2015 Donors Appreciation Events

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The Business & Community Partners Awards and Appreciation Dinner 2015 held on 5th November 2015 reflects the philanthropic collaboration between NTU and the business community over the last five years. Companies, clans and religious organisations over the years have come together to make a difference in the lives of students.

Through their financial support, many students have been able to realise their dreams. This was reflected by Mr Simon Lee, Chief Executive Officer of Thatz International Pte Ltd, who takes over from Ms Teo Ser Lee as the Chair for BCP. "Many of the applicants are actually hard-pressed for financial support to pursue their tertiary education. Annually, 20 percent of the NTU students are in need of financial assistance. Thus, I think it must be a calling for me to devote some of my time to further the cause of the BCP programme."

Through the BCP programme, bursaries have been established so that students from disadvantaged families will not find the doors to a quality education closed to them. The BCP programme continues to build and sustain relationships with the corporate sector that provides the support needed for the future leaders of tomorrow.

Graduation Giving

Heartfelt giving among NTU Graduates

The Class of 2015 came together to fulfill the tradition of giving back to their alma mater. By making a gift to NTU, these students expressed their gratitude for the education they received.

The Class of 2015 were given various opportunities to make their gift to NTU and these include Hell visits, purchase of Halloween Horror Nights tickets, Zombie Run, Movie Night and roadshows. Through their collective effort of giving back to NTU, they have empowered the lives of other students, especially those who are financially constrained.

"Giving to NTU is just a little service I can do to help other students fulfill their dreams of achieving a degree and going on to do great things in life. And knowing that my contribution will boost NTU's global ranking is also an important consideration" says Sandhya Devi, a recent graduate from the School of Biological Sciences.

During convocation, these graduates were able to meet the bursary recipients, many of whom were helping out with the registration, pinning the I GAVE pins and also at the photo booth kiosk. It was an opportunity for these recipients to thank the alumni who have empowered their lives. For the Class of 2015, it was an opportunity to continue with the legacy of giving, strongly entrenched in NTU.
Faculty & Staff Giving

Ambassador Retreat

The Faculty of Science Ambassadors play an integral role in the success of the Faculty & Staff Giving campaign in NTU. A wide range of activities and initiatives are planned to encourage Faculty members to participate and support as well as to engage them for future events. This retreat also serves as a great platform for the ambassadors to get to know each other and bond together as a family.

The ambassadors were each given tokens of appreciation including a laptop for identification, a JCO voucher, and a bottle of Blue Drop sponsored by Yummi House. Apart from icebreaker games, they were also quizzed on Singapore as part of the SG50 celebration. The ambassadors were broken up into groups of eight to answer questions related to SG50 as well as Singapore’s history. The group that got the highest amount of points on the questionnaire walked away with $5 NTUC Vouchers each.

The lunch retreat ended with a lucky draw with prizes ranging from movie vouchers to $30 and $50 Takashimaya vouchers.

Parents Giving

Setting an Example through Giving

Mr. Lee Wan Choy is the proud father of two university graduates — his daughter Evelyn Lee Su Leen graduated from NTU in August this year from the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, while his son completed his studies at University of Buffalo in 2013.

While many parents are content to be sporadically updated on their child’s progress in university, Mr. Lee wanted to do more: “Ever since he taught the NTU Parents Giving programme two years ago, he has been supporting the initiative with his contributions.”

“We have been lucky to have a government that supports most of a university’s needs as compared to other countries where public universities are deprived of the necessary finances for the basic mainframe and administrative costs. The result is deterioration on the infrastructure, education standards and most importantly morale of the staff,” reflected Mr. Lee, a technical consultant with an American company. “There are other expenses and incidental costs incurred by the university, such as bursaries and certain programmes related to education and students, which indeed need support from both the public and parents to ensure their continuity,” explained Mr. Lee on why he did not agree with the view that it was the responsibility of the government to provide all of a university’s finances.

Sharing what inspired him to contribute to NTU Parents Giving, Mr. Lee added, “I am just doing my part to contribute back to society after having gone through difficulties during my tertiary days in England, and indeed am glad to be able to contribute to this programme.”

“I would like to encourage other parents to chip in or participate in the Parents Giving programme, which ultimately will benefit students who are in need of our help in overcoming their financial situation,” Mr. Lee urged.

“We as parents will be proud as we are able to help by contributing and will in return definitely encourage and influence our own children to participate when they are working and become parents themselves.”

Phonathon

Fellowship of the Ring

Mentor phonathon and a common mental image might be harried and stressed students going through an unwinding list of alumni to call, appealing to them to support their alma mater NTU through giving.

While NTU’s phonathon callers indeed shoulder the important responsibility of galvanising the larger NTU family to support the university’s mission to advance education and research, the students are far from harried and stressed.

Quite the opposite. Between calls, birthdays are celebrated, encouragements are given, and the day’s stress dissipate in the warm fellowship among the callers. In fact, the NTU phonathon team takes building a positive atmosphere and close bond so seriously that it embarks on two outings each year. The most recent outing took place in June, where the intrepid callers let their hair down at Lost SG, a real-life escape game, followed by a hearty meal at Eighteen Chefs and a trip to the SEA Games carnival.

“You were separated into groups and attempted the adventure game where we were locked in a room together and were required to use the different elements found in the room to solve a series of puzzles to escape the room within a certain time limit. During this game we were tested on our ability to think out of the box to escape the room,” recalled Amilia Ong, a supervisor on the phonathon team.

“It is important for us to build camaraderie and team spirit in order to help improve engagement at work,” added Amilia, who majors in biological sciences.

“By fostering friendship among the callers, it makes our job, as student callers more enjoyable and satisfying knowing we have teams of friends who are in it together at work. We are then able to create a sense of purpose and promote positive mentality in our callers. At the end of the day, we hope as a team we can bring out the best in each other and create a sense of identity,” Amilia explained.

Indeed, the bonding sessions form some of the most memorable moments for the phonathon supervisor, now a Year 3 student.

Recounting her journey in the phonathon room over the years from a novice caller to now a supervisor, Amilia concluded, “As a supervisor, my role as a caller has changed and I now hold more responsibilities. These responsibilities include making sure our callers are well-prepared and equipped with the necessary skills to make calls and making sure that the gifts given by our generous alumni tally at the end of the day.”
Over the years, more NTU alumni are coming forward to contribute to their beloved alma mater, knowing that their giving provides NTU with the much needed additional resources to do more for the campus community.

And even though alumni giving is relatively new to Singapore compared to the time-honoured tradition that it is in American and British universities, one alumnus who answered the appeal to contribute to NTU’s alumni giving programme is V Srikrishnan.

“Yes, even though alumni giving is a new concept in this part of the world, I have always believed in education, and this is a small way in which I can contribute to creating the future leaders of Singapore. It is always a good thing to help someone achieve their dreams,” said Sri, who graduated in 1985 from the then Nanyang Technological Institute (NTI).

Seeing his role as a giver a catalyst, the mechanical engineering graduate said, “There are many young people who are very capable but do not have the means to pursue their dreams. I hope that my contribution is a small ‘push-up’ in helping these people achieve their dreams.”

While the NTU of today is leaps and bounds different from the NTI he graduated from 30 years ago, Sri continues to hold fond memories of his time playing hockey and contributing to the Indian Association.

His favourite memory though, comes from his hostel days living in Block A.

“We were the first batch and there was no one else in the entire campus except some lecturers who stayed on campus. We had lots of fun doing things for ourselves and brought the entire cohort very close together,” the industrial instrumentation professional recounted.

As for his parting exhortation to fellow alumni who are hesitating as to whether they should support the alumni giving programme, Sri had this to say: “Do give. This will help to grow society and create future leaders who will be able to create further advancement in society. Even $1 will help.”