreds of micro-needles, each thinner than a human hair, which are loaded with drugs that turn energy-storing white fat into energy-burning brown fat. When the patch is pressed into the skin, the micro-needles degrade and release the drug, which then slowly diffuses to the white fat underneath the skin, turning it into brown fat.

Experiments showed that the patch could suppress weight gain in mice that were fed a high-fat diet, also reducing their fat mass by over 30 percent over a period of four weeks. The findings are published in the journal *Small Methods*.

“What we aim to develop is a painless patch that everyone can use easily, is unobtrusive and yet affordable,” said NTU Professor Chen Peng, who developed the patch. “Most importantly, our solution aims to use a person’s own body fat to burn more energy, which is a natural process in babies.”

Using this approach, the researchers hope to address the obesity epidemic without resorting to surgical operations or oral medication.

Based on tilting motions and how much light is blocked by the thumb or fingers, hackers could figure out the PIN code of smartphones and unlock them, say researchers at NTU.

“When you hold your phone and key in the PIN, the way the phone moves when you press 1, 5, or 9, is very different. Likewise, pressing 1 with your right thumb will block more light than if you pressed 9,” explained Dr Shivam Bhasin, Senior Research Scientist at Temasek Laboratories @ NTU, who led the research.

By analysing data from six sensors—an accelerometer, a gyroscope, a magnetometer, a proximity sensor, a barometer, and an ambient light sensor—and by using a deep learning algorithm, the researchers achieved a 99.5 percent accuracy rate when hacking phones that had one of the 50 most common PIN codes.

To keep mobile devices secure, Dr Bhasin advises users to have PINs with more than four digits, and to enable other authentication methods like one-time passwords, two-factor authentications, and fingerprint or facial recognition.
“Engage with us”
NTU President Professor Subra Suresh urges NTU alumni in his first interview with NTULink magazine.
Leadership renewal is a necessary process in any organisation. Given NTU’s rapid rise as a great global university, it is paramount that the University identifies a new leader who, in driving its next phase of development, would be able to bring it to even greater heights.

After an extensive international search, NTU announced that it had found the ideal candidate for the job and appointed Professor Subra Suresh, an eminent engineer and scientist, as the University’s fourth President and its inaugural Distinguished University Professor. Taking over the reins from Professor Bertil Andersson, Prof Suresh began his term as NTU President on 1 January 2018.

Calling Prof Suresh an educator, scientist, advisor, inventor, entrepreneur and leader “all rolled into one”, Mr Koh Boon Hwee, Chairman of NTU’s Board of Trustees, wrote in an email to NTU faculty and staff, “Prof Suresh understands the Singapore higher education and research systems, as well as those in North America, Europe, China and India, having actively engaged with various public and private agencies and boards, and as a member of a number of national academies of science and engineering.”

The news made waves in international academic circles, with many wondering how this tiny island-state was able to attract the scientific giant to our shores. No one, however, had any doubt about NTU’s resolve in advancing the frontiers of knowledge and making a difference on the global stage.

A STELLAR RECORD

Prof Suresh brings with him a wealth of experience in higher education and scientific leadership, having donned many hats in senior management positions at universities and agencies across the globe, most recently as President of Carnegie Mellon University from 2013 to 2017.

Born in India and now a US citizen, Prof Suresh completed a Doctor of Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), before conducting postdoctoral research at the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory. He began his academic career in 1983 as an Assistant Professor of Engineering at Brown University, and joined MIT a decade later, where he became Dean of Engineering in 2007.

When the time came for the then US President Barack Obama to appoint his top science official, he personally handpicked Prof Suresh to lead the National Science Foundation (NSF), an independent federal agency that oversees science and engineering research in the US.

Prof Suresh’s nomination was met with unanimous approval by the US Senate. During his tenure as NSF Director from 2010 to 2013, he managed a US$7 billion annual budget and established initiatives that bolstered blue skies research in the US and abroad.

It seems fitting then that Prof Suresh has the honour of being one of only 19 American scientists elected to all three national academies in the US—the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine—and is one of the few elected foreign members of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

SUSTAINING PROGRESS

Despite his heavy responsibilities in the US, the gentle and soft-spoken professor has been involved in sculpting Singapore’s research landscape for the past 25 years, first as a consultant to the National Science and Technology Board (later renamed A*STAR). He was also the principal faculty coordinator who led the formation of the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART) in 2006.

Calling his appointment at NTU “a privilege”, Prof Suresh thanked his predecessor, Prof Andersson, and expressed his desire to work closely with the extended NTU community, including its faculty and administrative staff, global alumni numbering more than 200,000, benefactors, trustees and students.

His first order of business? A listening tour with staff and faculty, which he embarked on even before his term at NTU began in January 2018.

You have helped mould Singapore’s research landscape and higher education over the past 25 years in various capacities. What are some of the strengths of the Singapore education system?

Asian culture in general values education very strongly, and Singapore is a very good example of how education is emphasised in Asian culture. The Singapore Government is stable and very focussed. It places a very high value on education, not just with words, but equally with consistent support.

The K-12 education in Singapore is very, very strong. In the university system, a number of steps have been taken to elevate tertiary education and research. About 20 years ago, the Government created the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), then the National Research Foundation (NRF) in 2006, followed by the Campus for Research Excellence and Technological Enterprise (CREATE) in 2006.

The Government also created the Research, Innovation and Enterprise Council (RIEC) chaired by Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong. I actually made a presentation to the first RIE meeting [in 2006]; we are now into the RIE2020 plan with S$19 billion invested into research and development over five years, from 2016 to 2020.

All of this shows an enormous commitment on the part of the leadership of Singapore to research and higher education.

What about the challenges that remain?

The challenges are also quite significant. The competition is formidable, that’s one. For example, since the second half of the 20th century, the US has been the global innovation leader. Singapore is very new to the game because it’s a relatively young country, at only 52 years old.

There are also much larger countries in the neighbourhood within Asia: both China and India have risen rapidly in the last 20 to 30 years, and India will have the world’s fastest growing large economy this year. So, in terms of attracting talent, while Singapore is moving forward very rapidly, others are still standing still.

And then you have a long history of innovation, entrepreneurship, scholarship and discovery in places like Europe, Japan and Korea.
What defines a great global university? How can NTU become a great global university?

NTU, in less than 20 years, is well on its path to being a great global university, and some might argue that it is perhaps already there. To be a great global university we have to compete globally in research, and NTU is doing very well here. For example, the number of strong publications by our faculty in prominent journals has grown significantly. The number of companies from around the world that want to set up corporate labs in NTU has grown, and you’re going to be hearing about a few more in the next few months.

As a great global university, the faculty feel empowered and supported to do cutting-edge research and the best teaching. Teaching and research go hand-in-hand; it’s not ‘I’m a researcher’ versus ‘I’m a teacher’—a great researcher has to be a great teacher and vice versa.

Tell us more about your recent listening tour on campus.

We had a town hall on 10 January 2018 that was attended by nearly 2,000 people, with many more joining via video link. This kind of community engagement will increase, and we’ll have these town halls periodically. This was an administrative town hall, but my listening tour will also engage in faculty town halls and student town halls. The audience was interested in my take as there has been a change of leadership. How do we move up in education and research? How do we effectively compete?

I’ve been working quietly over the last five months with people on campus. NTU is in a very unique position: we have a large and beautiful campus. We will become a test bed for many things. We will become the largest Smart Campus in the world. NTU is in a very unique position: we have a change of leadership. How do we move up in education and research? How do we effectively compete?

We’ll be happy to host an event in your town when one of us is coming to your town, host an event and invite people to come. We’ll be happy to host an event in your town with your help and leadership.

What was it like to be appointed by the then US President Barack Obama as Director of the US National Science Foundation?

It was one of the most unique life experiences one could have. Also, the opportunity to work with President Barack Obama was very special. He is not only a very warm human being, but also has a very powerful intellect. For somebody who is trained as a lawyer, his knowledge of and appreciation for science is spectacular.

Do you think that your experiences there will help you in your appointment as NTU President?

Very much so. As a university professor, dean or president, I would never have had the same perspectives had I not been NSF Director. To give you one example, all of the US operations in the continent of Antarctica report to the NSF Director.

I actually stood on the South Pole, right at 90 degrees latitude south, on a beautiful sunny summer day in Antarctica, when the highest temperature of the day was -66. It doesn’t matter if it’s in Centigrade or Fahrenheit at that temperature, because it’s really, really cold.

I was also dealing with diplomacy for science, because the NSF Director often represents the US as we don’t have a science minister. I even had a US diplomatic passport. I learnt later that all those things were part and parcel of the job.

Is there anything you would like to share with the alumni community?

My message to the alumni community is: engage with us.

Most of our faculty and staff travel all the time. Find out when one of us is coming to your town, host an event and invite people to come. We’ll be happy to host an event in your town with your help and leadership.

What can the alumni look forward to from NTU?

In recent years, NTU has become a leader in technology and flipped classroom learning. We want to put that to good use not only for our students, but also for our alumni.

Wherever you are, the pace of change in the world is such that your current job is going to be outdated in a few years—you’ll need to continually reskill and upskill.

NTU has announced that we will give our alumni credits to take classes, so that you can move up in your career and your profession. We will help you do that—you could be 50 years old, you could be 30 years old, it doesn’t matter.

How have you been adjusting to life here?

I am a photographer. I’m probably not as good as a professional photographer, but over the years, I have taken some unique pictures of melting glaciers in the Arctic, the Singapore Botanic Gardens at 5.30 a.m. when not many people are around, the Imperial Palace gardens in Tokyo, and aboard the US Air Force plane as I was flying to Antarctica. I’m donating some photographs to a museum here; hopefully, you’ll get a chance to see them.

What is your favourite local food?

I like all of them. I like all local food. I like Chinese food, I like Malay food, I like Indonesian food, I like Indian food. I’m primarily a vegetarian who eats fish. All of these local foods are very flavourful, and I like all of them.

Do you know any Singlish phrases?

Well, I’ve been here in Singapore for a long time, lah.
7 things you need to know about Professor Subra Suresh

1. He is an engineer by training
   Prof Suresh received his doctorate from MIT in 1981. The mechanical engineer has co-authored more than 300 research papers and has 25 patents to his name.

2. He’s a renaissance scientist
   Prof Suresh is one of only 19 American scientists elected to all three national academies in the US—the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine.

3. He is also entrepreneurial
   In 2002, Prof Suresh co-founded Oraxion Diagnostics, a semiconductor industry start-up which received US$8 million in venture funding before it was acquired in 2006.

4. He once managed an eye-popping US$7 billion annual budget
   In 2011, the then US President Barack Obama appointed Prof Suresh to lead the National Science Foundation, which made him the top science official in the United States.

5. He knows Singapore inside out
   Prof Suresh has been a friend to Singapore for the past 25 years. Most significantly, he helped to launch the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART) centre.

6. He is married with two daughters
   Prof Suresh is married to Mary Delmar Suresh, a public health consultant, and they have two daughters, Nina and Meera. Nina is a medical doctor, and Meera is a global health professional at a non-profit organisation in the US.

7. His favourite hobby is taking photos
   Prof Suresh has launched an exhibition, *Through The Lens: Colours Across Seven Continents*, a collection of his photographic works taken during his visits to countries across the globe.
Culinary Creativity Unleashed

From making bentos to writing her own cookbooks, littlemissbento is making big waves in the culinary scene.

For most people, a takeaway meal is simply a container full of food put together quickly. But to Ms Shirley Wong, the empty lunch box is a canvas for assembling edible art. In the hands of this food artist, blogger and recipe book author, even the simplest ingredients give rise to visual masterpieces.

Better known as littlemissbento in online circles, Ms Wong painstakingly crafts each of her bento boxes, introducing kawaii (cute) elements such as cartoon characters into her dishes. She also bakes breads and tarts with same level of attention to presentation.

Her meticulous approach to cooking and the beauty of her creations have won the hearts of fans worldwide. She has more than 300,000 followers on social media and has even published five cookbooks.

In this interview with NTU Link Magazine, Ms Wong shares with us what inspired her to start making bentos and how her hobby has evolved over the years.

What motivated you to start making bentos?

I started packing my own lunches to work because my office was in a really secluded location. There was no canteen, and the hawker centre was a 15-minute walk away. I didn’t like walking in the sun in my office wear, so I decided that I would cook instead. That was when my bento-making hobby took off.

Since I was putting so much effort into my bentos, I thought: why not make cute ones, like those made by Japanese housewives? So I began to experiment. My first creation was a rabbit, and I think I used corn as the bunny’s mouth. It looked horrible! But still, I was really proud of it.

Where did you learn your craft?

I would say part of it is self-taught—I got better with practice. I also read books about Japanese cuisine and bento cookbooks written by Japanese authors.

Then, as I became more serious about making bentos, I made trips to Tokyo to get certified—I’m the first in Singapore to be certified under the Japan Sushi Instructor Association (for sushi making) and the Japan Salonaise Association (for baking). The sushi course took me about a year to complete, while the other took just a couple of months.

What were the challenges you faced along the way?

One challenge was understanding how social media works. I had to find the right channels and learn how to use them properly.

I also took a while to find my style as a food artist and influencer. If you view my Instagram feed now, you can tell there’s a certain look and feel to it. The clean and white style is something that I am comfortable with, but at the same time brings out the appeal of the food that I’m showcasing.

Another challenge is experimenting with my recipes. People don’t see the things I’ve thrown away, or those that I don’t photograph because I found them too ugly. There’s a lot of work that goes on behind the scenes.

What is it like turning your hobby into a full-time career?

I started doing this full-time since March 2017, so it’s been almost a year. What I’ve learnt is that I need to be discerning when it comes to projects. If I’m doing something that I don’t genuinely believe in, it shows, and my long-time followers would probably know.

I now have an agent managing some of these projects, which frees me up to do the creative work that I love. Overall, everything seems to have fallen into place quite nicely.

You’ve also published some recipe books of your own. Can you tell us more about them?

Since 2013, I’ve published five cookbooks. I like sharing, and cookbooks were a way to teach people. They’re also a really good way to brand myself and let people outside the region know about me and my work.

The average cookbook takes about six months to produce. I have to write, test and plan the content,
down to the details of all the tools I use. I don’t do the proofreading and copywriting—the publisher covers that. After a few rounds of text edits, mock-up layouts, and photoshoots of the actual dishes, the book goes to print. Then we do book launches and signings.

You must feel like a star!

I get recognised by people sometimes, so I am a bit more conscious in public nowadays. A couple of times I was also recognised on the plane. And when I was in Japan, someone recognised me in a café and tried to take photos of me secretly. It was quite funny!

But other than that, I’m still just me—my friends still know me as ‘the noisy one’.

What advice do you have for NTU alumni who may want to turn their passion into a profession?

You have to find something that you will enjoy doing for a long time. You should also craft a niche for yourself—something that belongs to you, or create a style that is uniquely you—so when people see it, they know it’s yours.

Lifehacks for making bento

1. No need to spend big bucks on tools!
   All you really need are:
   - A good bento box
   - Vegetable cutters
   - Small scissors
   - Tweezers
   - Cling wrap
   - Punchers
   - Decorative food picks

2. Cook something that you like
   It’s important to make food that you and your loved ones enjoy!

3. Think about whether you need to reheat the food
   This will influence the recipes and cooking methods you choose.

4. Plan your recipe
   List down the ingredients, cooking methods and utensils required.

5. Sketch your idea
   This helps you visualise what the bento will eventually look like.

6. Pay attention to colours!
   Here are some suggestions:
   - Green
     - Leafy vegetables, matcha, kiwi, beans, seaweed
   - Red
     - Tomatoes, strawberries, bell peppers
   - Blue
     - Blue pea flowers
   - Yellow
     - Turmeric, egg, pumpkin, yellow tomatoes
   - Pink
     - Fish floss, salmon
   - Beige
     - Minced meat, bonito flakes, sauce, seaweed
   - Black
     - Black sesame
   - Purple
     - Purple carrots, purple cabbage, purple sweet potatoes

7. Decorate your dish
   To make your bento more outstanding, include tiny details and flourishes using small vegetable cuttings and decorative food picks.

Follow Shirley’s work on Instagram at @littlemissbento

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A sk Ms Tan Aik Na about the one thing she did early in her career that yielded a substantial return on investment, and she’ll probably recount the time she read the career progression manual of chemical multinational company DuPont. It was 1994, and Ms Tan was just starting out as an accounting manager in DuPont. Being driven and ambitious, she wanted to figure out how she could chart her career in an environment that offered tremendous room for growth.

Her time and effort paid off. Ms Tan went on to scale the highest rungs of the corporate ladder at DuPont in an illustrious career spanning more than twenty years. In November 2011, she was the first Asian woman to become Chief Financial Officer in DuPont’s 220-year history, managing its S$5 billion Titanium Technologies business globally. She later also served as the Finance Transformation Leader of The Chemours Company, a spin-off from DuPont, before joining NTU, where she now serves as Vice President (Administration).

“Looking back at how I’ve charted my career, I’ve had my fair share of challenges, and I hope that whatever I share tonight will provide food for thought,” Ms Tan said during her Tête-à-Tête session at the NTU Alumni House at Marina Square on 8 November 2017.

NO SECRETS TO SUCCESS

While there are no shortcuts to success, there are also no secrets to attaining it. Ms Tan shared with some 100 alumni the habits and mindsets she acquired over the years which got her to where she is today. Foremost among her list of ingredients for success: goal-setting.

“It’s important to set goals because if you don’t, you don’t know where your destination is,” she said. Ms Tan planned her own career in ten-year cycles, and often found that she attained those aspirations ahead of time. Whenever that happened, she simply planned ahead again.

Another critical element was ownership—taking control of situations and dealing with them as they arise. She noted that “the path of least resistance is to let somebody else do it… but that can actually lead to a lot of frustration”.

When seeking solutions to problems, Ms Tan recommended keeping things simple and maintaining a positive outlook. After all has been said and done, regardless of the outcome, learn from the good and bad experiences and “move on”, she said.

SIX STEPS TO SOAR

To help audience members recall another set of useful tips, Ms Tan coined the acronym ‘PRAISE’, which stands for priorities, resilience, authenticity, integrity, setting an example, and engagement.

Noting that priorities are deeply personal, she urged alumni to reflect on what is close to their hearts, and to always keep those things at the top of their to-do list. Building mental resilience and tenacity is also important, as one cannot expect to sail through life without encountering difficulty or failure.

Ms Tan then emphasised authenticity as a gateway to happiness because “being somebody you’re not is extremely difficult. You’re acting every day, and that’s really tiring”. Meanwhile, she championed integrity as the key to building trust, also highlighting that leaders who set a good example inspire respect and goodwill.

Last but not least, Ms Tan touched on engagement, which, to her, means more than just interacting with people. She views engagement as an inward-looking process—being in tune with one’s own strengths and weaknesses, challenging the status quo and learning all the time.

Alumni left the session feeling uplifted by Ms Tan’s advice. “She’s awesome, a true role model,” said Ms Jane Chua (NBS/2009). “I was really inspired by the talk and I hope to be like her one day.”

Ms Tan’s PRAISE formula for success:

- **Priorities**
- **Resilience**
- **Authenticity**
- **Integrity**
- **Setting an example**
- **Engagement**

“"It’s important to set goals because if you don’t, you don’t know where your destination is.”

Ms Tan’s Tête-à-Tête session at the NTU Alumni House at Marina Square on 8 November 2017
“Through PaCE College’s continuing education programmes, Singaporean professionals, managers and executives can keep pace with the rapid technological changes rippling through today’s increasingly competitive economy and industrial landscape,” said Prof Ting to more than 100 alumni gathered for the Tête-à-Tête session at the NTU Alumni House at Marina Square on 18 January 2018.

**A SMORGASBORD OF CHOICES**

Founded on the belief that there should be many pathways to career success, PaCE College offers a wide variety of courses in different formats to cater to the working adult. Prof Ting highlighted five options: part-time Bachelor’s degrees in engineering, semester-long courses, regional executive programmes, customised in-house training and short courses. Whether you are looking for personal or professional development, the College has something to offer, he said.

“For example, the short courses are exploratory—you can use them to learn something for fun, or get a taste of a particular industry. At the end of it, there may still not be a clear professional direction,” said Prof Ting. “On the other hand, you have the semester-long courses that are stackable toward specialist and graduate certificates. These have a very specific end point in mind: professional conversion.”

He cited how an individual who graduated with a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from NTU, after taking the specialist certificate courses on civil infrastructure at PaCE College, could convert their degree to a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering. This individual would be fully equipped to take on the roles and responsibilities of a civil engineer.

**REMOVING BARRIERS TO ENTRY**

Despite the diversity of courses available, some alumni were concerned about course prerequisites and difficulty levels. Prof Ting allayed those fears by saying that there are ways to progressively navigate the courses. The short courses are generally broader in scope, whereas the semester-long courses provide more depth and detail. However, should a person insist on taking up courses for which he or she has no background in, Prof Ting’s stand is: go ahead!

“I already have someone taking civil engineering courses although his background is in IT,” said Prof Ting. “He has not taken courses in basic steel and concrete design, but he has some idea of it because he taught himself some basic concepts.”

“Am I the one to stop him from pursuing his goals? You must be kidding! I want these people, because they will make NTU great again!” he joked.

Prof Ting further noted that cost should not prevent anyone from studying in PaCE College, explaining the various tiers of subsidies available from SkillsFuture Singapore, the Employment and Employability Institute and the National Silver Academy. In addition, all NTU and NIE alumni have been issued S$1,600 worth of credits, which can be used at PaCE College.

Mr James Tan (EEE/2013) found Prof Ting’s talk very useful and was encouraged by the support provided by NTU. “Skills upgrading is important in today’s competitive job market. I now have a better idea of what courses are available at PaCE College.”

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**Study options available at PaCE College:**

- Short courses
- Part-time degrees
- Semester-long courses
- Regional executive programmes
- Customised in-house training

Please visit http://copace.ntu.edu.sg/Pages/Home.aspx for more information.
The first NTU Alumni Council meeting for 2018 was held on 20 January at NTU’s Nanyang Executive Centre. Led by NTU President Professor Subra Suresh, who is also the NTU Alumni Council Chairman, the meeting was attended by 41 council members, NTU Board of Trustees member Mr Inderjit Singh, NTU Vice President for Administration Ms Tan Aik Na, NTU Vice President for Alumni and Advancement Professor Alan Chan, NTU PaCE College Dean Professor Ting Seng Kiong, College of Engineering Acting Dean Professor Louis Phee, Chairs of Schools, Senior Hall Fellows, NTU Alumni Affairs Director Mr Soon Min Yam and staff.

In his opening address, Prof Suresh shared the importance of cultivating strong bonds with students and alumni. He emphasised the need to engage NTU alumni wherever they may be, as their support is important for the University’s advancement. He also added that education does not end when one leaves school, emphasising that it is important to keep upgrading one’s knowledge and skills in today’s ever-changing global economy.

Prof Chan then spoke about how a great university must also have a strong alumni community, and highlighted the critical role the NTU Alumni Council will play in alumni engagement. He cited technology as a key enabler, mentioning the NTU Alumni mobile app and online portal as examples.

During the dialogue session that followed, suggestions to improve the patronage at the NTU Alumni Houses were presented, and ideas on how to encourage alumni to download the mobile app were discussed. Issues on overseas courses and continuing education were also raised.

Upon the conclusion of the meeting, senior management, council members and guests adjourned to the Cosmo Restaurant at the NTU Campus Clubhouse for a sumptuous lunch.

In his opening address, NTU President Professor Subra Suresh addressing the NTU Alumni Council and discussing plans to ramp up alumni engagement.

Participants of the meeting adjourned to the Cosmo Restaurant for lunch.

Prof Suresh and Mrs Mary Suresh (front, 5th and 6th from right respectively), Mr Inderjit Singh (front, 7th from right), NTU Alumni Council members, NTU senior management, faculty and staff pose for a group photo.
THE DOGGED PURSUIT OF GOOD FORTUNE

Some 50 alumni gathered at the NTU Alumni House at one-north for a fengshui talk on 27 January 2018. Fengshui expert Master Goh Guan Leong was present to outline the outlook for the year 2018. He kicked off his presentation by explaining that 2018 is the year of the earth dog, and that based on the solar calendar system, it begins at 5.38 a.m. on 4 February 2018.

Master Goh highlighted that those born in the years of the snake, goat and rabbit have the most optimistic outlook. On the other hand, those born in the years of the rooster, dragon and dog need to be more cautious in 2018.

Master Goh rounded off his talk by mentioning that the directions of east, south-west and north-east are lucky. He added that certain colours, such as blue, black, white and gold are auspicious colours in 2018.

Mr Lim Jui Seck sharing his knowledge on the importance of estate planning.

LIFE, ACCORDING TO PLAN

At the alumni talk ‘Estate Planning and You’ held on 16 December 2017, professional estate planner Mr Lim Jui Seck (EEE/1986) heartily shared advice and anecdotes on how and why young people should plan for what happens to their assets in the future.

Mr Lim highlighted two life events—the certainty of death and the possible loss of mental capacity—and how both could inconvenience family members and dependents if plans have not been made in advance.

While we often hear only about wills, Mr Lim advocated an integrated three-in-one estate planning approach comprising wills, trusts and lasting power of attorney. These documents together provide greater assurance that loved ones will be taken care of properly, and that businesses left behind will have better continuity and succession, he said.

Participants were thoroughly engaged by Mr Lim’s candid disposition as he spoke about the realities of financial planning.

“I now have a better idea of how to plan for the future,” said Ms Ngo Kang Min (NIE/2013). Mr Erwin Sudilan (EEE/2004) also found the three-in-one approach to estate planning interesting, and commented that “young people should really be thinking ahead about such things, even though it feels like it will not be needed any time soon.”

THE SCOOP ON ICE CREAM-MAKING

An ice cream-making workshop held on 9 December 2017 brought together 35 alumni and their loved ones at the Ang Mo Kio branch of Scoopz. Participants tried their hand at making ice cream in two ways: first by shaking a Ziploc bag of cream in ice; then with an electrical cold pan, which replicates how the store makes its own ice cream.

Ms Uma Kamaraj (SCSE/2012) enjoyed learning how ice cream is made and sold. Dr Liew Kian Heng (NBS/1995), another participant at the workshop, said that it allowed him to “take time off work, show support for and remain engaged with the NTU alumni community”.

HAVE YOU BENTO COOKING CLASS?

On 11 November 2017, some 30 NTU alumni and their families unleashed their culinary creativity when they gathered at the Civil Service Club at Tessensohn Road to make bento boxes filled with colourful and appetising morsels.

What really goes inside a bento box is love and effort, said Chef Trish of D’Open Kitchen, who taught the workshop participants to shape onigiri rice balls, roll the perfect sushi, and pan-fry crispy yet juicy gyoza.

To Ms Chiang Tze Hui’s (NBS/2015) pleasant surprise, her bento creation, featuring characters from the popular mobile game Disney Tsum Tsum, won the top prize in a friendly contest.

Ms Chiang and her fiancé said that they had developed a new-found respect for the seemingly humble meal. “We’ll be more appreciative of the bento meal next time. It looks simple, but a lot of effort goes into making the components of the box,” she said.
The Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information (WKWSCI) celebrated its 25th anniversary on 3 November 2017 with an alumni reunion to mark the successes of its more than 6,000-strong alumni and to recognise the contributions of donors and industry partners.

Over 100 Civil and Structural Engineering (CSE) alumni, former lecturers and staff attended the CSE Class of 1987 30th Anniversary Reunion on 27 October 2017 at the NTU Alumni House at one-north.

The reunion commenced with a welcome address by Mr Foo Hee Kiang, who chaired the reunion’s organising committee. He announced the establishment of the CSE87 Bursary/Endowment Fund, which will benefit financially needy students pursuing a Civil or Environmental Engineering undergraduate degree at NTU.

Professor Wang Rong, Chair of the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE), and Professor Chen Charn Ning, former CSE Dean (1981 to 1996), also delivered speeches. The celebration concluded with a cake-cutting ceremony and a toast to good times by the organising committee members.

Over 160 alumni from the NTU Dragon Boat team, current team members and guests spent a nostalgic evening at their 30th Anniversary Reunion Dinner held at NTU’s Sports & Recreation Centre (SRC) on 11 November 2017.

Mrs Sheryl Loh, Deputy Director of the SRC and former team manager, gave a warm welcome and shared memories of the fraternity and some new developments.

Mr Peh Kai Jay (SBS/2011), a beneficiary of the Poh Boon San and Stephen Loh Soon Ann NTU Dragon Boat Endowed Bursary, shared his feelings about receiving the award, which was set up in memory of the two alumni paddlers who passed away in a dragon boat accident in Cambodia in 2007.

A S$8,000 term fund was raised during the gathering for an additional bursary award of S$4,000 over two years to support financially needy students in the team. For more details on the fund, please contact Ms Kally Ooi from the NTU Development Office at 6513 8662.
A TOAST TO GOOD SPEECHES

It was a cheerful start to the weekend as some 25 NTU Alumni Toastmasters Club members and guests attended the 155th Chapter Meeting at The Hive on 30 September 2017. In her opening address, Club President Ms Aziah Sapari (MPE/1998) shared that toastmasters’ meetings never fail to energise her with their enlightening and entertaining speeches and sharing sessions.

Ms Ong Kay Chung (EEE/1992) ended the event on an aspirational note, saying, “I am an optimist. I believe whatever changes we see bring us to a new world of undiscovered possibilities, which will lead to abundant prosperity. We must muster up the courage to adopt the right mindset and technology to face these changes.”

HONING AN ARTFORM

The NTU Alumni Toastmasters Club successfully held its Speechcraft workshop, which was attended by 15 participants, from 4 to 25 November 2017. The first three sessions were conducted at The Hive, while the final session was held at one-north.

The sessions were led by prominent Singapore toastmasters, as well as senior Toastmasters Club members who have been conducting lectures and courses professionally. Participants had a meaningful time picking up language skills to craft an impactful speech and learning how to deliver the speech confidently.

A MASTERFUL PERFORMANCE

Representatives of the NTU Alumni Toastmasters Club edged out top speakers from other clubs to bring home the champion trophies for both the Area B4 Humorous Speech Contest and Speech Evaluation Contest, held on 7 October 2017.

Mr Wong Yew Chung (NBS/2000) emerged champion in the Humorous Speech contest. The top prize for the Speech Evaluation contest was won by Mr Johnny Teo (MAE/2003), who also came in second in the Humorous Speech contest. Both gentlemen went on to represent Area B4 clubs to compete in the Division-level contests on 14 October 2017.
A HEARTENING REUNION IN CHINA

A joint alumni reunion of NTU Alumni Associations (AAs) in four provinces—Hunan, Hubei, Jiangxi and Anhui—was held on 24 September 2017 in Changsha, Hunan Province. Organised by NTUAA (Hunan), some 70 alumni and distinguished guests enjoyed a dinner featuring performances from alumni.

Ms Tan Aik Na, who was NTU’s Chief Financial Officer then, commended NTUAA (Hunan) for putting in the effort to ensure a well-organised event. President of NTUAA (Hunan) Ms Zhao Xiangrong also shared briefly about the history and culture of Hunan Province. Attendees then went on a tour to the hometown of Zeng Guofan, a famous ancient figure of Hunan Province.

A SNEAK PEEK AT ONE BELT ONE ROAD

On 28 and 29 October 2017, NTU Alumni Association (Beijing) organised a late-autumn tour and visit to the ‘One Belt One Road’ meeting venue in Huairou County’s International Convention Centre (ICC). The ICC has frequently served as the venue for important international conferences, including the 22nd APEC leaders’ Informal Meeting in 2014 and the One Belt One Road International Summit in May 2017.

More than 50 alumni and their families participated in the event. Alumni were also treated to team-building activities, a lucky draw, a poem-reading session and a night tour along the lake.

WELCOMING A NEW COMMITTEE IN CHONGQING

NTU Alumni Association (AA) (Chongqing)’s fourth committee election was held in Chongqing City, China, on 17 December 2017. NTUAA (Chongqing) plays an important role in strengthening alumni ties, organising numerous alumni activities, and contributing to projects in Chongqing.

Mr Liao was elected as the AA president, while Mr Chen Yu (HSS/2004) and Mr Li Yaming (HSS/2012) were elected as Executive Vice President and Secretary, respectively. Director of NTU Alumni Affairs Mr Soon Min Yam was present to witness the proceedings of the election together with the AAs committee members.
MEET YOUR MENTORS

Some 25 School of Materials Science & Engineering alumni and undergraduates attended the Mentor Matching Day at the NTU Alumni House at Marina Square on 21 October 2017. The event was part of the MSE Alumni Association (MSEAA) Mentor Associate Programme (MAP), where every undergraduate is mentored for six months by three alumni in industries of their choice. The MAP leverages the knowledge and experience of MSE graduates to benefit the MSE community.

DRINKING IN THE FUN

Over 50 alumni from the School of Materials Science and Engineering Alumni Association (MSEAA) enjoyed themselves at the annual Oktoberfest event at Stuttgart Blackforest Boutique S-Café held on 3 November 2017. They enjoyed traditional German dishes such as pumpkin soup, sausages and pork knuckle, as well as a free flow of beer. MSEAA President Mr Jason Law (MSE/2009) shared the AA’s mission and encouraged alumni to tap on the resources available for their professional development.

ART FROM THE HEART

The MSEAA Social Outreach and Philanthropy Network reached out to the community through art at two recent events. Some 15 MSEAA alumni engaged the elderly at a pottery workshop at the Thye Hua Kwan Senior Activity Centre at Ang Mo Kio on 29 July 2017. Separately, 13 MSEAA alumni volunteered at an interactive origami folding workshop on 2 December 2017 at the MA-MINDS Employment Development Centre.

KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON

More than 100 alumni and students from the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information (WKWSCI) and the Nanyang Business School participated in a Crisis Simulation Exercise held on 30 September 2017 in NTU. Participants were divided into four groups to handle different crisis scenarios. Winners were chosen for accolades such as ‘Best News Journalist’ and ‘Best Corporate Spokesperson’, among others.

HITTING THE BULLSEYE OF FUN

More than 30 School of Computer Science and Engineering (SCSE) alumni and the graduating Class of 2018 gathered for the SCSE Alumni Darts Challenge at iDarts Halo in Bugis on 11 November 2017. SCSE Assistant Chair (Alumni) Associate Professor Cong Gao graced the event and welcomed the Class of 2018 into the SCSE alumni community. The alumni had great fun exploring different iDarts Halo game modes and techniques and competing with one another.

A CHANGE OF LEADERSHIP

A group of 20 Master of Science in Technopreneurship and Innovation (MSc TIP) alumni from the Classes of 2002 to 2017 gathered at Singapore Marriott Tang Plaza Hotel on 7 October 2017 to welcome the new Director of the Nanyang Technopreneurship Center (NTC), Associate Professor Wen Yonggang. Alumni were also treated to an interesting talk titled ‘The AI wears PRADA: How to build an Artificial Intelligence (AI) start-up’ by Prof Wen.

BONDING AT THE BOX OFFICE

Some 80 School of Physical and Mathematical Sciences (SPMS) alumni attended the movie screening of ‘Ah Boys to Men 4’ on 10 November 2017 at GV Suntec City. Alumni enjoyed the jokes and identified with the on-screen characters. This is the second movie screening organised by the SPMS Alumni Association, and more of such events are in the works.

A LESSON IN FINE WINES

School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE) alumni and guests had an enriching introductory French wine appreciation workshop at Fine Wines Singapore on 17 December 2017. The workshop commenced with a comprehensive sharing of wine origins and wine production in France. Participants sampled a variety of wines from various regions of France and came away with a better appreciation for the colour, smell and taste of the alcoholic beverage.

WKWSCI alumni having an engaging discussion at a Crisis Simulation Exercise.

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Top to bottom: MSc TIP alumni hear from Assoc Prof Wen Yonggang (seated, 4th from right) on how to build an AI start-up. SPMS alumni waiting to catch the movie ‘Ah Boys to Men 4’. MAE alumni gaining a better understanding of fine wines at the French wine appreciation workshop. SCSE alumni and graduating students competing to see who had the best aim at a darts competition.
A SIX-Y REUNION

Some 350 Hall of Residence Six alumni reminisced the good old times on home ground as they gathered to celebrate the annual Hall 6 Alumni Day on 29 October 2017. It was a great opportunity for alumni to reconnect with one another over board games, water polo, sepak takraw and other ball games. Current Hall 6 residents also took the opportunity to hone their skills for the upcoming Inter Hall Games as they engaged in competitive and friendly matches with their seniors at several venues, including The Wave and the Hall 2 sepak takraw court.

LIGHTS BY THE LAKE

Some 200 alumni from the Classes of 1959 to 1980 gathered at the Chinese Heritage Centre on 30 September 2017 to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. The event was organised by the Association of Nanyang University Graduates (ANUG). In his speech, ANUG President Mr Chia Ban Seng (Science ’60) shared that the Global Reunion of Nanyang University Alumni will be held on the NTU campus from 8 to 9 June 2018. Alumni enjoyed a sumptuous dinner featuring singing and dancing, and proceeded outdoors to stroll around the Nanyang Lake, lighting their way with lanterns.

OVER THE MOON WITH MOONCAKES

More than 30 School of Humanities (SoH) alumni had fun creating their own mooncakes at a workshop held on 17 September 2017 at the ToTT Store at the Sime Darby Centre. Under the guidance of pastry chef Ms Charlynn Gwee, participants made their own Fuji apple- and green apple-flavoured snow-skin mooncakes. Alumni were delighted to bring home these tasty handmade delights to share with their family and friends during the Mid-Autumn Festival.

BOUNCING STRESS AWAY

More than 20 School of Humanities alumni ended the year on a high note as they jumped for joy at BOUNCE Singapore on 9 December 2017. The two-hour trampoline session was a great opportunity for alumni to relieve stress while catching up with one another. Participants also brought home a small Christmas present.

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN

Some 40 alumni and guests attended the 21st School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering Alumni Association (EEEAA) Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at the spanking new lecture theatre at the revamped NTU Alumni House at one-north on 30 September 2017. Alumni reviewed the AA President’s report, and the event concluded with a buffet dinner, relaxing music and a free flow of beer.

PENNING DOWN BEAUTY

School of Social Sciences (SSS) alumni convened at a quaint hide-out on 14 October 2017 for a popular calligraphy workshop by The Workroom. Under the guidance of The Workroom’s friendly instructor, Ruth, participants were introduced to the tools of the trade and tried their hand at creating their own works of art. Participants took home their masterpieces and a carefully curated beginners’ kit for pointed pen calligraphy.

A MEANINGFUL MEETING

The NTU Chinese Society Alumni Association’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held on 16 December 2017. Committee members and their children took the time to share what they had learnt from the Xiyao Culture Association, a non-profit organisation in Singapore with ties to academia and social services. The gathering, attended by 22 alumni and their families, was filled with laughter and kind words.

REWARDING RESOLVE

On 2 December 2017, Nanyang Business School (NBS) alumni who had participated in the Xuan Zang Road Business School Gobi Challenge and the Asia-Pacific Business School Desert Challenge gathered in Shanghai to attend an appreciation dinner organised by NBS. The two challenges involved long hikes through arduous conditions, requiring determination and teamwork to complete. Outstanding Contribution Awards were given out to alumni, followed by dinner hosted by Professor Neo Boon Sing, who was the Dean of NBS then.
A HEART-WARMING HOMECOMING

It was a great start to the weekend for some 30 Hall of Residence Seven alumni who gathered at the familiar grounds of Hall of Residence Seven on 28 October 2017 for their Annual General Meeting and Alumni Homecoming. Alumni and current residents had a great time bonding over various sports and recreational games.

A FESTIVE GET-TOGETHER

Some 50 NTU Chinese Medicine Alumni Association alumni and undergraduate students from the Double Degree in Biomedical Sciences and Traditional Chinese Medicine course had a fabulous Christmas party at The Mind Cafe on 16 December 2017. Participants had a great time playing exciting games and interacting with one another at the event.

MARKING A DECADE OF STRONG TIES

On 11 November 2017, NBS alumni gathered in Shanghai to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the Nanyang Business School’s (NBS) Master of Finance programme (MSc Finance). It was the first time that alumni from 16 batches of the MSc Finance programme reunited after their graduation. The event commenced with a forum organised by NBS and FT Chinese Network, discussing various issues in finance. This was followed by a cake-cutting ceremony and dinner, accompanied by singing and dancing.

HANDING OVER THE BATON OF LEADERSHIP

More than 40 alumni from the NTU Tamil Literary Society Alumni Association (TLSAA) gathered for their Annual General Meeting on 30 September 2017 at the Indian Heritage Centre to witness the handover of leadership from the first to the second executive committee. Founded in 2015, NTU TLSAA serves as a platform for TLS alumni to continue to cultivate their interest in the Tamil language and culture upon graduation.

A DRIVING FORCE IN ADVERTISING

With seven years of experience running a vehicle workshop, Alvin Boey (EEE/2008) was no stranger to entrepreneurship or the automotive industry when he decided to establish a startup bringing automobiles and advertising together. He and his cousin Endru Chen wanted to create a crowdsourced private car advertising platform to provide advertising services to small and medium enterprises in Singapore. But first, they needed funding.

Alvin and Endru were introduced to NTUitive through a friend, and after consulting with NTUitive, they were able to secure a grant to kickstart their company, which they named Carblicity—a hybrid of the words ‘car’ and ‘publicity’. Beyond financial assistance, NTUitive also put Carblicity’s founders in touch with business mentors and legal advisors who helped navigate them through every stage of the business cycle. Access to industry exhibitions and events also provided Carblicity with exposure to potential clients and investors, while NTUitive’s signature events such as the monthly ‘MakanNight!’ and annual ‘Startup Homecoming’ helped Carblicity expand its network.

Carblicity’s platform was officially launched in 2017 to strong demand from the automotive industry, and it now boasts more than 2,000 registered drivers and 1,500 cars plying the roads, advertising for 16 different brands. Collaborations with industry players such as Grab and GoGoVan have also allowed them to expand their fleet to include advertising on private hire vehicles, vans, buses and taxis.

Alvin notes that Carblicity’s platform appeals to SMEs because it offers them budget flexibility and rapid execution of advertising campaigns. From campaign crafting to advertisement design, sticker production and fleet management, Carblicity presents an end-to-end solution for its clients.

Going forward, Alvin is looking to grow his team and expand his business overseas, reorienting into countries such as Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines. The Carblicity team is also developing technology that will provide clients with more accurate metrics for advertising reach.

“At the end of the day, we believe in making out-of-home and transit advertising accessible to everyone,” said Alvin.
FIRM FOUNDATIONS, FLOURISHING FRIENDSHIPS

Learning to live and love are all part of the NTU experience, and our alumni share their fondest memories of their time on campus.

Ms Elena Stepanova
NBS/2011

My fondest memories of NTU are of discussion groups during the day and networking in the evening. My experience was very positive—everyone I met had a unique background and perspective, so I had the opportunity to learn a lot from their ideas and perceptions, as well as develop soft skills. Such meaningful interactions have shaped me both personally and professionally.

Working on the campus newspaper and carrying out an overseas reporting stint through the Go-Far programme were invaluable experiences. Both courses meant throwing myself into actual reporting. And we did, at one point, expose a peeping tom on campus, so that made it more rewarding too!

Ms Jamie Lee Wan Ling
WKWSCI/2008

University was the best time of my schooling life. Students from the communication school make up an eclectic bunch—mostly quirky, sometimes strange—and being a part of that creative mess was just plain fun.

In a world inundated with so many forms of communication today, the ability to tell a compelling story without dialling down the facts is a well-worn skill for journalists, and I think I got the best training from being around the best minds.

Working on the campus newspaper and carrying out an overseas reporting stint through the Go-Far programme were invaluable experiences. Both courses meant throwing myself into actual reporting. And we did, at one point, expose a peeping tom on campus, so that made it more rewarding too!

Ms Lim Fang Yi
NBS/2013

I met my spouse while participating in the Regular Service Project for the Hearing Impaired, a volunteer group under NTU’s Welfare Services Club catering to people with hearing disabilities. We were both assigned to the same group to perform Christmas songs using sign language. The rest, as the saying goes, is history.

The Hive was our number one choice for our wedding photoshoot. It was still under construction during our undergraduate years, and we did not have the chance to witness its completion. We had seen many pretty pictures of it online, and we thought since we were unable to enjoy it during our schooling days, we should at least have it in our wedding photos!

Mr Gary Tan Han Soon
EEE/2010

During my stay in Hall 4, I got to know a bunch of awesome, fun and dependable friends. We took part in the various hall committees, helped to create and organise fun and exciting activities for our residents, and bonded over different sports and recreational games. These are some of the defining moments of my life and my learning journey.

NTU also gave me a strong foundation in engineering, which is especially helpful when I need to solve complex and challenging technical problems at work.

I’m now a project manager at the Defence Science & Technology Agency, so my knowledge gives me the confidence to contribute positively to my team.

Ms Jasmine Lim Sin Yee
CEE/2012

NTU gave me the opportunity to intern overseas in Shanghai, China, for six months. Being away from home for half a year made me more independent and helped me to grow stronger.

More importantly, NTU was where I met my partner. We were both from the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering, but we only got to know each other in Year 3, when our friends introduced us.

Our favourite hangout was at the North Spine area, and that’s one of the reasons I really love the wedding photos we took at the Canopy Stage, which is newly renovated and really beautiful! Returning to NTU for the photoshoot really brought back many good memories of the time we spent on campus.

Ms Lim Fang Yi
NBS/2013

I met my spouse while participating in the Regular Service Project for the Hearing Impaired, a volunteer group under NTU’s Welfare Services Club catering to people with hearing disabilities. We were both assigned to the same group to perform Christmas songs using sign language. The rest, as the saying goes, is history.

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All photos captured by our certified photographer on the day of your event will be shared instantly with your family and friends, turning every moment into an engaging, interpersonal experience that everyone will enjoy and remember.

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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.

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

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.

- 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.

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 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.

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Nationality Singapore PR Marital Status Religion

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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) (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

May & June 2018

May

12 ADM Conversations & Collective Showcase

19 The Art Series-The Grounds From The Land To The Sea (Tarek Atoui)

26 NTU Alumni Associations (Sichuan, Chongqing, Guang, Yunnan & Guizhou) Combined Alumni Event

29 NTU Chinese Medicine Alumni Association Homecoming

June

03 National Vertical Marathon

10 NTU Alumni Movie Screening- Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom

18 Tête-à-Tête with Ambassador Ong Keng Yong

21 Lifestyle Talk: Mindfulness, Search Inside Yourself

30 Soul Funky 10th Anniversary Celebration & Reunion

The 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/alumnievents. If you wish to enquire about any of the events, please write to us at alumniaffairs@ntu.edu.sg.

Note: The events, their dates, and the organizers are subject to change. Please check the website for updates.

*Subject to change
WHAT’S UP, DOC?

Screening motions, organs and seeking out the root cause of ailments are all in a day’s work for medical students at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. The NTU alumni family will welcome its first batch of medical doctors and clinician scientists this year—a new generation of medical professionals to meet the healthcare challenges of the future!
LIVE MUSIC AT Mortar
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Silver Ang (of Tanglin fame) and Aocheng helm the stage.

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