



VOICES

ISSUE
25
2014

An Institute of Distinction

A PUBLICATION OF TRAINEE TEACHERS' CLUB

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EVENT

2013 sees the celebration of Teachers' Investiture Ceremony and the various Freshmen Orientation Camps.

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Post a photo on **Instagram** and stand a chance to win NIE T-shirts & PPT Presenters

DEADLINE : 28 FEB 2014 | FRIDAY

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Instagram COntest

VOICES wants to reward **YOU** for your **INSTAGRAM POSTS!**

Can't help but document the little things in life? Well whip out your smart phones because **VOICES** believes it's the little things that make up a fruitful campus life! We are about to reward **YOU** for appreciating the little things.

Simply post a photo on Instagram with the hashtag **#nievoiceslilthings** and tell us what helps to make your life in NIE special. It could be a secret study area away from the crowd, the beautiful night view when campus goes dark, or even a cup of kopi peng. We want to know what inspires you, what makes you tick.

Stand a chance to win the much-adored **NIE T-SHIRT**, and every teacher's must-have tool, the **POWERPOINT PRESENTER!**

So look out for the little things and post them on Instagram!

DEADLINE: 28 FEB 2014 | FRIDAY

director's Message



Professor
Lee Sing Kong

Dear Student Teachers,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you into another year of training at NIE. I am sure that experience has been a kind teacher to you, seeing how this semester saw a burst of colours in campus with various club and GESL activities. To all first-year Student Teachers, welcome to your new family, a community of like-minded educators.

As an educator, it is your duty to inspire students, to help students see the world as their classroom, and to nurture a generation of great thinkers and doers. For this to happen, you must first take every opportunity in NIE to express your interests and hone your capabilities. You have to

be active members of the NIE community, take part and take charge of the many activities taking place during the academic year. I encourage you to be part of the vibrant institute, regardless if you are in the PGDE, Diploma, or Bachelor's group.

Being part of the institute of education, always remember the values-driven focus as encouraged by the Ministry of Education. When you hold the core values close to your heart, you will find meaning and purpose in everything you do in school. This principle will also keep you motivated as you enter the teaching industry.

Bearing in mind your very purpose in the industry, use the time you have in school to exercise your talents. Be bold, aim high, and never be afraid of making mistakes. The training you go through is a time for you to make mistakes and learn from them.

With a strong heart and a creative mind, I wish you a fruitful and exciting academic year ahead!

Warmest regards,
PROFESSOR LEE SING KONG
Director,
National Institute of Education

Editor's



Commentary

Dear readers,

The kind of students we choose to be during our time in NIE will greatly impact the kind of teachers we become in the future.

Being part of the 23rd Trainee Teachers' Club (TTC) has taught me to make my time in NIE count for something more than running the rat race. Surrounded by a motivated team of student teachers, I have never been more inspired to ignite change.

As Professor Lee Sing Kong, Director of NIE, said during his session with the various club chairpersons (pg 8), visibility is important. VOICES has taken a bold step this issue to reflect

that. We have changed the entire layout of our magazine, and we have made alterations in the masthead (the title of the magazine) while retaining its iconic design.

While we embrace change, we must still remember to keep our traditions. The Bachelor of Science Club (BSc) sticks to their tradition of having annual INSOMNIAC events, leading to another successful time of bonding at this year's INSOMNIAC XIII (pg 5).

This semester, be a change-maker, just like the members of Club Jeux who organised the first ever Chinese Chess Open (pg

19), or like the members of PGDE GESL group, iComleads, who worked with the Bone Marrow Donor Program to host the bone marrow drive (pg 9).

When you finally graduate and take part in the Teachers' Investiture as our seniors have (pg 15), what would your fondest memories be and what mark would you leave behind?

CARISSA ABIDIN
Editor-in-Chief
Year 1, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Publications Officer
Trainee Teachers' Club
(23rd EXCO)

WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

CARISSA ABIDIN
Year 1, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Publications Officer
Trainee Teachers' Club

On 23rd October 2013, a couple of weeks before the final examinations took place, student teachers formed a snaking queue along LT 7 and LT 8 to collect their welfare packs. Taking a break from their exhausting study schedule, they arrived in groups with their friends, forming a huge and happy crowd at the giveaway session.

The Student Welfare Pack Giveaway has been a tradition put in place by the Trainee Teachers' Club (TTC), and has been running for the past decade under the name "Happy Hour". The giveaway session is a way of uniting the student body, to acknowledge that everyone is going through the examination period together, and to encourage one another to keep their spirits up during the stressful time. With brain fuel such as biscuits and tea, and lifestyle magazines, when



students need to shift their eyes onto something less intense than their academic readings, the welfare pack is intended as the physical energizer as well as the mood lifter for students.

With the support of generous sponsors, students got to bring home magazines, snacks, drinks, and vouchers. NIE received such a great number of sponsors this year that the members of TTC had to line up to give out the other items that could not fit into the goodie bag.

The event was a rousing success as the bags were snatched up in less

than a couple of hours. It definitely reflected the spirit of the student teachers as being a community of caring people, always looking for ways to encourage rather than to compete with one another.

As future teachers, the event helped to remind students of the kind of attitude they should bring into their schools, especially when it comes to the examinations. This attitude is one of love, concern, and lifting up others. It is a valuable trait to bring into schools in the future, and this will help create a warmer and happier environment for their future students.



INSOMNIAC XIII

LER KAI MING GAVIN
Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Publicity Head
BSc Club

Smack right into the new academic year of 2013-2014, the NIE Bachelor of Science club organized its 13th consecutive Insomniac! Drawing on all the experience from previous years, we packed a sure formula of food, fun and games into one leisurely night on the bikes. It was definitely a night to remember.

This year, starting from East Coast Park, participants took part in station games, a new feature in our night cycling routine!

Station One was a frantic flag grabbing game which saw much laughter, many collisions, and definitely several bewildering

moments of non-harmonious group huddling. Following that was Station Two at Changi Village, where everyone posed for photos in a photo hunt for the right pose and the right background that ended in quite the spectacular "dance video". We then cycled all the way to Sunplaza Park, where charades was the star feature. Indeed, it was a night on which great memories were made, building on our already strong sense of camaraderie.

One cannot have fun on an empty stomach, which is why the pit stop at Changi Village was so important. At the iconic Changi Village came the legendary *Nasi Lemak*, chicken wings, red tea

jelly with longan, and the list just went on! All this food made for good relaxation. Fun, happiness, companionship, food, and new experiences in life all go hand in hand in making good memories. Lastly, after a pit stop at McDonalds and about 40 clicks of night breeze later, we were back at East Coast Park to witness the sunrise, a rare moment of respite in the bustling schedule.

The fun and games are over for now, but we will have much more in store for everyone, so stay tuned!

Remembering Dr Ruth Wong Hie King (1918-1982)

PERDANA PUTRA @PAN PING RUI
Year 3, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Vice-President (Services)
Trainee Teachers' Club



The aphorism, “Each (child) has a will of his own; each needs direction”, is perhaps one that requires no further elaboration. After all, it should not be something unfamiliar to our community of student-centric educators who believe that every child can learn, a key tenet of our education system. In the 1970s, however, things were not as rosy and the educational sea was arguably much choppy as our newly independent Singapore attempted to shift from the survival-driven education system. But then came the godsent Dr Ruth Wong Hie King, founding Director of what was called the Institute of Education (IE) in Singapore. The late Dr Ruth Wong, who spent 44 years of her life as an educator, definitely played a pivotal role in the early development of the IE (or NIE, as we know it today) and without a doubt, her seminal ideas considerably improved teacher education insofar as today, many of us are still indebted to her.

In order to pay yet another homage to this extraordinary educator, Dr Ruth Wong’s own younger sister, Dr Wong Hee-Ong, has put together her reminiscences, anecdotes, and tributes to celebrate Dr Ruth Wong’s remarkable life, the collection of which is entitled, *Ruth Wong: Educationist and Teacher Extraordinaire*.

As a young student teacher myself, I was thankful to be invited to this event because it reminded me that it would be remiss of us not to model after distinguished educators such as Dr Ruth Wong herself. Her life stories have shown me that while it is important to enunciate the values and principles that we hold as a teacher, it is even more important to also live by them. Like the child mentioned in the opening paragraph, I, too, surely, have a will of my own, but I only have teachers like Dr Ruth Wong to thank, for providing me with that direction, and guiding me, little by little, as I try to find my own place in this world.

The audience included esteemed guests – Professor Freddy Boey, Deputy President and Provost of Nanyang Technological University, and Professor Tan Oon Seng, Dean, Teacher Education, in addition to Dr Ruth Wong’s old friends, colleagues, and students. Many anecdotes and sharing by Dr Ruth Wong’s former colleagues ensued, punctuating the informal conversation session that served to assert the long-lasting impact of the legacy that Dr Ruth Wong has left.



Siapa Kahwin?

AAMEER BIN HASSIM

Year 2, Diploma in Education

Head of Culture

Photos by: Nurul Ashilah Binte Abdul Latiff, Year 2, School of Art, Design & Media, NTU

On 18 September 2013, the Nanyang Technological University Malay Language and Culture Society (NTUMLCS) organised its annual Welcome Tea Ceremony. The event saw a time of bonding, bringing together both new and old members of the club. Here, members were informed on future events that would be taking place in the club throughout the year.

Besides the informative orientation for members to understand the club better, the event was a platform for members to get to know one another. The theme of this year's Welcome Tea is a Malay wedding, leading to the name of the event "Siapa Kahwin?" (Who's getting married?). The wedding tradition is engrained within the Malay community as weddings occur almost every other week, due

to the closely-knit nature of the Malay community. Regardless of venue, the essence of these Malay weddings is still apparent. Following this idea, they felt that the theme of a Malay wedding would provide a perfect platform for members to mingle.

The members were treated to spectacular cultural performances throughout the day. Staying close to the theme of the event, the occasion commenced with the bride and groom making their glamorous entrance into the hall, which was accompanied by a *kompang* ensemble.

Next, the NTU Silat team came and dazzled the crowd with their fascinating martial arts demonstration.

Soon, other performing arts groups like *Beztari*, *Wira Sakti*, and *Dewi Samudera* arrived and wowed the audience with their magnificent dance routines and energetic *Dikir Barat* performances.

Inter-group games were also conducted to create a bond between the members, shedding any kind of awkwardness that usually comes with orientation events.

Finally, what is a wedding without food? Just like all traditional Malay weddings, everyone was treated to a scrumptious banquet. As always, the meal helped to facilitate conversation and forge new friendships.

Overall, "Siapa Kahwin?" was a rousing success as the main purpose of allowing members to mingle with each other was met. New bonds were made and old ties were strengthened. This aided in fostering the bond that ties the Malay community together, and it definitely brought everyone closer once more.



On 13 November 2013, presidents and chairpersons from all 14 NIE clubs met with the director at the annual Director's Tea with Clubs to discuss matters regarding the importance of embracing diversity, increasing vibrancy on campus, and being radical in teaching students.

Teachers are tasked to kindle students' passion to learn, invoke a thirst for knowledge and skills in them, and most importantly, inculcate them with a respect for diversity in terms of religious and cultural differences. They must educate students to embrace every thread in Singapore's unique social fabric.

Professor Lee explained that before student teachers can step into classrooms and promote such values, they must first exercise them on campus. Besides educating student teachers on content knowledge, NIE is also a training ground for all to learn about other ethnic and religious cultures and to celebrate these differences as a community.

Festivities such as Hari Raya Haji, Deepavali, and Chinese New Year are great ways for clubs to educate the student population and should always be celebrated on campus. Professor Lee said that when student teachers have a better understanding of the morals behind these events, they would be in a better position to help future students to be more appreciative of such events in schools.

When discussing the various ways that clubs can promote these festivities, Professor Lee commented: "Make it big." Visibility and publicity are essential in exciting student teachers to participate in events throughout campus.

When student teachers become innovative in the ways they carry out activities in NIE, his or her creativity will grow and be reflected in the classrooms. Professor Lee recalled the time he conducted a lesson on the characteristics of tropical rainforests. He picked a date in July, when rain was frequent, and took the class on a field trip to Bukit Timah reserve.

"How can you study tropical rainforests without experiencing rain?" he asked.

Radical minds, the vibrant profession, and *ketupat* balloons

CARISSA ABIDIN
Year 1, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Publications Officer
Trainee Teachers' Club

When students began to take their umbrellas out, he made them close the umbrellas and said: "Let the rain pour on you. Then you can experience what a tropical rainforest is all about."

The intentional effort in keeping learning exciting also reflects the sense of pride a student teacher has in his or her profession. Professor Lee said: "Professional pride must come at the point of your preparation. Then you carry this pride to the schools, to the community, and then people will know that you are important in shaping the future of the nation."

As student teachers, innovation, creativity, and radicalism must be shown in your works during your time in NIE.

The director concluded: "You must have a certain sense of idealism. Be proud to be a teacher. That will energise our whole community to believe in the work that we do."



Professor Lee Sing Kong,
Director of the
National Institute of Education (NIE).

NIE Student Teachers Support Bone Marrow Donor Programme In Student-Led Awareness Drive

iComLeads



Singapore, 6 November 2013 – A group of student teachers from the National Institute of Education (NIE) in Singapore has dedicated their service learning project in support of the Bone Marrow Donor Programme (BMDP), to help raise awareness for the agency's cause.

Bone Marrow Awareness Drive 2013 @NIE was organised by iComLeads, a student initiative comprising 17 NIE post-graduate students undergoing training as teachers. This initiative will contribute to BMDP's goal of recruiting 20,000 new donors in three years and thereby increasing the chances of a bone marrow match that could save the lives of patients suffering from blood diseases such as Leukemia and Lymphoma.

The one-day event included a two-minute cheek swab required for DNA typing for donor recruitment, a donation box, and merchandise for sale to support the cause.

Ms Jane Prior, President of BMDP said, "This project is a real milestone for the BMDP, as they will all graduate from here to take up positions within various schools across Singapore. We hope this first engagement with us will 'snowball' as they take up their teaching posts and share our mission with their school pupils through more volunteer and recruitment activities."



The NIE-wide campus endeavour has rallied support from students, staff and faculty with the adoption of four NIE Staff Ambassadors. The donation drive was organised as a part of the students' Group Endeavours in Service Learning (GESL) module at NIE which inculcates understanding community needs through service and learning objectives.

NIE Director, Professor Lee Sing Kong, noted, "There are many noble causes for action, which the community may not be aware of. The Bone Marrow Donor Programme is one of them. I am glad that our student teachers are making this worthy cause more visible to the NTU community."

Mr Ashik M. adds, "We thank all for supporting this brave endeavour. Certainly, it has been a very fulfilling experience organising an event that was warmly welcomed and appreciated by the NIE community. We note that many came down in between their classes or tasks to save as many patients as possible, and we are humbled by the overwhelming response.

We are grateful to have collaborated with Singapore Bone Marrow Donor Program and the eminent NTU School of Medicine in this far-reaching effort.

We value the advice generously given by our peers and lecturers, and we especially thank our incredible staff mentor, Professor Angela Wong, for being there by our side. Her mentorship provides for a fun and lively leadership experience for all of us. Deepest thanks to NIE GESL and PIAR office, especially Ms Min and Ms Monica, with whom we have shared many memorable moments!

iComLeads functions exceedingly well as a unit, and this is because it is a team of equals, each a leader in his or her own area. 17 strangers discovering each other's strength to work together and organise their first event, collaborating across organisations and putting in so much hardwork that the event registered the largest number of donors recorded in a single day - each of them has been instrumental to this accomplishment. In all regards, they are true to their name: I + COMMunity LEADerS. It is my fortune to have been with them."



Service Learning Day

- JOCELYN TAN
Manager
Programme & Student Development
Office of Teacher Education

NIE welcomed retired Bridget-General Lowrence Chua, Executive Director of Singapore Discovery Centre, to grace Service Learning Day on 25 September 2013. The event celebrates community outreach by student teachers in Group Endeavours Service Learning (GESL) projects.

In his inspiring address, Mr Chua encouraged student teachers to sustain efforts and take the lead in developing character in pupils and pass on the values through meaningful activities and community engagements. The three GESL groups picked from the PGDE January 2013 cohort for the Plenary - exemplified BG (Retired) Chua's advice with their unique experience.

The first group, Genesis, conducted publicity Drive for iC2: PrepHouse, a new charity for visually impaired children and youth. The team developed an online publicity package to boost awareness of

the organisation as well as a tactile art workshop for visually impaired children.

The second group, MakeITheard partnered the Singapore Association for the Deaf, and organised a two-hour IT workshop for the deaf community focusing on buying and selling online as they found that to be an area of need, since it was hard for the deaf to set up their bricks and mortar business. The participants learned and practiced how to buy products and put their own products for sale online with a detailed handbook and 1-to-1 customized tutoring.

Project iNSPIRE, the third group, reached out to the probationers with the Probation Services Branch, providing them with an opportunity to interact with the less privileged members of society. The group conducted a series of workshops, a fundraiser event and an outing with the beneficiaries from MINDS.

Inaugural NIE Staff Service Learning Expedition, Sikkim 2013

A/P VILMA ANN D'ROZARIO & TEAM

Photos by A/P Ivy Tan

Sikkim has been a destination for student-teacher-led international service-learning at NIE since 2003. To celebrate 10 years of meaningful engagement with the communities in Sikkim, seven colleagues from NIE, led by former student-teacher, Mr Siva Gopal Thaiyalan, now a Senior Specialist with the CCE Branch at the MOE, embarked on the first NIE staff service-learning expedition, from 1 to 10 November 2013.

Tracing the footsteps of our former student-teachers brought us to the Lepcha Cottage in Chanmari, near Gangtok, the capital of Sikkim. Founded and run by Ms Keepu Lepcha and her team, the Lepcha Cottage now houses 80 children from the indigenous Lepcha tribe, all of whom have come to live at the children's home, in order to get support for education. We spent time with Ms Keepu and her team and the children who live there. It was wonderful to learn from the kids what Lepcha Cottage and Sikkim means to them. We did this in sub-groups with kids sharing with us their world with respect to the following themes: Traditional Food; Love and Relationships; Mount Kanchengzhonga; Animals and Plants; Traditional Costumes, Songs and Dances of Sikkim; and Dreams. We hope to put the kids' work together

into a publication following that of Barbara Cervone and Cathy B. Kaye's "In Our Village"

In Gangtok, we also visited Wendy Pulger and Loday Chungyalpa who run the Manjusri School, a private school where innovative teaching pedagogies are used. Wendy and Loday shared with us their dreams of developing a quality teacher-training programme at Manjusri, and we listened intently to these dreams.

The last leg of our journey was spent in West Sikkim in the village of Yuksam, nestled in the foothills of Mt Kanchengzhonga, the world's third highest peak. Here we were hosted by the Kanchengzhonga Conservation Committee (KCC), an established environmental conservation organization which is active in conserving the wilderness of Sikkim. We visited the Yuksam Biodiversity Centre, where our KCC friends honoured NIE and all past student-teacher groups who had worked with them since 2003, by opening a library in the name of Vilma Ann D'Rozario. So kind a gesture this was. On our last night, we were treated to traditional Bhutia food and dances, which completed our enriching cultural experience in Sikkim.



Freshmen Orientation Camps 2013

In August 2013, seniors welcomed the new group of student teachers with a great time of orientation, games, and bonding. Check out how the Ba/BSc, DipEd, and CLEAR Club welcomed their new colleagues!





Dip ed



CLEAR Club



Director's
grand
welcome
2013



YEO TING HUI RAQUEL
Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Education)

The National Institute of Education (NIE) held its annual Director's Grand Welcome to usher in the new July intake of student teachers on 5 August 2013.

Within minutes, the Nanyang Auditorium was filled with enthusiastic student teachers, all eager to find out more about what NIE has to offer in their course of study.

The NIE corporate video gave them a glimpse of the vibrant campus life. Aside from coping with the rigors of school work, they were shown that it is possible to strike a work-play balance by participating in many of the student-led club activities on campus.

Professor Lee Sing Kong, Director of NIE, then gave a warm opening address. While he inspired student teachers to push the boundaries of their learning horizon, he also advised them to adopt NIE's code of conduct that was designed by student teachers for student teachers. He believes that as ambassadors of NIE, it is important for student teachers to embody upright behaviour as role models for their future students.

Even as the Ministry of Education promotes broad-based and holistic learning in schools, NIE also provides a rich diversity of learning experiences that not only nurtures student teachers cognitively, but also aesthetically. Student teachers are highly encouraged to participate in various club activities to hone their talents and leadership skills as well as to develop their socio-emotional competencies. Being active individuals on campus will help mould student teachers into dynamic characters to whom future students can look up to.

We wish all student teachers a fruitful and rewarding learning journey ahead at NIE.



Teachers'
Investiture
ceremony 2013

LAU LI LING KRYSTLE
Graduating cohort of BABS'13, BA (Ed)

The atmosphere was cheery and everyone was in a jubilant mood. After four years as student teachers in the National Institute of Education (NIE), the graduands of the Bachelor of Arts (Education) and Bachelor of Science (Education) programmes finally became full-fledged teachers. This memorable transition was marked by the NIE Teachers' Investiture Ceremony (TIC) 2013, Ceremony 3.

The 517-strong crowd streamed into Nanyang Auditorium on 11 July 2013. Many of the proud graduands were flanked by their beaming parents. It was heart-warming to see parents still fussing over the tidiness of their child's iconic red, yellow and blue NIE gowns.

The investiture began when a hushed tone fell upon the attendees as the TIC video was played. The video, featuring several student teachers in their practicum schools, set the tone for the investiture as it gave us a glimpse into our future lives as dedicated educators. This was followed by the entrance of the academic profession, and a speech given by Professor Lee Sing Kong, Director of NIE.

His warm congratulatory speech was peppered with insightful pieces of advice, with the theme centered around the importance of being a reflective practitioner in this changing education landscape.

Closer to home, the Valedictorian, Mr Irvin Wan, presented the Valedictory speech which included his humorous recollection of the common experiences of the NIE graduands. There was a sense of nostalgia in the air as we recalled these moments with sad fondness, knowing that these moments were now behind us.

On behalf of the graduating cohort of BA, BSc 2013, I would like to express immense gratitude to all the NIE staff who worked tirelessly to make this event such a success. I believe that NIE will always remain in our hearts as we set forth into the next phase of our lives as the next generation of educators.



Club Investiture for the BA Club, BSc Club and Club Jeux

.....
 DAPHNE CHUA
 Year 2,
 Bachelor of Arts (Education)

Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning; keeping together is progress; working together is success". This quote proved to be especially true for the outgoing committee of the Bachelor of Arts (BA) Club, Bachelor of Science (BSc) Club and Club Jeux as they reminisced on the past year and its memories. Many experiences were shared through the countless events that they held, each one leaving a footprint on their path towards success.

On 21 October 2013, they had proven to have served their duty and were ready to hand the baton over to a new committee-one that promises to uphold the values and excellence of their senior committee. This formed the basis of the club investiture that happened on the 21 of October at our very own amphitheatre.

Asst Prof Malar and other professors graced the event as the guests of honor. They witnessed the passing over of duties to the new incoming committee members of 2013-2014. Emphasis was placed on the fact that there would be tough times throughout the entire process, but the thing to keep them rooted in the club is the desire to serve the student population rather than one's own personal gain.

Indeed, the 2013-2014 committee members from each of the clubs promises a year full of events that will cater to the interests of the student population. Their desire, dedication and passion to serve the NIE cohort will continue to burn on as they embark on new projects for the school. This investiture proved to be the start of a new journey that the clubs are hoping to undertake with the student body and will gladly do so in the upcoming year ahead.



23rd Trainee Teachers' club

CARISSA ABIDIN
 Editor-in-Chief
 Year 1, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
 Publications Officer
 Trainee Teachers' Club (23rd EXCO)

On 1st October 2013, the Trainee Teachers' Club (TTC) welcomed the 23rd batch of executive committee members. The event was graced by Professor Lee Sing Kong, Director, NIE, and was witnessed by other professors and student teachers. The investiture also paid tribute to the former members of TTC, and their contributions were shown appreciation through the handing out of certificates. The Trainee Teachers' Club is the Academic Constituent Club of the National Institute of Education, and aims to serve, to provide, and to unite.

Let's GO!

TAN BAONA
Year 2, Diploma in Education
Chairperson
NIE Travel Club



In December 2013, the NIE Travel Club carried out an enriching trip to Taiwan under the title, Let's GO! Taiwan.

The trip leader, Mr Poon Man Loong, together with the club's EXCO, led the trip to a great success. This travel opportunity allowed participants/student teachers to experience an international exchange, and acted as a networking platform with the students and staff from Teachers' College in National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU), Taipei and Feng Chia University (FCU), Tai Chung.

Student teachers also got to learn about the Taiwanese attitude and etiquette, which is to treat one another with warm embrace, graciousness, politeness, and patience at all times.

Besides the learning about the Taiwanese culture, the trip was a great way for participants to exchange ideas regarding the education system.

The local students in Taiwan showed our student teachers the improvements implemented in its educational system over the years, discussed their issues and concerns about the upcoming

12-year compulsory education plan, and shared about the high level of participation and vibrancy of students' commitments in the activities from the respective universities. The NIE group was also inspired by the creativity and innovation reflected in Taiwan's culture, food and fashion.

It was an eye-opening experience for us to witness the FCU's lecturers use Interactive Whiteboards widely in their teaching. This further encouraged us to leverage it in our teaching and learning. Staff from the Centre of Teaching and Learning Resources in FCU had shown great interest in how Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is incorporated in Singapore's education. Thus, we shared more about it through the implementation of IT Masterplans and future schools in Singapore.

We also visited the various famous geographical and historical sites such as National Palace Museum, Sun Moon Lake, and Shilin night market. These meaningful travel trips will provide student teachers with the valuable knowledge and authentic, memorable moments as part of their teaching resources to share with their students at various levels, which will benefit and aid them tremendously in their teaching in the near future.



The ties that bind

POH YANGHAN
 Vice-Chairperson (Operations)
 DanceFuzion

Photos by Marcus Low & Nicholas Oh

DanceFuzion (DF) held its bi-annual dance production on August 18, 2013 at the Biopolis Matrix Auditorium. The production, titled “The Ties That Bind”, was the second installment of the club’s “D:Finition” series.

A combination of both dance and drama, “The Ties That Bind” presented the audience with DanceFuzion’s interpretation of the seven deadly sins through the story of the dysfunctional Foo family. 11 original dance items, choreographed by both our resident choreographer, Chua Choon Hui, and 10 student choreographers, were interwoven into the story which followed the members of the Foo family as they confronted their inner demons.

In “The Ties That Bind”, various genres and styles of dance were displayed, such as hip-hop, jazz and K-Pop. The production also saw the club’s first showcase of both the Bollywood and contemporary genres.

Preparations for the production began as early as February 2013, as the choreographers

began to conceptualize and execute their visions. The dancers were put through countless grueling practices as they attempted to perfect the choreographies and express the emotions that each individual routine aimed to portray. In addition, the dancers also had to double up as cast members, as well as juggle other responsibilities as members of the various production sub-committees.

“The Ties That Bind” was a display of the dancers’ efforts and passion for dance, and signified the growth of DanceFuzion to what it is today. The audience was treated to a breathtaking display of dance techniques, from the expressive but technical movements of jazz, to the accents and hits of hip-hop. The cast members of the fictional Foo family also delivered a stunning performance that both tugged at the heartstrings of the audience and provided comic relief. The night was one to be remembered for both the dancers and the audience.

DanceFuzion would like to thank everyone who made the production a success, with special mention to OTE, BSc Club, BA Club and TTC for their valuable contributions towards the production.



The Mid-Autumn Festival (MAF) Celebration 2013



TOH WEI TING
Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Education)
Head of Event Committee (MAF)
Chinese Language Education and Research Club

Photos by Chinese Language Education and Research Club

The Mid-Autumn Festival (MAF) is a traditional Chinese festival that is celebrated on the 15th day of the eighth lunar month, a day when one gets to spend time with families and enjoy the spectacular view of the round full moon alongside the spread of delicate moon-cakes. Its roots hail from the Shang dynasty tradition of moon worship, and it is held at the time of the year when the moon is at its “fullest” - when the moon is visually at its largest and brightest.

The Mid-Autumn Festival is a time for gathering and reunion. More than 250 participants, including NIE students, alumni, staff, and their family members came together for the annual MAF Celebration organized by Chinese Language Education and Research (C.L.E.A.R.) Club, Office of Teachers Education and Asian Languages and Cultures Academic Group. Together with the finals of the SHINE Singing Competition, we had dance and skit performances by BA, PGDE and Dip Ed Chinese-specialisation students. Our very own CLC lecturers also formed a choir and performed the traditional folk songs 《小白船》 and 《青春舞曲》. Other than these amazing performances, we had our very first yuzu peeling competition, which received lots of praises from the audience.



The carnival booths at UiD consisting of individual and group games were carefully designed so that participants could enjoy the games with friends and family. Our snow-skin mooncake-making session was an enjoyable one which gave participants the opportunity to try mooncake making themselves. In addition, the Tea Appreciation Booth exposed participants to the history and culture of China as they enjoyed the taste of the tea.

The night ended with warm candlelight flickering around the NIE campus as staff and students made their way home with lanterns in their hands. Though all have gone home, the heartwarming ambience at the UiD lingered for a long time afterwards.



Chinese Chess Open 2013



Since 2005, there has been a void in tertiary-level Chinese Chess as universities no longer have the opportunity to take part in the varsity games between Institutes of Technical Education (ITEs), polytechnics and universities. Thus, Club Jeux decided to organise the Chinese Chess Open 2013 so that all students with a passion for the game will have a platform where they can put their skills to test. Students from various schools ranging from the primary to the tertiary level were invited to compete in this event in the hope that new friendships between like-minded participants would be forged, and to encourage Chinese Chess enthusiasts of all levels to learn from one another.

Held from 21st to 22nd September 2013 at the National Institute of Education (NIE), the event attracted approximately 120 participants from a range of different age groups. However, the turnout could have been

larger; many Junior College students expressed their regret in missing the competition because of their promotional examinations and A Levels. Nonetheless, the competitive mood was not dampened and competitors were excited about the tournament. Various teachers accompanying their students to the event commented that the atmosphere during the event was very vibrant and that their students were engaged and very enthusiastic about the tournament. The results of the tournament can be seen below:

The next edition of the Chinese Chess Open is tentatively scheduled for May 2014. If anyone is interested in Chinese Chess or in organising events involving Chinese Chess, please feel free to contact Liu Weilie at att0exa@hotmail.com.





UPCOMING

CLUB EVENTS/ CONTESTS

Chinnanjim Star
Maedas 2014 lite

The Amazing
Race

scienkid

NIE Chinese Chess
Blitz Challenge

Valentine's

Games day
Mania dances



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Nurul Ashila Binte

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Toh Wei Ting

NIE Wellness Centre

The NIE Wellness Centre provides psychological and counseling services to National Institute of Education student teachers, Nanyang Technological University students and to the general public offering affordable psychological services and counseling to a high standard.

A medical referral is not required.

Appointments can be arranged by phoning the centre at this number 6790 3318.

<http://www.ps.nie.edu.sg/WELLNESS.htm>

The NIE Wellness Centre operating hours:
9am to 5pm (Mon - Fri)
5pm to 9pm (Mon - Thurs upon request)

The NIE Wellness Centre is located in
the basement of the Education Building
(Block 2) at the National Institute of Education.