

## ■ TOP OF THE WORLD

### GREAT expectations

*Aaron Chiang of the School of Physical & Mathematical Sciences is both a CN Yang Scholar and a Koh Boon Hwee Scholar – one destined for greater things from the word go. It's no wonder he has made the Dean's List twice. He has also been chosen as Valedictorian for his graduating class. In 2009, he was one of only two undergraduates in Singapore to be selected for the inaugural Istana Internship Programme. His excellent performance during the eight-week stint garnered him a personal commendation from President S R Nathan.*

**Presidential insights** To Aaron, being invited to tea by President Nathan – and receiving a certificate from the President personally – was clearly the most memorable experience during his internship. “Having worked at the Istana for two months, I could appreciate the honour of being invited in the capacity of a guest. It was also the first time my mother and sister had been to the Istana, and I had the opportunity to bring them around, so it was a memorable occasion for my whole family as well.” Another highlight for Aaron was his participation in a state visit to Turkey, during which he had the opportunity to work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

**Days to remember** “My memories from my time at Hall 11,” says Aaron, who played on its rugby team and took part in its drama productions. He also completed two undergraduate research projects in physics and psychology, in addition to his Final-Year Project. Aaron also headed the NTU Rotaract Club's community service division and participated in the 2010 Public Policy Challenge, where he reached the semi-finals.

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**The NTU factor** “Initially, I'd wanted to pursue a career in the finance industry, but the Istana internship and my participation in the Public Policy Challenge greatly increased my interest in the public sector,” he says. “It was NTU that gave me the opportunities to discover and chart my career path.”

**Over the horizon** Aaron has landed a job with the Ministry of Finance's International Relations Directorate. “During the Istana internship, I got a better understanding of some of the work that the Civil Service does, and I think that helped me in making a commitment to serve,” he says.

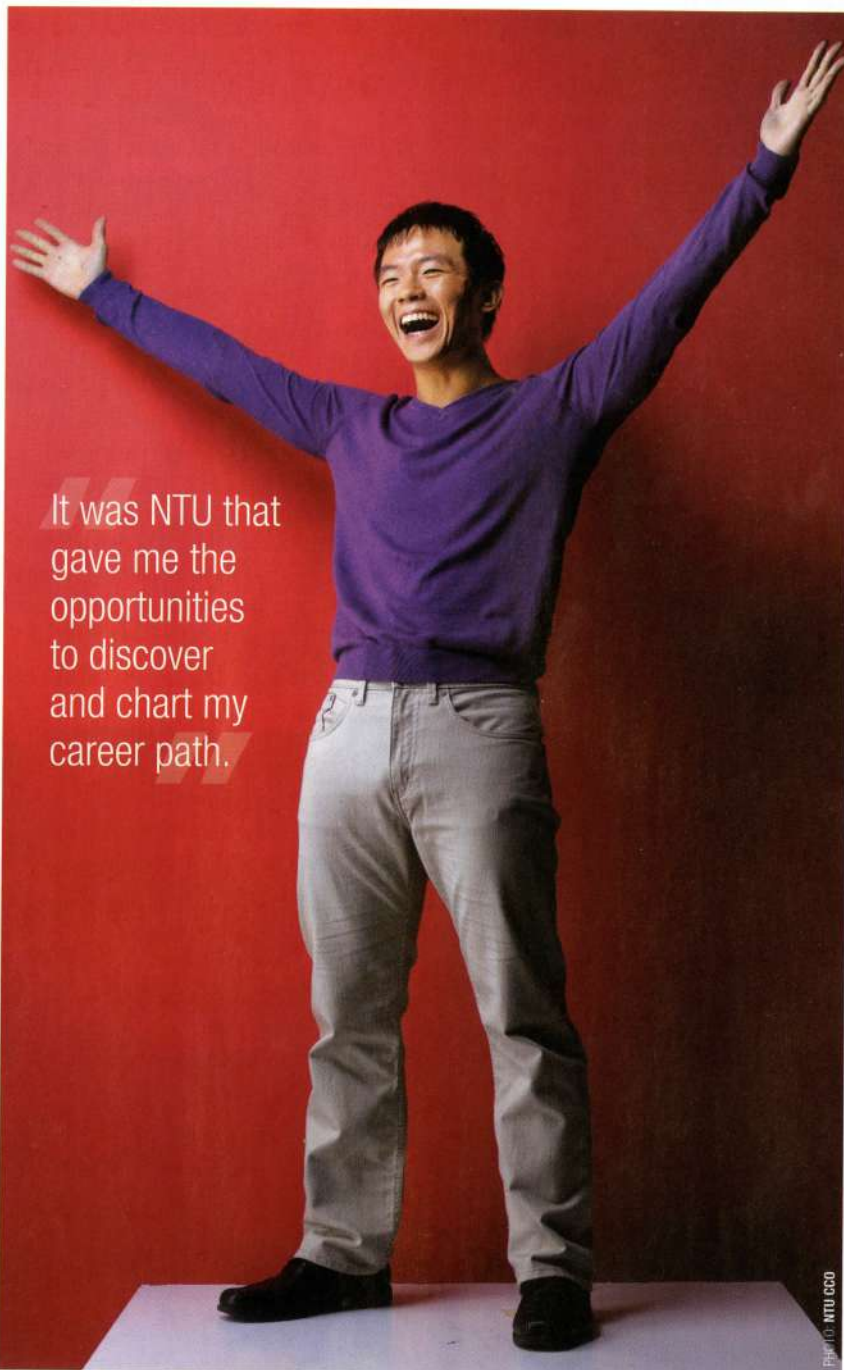


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