The Path Behind, the Road Ahead

Valedictorians from the Class of 2019 share how NTU has shaped them as individuals and primed them to make contributions to society

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The NTULink magazine is printed on environmentally friendly paper.
MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Alumni,

As a young university, NTU Singapore constantly strives to improve in all its activities, and so our faculty, staff, students and alumni have much to be proud of their part in helping NTU reach historic highs this year in many key academic endeavours.

NTU has risen to its highest position ever in every major international ranking of global universities. The University was placed 11th in the world in the latest Quacquarelli Symonds (Q5) global league table of top universities; for the sixth year running, NTU was ranked 1st in the QS Top 50 Under 50 ranking, for universities under 50 years old.

In the Times Higher Education rankings, NTU moved into the world’s top 50 universities for the first time. NTU climbed 23 places in the latest ShanghaiRanking Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU), our best performance since ARWU rankings began in 2003. We have also been broken into the Top 50 of the US News & World Report Best Global Universities ranking for the first time.

All of these rankings, published by ranking organisations from three different continents, have put the global spotlight on our improving performance in education and research. But rankings are far from being the only measure of success.

This year, NTU faculty and staff have won a record volume of research grants, a large fraction of which are based on highly competitive processes relying on international peer review. Their scholarly research, published in the most selective and highest impact journals, has seen a 50% increase over that of the previous year.

For our Presidential Postdoctoral Fellowship programme established in 2018, we received almost 900 applications this year from candidates at top institutions in 73 countries vying for only 12 positions, making it the most competitive talent recruitment programme in NTU’s history. And earlier this year, Edward Yee, one of our valedictorians of NTU’s Class of 2019, was selected as a Rhodes Scholar to further his studies at Oxford University. Edward became the first Singaporean in 14 years to receive this honour.

From these strong foundations, we are increasingly focussing our efforts on NTU’s development and positioning as a Smart Campus, seeking to harness the power of digital technology and tech-enabled solutions to enrich and improve the way we learn, work and live.

We are not doing this alone but strengthening our ties with partners in both the public and private sectors. For example, we have just launched the $48 million Waste-to-Energy Research Facility together with Singapore’s National Environment Agency, which turns municipal solid waste from the NTU campus into electricity and resources.

This facility exemplifies our broader message to the world. Here at NTU, we have a Smart Campus that is translating basic research across several disciplines into real-world practice and impact. The waste-to-energy facility provides one example of how the NTU Smart Campus can ‘walk the talk’ on our energy and environmental commitments.

Industry collaborators are also extending their research partnerships with NTU. The Rolls-Royce@NTU Corporate Laboratory, established in 2013, was Singapore’s first corporate lab in a university. Phase 1 included 53 research projects, while phase 2, officially launched a few months ago with a budget of $80 million over four years, will comprise 29 projects that seek to develop novel technologies to power the future of aircraft propulsion.

As we build and sustain research collaborations, we leverage them to create new opportunities for our undergraduates to gain industry experience. The manufacturing industry is a key pillar of Singapore’s economy. We have launched the NTU-JTC Industry Talent Development Programme, which will allow students to learn about the latest technologies through internships and projects in the Jurong Innovation District.

This year, NTU’s Centre for Population Health Sciences has been designated as the World Health Organisation’s (WHO) first Collaborating Centre for digital health and education. The Centre will work with WHO to assess how digital health, health education tools and mobile solutions can be used to boost the learning capacity and core competencies of health workers worldwide.

The University’s global interactions with you have been hugely rewarding. I was encouraged to see more than 180 alumni and guests at the NTU Alumni Networking Dinner in Hangzhou, China, in early September to celebrate our global impact. With my warmest wishes,
NTU has topped the rankings of the world’s young universities conducted by Quacquarelli Symonds (QS)—the QS Top 50 Under 50—for the sixth year running.

As the only Singapore university to be listed in the Top 10 of the ranking, NTU saw its overall score increase over the past year, with its biggest improvements in academic reputation, research citations per faculty and employer reputation. These indicators are the same ones applied by the QS World University Rankings, which includes universities from around the world regardless of age.

“To be named the world’s number one young university for the sixth consecutive year is a remarkable achievement for NTU and for Singapore. This is a testament to the hard work and achievements of our faculty and students in their pursuit of excellence in education, research, innovation, industry engagement and societal impact,” said a spokesperson from NTU.

The accolade comes on the back of NTU being ranked 11th place globally in the QS World University Rankings, up by one place from the previous year. This makes NTU the highest ranking university in the Asia-Pacific region—along with the National University of Singapore, also ranked 11th in the world.

Besides the QS university rankings, NTU has also shown strong upward momentum in a number of different assessments of world universities by different independent entities. For example, in ShanghaiRanking’s Global Ranking of Academic Subjects, which assesses more than 4,000 universities across 54 subjects, NTU is the only Singapore university to top world rankings for two subjects: Nanoscience & Nanotechnology, and Energy Science & Engineering.

NTU also maintained its position in the top three for the third consecutive year in Times Higher Education’s ranking of the world’s best young universities below 50 years of age. This is also the first time NTU placed within the top 50 in the QS Top 50 Under 50 of Times Higher Education’s World University Rankings, which includes almost 1,400 universities across 92 countries.

In addition to that, NTU reached a new high ranked number 13 in Reuters’ ranking of Asia-Pacific’s Most Innovative Universities, compiled in partnership with Clarivate Analytics. The University also saw itself being included, for the first time, among the top 50 global universities published by US News and World Report, where it also placed in the top five for four major subject areas: engineering, materials science, computer science, and chemistry.
3D-PRINTED TOILETS MADE POSSIBLE

Researchers at NTU can now 3D print an unfurnished bathroom in less than a day. After printing, the bathroom is installed with toilet fittings to become a pre-fabricated bathroom unit, ready for use in construction projects.

This innovation was developed by a joint research team led by Professor Tan Ming Jen from NTU’s Singapore Centre for 3D Printing, in partnership with Sembcorp Design and Construction, and Sembcorp Architects & Engineers. Prof Tan said 3D-printing a bathroom unit could help manufacturers halve their production time while lowering transport costs, carbon emissions and materials wastage. “By being able to print-on-demand, companies can save on their inventory costs as well as manpower costs,” Prof Tan said.

Moving forward, the team is seeking the required approvals from the Building and Construction Authority of Singapore (BCA) for trials, and plans to commercialise approvals from the Building and Construction Authority as well as manpower costs,” Prof Tan said.

Prof Tan Ming Jen (top row; 5th from left) and the multidisciplinary team from NTU and Sembcorp, with the unfurnished 3D-printed bathroom in the background.

SUPERGLUING PROTEINS TOGETHER

Scientists from NTU have discovered how a special class of plant-derived enzymes, known as peptide ligases, works to join proteins together. The NTU team, led by Associate Professor Julien Lescar and Professor James Tam of the NTU School of Biological Sciences, used this discovery to synthesise an artificial peptide ligase that may help with drug development.

“The peptide ligase attaches itself to a specific protein, which then joins to another specific protein or molecule. This new way of doing things could underpin better diagnostic tests or anti-cancer drugs,” said Assoc Prof Lescar, who is based at the NTU Institute of Structural Biology.

The team is currently working to develop the artificial enzyme into a product. They are also partnering local and overseas medical schools and health institutions to use this enzyme in diagnostic imaging, such as brain tumour imaging during a surgery.

(Top to bottom) (From left) Dr Hemu Xinya, Prof James Tan, Assoc Prof Julien Lescar and Dr Abbas El Sahli with a structural representation of the peptide ligase shown on the screen.

A PILL THAT KEEPS YOU FEELING FULL

TU scientists have developed a type of imaging probe that allows for earlier detection of acute kidney failure, a rapidly developing condition often found among patients who are critically ill and need intensive care. Current diagnostic platforms are unable to detect early-stage changes that underlie the condition.

In contrast, the new renal probes, which are injected into the bloodstream, ‘light up’ when they detect changes in biological processes caused by the onset of acute kidney failure. Developed by Associate Professor Pu Kanyi and his team, the probes could one day be used in an intensive care unit setting, where early detection of acute renal failure is paramount to a patient’s survival.

“Our molecular renal probes are useful because they follow the body’s subtle changes at the molecular level and could help to arrest the development of the disease before it is too late,” said Assoc Prof Pu.

Assoc Prof Pu Kanyi (left) and a member of his team show off the probes that light up to indicate the onset of acute kidney failure.

CATCHING KIDNEY FAILURE EARLY

The team is now working to reduce the size of the capsule while designing a natural decompression mechanism for the balloon. Prof Phee, who is also the Tan Chin Tuan Centennial Professor in Mechanical Engineering at NTU, said, “EndoPil’s main advantage is its simplicity of administration. All you would need is a glass of water to help it go down and a magnet to activate it.”

Currently, the capsule has to be deflated magnetically. The team is now working to reduce the size of the capsule while designing a natural decompression mechanism for the balloon. Prof Phee and Prof Ho also intend to commercialise the technology via a start-up company called EndoPil.

From left: Prof Louis Phee and Prof Lawrence Ho show the EndoPil, a self-inflating weight management capsule before and after inflation.
Working towards Singapore’s vision of becoming a zero-waste nation, NTU and the National Environment Agency (NEA) have launched a new Waste-to-Energy Research Facility that turns municipal solid waste from the NTU campus into electricity and resources.

A S$40 million project, the first-of-its-kind facility is located in Tuas South, Singapore. Managed by NTU, the facility houses a unique slagging gasification plant capable of heating up to 1,600 degrees Celsius.

The high temperature of the plant turns waste into syngas—a fuel gas mixture used to produce electricity and power the facility—slag, which can serve as construction material, and metal alloy granulates that can be recycled. The technology has potential to complement existing mass-burn approaches, which cannot handle the diverse mixed waste streams today.

“This project achieves both waste-to-energy and waste-to-resource in one waste treatment facility. The launch of this research facility in this ‘Year Towards Zero Waste’ is thus timely, and holds special significance,” said Mr Tan Meng Dui, Chief Executive Officer of NEA.

The facility was officially launched on 27 May 2019 by Guest-of-Honour Mr Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for the Environment and Water Resources. He Rolls-Royce@NTU Corporate Laboratory, the Research Facility at Tuas South.

**A landfill of innovation**

Capable of handling up to 11.5 tonnes of waste daily, the facility will treat the municipal waste transported from the NTU campus, making NTU the only educational institution in Singapore to treat all of its solid waste using its own facilities.

“Being able to treat our own campus waste and to use it for research is well aligned with the NTU Smart Campus vision: to be a living testbed for advanced tech-enabled solutions aimed at tackling some of the most pressing challenges which Singapore and the world are facing,” said NTU President Professor Subra Suresh.

Led by NTU’s Nanyang Environment & Water Research Institute (NEWRI), the research facility will also serve as a test bed for innovative technologies that convert waste into energy and useful materials. These technologies can enable more resources to be recovered from waste, thereby prolonging the lifespan of Semakau Landfill.

Moving forward, NTU expects to partner more companies to develop and trial new solutions at this open test-bed facility, working toward Singapore’s quest of becoming a more sustainable nation.

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**Propelling Innovation to Greater Heights**

Nanyang Technological University, was jointly set up by NTU, Rolls-Royce and the National Research Foundation in 2013. Having successfully completed the first five years of their collaboration, NTU and Rolls-Royce are renewing the research partnership with a joint investment of S$88 million, with 29 ambitious projects focused on developing novel technologies that will power the future of aircraft propulsion.

The 29 new projects will make use of Industry 4.0 technologies—connecting computers, machines and engines, resulting in the generation of valuable data that will enhance design, manufacturing, maintenance, services and operations.

“The Rolls-Royce@NTU Corp Lab is a fine demonstration of NTU scientists working with the industry to develop relevant solutions to meet real-world issues. Building on the success of the first research partnership, we are now moving into the second phase with renewed commitment and new projects that will elevate our collaboration to the next level,” said NTU President Professor Subra Suresh.

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**Spotlight on sustainability**

A key objective of the 29 projects is to develop technologies that are eco-friendly, efficient and sustainable. Some examples of the projects include streamlining and optimising design and manufacturing processes using a data-driven approach, and developing innovative energy storage solutions to enable hybrid electric aircraft.

Rolls-Royce President for Southeast Asia, Pacific & South Korea, Dr Bicky Bhangu, said, “The Corp Lab is an excellent example of the virtues of collaboration. It provides a dynamic platform as we move towards a new way of learning and a new way of working.”

By setting up corporate laboratories in universities, industry partners can tap into the latest scientific and technological resources of the universities to develop cutting-edge solutions. Conversely, academics in universities can stay abreast of the industry’s needs, working together with industry partners to create new and innovative solutions that improve our world tomorrow.
The road ahead

Valedictorians from the Class of 2019 share how NTU has shaped them as individuals and primed them to make contributions to society.

Ecked out in navy gowns, brightly-coloured hoods and mortar boards, more than 9,400 graduands celebrated a milestone in their lives with their family and friends at some 20 convocation ceremonies in NTU.

Two-thirds of the graduating cohort comprised Bachelor's degree recipients, with the remainder made up of individuals completing their Masters or doctoral programme studies. 2019 also marks the first time NTU recognised and welcomed its PhD graduates into its academy of scholars with a separate hooding ceremony, a new tradition instituted by the University's leadership.

Among the graduating class, 37 were recipients of the Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal—an award to students for their display of academic excellence. 17 graduands also received the Koh Boon Hwee Scholars Award, which recognises exemplary students and the faculty members who have played a significant part in their NTU journey.

In his opening speech, NTU President Professor Subra Suresh expressed certainty that the education graduands received at NTU will help them in their future endeavours. "Today, our graduates leave NTU with the knowledge that their education has prepared them to excel in whatever career path they choose to pursue," he said. "They are equipped with the skills and values that will enable them to succeed in the journey ahead."

For some graduates, this journey has already begun. Despite uncertainties surrounding the outlook of Singapore's economy and labour market, seven in 10 NTU graduates have secured a job before graduation, with some even receiving multiple job offers from multinational corporations.

Also, to recognise the contributions of individuals who have helped shape NTU into an institute of excellence, two honorary doctorate degrees of the University's highest honour were conferred at the convocation ceremonies. One recipient was Mrs Margaret Lien, a local philanthropist who has contributed to multiple initiatives at NTU, including the Margaret Lien Centre for Professional Success. The other was Professor Sir Keith O’Nions, Chair of Cambridge Enterprise Ltd, for his contribution towards setting up the NTU Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine in collaboration with Imperial College London, UK.

As the Class of 2019 joins the growing NTU Alumni family, NTULink spoke to five valedictorians about their learning journey at the University and their ambitions for the future.
Edward Yee Yew Fai
Double Degree, Business (Banking & Finance) and Accountancy, Class of 2019

One of 17 Koh Boon Hwee Scholars Award recipients this year, Mr Edward Yee confessed that he was not always the academic high-achiever, having struggled with his studies in the past due to dyslexia. But a steely resolve and compassion for those in need has seen him soar to become the valedictorian of the Nanyang Business School’s Class of 2019, Singapore’s first Rhodes Scholar in 14 years, and a co-founder of his own non-profit organisation, Givfunds Social Ventures.

From completing an internship at Silicon Valley to visiting social businesses in Bangladesh, Mr Yee honed strong instincts in social entrepreneurship and cemented his desire to give back to society. In fact, it was in Bangladesh that Mr Tan met Professor Muhammad Yunus, the winner of the 2006 Nobel Peace Prize, and became motivated to kickstart his own social entrepreneurship journey. Via Givfunds Social Ventures, Mr Yee plans to provide social entrepreneurs across South Asia with access to capital, empowering them to improve the lives of those in need.

Concurrently, Mr Yee will be embarking on a double Master’s degree programme at the University of Oxford under the Rhodes Scholarship, reading social data science and evidence-based social intervention and policy evaluation. Grateful for the opportunities that have helped him carve out his own path in life, he said, “Beyond imparting me with knowledge, NTU has taught me how to learn, and has instilled in me values that I will carry with me for life.”

Aisyah Binte Yusoff
Bachelor of Arts (Sociology with Second Major in Public Policy and Global Affairs), Class of 2019

With a fervent passion for research in the social sciences, Ms Aisyah Binte Yusoff is chasing her dreams of becoming a world-class social scientist. Of the many doors that NTU has opened to her, Ms Aisyah counts her overseas exchange at Bryn Mawr College, Pennsylvania, US, as one of the most meaningful experiences she has had as an undergraduate.

“The independence and freedom I had while on exchange gave me elbow room for personal development and growth,” she said. Beyond the challenging classes, she recalled participating enthusiastically in public marches, going on road trips and exploring national parks, forging many friendships along the way. “Studying at Bryn Mawr and travelling around the US made me realise the beauty in diversity, and that connectedness underpins our existence.”

Her appreciation of diversity was reflected in her final-year thesis, which focused on the niqabi population in Singapore—a community that chooses to wear a face veil. “I felt privileged to have shed light on their personal stories, dispelling misconceptions surrounding them,” she noted.

Besides these scholarly pursuits, Ms Aisyah also frequently volunteered, serving as a voice for marginalised communities. “Be it through my research or volunteer work, I hope to allay fears that society may have towards such marginalised groups,” she emphasised, adding that she will be pursuing a Master of Philosophy in social anthropology at Cambridge University, UK.

Through it all, she constantly reminds herself, “In our pursuit of success and happiness, let us remember to be kind to ourselves and others.”

"Be it through my research or volunteer work, I hope to allay fears that society may have towards marginalised groups."
“Failure is only certain if we fail to even try.”

By focusing on the environment, I hope to improve our current situation and make sustainable development a reality.”

As the sun began to set and rain fell over the green foliage in Malaysia’s Lambir Hills National Park, Ms Jessie Gan Hui Sze felt despair seep in. Her group had gotten lost in the forest during a summer forest research experience organised by NTU’s Asian School of the Environment (ASE).

“To make things worse, I started getting muscle cramps in both my legs as we were going uphill,” she recounted. Fortunately, she and her fellow adventurers managed to navigate themselves back to human civilisation unscathed.

“I still go back to that moment whenever I feel defeated, and I know that I will have the strength and courage to push through,” she quipped.

Besides the summer forest research experience, Ms Gan was also involved in a crab rescue and research programme as an undergraduate. Of the many mentors she has had, her final year project supervisor, Dr Shawn Kashekulani Lum of ASE, left the greatest impact on her. “I went on countless field trips to different parts of Singapore and overseas with him. I have always been really amazed by how knowledgeable he is.”

Feeling ready to step out into the world, Ms Gan hopes to make it a better place using the knowledge and experiences she has gained at NTU. “By focusing on the environment, I hope to improve our current situation and make sustainable development a reality,” she said.
I want to use AI to solve real-world problems for society.”

With the smarts for artificial intelligence (AI), Mr Joshi Chaitanya Krishna fits right in with the vibrant technology ecosystem that is growing in Singapore and around the world. In fact, he already had a taste of applying AI to real-world challenges when he organised and participated in hackathons as an undergraduate. But beyond problem solving and building technical expertise, Mr Joshi cherished the network that arose from such competitions. "The hackathons were a great place to meet passionate people and form a like-minded community," he said, adding that he was glad to have contributed towards growing the University’s hackathon participation rate from just 70 contenders during the initial years to over 250 in its latest iteration.

A BIRD’S-EYE VIEW OF NTU CONVOCATION 2019

9,453 graduates

6,097 Bachelor’s degree graduates

3,356 Higher degree graduates

465 received double degrees

2,777 received Master’s degrees

579 received Doctorate degrees

37 Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medallists

17 Koh Boon Hwee Scholars

7 in 10 graduates secured a job before graduation
Professor Simon Redfern shares about his research interests and outlines his ambitions for the College of Science as its new Dean.

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antactical as it may sound, ‘The Land of Fire and Ice’ actually exists on our planet, going by the rather innocuous name of Iceland. A Nordic island nation famous for its awe-inspiring natural beauty, Iceland’s glaciers are some of the largest in Europe, but beneath this chilly façade lie some of the world’s most active volcanoes and lava flows.

It was in this land of contrasting geological extremes that Professor Simon Redfern, new Dean of NTU’s College of Science, witnessed first-hand the powerful pulse and searing lifeblood of Mother Nature. As he recalls it, he was there on a summer expedition in August 2014 with a collaborator, collecting data and carrying out maintenance on seismometers—devices measuring little earthquake tremors—planted around Iceland’s volcanoes to gather clues on volcanic activity.

Prof Redfern did not end up working on the seismometers that day. He’d arrived just in time for what is known as a fissure eruption of the Holuhraun lava fields.

“We got within a kilometre of the fissure and went straight up to the lava flow, where you had this wall of fire fountains, about a hundred metres high, continuously spewing lava thousands of degrees hot,” he shared. “You see it; you smell it; you feel the heat; you hear the eruptions like a jet engine, continuously running; a hundred metres high, continuously spewing lava thousands of metres high, continuously spewing lava thousands of degrees hot,” he shared. “You see it; you smell it; you feel the heat; you hear the eruptions like a jet engine, continuously running; and you feel the earth tremors—it was a fantastic experience!”

Size matters

For someone whose scientific training began in crystallography (the study of atoms and their arrangements in solids), Prof Redfern admitted that it’s not immediately obvious why he might look for materials science inspiration in the seams of the earth fountaining from below. But ultimately, it was a desire to be part of something new that prompted Prof Redfern’s departure from Cambridge University.

“Going places

Hence, as Dean of NTU’s College of Science, Prof Redfern emphasised his desire to break down scientific silos and ensure that people can communicate freely and easily across disciplinary boundaries. “That goes all the way from undergraduate education through to the professors. The scientific boundaries that we make are kind of useful for organising things, but in reality, anybody who is interested in solving problems can learn from other people who do things differently,” he said, adding that one step towards achieving this vision would be to bring a materials science focus to research conducted at the Asian School of the Environment. Nonetheless, he acknowledges that not all research has to be interdisciplinary, as depth in any given discipline can lead to new that prompted Prof Redfern’s departure from Cambridge University.

“Some of those rocks are made up of fossilised tiny organisms called foraminifera that make calcium carbonate shells, which are called foraminifera that make calcium carbonate shells, incorporating small amounts of other elements in the process. These other elements are what Prof Redfern calls ‘climate proxies’, which means that the relative abundance and ratios of the elements correlate with past climate conditions. ‘Using such chemical signatures, we can know what the temperature of the oceans was 50 million years ago, for instance,’ he said. “If you look back, it’s only in the past 100 years or so that people recognised that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere causes warming, and that burning coal produces carbon dioxide in the atmosphere,” said Prof Redfern. “I think there’s very little doubt that humanity as a species is affecting the planet dramatically, and in ways that maybe most people don’t realise.”

He also highlighted that while the environmental problems are increasingly apparent, solutions to these problems are less forthcoming due to the inherent complexity of ecological systems. Considering this complexity, no single scientific discipline has a monopoly on ideas on how to tackle the challenges brought about by climate change.

Warming up to climate solutions

Finding reference points for our planet’s climate history is, arguably, more important now than ever before. The International Panel on Climate Change, in its 2018 report, concluded that human activities are responsible for the approximately one-degree Celsius rise in global temperatures above pre-industrial levels, and warned that global warming is expected to reach 1.5 degrees Celsius between 2030 and 2050 if current trends persist. This could lead to irreversible harm to natural ecosystems, as well as threaten human lives and livelihoods.

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ike a fabled location foretold in legends, Mount Everest, at over 8,800 metres high, has inspired generations of people to scale its mountainous heights. Mr Jeremy Tong (NIE/2016) is one such mountaineer—in early 2019, he began preparations to ascend Everest on a charity climb for the Children’s Cancer Foundation.

While the prospects of reaching Everest’s peak may quicken the pulse, the treacherous terrain on the way up has also stilled many ambitious hearts. Mr Tong knew very well the risks involved as he put one step in front of the other on his latest expedition. He’d made an unsuccessful first attempt on Everest in 2017. The failure only made him even more determined to reach the summit.

In May 2019, after enduring days of high winds, low oxygen levels, sub-zero temperatures and even a ‘human traffic jam’ near the peak, Mr Tong realised his dream and summited Everest. He recounts his journey to the top of the world in this interview with NTULink magazine.

What motivated you to climb Mount Everest?

I first entertained the possibility of ascending Mount Everest when I was 16. I remember descending from the summit of Mount Kinabalu—the second mountain that I climbed. At half the height (4,095 metres) of Mount Everest, I thought, for the first time, that scaling Everest might actually be a possible feat.

May 2017 was my first attempt to scale Mount Everest. Hit with hypothermia, I turned around just 150 metres below the summit. It was a very painful decision to make. Even after I came back, something still felt amiss—I was not done with that dream. I felt that I deserved a second chance at the summit. At that moment, I knew I had to return to accomplish my goal.

How did you prepare yourself for the climb?

With the knowledge of the circumstances that made me turn around in 2017, I understood that I had to be both physically and psychologically ready. My physical training included long runs (10-12 kilometres) and endurance exercises that involved climbing stairs for two to four hours per session. Knowing that the final push towards the summit was the toughest part of the expedition, I also performed two 12-hour training sessions at night to simulate it, which includes two-hour runs, a 15-kilometre trek and a 400-storey climb.

Mentally, it was about reminding myself how much I wanted to reach the summit. Whenever sponsors rejected funding my expedition, it only rekindled my ambition. Whenever I felt like giving up during training, I would remember what happened in 2017 and remind myself not to let history repeat itself.

How did you keep your calm despite the dangers of the expedition?

Unfortunately, many people do fall sick or injure themselves on the expedition. This year, 11 people died on Mount Everest. One of them was my friend from the same expedition; I only discovered he’d passed away after heading down from the summit.

The news was extremely shocking, but at the same time, I knew that things like that could happen to anyone, even to myself. I had to be focused. If I was affected mentally, my descent would only be made more dangerous. I also kept my family and loved ones in my mind to distract myself from the plight that had plagued some of the other climbers.

What was the most challenging aspect of the climb?

It takes approximately two and a half months to climb Mount Everest. Other than the high altitude, which made the climb difficult, it was my longing for family. This aspect was especially challenging as my wife had just given birth to our son—he was two months old when I left for the expedition.

What was your most memorable moment during the expedition?

I remember most fondly crossing over the south summit where I was forced to turn back in 2017. I was elated to reach that point; I started to look around for the true summit. When I saw it, I knew that I was going to reach the top this time.

In addition, I also miss the camaraderie of my team members. With climbers from America, India, Taiwan and Poland, we all had something to contribute to the team, and we had an amazing time together.
A heart for the community

Grateful for the 18 years he spent studying in Singapore, Mr Than was confronted with the stark reality of limited access to education when he returned to Myanmar in 2011. UNICEF reports that adolescents in Myanmar are most at risk of missing out on education. Many children, from the ages of 10 to 19, are out of school, with school attendance falling to about 30 percent by age 17. This is compounded by the fact that some 55 percent of children in Myanmar live in poverty, with many entering adulthood with little or no education.

Thus, an unorthodox idea occurred to Mr Than in 2018 as he observed the meteoric rise and precipitous decline of bicycle-sharing services globally. He mixed that should bike-sharing companies implode from what appeared to be a non-sustainable business model locked in regulatory grey space, he would be able to buy a massive number of bicycles cheaply and donate them to students in need.

Growing up in Mandalay, Myanmar, Mr Than used to walk long distances to get to school, having no option for other modes of transportation. The situation has not changed much even today. In rural villages, students have to walk over an hour to reach their schools. This daily journey, both tiring and time-consuming, is one reason why many children quit school altogether, Mr Than explained.

“I think it is very sad that access to education is limited because families cannot afford a better way for children to travel to school,” he said.

Turning waste into opportunity

As bike-sharing businesses crumbled towards the end of 2018, Mr Than put his idea into action. Faced with the prospect that millions of bicycles might be heading to waste, he knew he had to act quickly. “This was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,” he quipped. "LessWalk is really about access to education," he quipped.

On 1 March 2019, Mr Than shared his idea on social media and asked to be connected with bicycle graveyards in the region. He had planned to purchase and import 10,000 bicycles into Myanmar, donating them to students. Not only was he willing to pay for the logistics—among other fees—he also committed S$500,000 of his own money to kick-start the project.

Three months later, the first batch of bicycles he purchased arrived in Myanmar and was ready for distribution. The bicycles were first refurbished—repainted to promote the LessWalk movement, refitted with manual locks instead of digital ones, and had additional smaller seats installed so that students could ferry siblings to school. The movement greatly benefitted students who lived in rural villages at least two kilometres away.

The beginning of a global movement

Mr Than says that the first 10,000 bicycles are just the tip of the iceberg. He plans to take the LessWalk campaign further, expanding the scale of its operations.

“We have around nine million students in Myanmar and a majority of them are living in poverty,” he said. “I hope to bolster the number of bicycles in Myanmar to 100,000. With the publicity and approaching sponsorships, I believe it is time to expand our operations.”

Apart from securing corporate sponsorships, Mr Than’s initiative has also attracted the attention of governments from China and Europe. Ultimately, he aspires for LessWalk to become the first global movement that transfers excess bicycles to underprivileged students around the world.
**LESSONS FROM THE ART OF WAR**

In today’s dynamic world, historical texts may prove valuable for navigating through uncertain times. As part of the Distinguished Speaker Series held on 20 June 2019 at the NTU Alumni House at one-north, Professor Wee Chow-Hou, Professor of Strategy and Marketing at Nanyang Business School, shared about managing success in personal and corporate contexts. To illustrate his points, Prof Wee tapped into insights from Chinese philosopher Sun Tzu’s military treatise, *The Art of War*.

“Managing success in a stable environment is a challenge because it can give rise to complacency. In today’s highly unstable world, it is an even greater challenge as you can be overtaken suddenly and unexpectedly,” said Prof Wee.

To manage a country like Singapore which has done well in the past, Prof Wee alluded to foreseeable difficulties in the future. “When we are doing well, the natural tendency is to celebrate. In reality, there are few indicators to tell us what to do next,” he said.

Relating to personal life, Prof Wee asked the audience what success means to them. Acknowledging that it used to equate to materialism in our society, he expressed his hope to change mindsets through his sharing. “We always say failure is the mother of success. I will tell you success is the potential father of failure. Note the choice of words; potential means it can be managed,” said Prof Wee.

**Guiding principles**

Drawing parallels between military strategies and approaches toward adversities in life, Prof Wee emphasised the need to be proactive. “One must not rely on the failure of the enemy to attack, but on the readiness of oneself to engage and defend against them,” he quoted from *The Art of War*.

Prof Wee termed challenges in business and health, and factors beyond one’s locus of control, as ‘enemies in life’. When facing these enemies, he quoted another principle, “know the other side, know yourself, and your victory will not be threatened.”

In other words, it is important to obtain detailed information about context, said Prof Wee. “Don’t take what people tell you as the gospel truth. Perspectives can be distracting, but you owe it to yourself to find out the truth,” he added.

To drive the point home, he cited his experience as the former Dean of Business Administration in NUS, where his colleagues had advised him against innovating the curriculum due to the conservatism of his supervisor. Instead, he acquainted with his supervisor well enough to be allowed to pioneer initiatives such as Chinese education and overseas student programmes.

**Rethinking success**

Like the yin and yang in Chinese philosophy, Prof Wee noted that managing success includes managing failure. “You cannot win all the time, but you can learn to cut your losses,” said Prof Wee. “If you are adept in warfare, you would place yourself where defeat is impossible, then look for opportunities to excel.”

Prof Wee used his experience in currency trading as an example. “When a dollar becomes 80 cents, you’ve lost 20 cents. You sell out, and the value drops to 50 cents. Buy it back and when the value returns to 80 cents, sell and you make 30 cents. You still gain at the end,” said Prof Wee, adding that success also involves an element of patience.

Prof Wee concluded that success is about sustainability and continuity. “Success, in my personal life, is not about my wealth or accomplishments, but whether my children can equal or surpass what I have. For a CEO, success is not about one’s own ego, but whether the company can continue doing well under new leadership. For Singapore, success is whether Singapore can celebrate SG100 as gloriously as we have celebrated SG50."

A member of the audience inspired by Prof Wee’s sharing was Ms Chua Hui Xin (NBS/1999), who felt that Prof Wee’s view on managing a company sustainably resonated most with her. “That’s what I do with my company. We built it not just for the shareholders, but for all the stakeholders,” she said.

For Ms Sek Chow Hoong (NBS/2014), her takeaway was to remain pragmatic and forward-looking during the good times, adding that she appreciated Prof Wee for not just sharing theories, but also connecting with the audience.
It was a packed day of celebrations, networking and knowledge sharing at the NTU China Convocation ceremony and the 7th NTU China Alumni Conference and Reunion Dinner.

testament to the strong ties between NTU and China, more than 500 graduands, alumni and guests gathered in Hangzhou on 7 September 2019 for the annual China Convocation ceremony and the 7th NTU China Alumni Conference and Reunion Dinner. More than 20 presidents and representatives of the NTU Alumni Associations (NTUAA) from different provinces in China were also present at the events. This year, 342 graduands from six postgraduate Master’s programmes received their degrees. The convocation also saw an additional group of eight outstanding individuals programmes received their degrees. The convocation also

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Crossing the finish line

Reflecting on her educational journey with NTU, Ms Chen Ying, this year’s valedictorian, said, “The Master in Educational Administration programme offered by NTU provides an excellent education and management training system for each student, ensuring that the students are well prepared to face future challenges in the education industry.”

She credited NTU’s innovative and heuristic pedagogy for producing forward-looking educators that are well-prepared to face future challenges in the education industry.

Sharing this sentiment was Ms Li Wenyong, who completed her Master of Science degree in Managerial Economics. “NTU has specially designed a programme that covers areas such as public administration and finance. The university has also arranged enriching visits and exchanges that broadened our horizons as we learn about Singapore’s experience and improve our knowledge. The in-depth training, student exchanges and learning opportunities are significant for me in continuing Sino-Singapore ties and in realising my potential in my career in securities supervision.”

The Class of 2019 join the 28,800 NTU alumni who live in Singapore and China in research while furthering bilateral ties.

“As NTU alumni, you now join an elite cohort of global citizens whose learning experiences at NTU are having a profound impact on [different aspects of society] around the world. I look forward to observing how you will apply your knowledge and skills, not only to enrich your lives and your communities, but also the human condition,” said NTU President Professor Subra Suresh who graced the event. He was accompanied by members of the NTU Board of Trustees and other NTU senior management members.

A Spirit of learning was also prevalent at the 7th NTU China Alumni Conference, which also involved alumni from Hong Kong SAR and Taiwan. The President of the NTUAA (Zhejiang) Mr Zhou Junlin (TIP/2007) commenced the conference with a welcome address, followed by a speech by NTU’s President (Alumni & Advancement) Professor Alan Chan.

The highlights of the conference were the sharing sessions by Dr Lo Li-Chun (EMBA/2012), Director of Protrend Management Consulting Co., Ltd and Visiting Professor at Hang Seng University of Hong Kong, and Professor Tan Kong Yam, Professor (Economics) at the NTU School of Social Sciences and Director of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy Institute of Asian Competitiveness.

Dr Lo spoke on China’s Reform and Open Policy and the New Political and Economic Order in Europe and Asia, while Prof Tan shared his views on the issues between US and China surrounding trade and technology.

The conference concluded with a panel discussion chaired by Mr Zhou and comprising panelists Prof Tan, Dr Lo and Mr Lin Min (EMBA/2016), Chairman of Zhejiang Crystal-Spetech Co Ltd. Alumni were treated to key insights on the transformation, challenges and emerging opportunities in China.

A feast for friends

After the conference, alumni, faculty and guests proceeded to the Alumni Reunion Dinner jointly organised by NTU Alumni Affairs Office and NTUAA (Beijing).

At the event, President of NTUAA (Beijing) Dr Sun Xia (EMBA/2006)—a prolific author by the pen name ‘Ling Dang’—presented a cheque of S$200,000 to NTU to establish the ‘The Ling Dang Literature Prize Fund’. The fund, formed in conjunction with NTU’s China Alumni Campaign, recognises Dr Sun’s contributions to Chinese Literature, acknowledges talented writers of published literary works and promotes the appreciation of the Chinese language and culture. On behalf of NTUAA (Zhejiang), Mr Zhou also presented a cheque of S$55,000 to NTU. The donation will be channelled to NTU bursaries to assist students in financial need.

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POWERING ENTREPRENEURIAL PURSUITS

A

lumni from Nanyang Technopreneurship Center’s (NTC) Master of Science in Technopreneurship and Innovation Programme (TIP) and Entrepreneurship Development Programme (EDP) gathered in Hangzhou, China on 8 September 2019 for the inaugural NTC Connect event. More than 100 delegates from both academia and industry attended the event.

For alumni entrepreneurs, the inaugural event serves as a platform to source for funding and to recruit their first employees. At the networking lunch, Mr Soon Min Yam, Director of NTU Alumni Affairs, encouraged alumni to stay connected and contribute to the entrepreneurship ecosystem.

Attendees were also treated to a thought-provoking discussion on ‘Intelligent Living and Secure Community’, moderated by Dr Xia Zhiqiang, Director of Graduate Programmes at NTC. The panellists included Mr James Jin, Managing Partner, Ventech China; Mr Zac Tan, General Manager, Nanjing Riverside Quay Co Ltd; Mr John Zhou, General Manager, JD.com IoT Business Unit and Mr Yang Jun, co-founder, Xiaoma.Wang (Education). Associate Professor Zhou Yuan (TIP/2005), Dr Tommy Ong (TIP/2006), Ms Angela Mo (TIP/2008) and Mr Lu Hao Chuan (EDP/2014) also left alumni with important lessons on entrepreneurship. The day ended with passionate pitches from five start-ups as they sought to secure funding for their ventures, and a lucky draw.

BOTTOM

NTC alumni and distinguished guests at the inaugural NTC Connect-Alumni Day event in Hangzhou, China.
MILESTONES TO REMEMBER

NTU alumni return to their alma mater to celebrate their 30th, 25th and 20th anniversary reunions with the university.

Celebrating 30 years of camaraderie

Close to 140 Class of 1989 alumni, faculty, staff and guests gathered at NTU for the 30th Anniversary Reunion on 20 July 2019. The alumni went on a campus tour to visit their respective Schools, received a crash course on how to break out of a high-tech escape room and explored the NTU Community Herb Garden as well as The Hive.

In his welcome address, Chairman of the Class of 1989’s 30th Anniversary Reunion Organising Committee Mr Lim Thian Fatt (CEE/1989) thanked alumni and encouraged everyone to continue contributing to the advancement of their alma mater.

Guest-of-Honour NTU President Professor Subra Suresh also delivered a speech to update everyone on the University’s developments and progress. The Class of 1989 alumni have become successful in their own fields, he said, and their support for the University would be invaluable.

At dinner, alumni looked back on the good old days during a photo montage screening, and made new memories at a photo booth. To top it off, alumni also enjoyed performances by the NTU Symphonic Winds Alumni Association and NTU Guitar Ensemble.

Ties that last a quarter century

Some 100 Class of 1994 alumni, guests and faculty gathered at NTU’s School of Biological Sciences (SBS) on 13 July 2019 for their 25th anniversary reunion celebration.

During the campus tour, participants learned about the latest developments at NTU and attended a Nanyang Business School (NBS) Focus Point session sharing by Associate Professor Hooi Den Huan, who talked about the challenges of navigating today’s competitive business landscape.

In the evening, Ms Violet Ong Foong Mei (NBS/1994), Chairperson of the Class of 1994’s 25th Anniversary Reunion Organising Committee, delivered a welcome speech. “It seems like only yesterday when we were graduating in our gowns and mortar boards. Here we are after 25 years, and having made a difference to Singapore and to the world, everything around us has our fingerprints on it,” she said.

Guest-of-Honour Professor Ling San, NTU Provost and Vice President (Academic), then highlighted some of the achievements and milestones of the University in the last 25 years.

Participants had a great time catching up with one another and capturing memories at a photo booth. The alumni also enjoyed performances by the Nanyang Symphonic Winds Alumni Association and reminiscence to a photo montage screening of their days at NTU.

Marking two decades of friendships

On 20 July 2019, over 60 Class of 1999 alumni, guests and faculty came together at NTU’s Research Techno Plaza for their 20th anniversary reunion celebration. The event saw alumni visiting the latest facilities and labs in their Schools and touring the NIE Visitor Learning Centre.

Mr Jim Lim (EEE/1999), Chairperson of the Class of 1999 20th Anniversary Reunion Organising Committee, welcomed the alumni back to campus after 20 years. In his speech, Mr Lim shared on the latest developments at NTU, including leading-edge technologies and new iconic buildings such as The Arc, The Hive and The Wave. He urged everyone to stay connected and contribute back to the University.

Guest-of-Honour NTU President Professor Subra Suresh also highlighted the University’s global reputation, which has attracted many talents such as the young researchers and faculty working on various initiatives. The dinner party continued as alumni were treated to performances by the NTU Guitar Ensemble while enjoying a buffet. Everyone had a great time catching up with one another and captured fond memories at a photo booth.
love for sports brought some 300 alumni and executive programme participants together at the University’s Sports and Recreation Centre on 13 July 2019 for the NTU Alumni Sports Fiesta. Organised by the NTU Alumni Affairs Office, the annual event also attracted some 200 supporters who made their way to campus to cheer for their peers.

Now into its 15th year, the event saw participants engaging in friendly competitions such as a 4×100m relay run, 3-on-3 basketball matches as well as badminton, table tennis and tennis contests. Attracting new faces and challengers every year, it was a time for alumni participants to renew old friendships and make new acquaintances.

Mr Bobby Goh (MAE/1996) and Ms Wong Onn Yee (NBS/1997) even flew in from Hong Kong to join their friends in a game of badminton. Meanwhile, at the women’s basketball competition, two teams—Team Happy and Jayley—faced off in an exciting finale in which Team Happy emerged victorious.

Age was clearly no barrier as well. At 81 years old, Dr Yap Kim Yew (Science/1961) was the oldest participant at the event. Dr Yap has always made an effort to participate in the tennis competitions, and this year, he and his teammate Mr Alex Khoo (Commerce/1980), were the first runners-up in the tennis competition for participants above 45 years of age.

The day of festivity ended with a prize presentation ceremony, after which the participants mingled with one another enthusiastically over lunch.

Organised by NTU’s Alumni Affairs Office, the yearly graduation party was a fun-filled night, featuring dancing, games and plentiful food and drink. The event was launched by Guest-of-Honour NTU President Professor Subra Suresh, along with four alumni representatives—Mr Teo Han Ping Terence (CEE), Mr Hareesh Kumar (EEE), Ms Thazin Win (WKWSCI) and Ms Angeline Winata (SPMS).

In his opening address, Prof Suresh heartily congratulated the class of 2019 on reaching the milestone of graduation and wished them success in their future endeavours. He encouraged them to look beyond conventional definitions of success and consider how they can make a difference. “Ultimately, beyond any quantitative expression, the most relevant metric of success for an institution like NTU is what our alumni do, as we are counting on you and your [contribution] back to society,” Prof Suresh said.

Some alumni, like Ms He Siying (CEE), who majored in maritime studies, shared that they have already found jobs and are eager to begin work. Others are looking forward to progressing in their careers. “I’ve been working [at a local biopharmaceutical company] for the past two to three weeks,” said Mr Jeremy Lim Keng Kiat (SBS). “I hope to continue my journey there for the next five to ten years.”

The attendees were treated to an electrifying dance performance by the NTU Breakers and sets by Zouk’s resident DJs. Mr How Jian Boon (SBS) called the party “a fantastic experience” and enjoyed it greatly.
ight cups of lasagne and love, coming right up! On 22 June 2019, about 27 alumni and their children turned up for the parent-child cook-off held at the OUE Social Kitchen. The scene was akin to a MasterChef set; 13 lively pairs of parents and their children with rolled-up sleeves frantically stirring pots of meaty sauces and busy lining foil cups with handmade pasta sheets.

Facilitated by Italian cuisine-trained Chef Elsie, the non-competitive session saw participants recreating two of Chef Elsie’s Italian recipes—mini lasagne cups and Italian sausages—at their own pace within two and a half hours. “I enjoy the mentorship angle of such workshops, as well as preparing original recipes and ingredients for eager participants,” Chef Elsie quipped.

Alumni participants had a great time at the session. “At home, cooking gets very messy. It’s a nice change to cook here with my kids; it’s fun, plus there’s no need to clean up afterwards,” said a cheerful Mr Derrick Tan (NBS/2006), who had brought along his two sons for the cooking session.

Ms Joan Seah (EEE/2008), another participant, gushed that she loves bringing her son for interactive and hands-on activities like this one. “It’s the June holidays, and I just want to have fun bonding sessions with him,” she said.

To mitigate the growing number of cybersecurity threats, more resources need to be invested to reinforce our security in the cyberspace. However, there is a shortage of professionals in cybersecurity—Frost & Sullivan predicts a shortfall of 1.5 million cybersecurity professionals by 2020.

Helping to mend this skill gap crisis is The Cyber Assembly, a start-up that uses active-learning platforms to train cybersecurity professionals. Based in Singapore, the team hopes to promote innovation in the cybersecurity space and make a difference in the region.

A passion for cybersecurity

The Cyber Assembly was founded in 2017 by NTU alumnus Mr Ng Pan Yong (SCSE/1998). After spending most of his career in the corporate sector, Ng felt a strong urge to pursue his passion in cybersecurity.

“Many people are working jobs which may be irrelevant in five years’ time and they are unaware of this. What keeps me going is how I can translate my passion into impact by equipping students and mid-career professionals with relevant skills for the future while empowering them at the same time,” said Mr Ng.

To get funding to fuel the venture, Mr Ng sought the help of Mr Richard Oh, a member of the Enterprise Development team at NTUive, whom he had met several years back. The acquaintance proved to be crucial, as Mr Ng secured the SG Founder grant with NTUive’s help in 2018.

The Cyber Assembly’s first full-time employee, a cybersecurity developer, is Mr Johan Tan (SCSE/2019). They first met at a cybersecurity competition before their paths crossed again at a sharing session by Mr Ng at NTU. For the latter half of the year, Mr Ng and his team would work from NTUive’s hot-desking space at JTC Launchpad @ one-north.

Given the region’s explosive growth in financial technologies (FinTech) and its dependence on cybersecurity, the team hopes to leverage on the resulting demand and expand regionally into countries with a strong FinTech sector by the end of the year. To find out more about The Cyber Assembly, visit www.cyberassembly.co for more information.
IN THE LIMELIGHT

Getting social

The School of Social Sciences Alumni Association (SSSSA) aims to build connections among graduates and strengthen their bonds with their alma mater. To achieve this, SSSSA, in collaboration with SSS and the Alumni Affairs Office, regularly organises educational, social and cultural events for their members to meet up and reminisce the good old times. For example, happy hour sessions or baking lessons provide alumni with the opportunity to bond over engaging activities.

“I believe in starting the alumni engagement journey early,” said Mr Teh Kai Feng (SSS/2011), President of NTU SSSAA. “We hope to expose current students more to the workings of the AA, building the foundation of their affinity for SSSSA.”

Going forward, the SSSSA also plans to conduct seminars to enrich its members, as well as invite alumni to attend on-campus events to share their experiences, thereby creating a network between alumni and existing students.

Eleven plans to mingle

To cultivate a strong residential spirit, the Hall 11 Alumni Association (AA) provides a platform for alumni to connect, strengthen friendships and support one another. Mr Norton Ng (EEE/2014), President of NTU Hall 11 AA, said that he hopes such initiatives will inspire more like-minded alumni to contribute back to the University.

The Hall 11 AA keeps in touch with members of the Hall 11 Junior Common Room Committee to support them in their endeavours. For instance, the AA hosts networking sessions for Hall 11 graduating students so that they can learn from their seniors’ experiences and make informed decisions about their careers.

“By forging strong bonds with Hall 11, the AA can become an effective platform for alumni and existing students to engage,” Mr Ng said.

Building bonds in Southern India

The NTU Alumni Association (NTUAA) (Southern India) comprises around 400 alumni members from cities such as Bangalore, Chennai and Hyderabad. The AA (Southern India) organises various social, cultural and sporting events to provide networking and developmental opportunities for its members.

Not only does the AA provide a channel to establish rapport between NTU and its alumni, it also provides help to existing students in NTU through services like career counselling. All of these are accomplished through fundraising events, also hosted by the AA.

“The importance NTU places on its alumni is the driving force to forming strong bonds between us,” said Mr Gnanavelu Arulmurugan (MAE/2008), President of NTUAA (Southern India).

The NTU Alumni Association (NTUAA) (United Kingdom) consists of a diverse group of alumni from many nationalities and batches. It is a platform that provides networking opportunities through gatherings and value-added services for its members, supporting fresh graduates in the UK. Importantly, the NTUAA (UK) serves as a bridge between academia and industry partners, helps give back to NTU financially, and supports NTU on student exchange matters and inter-university partnerships.

Dr Payam Zargarzadeh (MAE/2011) says that it was a sense of belonging to NTU that motivated him to take on the role of President of the NTUAA (UK), adding that the success of his alma mater holds great importance to him.

The AA is planning to organise more meetings to promote engagement among its members.

A united community in the UK

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Fostering Friendships

**CEE yah!**

Close to 130 graduating students, faculty and staff from the School of Civil and Environmental Engineering (CEE) attended the CEE Graduation Farewell gathering on 14 May 2019 at the NTU Yunnan Garden Campus. The event was graced by CEE Associate Chair (Academic) Professor Yang Yaowen (CEE/2001). Participants had a great time interacting with one another over the food and drinks.

The highlight of the event was an interactive game played on ‘Kahoot’, where attendees answered interesting questions using their mobile devices. Vouchers were presented to the winners as prizes afterwards.

**Marvellous memories of MSE**

Some 70 alumni of the School of Materials Science & Engineering (MSE) Class of 2019 celebrated their graduation together with faculty and guests at the MSE Graduation Night on 15 May 2019 at Urban Tavern.

Themed ‘A night to remember’, attendees made wonderful memories as they participated in games and mingled over sumptuous food and drinks. MSE Assistant Chair (Students) Professor Aravind Dasari commenced the event and congratulated the Class on their graduation. MSE Alumni Association President, Mr Elvin Liang (MSE/2010) then shared with participants details about upcoming alumni events and the benefits of becoming an MSE alumnus.

**A MAEry good time**

On 17 May 2019, around 70 School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering (MAE) alumni, graduating students, faculty and guests gathered for the MAE Graduation Night 2019, held at the Temasek Club at Rifle Range Road.

The crowd had an exhilarating time participating in games and being entertained by stand-up comedian Mr Fakkah Fuzz. Teaching awards for outstanding faculty members were also presented. The night concluded as alumni took to the dance floor with MAE Chair Professor Ooi Kim Tiow and faculty.

**Brewing friendships over coffee**

Quality coffee, anyone? For 20 School of Humanities (SoH) alumni, the barista workshop conducted by Foreword Coffee at TSH on 22 June 2019 allowed them to satiate their taste buds with coffee from six Asian countries—including Thailand, Vietnam and Laos. They also got the chance to pull an espresso shot using a barista machine and draw their own latte art. The workshop provided a great platform for alumni to unleash their creativity while making new friends.

**Getting creative with ceramics**

Fun and sophistication were the order of the day on 26 May 2019, as some 20 School of Social Sciences (SSS) alumni created personalised handicrafts during a pottery workshop at Mud Rock Ceramics.

The session was an enriching experience as participants made new friends and caught up with old ones. Attendees also learned about pottery and brought home their own creations as souvenirs after the workshop.

**A reunion to remember**

Close to 30 School of Art, Design and Media (ADM) alumni from the Classes of 2009 to 2011 gathered for their School’s inaugural class reunion dinner at La Salsa, Dempsey Hill on 21 June 2019.

Alumni caught up with one another over a relaxing dinner as NTU Vice President (Alumni & Advancement) Professor Alan Chan, ADM Chair Professor Vibeke Sorensen and Professor Michael Walsh shared about the developments in NTU and the ADM mentoring programme.
Banking in on a world of data

Over 100 Nanyang Business School (NBS) alumni, faculty, staff and guests attended the NBS Alumni Association Headhunter Series of talks held at PwC Marina One on 23 May 2019. The event was organised by the Nanyang Business School Alumni Association in partnership with Randstad Singapore and PwC Singapore.

Ms Chai Leng Lim, Director, Banking & Financial Services, Randstad Singapore, spoke about the impact of big data and the changing recruitment landscape. Panellists Ms Wanyi Wong, Fintech Partner, PwC Singapore, NBS Associate Professor Damien Joseph and Ms Chai also shared about the importance of lifelong learning. Mr Jack Lim, Chief Partnership Officer, ONE Championship, moderated the panel.

Finding a healthier you

NTU Alumni Club (NTUAC) members picked up health advice at the second ‘Monthly Talks for Caregivers’ series, titled ‘A Healthier You’, on 27 April 2019. The talk, organised and conducted by Ng Teng Fong General Hospital and Jurong Community Hospital, helped participants learn about the ‘Healthier Plate’ concept.

At the post-event Heart Talk on 2 May 2019, members shared their experiences and learned from Senior Dietitian Ms Wong Hui Xin on nutritional well-being and specific diet strategies to manage chronic health conditions for the elderly.

Storytelling with data

Some 30 NTU Alumni Club (NTUAC) members learned to create powerful narratives with data at the ‘Create impact with the right visualisation’ workshop held at the NTU Alumni House at one-north on 16 May 2019.

Mr Jeffrey Ong, Co-founder of DataBuilders Pte Ltd gave participants valuable tips and insights on data visualisation and the operation of Tableau, a powerful data analytics software.

Lights, camera, action!

A group of 20 NTU Alumni Club (NTUAC) members and guests had a rewarding time at the Mediacorp Experience Tour on 14 June 2019. Participants had the chance to experience acting in a local drama, co-hosting a radio show and presenting the news.

Football EEE ver

The E3 Spirit Cup, held at NTU’s Sports & Recreation Centre on 12 May 2019, was attended by more than 80 School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) alumni, staff and students. Organised by the EEE Alumni Association, the event was supported by the NTU Alumni Affairs Office and School of EEE.

Into its eighth year, the Cup sported nine teams with players from diverse nationalities, including those from Uganda, Malawi, Turkey and Spain. Ultimately, team GST X was crowned champion with an overwhelming score of 3-0 against Mavericks in an epic finale.
Building community by the S.E.A.

More than 70 senior beneficiaries and staff from Fei Yue Centre, volunteers from NTU Alumni Club’s Social & Community Interest Group and staff from the North-West Community Development Council visited the Resorts World Sentosa S.E.A. Aquarium on 29 June 2019. There, participants discovered and learned about the wonders of marine life.

A toast to 15 good years

Some 20 NTU Alumni Toastmasters Club (TMC) members and guests attended the Club’s 174th Chapter Meeting and 15th anniversary celebrations on 11 May 2019 at the Executive Centre at NTU at one-north.

During the meeting, a montage of the Club’s history was featured and eight members were honoured for their decade of contribution and support to the Club. Participants also had the chance to learn from the speeches and language evaluation sessions. The meeting was memorable as attendees participated in games and cut the anniversary cake. The event concluded with a toast to the continued success of the Club.

A pledge for the future

A group of 22 NTU Alumni Toastmasters Club (TMC) members and guests gathered at NTU at one-north on 29 June 2019 for the 175th Chapter Meeting and Hari Raya Celebration, where they witnessed the installation of the New Executive Committee for the term 2019 to 2020.

Incumbent Club President Mr Chua Seng Cheong (Commerce/1975) shared the achievements of the Club in the current term (2018/19), which includes attaining the status of President Distinguished Club with a perfect score of 10/10. The Club has attained the status for the 13th consecutive year since 2006. Incumbent Club President Mr Ong Kay Chong (EEE/1992) was then installed as the Club President for the new term. In his inaugural speech, he shared his vision of 3Es—Education, Experience and Enjoyment—for the club, and pledged to revitalise the mentorship programme and reinvigorate members’ public speaking and leadership learning experience in a fun environment.

A joyous affair in Jakarta

Some 100 alumni and guests attended the NTU Alumni Networking Dinner at Fairmont Jakarta on 16 July 2019. The event was graced by NTU President Professor Subra Suresh. Attendees at the dinner also had the opportunity to learn from Mr Tan Chin Hwee (NBS/1995), CEO, Asia Pacific of Trafigura Pte Ltd and NTU Board of Trustees member, as he spoke about the ‘Fourth Industrial Revolution & its Impact on Southeast Asia’. Afterwards, participants at the event networked with one another over a sumptuous buffet.

Celebrating friendship in China

On 6 and 7 July 2019, more than 100 alumni from different parts of China attended the joint alumni gathering organised by the NTU Alumni Associations (AAs) of Shanxi, Shaanxi, Shandong and Henan. The event was held in the town of Linfen, Shanxi, China. Aside from trips to ‘Dahuaishu Memorial Garden’ and Jingguo Museum, alumni, NTU faculty and local officials also gleaned insights from NTU Adjunct Professor Liu Yunhua, Mr Lu Yiming (EMBA/2017), former CCTV presenter and entrepreneur, and Mr Wang Kai (EMBA/2015) at the first day’s forum. NTU Vice President (Alumni & Advancement) Professor Alan Chan also shared the latest developments and progress at NTU during the alumni dinner. The next day, participants rounded off the alumni gathering with a visit to the famous Hukou Falls.

Vibrant evenings in Vietnam

On 29 and 30 June 2019, NTUitive hosted networking dinners in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Mr Inderjit Singh (EEE/1985), Chairman of NTUitive Board of Trustees and of NTU Alumni and Development Committee, shared how NTUitive has put in place mentoring programmes for fellow alumni to assist young entrepreneurs. Mr Th’ng Beng Hooi, Director of NTU Alumni Affairs, then updated attendees on alumni engagement initiatives.

Also, Mr Nguyen Duc Hung Linh (NBS/2006) was elected as President of the 4th term committee for NTU Alumni Association (NTUAA) (Hanoi), while Mr Tran Trung Kien (EEE/2009) took up the equivalent appointment for NTUAA (Ho Chi Minh City).

NTU senior management, alumni and guests at the NTU Alumni Networking Dinner in Jakarta.

NTU Alumni Toastmasters Club members commemorate the Club’s 15th anniversary at the 174th Chapter meeting.

Participants had a fabulous time at the Resorts World Sentosa S.E.A. Aquarium.

NTU Alumni Toastmasters Club members enjoy each other’s company and celebrate Hari Raya together at the Club’s Chapter Meeting.

Alumni and guests visiting the ancient Dahuaishu Memorial Garden.

Alumni entrepreneurs sharing their insights at a panel discussion.

NTUitive hosted a networking dinner in Ho Chi Minh City which was attended by alumni and guests.

Participants had a fabulous time at the Resorts World Sentosa S.E.A. Aquarium.
Memories that Inspire

NG AIK SENG (SBS/2019)

I was able to make the most of my time at NTU by being open to various opportunities, immersing myself in different activities that helped me build a relevant skillset for the future, which includes skills like time management and multi-tasking.

To maintain work-life balance, I enjoy spending evenings with my friends. I was fortunate to have crossed paths with them, as well as many other inspiring figures at NTU, including my colleagues and professors.

Although I have graduated, my journey as a student has not ended yet. I will be pursuing my postgraduate studies in Medical Sciences at the University of Oxford, UK, where I hope to challenge myself and make tangible contributions in the field of cancer research.

BERTRAND TEE ZHI YING (WKWSCI/2019)

It feels surreal how four years have gone by in the blink of an eye. I have had many memorable moments that made my journey at NTU an incredible one.

One defining experience I remember was the exchange programme with the University of Missouri in the US. I recalled that the programme took place early into Trump’s presidency, which not only made interactions with locals a much more interesting affair, but also greatly enriched my classes in a vocal media school.

I currently work in Accenture Interactive as a digital marketing analyst, where I am a consultant for projects in areas pertaining to digital strategy, content, commerce and marketing.

KEITH LOOI JIE YANG (NBS/2019)

Many of us have forged strong relationships in NTU—I was blessed to have found a family of great friends in the NTU Business Solutions Case Club. These friends were there to celebrate with me at my highest moments, and there to encourage me at my lowest.

From organising events to competing in case competitions, we motivated and supported each other, and those experiences have become treasured memories that made my time at NTU even more special.

I am where I am today because of the help and encouragement that I have received from these like-minded individuals, constantly reminding me to reach for greater heights.

WEE LIN (LKCMEDICINE/2019)

Strangely enough, it is the seemingly mundane things at NTU that I remember and will look back on fondly in the years to come. For example, I recall preparing for my exams and seeing the same faces in the library every day. Also fresh in my mind are the tough times adjusting to clinical life as we examined our patients and learned together. The journey that I have shared with my batchmates, while tiring, is definitely memorable and one that I am so thankful to have.

LEI WONG LEI (CEE/2019)

Graduating from NTU has left me with a bittersweet feeling because the journey has transformed me tremendously. Not only have I gotten to know many passionate people, I also learned more about myself.

I remember organising the Renaissance Engineering Programme Welcome Night 2018 as the student club president. Many things did not go as planned, but the event turned out to be successful because everybody took the initiative and played their part. It was heart-warming to witness such strong supportive spirit among my peers and the community.

While I will always keep these beautiful memories close to my heart, I also feel invigorated to step out of NTU, learn, and work hard to make my dreams a reality. I have co-founded a start-up, Oktodot, to change the way kids learn in Singapore, and will be pursuing it full time.

The journey that I have shared with my batchmates, while tiring, is definitely memorable and one that I am so thankful to have.”
EXCITING DEALS
WITH THE NTU ALUMNI CARD

Temasek Hotel
http://www.temasekhotel.com/
Temasek Hotel is a modern three-star hotel designed to bring guests convenience and comfort. Only 4 km away from Malacca’s city centre, we are conveniently located near shopping malls and popular tourist destinations like Jonker Walk Night Market, the Stadthuys and the A Famosa Fort. We are also a short distance away from the Malacca International Airport, Malacca Central Bus Terminal and the Straits of Malacca. A perfect venue for occasions ranging from wedding parties to conferences and seminars, our hotel houses a pillarless grand ballroom with the capacity to hold 1,000 people. Also available are meeting halls, a wading pool, a coffee house, a sports bar and a café that serves both local and western cuisine. With so much to offer, we look forward to your stay with us!

OFFER
• 15% off best available rates on the Temasek Hotel website
• 10% off food and beverages (dine-in only)
Valid till 31 Dec 2019

Imago Aesthetic Clinic
http://imagoaesthetic.com.sg/
Imago Aesthetic Clinic’s team of professional doctors and nurses provides industry-level standard of care to our clients. With experience, expertise and the right equipment, we design customised skincare programmes for every patient to achieve their desired results. Not only are the programmes effective, they are also affordably priced. Our clinic is designed to help our clients feel at home, and we strive to ensure that all of our patients have the finest experience possible.

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• Radiant laser treatment at $62.06 with complimentary LED treatment
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IntegrateDots
https://www.integratedots.com/
IntegrateDots is a consulting and training company in data analytics and software automation. We offer four workshops that will help to equip working professionals with the critical knowledge and skillsets to maintain a competitive advantage in the marketplace:
• Building Impactful Dashboards: Build robust and dynamic dashboards using Microsoft Excel
• Coding in VBA: Automate mundane tasks or build custom spreadsheet applications
• Coding in Python: Learn key programming concepts and code in Python 3.X
• Machine learning: Implement useful machine learning algorithms using Python Scikit-Learn

OFFER
30% off workshop fees for the following workshops:
• Building Impactful Dashboard
• Coding in VBA
(Apply promo code: NTUALUMNI)
Valid till 31 Dec 2020
Laundry Club
https://laundryclub.sg/

The Laundry Club Pte Ltd has been helping Singapore residents look neat and smart since 1998. With 12 branches in Singapore, we even provide home-delivery services for our clients. Beyond dry-cleaning and laundry services, our highly skilled artisans also clean and restore luxury bags and perform alteration services for clothing. For customers who require urgent alterations to their clothing, we have on-site seamstresses that will provide an immediate service. To grant customers peace of mind, all items placed in our care are insured—a first-of-its-kind service assurance in Singapore.

OFFER
10% off all laundry services above S$20 in a single invoice
Valid till 31 Dec 2019

Aranda Country Club
https://www.arandaclub.org.sg/

Aranda Country Club is a fitness & wellness club in eastern Singapore that promotes sports, fitness and recreational activities for our members’ enjoyment. Come enjoy your weekends and holiday getaways at one of our 30 executive suites (1,600 sq ft).

Elegantly furnished, our suites include two bedrooms with en-suite bathrooms, a spacious living room, a kitchenette and a balcony. We also provide complimentary Wi-Fi, a BBQ pit, a swimming pool, gymnasium, sauna and steam rooms. After working up an appetite, head on down to Ban Heng Seafood Paradise for a delicious meal, or book a room with the Ten Dollar Club (family karaoke) and sing to your heart’s content.

OFFER
Executive suite room rates (per night)
• S$180 for off-peak periods
• S$320 for peak periods
• S$340 for super-peak periods
Subject to availability and GST. Valid till 31 Dec 2019

Royal Albatross
https://www.tallship.com.sg/

Welcome on board Asia’s only traditionally-rigged luxury tall ship. A 4-mast 22 sail barquentine (Class A) sailing ship complete with the finest facilities, intricate handcrafted woodwork and natural handmade cork decks.

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Don’t miss out on these great deals! Get your Alumni Card now via the NTU Alumni Portal at https://alumniportal.ntu.edu.sg. For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg/Alumni/AlumniCard. Terms and conditions apply for each offer.
**EVENTS CALENDAR**

**November 2019**
- 21: Combined Alumni Associations (Fujian, Sichuan, Chongqing, Yunnan, Guangxi) Forum and Annual Alumni Gathering
- 22: NTU Alumni Movie Screening: Star Wars IX
- 30: NTU Alumni Association (Malaysia) Term Election and Alumni Networking Dinner in Kuala Lumpur

**December 2019**
- 21: Combined Alumni Associations (Fujian, Guangdong, Hainan & Hong Kong SAR) Forum and Annual Alumni Gathering
- 22: NTU Alumni Movie Screening: Star Wars IX

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**AT NTU, WE TREASURE THE RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR ALUMNI.**

Provide us with your latest contact details to stay in touch and continue receiving our e-publications and e-mails. With your updated details, we will be able to keep you regularly informed of the recent developments in NTU. You will also continue to receive announcements on our upcoming events.


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A little bit of competition doesn’t hurt; like friction, a good amount can set off sparks that lead to great things. During the NTU Alumni Sports Fiesta, participants competed with a great sense of sportsmanship, as teams of friends—old and new—clashed with both ferocity and generosity. At NTU, we are dedicated to preserve the camaraderie among our alumni, keeping the flame of our community alive.
Nanyang Executive Centre
NTU at one-north

Nanyang Executive Centre/ Campus Clubhouse

- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- In-house Restaurant & Bar (catering options available)
- VIP dining area
- Up to 170 guestrooms
- Auditorium for up to 210 pax
- Function halls for up to 150 pax
- Lecture rooms for up to 85 pax
- Seminar rooms for up to 30 pax
- Breakout rooms for up to 8 pax
- VIP lounge for up to 15 pax
- Executive lounges for up to 15 pax
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Complimentary shuttle bus service to/from Pioneer MRT Station

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NTU at one-north

- Complimentary Wi-Fi
- In-house Cafe (catering options available)
- Auditorium for up to 215 pax
- Function halls for up to 250 pax
- Lecture rooms for up to 80 pax
- Seminar rooms for up to 50 pax
- Discussion rooms for up to 6 pax

10 minute walk from Buona Vista & one-north MRT Stations

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+65 6790 8687 | www.ntu.edu.sg/nec

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