2012 was the year of change. Ever since the inauguration of the 5th CN Yang Scholars Committee a lot of exciting news has happened to our club: unprecedented sponsorship, first alumni dinner, first talent time… behind this never ending list of achievements unheard of in the history of our club were the “FANTANSTIC FOUR”---Jowell, Noel, Edwin, Vync--- and diligent committee members who worked hard in tandem for the past few months, and of course, you. Each and every CN Yang scholar was instrumental to the success, and without you the club has no purpose and raison d’etre.

Let us continue to uphold the tradition of hard work and unwavering belief in our own capacity for true greatness. Like the stars across the sky, we are meant to shine. Let us paint our life’s canvas with joy and glory, and bring pride to the club! March on!

Proudly presented to you by the Press and Publications Committee of CN Yang Scholars’ Club:

XIAO TONG
(Director)

LU QI
(Asst. Director)

CHOO LE MIN
(Asst. Director)
Have you had any ‘Eureka’ moments in your research career?
Yes - a number of times. However, the most memorable one occurred when I was still a Postdoc working at the National Institute for Medical Research in the UK. At that time I was working on understanding how the mitochondrial DNA of the malaria parasite replicates. A series of experiments had given us a bunch of much unexpected, not to say weird, results. We could not make head or tails of them. By chance, I then attended a seminar in my Institute by Walt Fangman, a scientist from the University of Washington who worked on yeast DNA replication. During the discussion we had afterwards, he mentioned a particular phenomenon that his team had observed while doing their studies. This turned out to be the “missing link” that I was looking for – my ‘Aha’ moment. With that information, everything fell into place. The paper I published on this is still one of which I am most proud.

Why did you choose to come to NTU and become the director of the CNYSP?
Let me give a bit of background. After I completed my studies in the US I decided to travel around South East Asia for some time before starting a new job in London. During that trip I spent a couple of days in Singapore. I also met my wife who was also traveling through Asia in between jobs. So my wife and I already had a certain affinity for Asia, and when the opportunity came to apply for a post at NTU it was of immediate interest. In addition there had been a lot of news coverage over a number of years in Europe, on Singapore’s aim to develop the biomedical sector as the fourth pillar of the economy. When I therefore saw the advert announcing the opening of School of Biological Sciences at NTU it instantly clicked. It also helped that I had been working on Malaria for some 10 years by then. Malaria is still prevalent in the region and coming to Asia has ensured easier access to clinical samples.

When I was asked to take responsibility for the CNYSP, from Professor Alex Law, I needed relatively little persuasion. I believe that a solid foundation is the most valuable thing a university can give its students. The CNYSP does exactly that. The programme’s aim of bringing together students from different disciplines, ranging from Mathematics and Engineering to Biology and Chemistry, will future proof our students and bring a whole new ethos to learning. The connections students can make through this are invaluable and last a lifetime. Being invited to become director of such a fantastic programme is a privilege and I needed little persuasion!

“THE PROGRAMME’S AIM OF BRINGING TOGETHER STUDENTS FROM DIFFERENT DISCIPLINES, RANGING FROM MATHEMATICS AND ENGINEERING TO BIOLOGY AND CHEMISTRY, WILL FUTURE PROOF OUR STUDENTS AND BRING A WHOLE NEW ETHOS TO LEARNING.”
“WORK HARD, PLAY HARD. THERE ARE MORE IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE THAN WORK.”

Based on your own experience, how do you think the CNYSP prepares scholars for their future career?

The CNYSP prepares its scholars for their future in a number of different ways. The academic learning is obviously important and it is great to see that most of the CN Yang scholars complete their courses with top grades. However, this is not the only important thing scholars learn: They learn how to interact with people across different disciplines, they learn how to become good problem solvers and work in teams (through the research component) and the social component of the programme ensures that all of our scholars acquire people skills which are invaluable for our leaders of the future, as well as developing confidence in their own ability. All of these are important skills that you need to be successful in today’s world.

What’s your favourite food in NTU?

I love the Indian food served at a number of the canteens. Unfortunately, my doctor tells me that this is not so good for my cholesterol levels and I have therefore limited the number of visits to these stalls. It is really tough.

What are your future plans for the CNYSP?

The CNYSP already has achieved a great deal since its inception in 2006. The CN Yang Scholars’ club is an excellent mechanism for bringing the scholars together and the CN Yang Scholars Alumni Association will support this role.

Going forward I would like the CN Yang scholars to get some exposure to Philosophy. In today’s world we too often forget to think about impact and value which new technologies have on our society. As scholars and future leaders, this is something we should be aware of.

But if we want to go beyond mere tinkering around the edges of the programme and talk about a real future vision for the CNYSP, then this cannot be achieved by the Director alone or even all the Professors and Teachers at the University. It will require the input and drive of you – the scholars. Currently I suspect that many of the scholars join the CNYSP in the first place because it gives a great scholarship and secondly because it might give you a leg up in pursuing a successful career. These are excellent reasons to join. But I would ask each of you the following question: How many of you joined the CNYSP because you want to become a scholar – a learned person who wants to have an impact on the world (independent of whether this is financially rewarding)? So my plan for the future of the CNYSP is to see whether I can contribute to moving it in the direction of becoming a programme for true scholars.

What’s your motto?

Work hard, play hard. There are more important things in life than work.
es you read it right, it would be commonplace. As CN Yang scholars, to innovate is our duty, to break new grounds is our mission and to have fun is just our natural talent! Hence my team and I are proud to present to you CN Yang Scholars’ Club’s finest ever event… Dinner & Dance 2012 WILD WILD WEST!!!

D&D 2012 was held on the beach at Shangri-La Sentosa. A majestic horizon served as the backdrop for our event while the cooling sea breeze constantly pampered our skin as we dined on a spread of 30 sumptuous dishes. Apart from the lobster salad, smoked salmon, succulent steak, et cetera, an iconic dish worth feasting with your eyes first was the baby lamb cooked over a fire-spit. Watching the open flames caress the roasted meat certainly gave a Wild West feel to all present.

And of course, what is a party without 2 whole barrels of booze! WILD WILD WEST D&D 2012 is now all set and ready to rock!

THE FUN BEGINS!

We knew we got the brains and we got the bods when our topless emcee strutted onto the stage, flaunting his muscles.

Of course he was not the only one to showcase his aesthetic talents. Haryl (Yr. 4) and Wei Guang (Yr. 4) played a soothing melody on the flute and guitar respectively, while Wei Xiang (Yr. 3) and Zhong Ji (year 1) were like rock stars in a concert as they sang and strummed in high spirits. Yong Lin (Yr. 1) managed to carry on the hype as he amazed the crowd with his skills on the harmonica. Last but definitely not the least, everyone had their hands in the air as a group of freshmen gathered together and danced to an upbeat routine choreographed by Jie Huang (Yr. 1).

The CN Yang scholars are overflowing with talent, but what about the professors? Well it seems that they too are a force to be reckoned with. Dr. Linda Sellou was game enough to participate in a
“dance-off” conducted by yours truly, and she boogied her way against 5 other contestants, to be crowned “CN Yang Scholars’ Club Dance Queen 2012!” Words cannot express the immense fun all the attendees were having, so much so that the event was dubbed as the best D&D they have ever attended.

A HEART OF GOLD

My committee and I are very grateful for the support that the club members have given us. In return we rewarded the attendees with a chance to win a brand new iPad 2, iPod nano, HD camera, printer and much more in our grand lucky draw. Personally, the phrase “lucky draw” brings back memories of a momentous turn of events, one that I am very proud to mention. Xu Yao’s (Yr. 1) ticket number was drawn out of the hat for the grand prize, the iPad 2. However, out of a big heart, she mentioned that she already had an iPad of her own and was willing to donate it back so that another person who did not own one could have it.

Her generosity touched the hearts of many, including the president of the CN Yang Scholars Programme, Prof Preiser, and his predecessor, Prof Law. They rewarded her with a token sum for her kind act. Kudos to you Xu Yao!

THE DREAM TEAM

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my utmost gratitude to the committee who toiled week after week to make this event a huge success. Your blood and sweat have not gone unnoticed. Thank you Jowell Cheng (Yr. 1, chairman) for being an ever-shining beacon. You led us well. To my logistics team, thank you Edwin (Yr. 1) for sourcing for sponsorships and also sacrificing your time to man the audio equipment during the event.

Thank you Vync (Yr. 1) for fashioning the ring, which was given out as door gifts and now serves as a CN Yang identity for us all. Thank you Vivian (Yr. 1) for your artistic talent in producing those beautiful pamphlets. Thank you Koon Siang (Yr. 2) for aiding us with the administrative finances. To my programme team, thank you Timothy (Yr. 2) for coming up with the exciting games and taking photos during the event. Thank you Elizabeth (Yr. 1) for coordinating with the performers and making sure they were up to par.

To my reception team, thank you Chien Siew (Yr. 1) and Ning Jia (Yr. 1) for being the face, voice and ears of the committee, both of you are a crucial link that we have to the invited guests. To my emcees, thank you You Ming (Yr. 1) and Jie Huang (Yr. 1) for putting up a splendid performance for the crowd. You created a wonderful atmosphere for the event. To the photographers,
thank you Faruq (Yr. 2) and Simon (Yr. 2) for capturing the special moments shared between brothers and sisters of the CN Yang Scholars’ Club. We will forever cherish them. Special thanks go out to Prof Preiser and Ms Lee Hooi Chen. Your insightful guidance and especially your sponsorship is greatly treasured ;) Alas!

This is the dream team that brought to you the dinner and dance of a lifetime, WILD WILD WEST D&D 2012!
The Freshmen Orientation Camp (FOC) was the first official event of the year for the CNYS to involve the latest batch of scholars. Thanks to the dedication and ingenuity of the members of the CN Yang Scholars’ Club, the 3-day Camp Prestigio 2012 was a major success filled with exuberant fun and laughter.

THE PRANK

What kick-started the camp was a cunning prank from Jowell Cheng (Year 2). The scholars were informed that they were required to take an aptitude test to determine their standing in the cohort and would be assigned to different groups for the FOC based on their performance.

Subsequently they were led to a tutorial room, where they were instructed to finish the test in an hour. A camera had been set up at the front, much to the consternation of the Year 1 scholars. Frantic and nearly beside themselves, none of them noticed the mischievous glint behind the seniors’ eyes which quickly vanished behind their carefully schooled expressions.

The questions were meant to confuse and frustrate the scholars: some questions were hard and impossible to answer, while others were befuddling and did not make sense at all.

‘IQ TEST!!?’

One question even called for a demonstration of impossible physical flexibility: “Studies have shown that people who can lick their own elbows have a higher average IQ value. Please indicate whether or not you can do that.” Much to the delight and satisfaction of those who crafted the paper, many of the new scholars did stick their tongue out and tried to reach for their own elbow --- an insurmountable task which must have been facetious to bystanders.

It was only until one hour later, when all convened in the SBS lobby for the grouping to be announced, did the new CN Yang scholars realize that they had been good-naturedly ribbed. The scholars were quickly assigned to four groups (Vulcan, Sirius, Draco, Aurora) and driven to Aloha Changi, where more games and activities had been prepared to help scholars mingle and fraternize with one another. The four groups were pitted against each other in games like Waterslide and Candlefight, whereby participants had to “take one for the team” so as to bring victory to their own groups.
THE WAR

The night was filled with raucous laughter and cheering as the usually shy and reserved scholars revelled in said games. And a game of LaserQuest awaited them in the chalet! The interior had been painstakingly rearranged to become a veritable battle-ground. Participants were divided into groups of five and were issued their own gun and armour. Clutching their guns tightly to their chest, they went into the darkened house with dread and anticipation. Fighting broke out when they ran into each other, so did laughter and shouts of excitement despite the heated combat. By the end of the day, everyone was brimming with joy and exhilaration.

BEACH GAMES!

The usually hypnotizing 2-hour train ride ended in a whiff. As the participants sprinted to the end of their journey—the southernmost point in Sentosa—they were then introduced to an afternoon of beach games. Their eyes glistened with joy and shenanigans when they were given thick mattresses for their sumo game, where they charged at each other like fat Japanese sumos to push their opponent out of the ring.

No one was spared in the water-bomb game, whereby our participants finally had a chance to vent their anger against the group leaders who put them through the “ordeal”. To and fro the balloons flew, and whenever one landed it produced more laughter and sometimes, a yelp of pain.

THE AMAZING RACE

On the second day of the event, the scholars woke up to a mind-wrecking round of problem-solving. Each group was given a set of questions to answer in order to figure out the destination for their activities for the day. Little did they know that the questions were only the beginning of a barrage of tasks they were required to solve during the journey.

One by one the groups identified the correct destination—Sentosa—and went on their way. Scholars were given the most humiliating and daring albeit fun challenges: singing a love song to one flabbergasted stranger they encountered, singing songs on their train ride in front of an amused audience, and other equally outrageous experiences that would most certainly leave an indelible mark on their memories.
Girls demonstrated that they could be just as fierce and feral as, and sometimes even more so, than the guys in the captain’s ball. The rule that dictated only girls could score really set them loose, much to the bewilderment of the guys. Of course they were even more brain teasers. Such is the way of the CNYSF.

THE FINALE

After two days of devastatingly taxing activities, the scholars finally caught a break on the third. After a happy sleep-in, they were ushered to The Chevrons for the closing of the camp. A video depicting all the events that transpired during the FOC was shown, eliciting laughter and tears from our scholars. Professor Peter Preiser personally graced the event. He was optimistic that, after witnessing the energy and passion of the new batch of CN Yang scholars, they were ready scale insurmountable odds that awaited them. Finally, a sumptuous buffet spread was laid and was there any way to make this event even better? Hmm...A Karaoke machine?

WORDS FROM OIC

THE FOC WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN A SUCCESS IF NOT FOR THE DEDICATED FOC COMMITTEE. STARTING WITH THE PROGRAMMERS, EDWIN ANG, JOWELL CHENG, CHONG YOUD MING, VIVIAN TEH, VYNC TOH AND CHEN NINGJIA, THANK YOU FOR CONDUCTING THE GAMES. ALSO THANKS TO YOU MING FOR GETTING YOUR HALL STUFF FOR THE SUMO GAME. TO THE LOGISTICS TEAM - WILLIAM CHEN AND LOW YONG LIN, THANKS SO MUCH FOR SOURCING OUT ALL THOSE FUNNY ITEMS NEEDED FOR THE GAMES. THE CAMERA CREW, OMAR FARUQ, SAMUEL TAN AND SIMON CHUA, THANKS SO MUCH FOR CAPTURING ALL THOSE BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS OF THE CAMP AND SACRIFICING YOUR SLEEP. SPECIAL THANKS TO SAMUEL AND FARUQ FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE VIDEOS THROUGHOUT THE PAST MONTH. AND OF COURSE THE GLS! THANKS TO SADDEEP, XUYAO, CHIEN SIEW, ZHONGJI, CHEN LIN, ELIZABETH, ALVIN AND YANG YI, FOR YOUR AWESOME JOB AT HYPING UP THE NEW SCHOLARS AND KEEPING THEM IN CHECK. KUDOS TO SADDEEP AND CHIEN SIEW, FOR PULLING OFF THE FAKE FRESHIES PRANK SO SMOOTHLY AND TAKING THE TIME TO ATTEND THEIR LECTURES. LASTLY, WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO THANK EDWIN AND JOWELL FOR THEIR INVOLVEMENT IN THE CAMP PREPARATION. – BY ZHANG JIE HUANG
When all the rumbling tummies were filled, everyone settled around for a mini-movie screening, where short snippets from various horror movies were flashed and members of the audience were invited to guess the name of the movies. Of course, reactions varied during the movie screening. The brave souls gazed unblinkingly at the screen, thoroughly enjoying themselves, while a few covered their eyes and peeped occasionally at the screen through the gaps between their fingers, and others averted their gaze and stared at the floor.

Nevertheless, everyone had fun when it came to naming the movie. Eager members of the audience rushed up to the emcees and jostled for a chance to walk away with a chocolate bar, much to the amusement of everyone else.

Those who had not won any chocolates in the previous games need not have to worry, however, as up next was the chocolate tasting game, where participants were treated to an unidentifiable and formless brown goo of melted chocolate, and tasked with naming the chocolate. While there were indeed common names such as Rittersport and M&Ms among...
the mystery mixtures, there were also brands that were nearly unheard of! Isn’t it amazing to be able to find such a wide variety of chocolates in our supermarkets?

THE PARADE!

And what's a Halloween party without a costume parade? Among the best dressed were a devil with flaming red horns with a large crocodile balloon sculpture at his waist, a mad scientist with test tubes of colourful potions and wild hair, and zombies and monsters with blood stained faces and long, bloody lacerations festering on various parts of their bodies.

IN THE END...

As the night drew to a close, everyone queued patiently for a "trick or treat" of a different kind. Exam welfare packs filled to the brim with goodies like snacks and jellies, and mugging essentials like energy drinks and writing paper were presented to all who attended the event.

No doubt the products of hours of thoughtful planning and preparation, the exam welfare packs were well received by everyone. The excited rustling of the bags and the animated discussions of the contents provided a fitting closure to the event, as the crowd filed out of the hall and slipped away into the dark night.
THE DINNER AND DANCE, AN ANNUAL EVENT EXCLUSIVE TO MEMBERS OF THE CN YANG SCHOLARS’ CLUB, IS PROBABLY ONE OF THE FINEST AND MOST ELABORATE EVENTS ANY CLUB COULD OFFER. MONTHS OF HARD WORK AND DEDICATION ON BEHALF OF THE CN YANG D&D COMMITTEE CULMINATED IN A WONDROUS NIGHT TO REMEMBER.

The fun began as soon as our scholars stepped out of the pick-up coach. A mesmerizing view awaited them at the end of their ride: the golden beach aglow in the brilliant sunlight, the cerulean waves lapped languidly at its feet. Coconut trees stood silently along the coast, their leaves rustling ever so slightly as the gentle breeze, carrying the warmth and the humidity off the sea, slithered past them to greet the scholars. There was no doubt that everyone was entranced by the serenity and the utter beauty of the view that sprawled out in front of their eyes.

The euphoria and hunger were tangible in the air as soon as the dishes were laid out and the buffet was announced to start. Scholars were treated to an orgy of gastronomical delights. Assorted cuisines of the highest class had been prepared to cater to the need of even the pickiest gourmets. The salivating smell of smoked duck mixed with that of grilled lamb wafted in the air as our scholars busied themselves and their plates with slices of salmon sashimi and Thai seafood salad. For forty minutes even the girls forgot about their diet, allowing their papillae to their hard-earned tango with the juiciest lamb on earth.
The games and performances began after everyone was sated and brimming with post-prandial delight. What followed was a delightful line-up of performances by participants of the inaugural CN Yang Talente. Yangyi (Year 2) was the first performer for the event. Her impeccable rendition of “如果只有你” brought down the stage as people roared and clapped. Jowell (Year 2) and Noel (Year 2) presented to us the second performance of the night. The audiences were entranced as Jowell belted out “Superman” by Five for Fighting with his melancholic voice. Despite the tough competition, our Year One scholars gave their best shot and impressed everyone with their wonderful rendition of the song “We Are Young” by Fun from Gary (Year 1), Jerrica (Year 1) and Pearlyn (Year 1), at the end of which Jerrica and Pearlyn surprised the audience by bursting into the raucous Banana Song by the Minions of “Despicable Me”! Next up in the line-up of performances was “Sunday Morning” from Maroon 5 by Weslie, Ming Han, and Jeremy (Year 4). They captured not only the audiences’ heart but also the title as the first runners-up in the Talentime. The honour to the last performance was given Jiehuang (Year 2) who kept the audience grooved to the music with a funk-inspired dance piece and also emerged as the champion of the Talentime.

Besides the contest of singing and dressing, there was also the big finale to the whole event—the lucky draw. Weeks before D&D there had been rumours about the eye-riveting prizes, and yes, when they were revealed they really lived up to everyone’s expectations. In the first prize we had a Samsung tablet, and in the second was a mini-fridge, and in the third, a brand-new Samsung camera awaited its claimer. Of course they all found their way back to their much deserving owners.
The event ended on a high note with a speech from Prof. Preiser who revealed that the Caribbean held a special place in his heart as he grew up there. He shared with the scholars a philosophy of life that was deeply held in the Caribbean: To live in the present and not to worry about what will come. A very apt reminder for us scholars indeed!

A ROUND OF APPLAUSE TO...

We owe so much appreciation to the D&D committee and all those who were involved in the planning and execution of the event for its successful conclusion. We thank Zi Xin Ong (Year 1) for chairing the D&D committee and orchestrating the event. A round of applause goes to Ruo Qi Low (Year 1), for her instrumental role as the vice-chair. The same goes to the logistics team comprising Valerie (Year 1), Ka Wai (Year 1), Waldron (Year 1), for without their hard work the D&D couldn’t have come to fruition.

To Mabel (Year 1) we thank her for successfully publicizing the event and for the huge turn-up at the event; the Programmes team comprising Hanisah and Charlynn for their exciting and entertaining activities that enthralled the audience. Pearllyn (Year 1) and Le Min (Year 1), we thank you for your many contributions to the event including the printing and sales of tickets. Jie Ling (Year 1), we thank you for organizing and coordinating the Talentime performances that we all found so enjoyable. And to our emcees, Glenville (Year 1) and You Ming (Year 1), we thank you for your sacrifice for the event: we sat while you stood talked; we feasted while you went on an empty stomach. A special round of thanks goes to Ms. Lee Hooi Chen, for her invaluable input and contributions to our event. And we thank you all, our scholars and performers, for forging a night of wonder we will never forget.
Amidst the rising tension in the Korean peninsula in the months running up to this trip, this extremely fulfilling and beautiful trip to Seoul almost did not come to fruition. Fortunately, it did. The weeklong getaway is arguably well deserved for all of us who have poured their heart and soul into the torturous CN Yang academic year.

The trip’s tempo was set in the first hour upon touching down at the Incheon International Airport where we were ushered onto a tour bus and brought to our breakfast. Tired and worn out from the overnight flight, most of us shared mixed feelings towards the day’s worth of activities ahead of us. We began our tour proper when we were brought on board a ferry out to sea to feed seagulls. The excitement upon seeing a colony of seagulls gathering around us awaiting our treat quickly washed away our weariness.

Following next in the itinerary, we visited the Seoul tower where we were treated to a bird’s eye view of
worth of coaster rides and, for some, leisure time around a beautiful amusement park. At nighttime, we once again had plenty of time to roam the streets around our hotel and explore more of the nightlife in Seoul.

The next day, we travelled to SNU for a mini exchange. I believed it was a real eye opener for many of us as we do not have a chance to visit top universities in other countries. The sheer size of the campus easily eclipsed NTU’s and there was plenty of scenery around the university. The buildings, like its campus, were very large and housed many facilities. The range of courses on offer at SNU is also wider than that of NTU with medicine and law being the most sought after courses. As the three student ambassadors from SNU
brought us around the engineering campus, some of us had the chance to chat with them to understand more about life at SNU and also the differences between our studying habits and theirs. My biggest takeaway from the exchange is not about understanding more about their university and students’ lives but rather the inspiration and motivation I received to study at a top overseas university. I believed that some of us might feel the same and, for those who have yet to go on exchange, we will be looking forward to it in our subsequent academic years.

After lunch and a brief visit to a cosmetic shop, we visited the trick eye museum where we had fun with the multitude of optical illusions. Walking through the museum, we all unleashed our creativity to get the best photo shoots possible out of the illusions on display.

Before ending the day, we proceeded to Sinchon Fashion Street for another round of shopping.

In day four of our tour, we kicked started the day with a visit to the Unification Observatory. This visit is particularly significant amidst the current situation in the Korean peninsula. From the many vantage points around the observatory, we could peer into the infamous North Korea land and also observe the military outposts situated along the South Korea border. While staring at the two coasts belonging to North and South Korea, it can be hard to grapple with the reality that we are actually staring at two countries technically still in a state of war. This reality makes me much more appreciative of the peace we enjoy in Singapore.

Following the military theme, we were brought to the War Memorial Museum to view the various war memorabilia on display. After which, we were allowed to go on yet another shopping spree at Itaewon and Dondaemun. Honestly, the good mix of history and cultural lessons and relaxing periods of shopping really showcases how culturally diversified Seoul can be and why it is a fantastic place to visit for a tourist.

After a relaxing morning on Nami Island, we returned to mainland for lunch before proceeding to Myeongdong for shopping. As most of us had done enough shopping for the past few days in Seoul, we were eagerly looking forward to the next activity in the itinerary – Euna Farm. Following a relatively long two hour bus ride, we awakened to the sight of a rural landscape. The farm tour was extremely fun for us as we got to escape the hustle and bustle of city life and experience life at a farm. From feeding cows to making our very own ice cream and even playing with the farmer’s children, the short farm visit was an enriching experience for most of us used to the urban lifestyle. It was with much sadness that we bade farewell to the farm as we took the short tractor ride back to our tour bus.

For our last full day left in Seoul, we started with a visit to the Kim Chi School. The guided lesson on making Kim Chi was an eye opener for all of us who have been eating this vegetable for almost all our meals in Seoul. After which we proceeded to try on traditional costumes and had our photos taken for keepsake.

Having lived in Singapore for most of my life, I have the privilege of being
sheltered from all kinds of natural disasters. Hence the visit to the Seoul Citizen Safety Training Center was a new experience for me as I was given a chance to experience a simulation of an earthquake measuring around 7 on the Richter scale, a strong typhoon and a scenario of being trapped in a dark room filled with smoke.

After the fun filled afternoon, we were given the chance once again to do some shopping at Myeongdong district before ending the night with the famous Nanta Show.

As our last day in Korea began, we reluctantly left our hotel and went to a place named Ice Gallery. Inside Ice Gallery, we were “taught” how to create useful sculptures such as a glass out of a block of ice. Inspired by the work of the instructor, we all were eager to create a sculpture of our own. At the end, we were all treated to a drink using our own sculpture as the drink holder.

As a fitting end to our Korea trip, the lunch was a traditional Korean feast for all of us.

The final stop of our itinerary was a local product shop where most of us look to expend all our remaining Korean wons and in the meantime buy some meaningful products for our loved ones back home. Following a short trip back to Incheon International Airport, we bade farewell to the tour guide and Seoul, and head back to Singapore with a luggage full of memories and fun shared amongst all the CN Yang scholars who made it for this trip.

In the very short seven packed days we spent in Seoul, we have gained much valuable experience in terms of exposure to Korean culture and the educational facilities at Seoul National University (SNU). However, this trip meant more to all of us than just these experiences we garnered. The camaraderie and memorable moments shared amongst all the scholars from across different batches definitely made the trip a lot more fulfilling and enriching as well.

On departure day, it was easy to see from many of our faces that Seoul has indeed left a lasting and beautiful impression on us. Hopefully, through this article, I have been able to convey the memories and experiences I had of Seoul to you too!
COMMON MISCONCEPTION: SHAVING MAKES HAIR GROW BACK THICKER OR COARSER

The reason that so many people believe this is that uncut hair ends up developing a taper – or split ends – both of which feel softer than freshly cut hair. It is for this reason that a man’s beard feels soft, but stubble feels rough.

THE FACT: COCONUT WATER CAN BE USED (IN EMERGENCIES) AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR BLOOD PLASMA

The reason for this is that coconut water (the water found in coconuts – not to be confused with coconut milk, which comes from the flesh of the coconut) is sterile and has an ideal pH level.

FAKE BUTTON

Many traffic lights and lift buttons are actually placebo buttons – in other words, they do nothing at all when pressed. They exist to give the presser the feeling of control.

HOT HEAD

40 to 50 per cent of body heat can be lost through the head (no hat) as a result of its extensive circulatory network.

AMAZING FACTS By Edwin Ang
**THE MYTH: EATING AT NIGHT MAKES YOU FAT**

Secret snackers rejoice! This is a complete myth. It doesn’t matter what time of day you eat, as long as you eat only the total calories that you burn each day, you will not gain weight.

If you eat fewer calories than you burn, you will lose weight, and if you eat more calories, you will gain. It is as simple as that.

Having said that, the routine of three meals a day at the same time each day can have other benefits in life (routine is good and it helps humans work more effectively), but snacks at night are no worse than snacks in the morning or afternoon.

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**THE MYTH: BRAIN CELLS CAN’T REGENERATE – IF YOU KILL A BRAIN CELL, IT IS NEVER REPLACED**

The reason for this myth being so common is that it was believed and taught by the science community for a very long time.

But in 1998, scientists at the Sweden and the Salk Institute in La Jolla, California discovered that brain cells in mature humans can regenerate.

It had been long believed that complex brains would be disrupted by new cell growth, but the study found that the memory and learning center of the brain can create new cells – giving hope for an eventual cure for illnesses like Alzheimer’s.

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**THE ERROR: DRINKING ALCOHOL WARMES YOU UP**

When you drink alcohol, your body temperature drops! This is because alcohol allows more blood to reach the surface of the body, and more heat is radiated or conducted away. Any feeling of warmth experienced after drinking alcohol is explained by the fact that this flow of blood to the surface warms the skin and the ends of the sensory nerves in the skin, and these convey to the brain a sensation of warmth.
WOULDN’T IT BE NICE IF WE COULD JUST LOOK AT A PAGE ONCE AND NEVER FORGET ITS CONTENT? THE BAD NEWS IS THAT NOT EVERYONE HAS PHOTOGRAPHIC MEMORY, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS EIDETIC MEMORY, BUT THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT WE CAN ACTUALLY IMPROVE OUR MEMORY WITH PRACTICE AND TIME.

Learn more about how our memory works and we will be able to perform better and more efficiently at work and in life too.

BASIC FUNCTIONS OF THE BRAIN
Understanding that the human brain can change through experience is the first step to improving memory function. Neuroplasticity is the mechanism by which the brain encodes experience, learns new behaviours and relearns lost behaviour if the brain has been damaged.

Meaning to say that every experience remains in our memory as a record and when we recall memories, we make associations with the environment and draw connections. When you are having difficulty recalling new material, you can try to help bring it to mind by thinking about what you have associated it with.

LIFESTYLE
Research has found that chronic and acute stresses have adverse effects on memory processing systems. Long term stress affects your focus by damaging the function of the hippocampus – the part of your brain that is important for forming new memories. You wouldn’t want to end up with only short term memory, do you?

Protect your hippocampus by getting sufficient sleep every night and don’t forget to exercise! Working out causes neurogenesis (the creation of new neurons). The new neurons are created in the hippocampus, the center of learning and memory in the brain.

ASSOCIATE
Change the way you relate to things! Out of all the things you experience in a day, your short-term memory can only hold five to nine pieces of information at a time but this can be further improved on. In order to help you better remember things for a longer period of time, memory schools teach this method – learn to make links that are vivid and bizarre. That way, it would make an impression that lasts longer than when you try to plainly memorize something.
NATURAL LEARNING RHYTHM

If you were to hear a list of 30 words and were then asked to recall them, you would realize that you are only able to recall some words from the beginning of the list and some from the end and probably only a few from the middle. These effects are known as primacy (words from beginning of list) and recency (words from end of list).

Make use of this knowledge! If you were to study for hours without breaks, you would find that the dip in recall between primacy and recency effects would be considerable. On the other hand, if you stopped every five minutes, you would not get into the flow of learning.

Therefore it is important to find a balance between the two extremes. Study for as long as you like but make sure it is in 20-50 minute chunks with breaks of 10 minutes where relaxation and/or something physical and fun is mandatory.

(Above) One of the first drawings of a neuron by Ramón y Cajal

REVIEW WHAT YOU HAVE LEARNT!

A well-known psychologist and researcher, Ebbinghaus, proved that within 1-2 days, we forget about 80% of what we have learned. To overcome that, it is important that we review what we have learnt. At the end of an hour’s learning, your mind integrates the information that you have just studied so that the ability to recall it actually rises and peaks after about 10 minutes but fall dramatically after that.

So now if you review what you’ve learnt at that 10 minute point, you will reinforce information at its strongest. The next review checkpoints will then occur 1 day after learning, 1 week after learning, 1 month after learning and the final review should occur 6 months after learning to ensure that the information is firmly logged in your long-term memory.
AS DSLRS GET MORE AFFORDABLE AND DIGITAL CAMERAS GET MORE TECHNOLOGICALLY ADVANCED, WE ARE CONSTANTLY EXPOSED TO MUCH PHOTOGRAPHY TERMINOLOGY FROM BOTH OUR FRIENDS AND THE MEDIA AROUND US. HERE’S A SIMPLE GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING SOME OF THESE TECHNICAL JARGON AND WEIRD-SOUNDING NAMES AND A COUPLE OF TIPS FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN IMPROVING THEIR PHOTOGRAPHY SKILL.

APERTURE
Refers to the multiple blades (usually 5-8 blades) that form a circular gap which light passes through from the lens to your camera sensor. It is also referred to as “f-stop”; with a larger aperture denoting a smaller value of # in “f/#”.
Larger aperture = more light enters the sensor, shallower depth of field, increased bokeh.

EXPOSURE
Refers to the intensity of light that land upon the sensor.
Over-exposure = camera sensor being over exposed to light, thus resulting in bright and possibly all white images

ISO
Refers to the sensitivity of the sensor.
High ISO = more sensitive to light, brighter photographs, more noise in photograph.

SHUTTER SPEED
Refers to how long the sensor of the camera is exposed to the incoming light, which registers an image on the sensor.
High shutter speed = less light enters the sensor, increased ability in capturing objects in mid-motion.
**WHITE**

Refers the process of removing unrealistic colour-casts, so that objects that appear white in person are rendered white in your photo.

Proper camera white balance has to take into account the "colour temperature" of a light source, which refers to the relative warmth or coolness of white light. Our eyes are very good at judging what is white under different light sources, but beware! Digital cameras often have great difficulty with auto white balance (AWB).

**DEPTH OF FIELD**

Refers to the distance in front and behind a point that is the subject of focus. All objects within this distance will also be in focus.

Shallow depth of field = objects in between infinity to near the focus point are all out of focus.

**BOKEH**

Refers to how light that are out of focus are being observed as balls of light due to the shape of the aperture.

Good bokeh = the balls of light are perfectly round in shape and everything that is not the object of attention is not in focus.

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**TIPS**

1. **BE CRITICAL OF YOUR PHOTOGRAPH.**

When you start being critical of your own photographs, you push yourself to take better shots. Don’t blame your gear when you have bad photographs, it is only one of many tools you have as a photographer.

2. **BE PREPARED TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS WHEN YOU LEAST EXPECT.**

The best shots are often captured at the most unexpected of moments and the best camera is the one you have ready when you want to take a photograph.

3. **THINK OUT OF THE BOX.**

Take photographs from different perspectives and angles. Try shooting from as high as you can reach or as low to the ground from time to time, you may be surprised at how different the shots can turn out to be.

4. **MASTER THE ART OF LIGHTING.**

Light is used to illuminate your shot or even to accentuate certain features of the person/object you are photographing. Make use of all available light to the best of your abilities! Experiment to find out how the different ways light landing on your object/person of interest can affect the feel of your photograph.

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Simon Chua, Club President 2011/12
HAD A TOUGH DAY AT SCHOOL OR AT WORK? THROW YOUR TROUBLES BEHIND YOU AND LET US BRING YOU INTO A WORLD OF FANTASY!

I would not profess to be a Final Fantasy Fanatic, but I have completed enough Final Fantasy games to know what Eidolons, Guardian Force, Summons and Espers are. For the benefit of those who have never played the game before, I shall explain simply what this game is about.

Final Fantasy (FF) is a Role-Playing Game (RPG) made by SquareSoft Company. You play the role as the main character in a fantasy world, and together with your companions, save the world (hence Final Fantasy). Being a game that resonates well with many all over the world, it is no wonder that SquareSoft has produced CGI (Computer-Generated Imagery) FF movies, spin-off FF games that are non-RPG to cater to their fans. There is even a Final Fantasy Store in Japan! It is certainly not hard to see why Final Fantasy is one of my favorite games.

Currently, there are 13 final fantasy titles with some having sequel games and even a CGI movie. Personally, I have played final fantasy 4 to 9 and in the midst of FF10. The very first time I started to play FF I immediately fell in love with it. One might ask, “What makes Final Fantasy so different from other RPG games?” This is actually a very subjective question and hence different people will have different answers to this.

In my opinion, FF is different from other games because of the battle system. The battle system changes in every title and it requires some mental challenge to accustom oneself to this set of rules. I personally find it gratifying to be able to master the battle system to boost my characters’ stats. The best part is when I am able to defeat the strongest monster in the game. It makes the FF experience complete. Also, there are a myriad of skills that each character has and a plethora of magic that makes the game so much

Secondly, the summons and the characters in the game are always interesting to look at. In every FF game, there are creatures that can be summoned to aid your character in battle. Although these ‘summons’ are called by different names in different series, they essentially have the

By Gan Koon Siang
same purpose. Certain Summons is repeated in all the Final Fantasy series like Ifrit, Shiva, Odin and Bahamut. Each series has a different animation that is breath-taking. The greatest accomplishment is when the ultimate summon is obtained, and this is through a series of side quests that are never easy.

The character in each game embodies a different trait, albeit sometimes not a good one. The game immerses you into the character of the person and frequently enables you to make a decision, which may influence responses. Furthermore, the characters are extremely good-looking. With so many final fantasy series, one can always find a character that closely resembles the type of partner that you might fancy.

There are many other aspects of FF that are very influential such as the graphics, storyline and the soundtracks. Everything combined together is a winning formula for an RPG fan like me. To end off, I would like to state some of my favourites in FF.

Favorite male character: Bartz from FF5.
Favorite Female character: Tifa from FF7 or recently Lightning from FF13.
Favorite Magic Spell: Ultima.
Favorite Summon: Odin.
Favorite party combination: Main character, Summoner/Healer, Black Mage/Summoner.
Favorite storyline: FF7.
Favorite series: FF5.
Favorite Strongest monster: Omega weapon from FF8.

There are many more others but I shall not state. For those who have played FF, what are your Faves?

TAKE A BREAK!

While games can be a great way to relieve stress, remember to take a break every once in a while.

According to a study conducted by Jeffrey Snodgrass, associate professor of anthropology at Colorado State University, Players who became more absorbed in the game reported more stress relief.

"The idea is that if you lose yourself, you escape," Snodgrass said. "But it is important to note that the escape must be controlled and temporary to be positive, so that it leads to rejuvenation rather than simple problem avoidance, which in the end only increases the experience of stress."
From Halloween to D&D, our dedicated 5th CN Yang Scholars’ Club’s committee members worked hard to make every scholar’s university life enjoyable and memorable. Let us hear what they themselves think of their experience in the past year!

**CHENG SHENG DA JOWELL (PRESIDENT)**

Being the President of CN Yang Scholars’ Club has been a humbling and fruitful journey for me. It is an honor to lead a team of dedicated scholars who are willing to serve the CN Yang scholars community. I am heartened to see them grow in skill and character. I am proud to say that the club has done well and will continue to achieve greater heights in years to come.

We, the 5th CN Yang Scholars Committee, have achieved much this year, like holding an extravagant Dinner & Dance and initiating the CN Yang Scholars Alumni Association. In the process I was taught many things by my peers. I was taught to love the people that I work with. I was also taught to have daring initiative. And finally, I was taught the importance of effective communication. I am grateful to my team for teaching me these values.

**NOEL LEE EN GUANG (VICE PRESIDENT)**

I hope that the committee members can see their services to the club as more than just obligations, but instead, opportunities for personal development while serving the general members of the club. In the future, I hope that the club can be perceived as a professionally run organization so as to gain greater prestige for the club as well as for the NTU CN Yang Scholars Programme through corporate, alumni and public outreach.

**EDWIN ANG CHING JITT (HONORARY GENERAL SECRETARY)**

Despite the challenging tasks for committee members, the sense of accomplishment that followed their completion was incomparable. Moreover, working with friends added enjoyment into it. In all, taking up the position of financial controller in CN Yang Scholars’ Club has made my life in university more fun and fulfilling. The experiences, skills, friendships and sense of accomplishment gained made everything worthwhile.

**VYNC TOH MING WAH (FINANCIAL CONTROLLER)**
Being the pioneers for the bizmag portfolio in the committee has been a valuable experience. Without much prior experience from the club, we had to figure our way through various issues and find solutions that worked best for the club. Meeting with sponsors has been much more fulfilling and less stressful than I expected as they willingly guide us along on sponsorship issues. Furthermore, speaking with them has helped me look at things from other perspectives and enriched me with newer insights on life. I believe that our work has helped the club one step forward to gaining more sponsorship in future.

YANG MENGYING (DIRECTOR)
LOW RUO QI (ASST DIRECTOR)

It has been fun and exciting. We have set up a Facebook page for CN Yang Scholars’ Club to document the milestones of each cohort of CN Yang Scholars. For outreach events, we have enhanced the selection process of ambassadors, and also compiled an FAQ document to better prepare the ambassadors for possible questions they may face. We are in the midst of planning for the inaugural Alumni Tea Session, with the aim of forming the 1st Alumni Association. In all, the journey has not been easy, but it has been definitely worth the effort. We feel that overcoming these challenges has allowed both of us to grow not just as a Portfolio but as people as well.

TONG KA WAI (DIRECTOR)
AW JUN JIE WALDRON (ASST DIRECTOR)

This past year has been an exciting and fulfilling experience, being part of the CN Yang Scholars Committee as the director of overseas portfolio. It is something that you need to step out of your comfort zone, especially when you need to plan a trip for your fellow students and including the visit to an overseas university of their choice. Many soft-skills can be learnt and applied from this position, in terms of communication and thinking ahead. You will need to accept the idea of rejection, as many universities may not be keen to accept visitors. Overall, it is a memorable journey that I have undertaken. There are many responsibilities involved, but it is all worthwhile when you see the fruits of your efforts being appreciated by fellow students.

VALERIE GOH SWEE TING (DIRECTOR)
GLENVILLE LEE SHU-YUAN (ASST DIRECTOR)
It has been a great honor to work together with other committee members in the CN Yang Scholars’ Club. As the Press and Publications (P&P) director, it has been a priceless experience together with my assistant directors. We may not be talented in painting nor designing, but we have no doubt put in every effort to beautify our notice board, to manage our own club website, to design our unofficial club T-shirts and survival T-shirts as well as to compile Reminiscence, our upcoming CN Yang Scholars’ Club magazine. We have learnt a lot from each other and also from other members in the CN Yang Scholars Committee. I believe that my one year’s service in the CN Yang Scholars’ Club would be one of the most memorable journeys in my life.

XIAO TONG (DIRECTOR)
CHOO LE MIN (ASST DIRECTOR)
LU QI (ASST DIRECTOR)

On the whole, we feel that the CNYSC committee is a fantastic opportunity to plan and execute events. It allows most of us with little experience to take on larger responsibilities. Through the planning and execution of these events, we have gained valuable experience and learnt much from the people involved, be it seniors or peers. Working in the S&W committee has allowed us to get to know more people and has provided us with a better understanding of others. In addition, it has helped develop our time management skills as the planning, preparation and execution of events can be rather time intensive.

Elizabeth Ann Joseph (Director)
Er Jie Ling (Asst Director)
Ong Zi Xin (Asst Director)

CN YANG SCHOLARS’ CLUB
5TH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
WELL DONE!!!
The past four years have been extremely fulfilling, yet as all good times do, those years flew past in the blink of an eye. As we move on to our next phase of life, I would like to congratulate my fellow batch mates on finally graduating! While graduation does spell a pleasant end to our hectic undergraduate years, it also marks the start to a whole new exciting journey in the years to come. I wish the best of luck to all in pursuing their future careers or further studies and may all be smooth sailing. Looking back at my undergraduate years, the best memories I had were those moments outside the lecture theatre and times spent with friends. Hence, I would like to encourage the juniors to be more actively involved in non-academic activities outside the classroom and to treasure the moments with friends. Life as an undergrad can certainly be exciting, colourful and more than just studying if you put in the effort to make a difference.

Tee Chin Yun, CBE

If I have to sum up my CNYSP experiences in one word, I would choose “rojak”. It was a mixture of bitter sweet stuffs. For one part, CNYSP was like the sour pineapple, especially during the first semester. It woke me up from my long, sleepy holiday after senior high school graduation. No mercy man! But lots of challenges from the program were the catalyst that made us all as a batch, bonded together, regardless of our major. I still remembered the days where I would go around asking for help on understanding the Math modules. Lots of friends were more than willing to do so! CNYSP was also like the sprinkle of finely chopped roasted peanuts. CNYSP has always encouraged their scholars to go on semester-long exchange or overseas study trip, where we could network with other students in other countries. I have been so blessed that I could join 2 overseas trips organized by the CNYSC. They were just like the chopped peanuts, exciting and yummy!

All in all, I have never regretted choosing to join CNYSP. I hope you (yes, I am referring to all my dear juniors in the program), too! Please enjoy it while it lasts. Make the moments count. Lastly, all the best! :D

Maria Fransiska Tanujaya, CBE

Dear friends we’ve finally made it! We’ve come a long way from attending our first few exciting maths lectures together. I’m not too sure how much better my life is thanks to the time-independent Schrödinger’s equation but I know university life would never have been as fun without you all. Thanks for all the memories! And to all the brave scholars still battling the evils of the bell curve: Hang in there! The world awaits!

Tan Ming Han, ME
It's like a journey to meet the Wizard of Oz. We follow a certain route, meet new friends and defeat the wicked witch of the west (examinations) only to get rewards from the Wizard. So yes, to all my fellow batch mates, we have defeated the wicked witch of the west and now the wizard passes us something called the degree and the CN Yang certificate! As we venture out to the working or academia world, let us remember the many life lessons we have experienced in our journey and dictate your own fate and life plans! As for the juniors, of course getting your grades is important, but do remember that you validate your own capabilities; not the wizard. Thus, embrace in healthy competition, collaborate and be happy for other people's success like how you would want them to be for you. Allow your school friends and batch mates to become your “home” away from home. So stay hungry and thirsty for knowledge for that dream somewhere over the rainbow.

MOHAMMAD ZAIDI BIN ARIFFIN, AERO

It is until today I can say that the best choice I have made in university was joining CN Yang Scholars family! The program offered me a great opportunity to explore Science deeply despite of my Engineering background, to get involved in high level researches, to have inspiring meetings with top scientists, and to publish my own creative ideas! I am also grateful for the friends I have made in CN Yang Scholars Programme! I will never forget the jokes we made during our CN Yang education trip in Korea, the BBQ gatherings we held every semester, and the fantastic performances my peers did in annual CN Yang dinners! We shared these joyful moments, and we also know true friends should do more. My dear CN Yang friends texted “all the best!” to me before important exams, offered silent hugs when I failed a job interview, and always encouraged me to challenge and achieve more!

My dear juniors, isn’t the university life wonderful? We are exposed to unique scientific research experiences not found anywhere else, and in the process we build strong friendships we will always cherish and benefit from, isn’t it a great university life? So do enjoy and cherish the time you have in the program.

TU YU, CBE

While everyone in the CN Yang Scholars Programme is book-smart and can mingle around easily from Biology to Quantum Mechanics, we have fun whenever the time comes! One of the best times in my memory would be the Overseas Outreach trip to Korea. Not only was it nicely planned by the committees, it was also subsidized! (Big thanks to the CNYSP office!) The trip was very fruitful, especially when the KAIST student ambassadors brought us to the local attractions at Busan. It was certainly a non-touristy experience.

CNYSP had done certain endeavours to promote students to go overseas. Whenever you have the opportunity to join overseas outreach or student exchange, don’t hesitate to go for it! Rest assured, it will leave you with precious memories for your convocation dinner.

TAN ZHEN TAK, MATH

To our graduating seniors,

This article was created as our way to say goodbye to you. We may not know every one of you, but to us, you guys are the forerunners: you have gone through things we are going through right now or will experience soon in the future. You are the proud finishers of this four-year marathon, and your triumph illuminates our paths and your success assuages our fear of the challenges ahead.

Long live the friendships amongst CN Yang scholars! Auld Lang Syne.

P&P