



# VOICES

ISSUE  
**27**  
2015

An Institute of Distinction

A PUBLICATION OF TRAINEE TEACHERS' CLUB

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### EVENT

1,446 graduates of NIE prepare to enter the teaching force at the Teachers' Investiture Ceremony

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### FEATURE

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## CULTURAL COVERAGE

NIE celebrates...



**MID-AUTUMN FESTIVAL**



**HARI RAYA DEEPAVALI**



read more on pg. 17-19

## TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS

Professors and student teachers of NIE celebrate their special day with flowers and well wishes!



We fear it. We dread it. But we need to pass it. Read about Year 1-4 Practicum in:

## THE PRACTICUM DIARIES p.12



# NIE FOZ 2014

Don't miss this special feature of NIE's first combined BABSd/DipEd/PGDE Freshmen Orientation Camp organized by TTC, BA Club, BSc Club and PESS Club!

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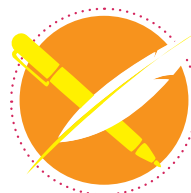
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## COMMENTARY

Dear Readers,

Thanks for being one of the few people to read the editor's commentary! I've only been at NIE for one semester but even in this short time, I've come to feel a strong sense of belonging to it. There's something special about walking down the corridors and knowing that every single person you see is going to become a teacher as well. I've been incredibly blessed to be part of the pioneer batch of the Teaching Scholars' Programme and each day I'm more and more sure that I made the right decision to come here.

The semester started with a bang with the first ever combined Freshmen Orientation Camp: FOZ 2014 for BABSc, DipEd and PGDE student teachers (pg. 10-11). I think all who attended (including me) will agree that it was a most enjoyable 3 days and 2 nights of bonding with fellow freshies and getting to know NIE better as well.

A few months in NIE and I find myself compiling articles for VOICES. It's been a difficult but fulfilling experience and I'm glad to have had the chance to do so! The number of articles that are covered in this issue show what a vibrant place NIE is, with numerous events and plenty of opportunities for everyone such as International Practicum (pg. 13). Do also check out



## DEAN'S MESSAGE ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR LIU WOON CHIA

Dear Student Teachers,

Welcome back to the Second Semester of the Academic Year! I trust that you all have had a restful and enjoyable school break, and are ready to face the exciting challenges of a new term ahead. In this message, I would like to share something which is close to my heart as an educator and I hope it will be meaningful and inspiring to you as you continue your learning journey here in NIE to become a future educator.

If we ask around, we will realize that good teachers come in different moulds and use different techniques. It is their passion and enthusiasm for the subject and an ability to connect their self, subject and students in the fabric of life, that makes them good teachers.

Often, people perceive teaching as merely using techniques to impart knowledge but it is definitely so much more than that! Good teaching involves passion from the

heart and requires the integration of subject knowledge, inner-self-awareness, students and teaching techniques. The best teachers are those who are able to infuse their identity and integrity with their subject knowledge and enthuse to inspire learning. In the process, they create that inter-connectedness with their students or even engage their own hearts. In essence, we teach who we are to our students through our subject and our interactions. Teaching, in this sense, is like holding a mirror to the soul.

Sharing from my experience, I think I rely a lot on my identity and purpose as an educator. I was first touched by excellent teachers in the past, and they have taught me so much about what it means to be a good role model for my students. It is passion and understanding of the subject that enables one to connect with one's students, and in turn to connect them with the subject. Of course, when teachers invest themselves in their teaching, they and their subject might become susceptible to

## MESSAGES

judgment, opinions and even critics, and that is when teaching becomes daunting and teachers falter.

When this happens, I would like to encourage you not to lose heart and start pulling away from your subject, students and even yourself. Instead, take a moment to regain your identity and integrity by listening and responding to the teacher within you. Take time to reflect, have a moment of peace and quiet or turn to any other ways that help you to reconnect with your inner self. It is by doing so that you will be awoken once again to the voice of identity and integrity, and the teacher within. I myself am definitely still learning to do this!

When you have the time, do also read "The Courage to Teach: Exploring the Inner Landscape of a Teacher's Life" by Parker Palmer - you'll certainly gain some insights and find encouragement.

I do hope that you will benefit from this sharing and continue to keep that passion to teach alive. I wish you a happy and fulfilling semester ahead.

Warmest regards,  
A/P Liu Woon Chia

Dean  
Office of Teacher Education  
National Institute of Education (NIE)

The Practicum Diaries (pg. 12) to find out more about seniors' experiences during practicum. Instead of dreading it (which I know I am), why not do your best to learn what you can expect and how you can make the best of it?

This issue of NIE's VOICES also features new sections to accommodate the variety of articles we have. Find out what events organised by the various clubs of NIE you might have missed in "Student Life" (pg 14-16) and the various festival celebrations organised by the different ethnic groups of NIE in the last semester in "Cultural Coverage" (pg. 17-19).

The next semester promises to be another fun-filled and happening one so do stay tuned and participate

actively in all the events (look at the last page for a list). May 2015 be an awesome year as you face the various challenges and joys of being a student teacher! Treasure friendships, share happy moments and study hard!



Lin Siyue

Editor-in-Chief  
First-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)

Publications Officer,  
24th Trainee Teachers' Club





# TEACHERS' INVESTITURE CEREMONY 2014

NIE celebrates the graduation of 1446 new teachers as they prepare to enter the teaching force and to fulfill their calling to impact and shape lives.

**Jaslyn Shalini A R**  
Graduate, Bachelor of Arts (Education)  
Club Advisor | NIE Service Learning Club

In July 2014, the Teachers' Investiture Ceremony, that was held over two days in the Nanyang Auditorium at the Nanyang Technological University, saw the graduation of a total of 1,446 new and returning teachers. As each and every one of them walked up to collect their certificates, they were not just celebrating the successful completion of their education in the National Institute of Education (NIE), but also commemorating a new beginning in the education service. Graduating from various programmes such as BA/BSc (Ed), PGDE and DipEd programme, these new beginning teachers would finally be embarking on a meaningful and fulfilling career as educators in various schools across Singapore.

Three ceremonies were scheduled over two days. The first ceremony was graced by our Guest-of-Honour, Mr Heng Swee Keat, Minister of Education. In his inspiring

address, he expressed his joy in joining the celebration by highlighting that this ceremony marks not only the success of the graduands but also the eventual success of the students who will pass through their hands. Indeed, these words resonated with the calling that each one of these new teachers had in their hearts – a calling to make an impact and shape lives.

With the reminder that "Teaching is a calling to be measured not semester by semester, not grade by grade, but life by life", each of the graduands present went forth to receive their scroll with great pride. 28 graduands were specially highlighted for their exceptional achievements during their time in NIE. Among them were Jasper Sim Hong and Lim Li Cheng, who attained the First Class Honours in the Bachelor of Arts (Education) and the Bachelor of Science (Education) respectively. Both of them also received the prestigious Lee Kuan Yew Gold Medal for best performance in general proficiency throughout the programme of study.

The event was finally brought to a close with a heartwarming speech by the valedictorian, Grace Ho, who not only shared her personal journey but also led the graduands in the meaningful act of acknowledging their family, friends and teachers for faithfully sowing seeds of love and care in their lives. With that, the graduands, led by Grace, recited the Teachers' Pledge, officially marking their commitment and dedication to the education service and their calling to be educators.

As a beginning teacher, I am grateful for the years spent in NIE; the knowledge learnt, the experiences gained and the friends made. On the behalf of the graduating cohort of 2014, I would like to express our immense gratitude to all the NIE staff who worked tirelessly to make our years in NIE truly memorable. I believe that NIE will always remain in our hearts even as we set forth to begin our journey as educators.



**"A TEACHER'S JOB IS DIFFERENT FROM ALL OTHER JOBS - YOU ARE IN THE PROFESSION OF SHAPING LIVES. WHEN YOU DO YOUR JOB WITH SKILL AND WITH HEART, YOUR IMPACT IS IMMENSURABLE."**

**- MR HENG**

Photos by OTE

# 24TH TRAINEE TEACHERS' CLUB INVESTITURE

The 24th Management Committee of the Trainee Teachers' Club holds its investiture as these student leaders pledge to serve the student body of NIE.

**Lin Siyue**  
First-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)  
Publications Officer | Trainee Teachers' Club

The 24th Management Committee of the Trainee Teachers' Club (TTC) held its investiture on 8 October 2014. This annual event was held at the amphitheatre of the Student Services Centre, appropriately reflecting the student-centric vision of the TTC. The dual purpose of this ceremony was to recognize the 23rd TTC and Sub-Committee for their contributions in the previous academic year, as well as to officially confer the various roles in TTC to the new committee members.

The Guest-of-Honour at this event was none other than Associate Professor Liu Woon Chia, Dean of Teacher Education. With sincerity and enthusiasm, she delivered her opening speech, appreciating the 23rd Committee for their contributions by highlighting their successes. She also inspired the next committee to strive for greater heights and to truly display servant leadership in their term ahead.



A/Prof Liu was then invited to present the certificates of appreciation to the outgoing committee and sub-committee members, and a special award to the best sub-committee member. There were smiles all around as the committee reminisced about their time in TTC, grateful for the friends and shared memories.

In his speech, Justin Ng, the outgoing President, thanked his committee for their dedication and hard work, and encouraged the 24th TTC to surpass what they had previously achieved. Katherine Tan also gave her first speech as President of the 24th TTC, expressing happiness in having the opportunity to serve in this capacity, and looked forward to the great things the 24th TTC would be able to achieve.

The 24th committee was then introduced, and they recited the pledge as one TTC, ready to take on the big challenge of being a part of the committee that would be committed to serving the school. They pledged to serve, to provide for and to unite the student body, fostering community spirit and inculcating a sense of belonging in all student teachers.

Visit [www.facebook.com/niettc](http://www.facebook.com/niettc) for more information about upcoming TTC events!



Photos by Marcus Liang

- 24TH TTC:**  
Tan Wenxin, Katherine Carissa Abidin, Loe Weiqiang Timothy, Tay Rui Shan, Isabel Zhang Hua'an, Noah Neo Hui Ning, Melissa Seah Jin Yang, Victoria Wong Zi Qing, Zailany Findy Bin Safie, Chng Huiru Denise, Ricky Rueban S/O David John Lin Siyue, Pang Peng Tiong, Amanda Huang Xuanqi, Liang Chay Jiang, Marcus





Photos by PIAR

## NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS AND NIE RUNWAY

NIE celebrates Singapore's 49th Birthday!

Originally written by: Public, International and Alumni Relations (PIAR)

Edited by: Lin Siyue  
First-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)  
Publications Officer | Trainee Teachers' Club

Seas of red and white filled NIE on 8 August 2014 as the entire school gathered for the annual National Day Observance Ceremony.

To kick-start the celebrations, a marching contingent of 215 student representatives from all 43 Group Endeavours in Service Learning (GESL) groups marched down the NIE triangle with their respective group designed flags. The flags were carefully crafted by each of the groups to reflect both national values as well as each individual group's identity. This was followed by the ceremonial raising of the Singapore flag, singing of the national anthem and reciting the pledge.

In conjunction with the annual 'Runway NIE' national-themed

fashion show, all first-year student teachers pit their costume-making talents to good use here. To reflect the NDP 2014 theme 'Our People, Our Home', teams were tasked to design, create, and present the garments in most interesting ways on the runway. Their concepts were also captured on poster boards and displayed at the linkway between Blocks 2 and 3.

The student teachers worked hard for the previous two weeks, painstakingly putting together costumes made from recycled materials. The whole experience not only helped to contribute to the festivity of the event, but also brought the groups closer together as they cheered for their models who strutted down the runway.



Yong Huiwen, the model from GESL Degree Group 3, said, "This unforgettable experience allowed me to forge a stronger bond with my GESL group mates who went the extra mile to prepare for this event. I am proud to have worn the dress designed by them that symbolized our love for our country."

As the first large-scale school event for the first-year student teachers of the various programmes, it helped to capture the community spirit of NIE and allowed the them to feel a sense of belonging to both NIE and Singapore. From the loud cheers, it was clear that this vibrant celebration had been a most successful commemoration of Singapore's 49th birthday!

*A similar article was published in the NIE News Sept 2014 issue.*



## DANCEFUZION SHOWCASE (RECESS ALTEREGO: ILLUMINATE)

DanceFuzion holds its showcase and wows the crowd with amazing dance numbers!

Poh Yanghan  
Third-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)  
Chairperson | DanceFuzion

Following months of hard work and preparation, DanceFuzion (DF) successfully held its biennial dance showcase on August 23, 2014 at the Lee Kong Chian Lecture Theatre.

The showcase was titled Recess AlterEgo: Illuminate. With the tremendous growth experienced over the years, the club resolved to make this showcase its best performance yet.

Preparations began as early as February 2014, and continued



Photos by Christopher Lim

even through the semester break. The dancers strived to perfect the steps and expressions that the choreographies demanded for.

A total of nine dance items were put up during the showcase. These were specially crafted by the resident choreographer of DanceFuzion, Chua Choon Hui, as well as 11 student choreographers. Genres and styles of dance ranged from DanceFuzion's main strength, hip hop, to other genres such as jazz, Bollywood, K-Pop, and reggae. The showcase also saw, for the first time, the club's alumni staging an item of their own, showing their passion for dance even as they juggled the demands of their working schedules.



It was not just a dance showcase for DanceFuzion, as guest performers also joined us on the stage that night. MDIS' dance crew, sMash.DIS, presented two awe-inspiring dance routines, while two vocal groups, The Bob Friends and F&N also sang their hearts out, captivating the audience with their fantastic vocals.

Recess AlterEgo: Illuminate was a display of the dancers' efforts and passion for dance, and a representation of continuous growth as DanceFuzion strives for more experience and exposure in dance. In the midst of applause and cheers, the showcase came to an end, and it was definitely a memorable experience for both the dancers and the audience.

DanceFuzion would like to thank everyone who helped in making the showcase a success, with special mention to OTE, the support team comprising the technical crew, photographers, videographers, and emcees, as well as Trainee Teachers' Club for their valuable contributions towards the showcase.



## TEACHERS' DAY CELEBRATIONS!

Both student teachers and staff of NIE celebrate Teachers' Day with the giving of beautiful flowers and cards.

**Tan Wenxin, Katherine**  
Third-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)  
President | Trainee Teachers' Club

Teachers' Day is celebrated in many countries around the world as a special day for the honouring and appreciation of teachers. Teachers' Day is an occasion close to all our hearts as we study and work in NIE, the one and only teaching institute in Singapore.

In lieu of this merry occasion, the Trainee Teachers' Club (TTC) Management Committee organised a Flower Sale from 3 to 5 September 2014. TTC brought in colourful



## CHINESE CHESS WITH A GRANDMASTER

Liu Weilie recounts his experience playing Chinese Chess with Liu Da Hua.

**Liu Weilie**  
Fourth-Year, Bachelor of Science (Education)  
Member | Club Jeux

Liu Da Hua is a Chinese Chess Grandmaster, and an expert training coach. He holds the world record for playing the most number of players simultaneously with a score-line of 83 wins, 47

draws and 9 losses. As such, he has a complimentary nickname — 东方电脑 (Computer of the East).

I was thrilled to know that I had been selected for the simultaneous matches he played in Singapore on 24 August 2014. However, I was also nervous because of his impressive background, wondering if I could play till a draw.

During the match, I had to remain composed as I could not anticipate his next move. I also had to overcome competition pressures and grapple with many decisions — whether to attack and try for a win or to defend and try for a draw.



Photos by Amanda Huang

gerberas and big, blooming sunflowers that were sold at attractive prices. Many student teachers came early to ensure that they could get their hands on one. Some even walked away with whole bunches of these irresistibly lovely flowers for their tutors and friends!

It was indeed heartwarming to see the student teachers giving each other flowers and exchanging words of appreciation and love as they streamed down the corridors with beaming smiles. There were also excited discussions amongst groups revolving around how they could spring a surprise for their respective tutors!

Moreover, to show our appreciation to all NIE tutors on behalf of all the NIE student teachers, TTC members also personally delivered gerberas with a note to each and every tutor. This was a pioneer initiative by the committee. Tutors were extremely happy to receive this warm token of appreciation, which symbolized the student body's heartfelt thanks for their guidance and care!

The final result was a draw, which I was pleased with.

I would like to express my thanks to Singapore Xiangqi General Association for giving me the opportunity to play with Grandmaster Liu Da Hua and NIE for giving me the chance to share my experience with the student body.



## CLEAR CLUB FRESHMEN ORIENTATION CAMP!

CLEAR Club holds its orientation programme for student teachers who will be studying Chinese Language at NIE!

**Darren Beh**  
Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)  
Chairperson | Chinese Language Education and Research Club

On 7th August 2014, about 80 freshmen from the Bachelor of Arts, Diploma and Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Chinese Specialization) attended a half-day orientation programme, organized by Chinese Language Education and Research Club (CLEAR Club). The CLEAR Club is made up of those who study Chinese Language at NIE, and they organise activities related to Chinese culture such as Chinese New Year and Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations.

This Orientation event was aimed at welcoming the new student teachers into NIE and to help assimilate them into the CLEAR community.

The day started with an inspirational welcome speech by our lecturers, followed by an opportunity to interact with seniors and enquire about lives in NIE. This not only helped the new student teachers to learn more about what was to come, but also to foster bonds with the seniors who would be able to help them in the future.

During the games, the freshmen were not only challenged physically with various tasks, such as frisbee and rope skipping, but also mentally, with the need to complete tasks based on the knowledge of movies, songs and Chinese idioms. Through the challenges, the freshmen got to know each other better and bonded as a cohort. At the final activity, each team got on stage and performed short parodies of recent Chinese dramas. This resulted in much laughter and cheers, providing a fun and memorable end to the day's activities!



Photos by Tian Xiao



# NIE FRESHMEN ORIENTATION CAMP

Photos by Amanda Huang, Carissa Abidin, Karen Kong, Marcus Liang



Freshmen are welcomed to NIE with an exciting, fun-filled, zombie-themed camp!

**Perdana Putra @Pan Ping Rui**  
Fourth-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)  
Chairperson | Freshmen Orientation Camp Organising Committee

In a nod to the ever-popular post-apocalyptic zombie trope, the Trainee Teachers' Club—together with the Bachelor of Arts Club, the Bachelor of Science Club, as well as the Physical Education and Sports Science Club—organised in August a freshmen orientation camp complete with some crazy, cannibalistic cadaver cosmetics, FOZ 2014.

Aiming fundamentally to raise a cohesive sense of community right from the outset, this zombie-themed camp was also the first in NIE's history to play host to three Initial Teacher Preparation strands at once, namely, our Bachelor of Arts/Science (Education), Diploma, and Postgraduate Diploma in Education (Physical Education) programmes, in addition to ushering in our pioneer batch of NTU-NIE Teaching Scholars. Most of the macabre magic happened during the thrilling three days of dawn-to-dusk bonding activities on August 4-6, 2014, with around 70 seniors welcoming over 120 camp participants.

After the first night of adrenaline-filled and fake blood-splattered rounds of survival-horror live action role play, the second day saw our camp participants foraging for 'antidotes' and banding together to complete a number of obstacles during the Amazing Race. The Race took them not only around NIE and NTU but also Tiong Bahru and even Sentosa. On the third night, FOZ 2014 finally culminated with a finale performance (and some serious selfie sessions) before the Dean's address the following day, when Associate Professor Liu Woon Chia, Dean, Teacher Education, warmly welcomed our budding student teachers.

Through the many days and nights of socialising, it is hoped that these student teachers from the July 2014 intake would find NIE a more hospitable home for their two to four years here. If many of our participants arrived on the first day not knowing a soul, FOZ 2014 should have helped ease their transition and made our big school smaller. After all, whether these freshmen will thereafter remain as bright-eyed and bushy-tailed or turn into the walking dead during the morning classes, needless to say, would in part depend on the social support they receive. Long after FOZ 2014, we can only wish that the friendships they forged would outlive the camp itself—all of us cannot survive otherwise.





## YEAR 1 SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

21 Jul - 1 Aug 2014  
St Anthony's Pri School & Nanyang Girls' High School

**Nur Syazwani Bte Shoffie**  
Second-Year, BA (Ed) / English and Drama



**WHAT IS IT ABOUT?** | It consisted mainly of two weeks of observing lessons. I occasionally helped with classroom management, interacting and facilitating classroom discussions among students.

**BEST MEMORY?** | Helping out in a drama lessons. You can see how the classroom dynamics constantly shift and how the students gradually warm up to you through kinesthetic activities. It's also heartwarming to watch students share their personal stories in relation to the lesson.

**GREATEST CHALLENGE?** | There wasn't anything in particular that I found a challenge, except perhaps maybe distance? Nanyang Girls' was an hour away from my house. Also, there was the initial fear of getting lost in the school!

**ADVICE TO GIVE?** | Practically, I would advise them to dress appropriately. Also, always take the initiative to familiarize yourself with the school's environment!



## YEAR 3 TEACHING PRACTICE I

30 Jul - 1 Aug 2014 | Jurong West Primary School

**Tan Kai Lin**  
Fourth-Year, BSc (Ed) / Math, English, Science

**WHAT IS IT ABOUT?** | I observed for the 1st and 2nd week. From the 3rd to 5th week, I was assigned to teach for twenty periods, and I was graded on some of the lessons. I was also required to sit in and be involved in level assembly, contact time and Form Teacher Guidance Period.

**BEST MEMORY?** | Spending time with my fellow practicum friends. When I was swarmed with work, or felt discouraged after an ineffective lesson, they were always there to help me and provide me with moral support.

**GREATEST CHALLENGE?** | Maintaining order in the classroom while keeping an eye out for every pupil's needs during lessons. When I first started teaching, the pupils would come up to me for all sorts of reasons, "May I go to the toilet?" "Teacher, she stole my eraser." Looking back, I felt more like a nanny than a teacher!

**ADVICE TO GIVE?** | Remember your pupils' names! It makes a great impact on how your pupils respond to you. Also, if you are absent-minded like me, it will help to label your belongings (i.e. markers, bell, thumb-drive and red pens) with your name!



## YEAR 2 TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIP

30 June - 1 Aug 2014 | Fuchun Primary School

**Rachel Tan Shiya**  
Third-Year, BA (Ed) / English, Math, Music



**WHAT IS IT ABOUT?** | I observed classes and occasionally assisted the teacher in carrying out learning activities that were designed to cater to students with different learning proficiencies. I also helped to handle a couple of 'problematic' students.

**BEST MEMORY?** | The interaction with students! I was attached to a primary 2 class so the pupils were easily excitable and cheery! The day-to-day interactions with them kept me looking forward to school each day.

**GREATEST CHALLENGE?** | Knowing how to make the most out of my time during the practicum as we are basically required to just observe. I had to take the initiative to ask for opportunities to teach even when the school did not allocate this to me. This then allowed me to practise writing lesson plans and carrying them out.

**ADVICE TO GIVE?** | Form good bonds with fellow trainee teachers because they will be the ones spurring you on, spending most time with you in the staff room and telling you jokes to brighten up your day!



## YEAR 4 TEACHING PRACTICE II

24 Feb - 9 May 2014 | Macpherson Secondary School

**Chong Zi Yi**  
Graduate, BSc (Ed) / Chemistry, Physics

**WHAT IS IT ABOUT?** | I was expected to adapt to the staff and student environment given to me and churn out teaching and learning resources that would reflect my classroom management capabilities and pedagogical knowledge. We had several observations where we would be graded on.

**BEST MEMORY?** | Observing my students brainstorm aloud for an answer when I posed a question! Their curiosity and creativity resulted in many interesting, albeit a little absurd, answers. It was a joy to see the glow in their eyes!

**GREATEST CHALLENGE?** | Producing lesson packages and materials. Being a trainee, I was not allowed to use school resources wholly and had to come up with my own materials. My eyes were glued to PowerPoint and Word on days when a lesson observation was due the next day.

**ADVICE TO GIVE?** | Be proficient with your lesson plans and know what you want to achieve in each lesson. Also, be humble and accept criticism whenever they come!



## INTERNATIONAL PRACTICUM

**Foo YingTing**  
Third-Year, Bachelor of Science (Education)

12 May - 19 June 2014  
Randersgades Skole  
Denmark, Copenhagen



### WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO SIGN UP FOR INTERNATIONAL PRACTICUM?

I wanted to step out of my comfort zone to explore, learn and grow, and make my university life as encircling as possible. I believed this experience would help me to become more independent and mature. Also, I was interested in finding more about the education systems in European countries.

### WHAT WERE THE MAIN THINGS YOU DID DURING PRACTICUM?

We spent the first three days in Denmark attending a two-day course in the host university, University of College Capital (UCC). For the next two weeks, we observed how the Denmark teachers taught in the school. For the third to fifth week, we were assigned to teach a Grade 5 (Pri 5) and Grade 6 (Pri 6) class English and Maths.

### HOW WAS IT LIKE DEALING WITH THE VARIOUS GROUPS OF PEOPLE DURING YOUR PRACTICUM?

The principal, Head of Departments, Teachers and supervisors were all very friendly and supportive towards our teaching style and the lesson plans that we crafted for the classes. I felt comfortable asking them for any help or advice.

### WHAT WAS YOUR BEST MEMORY?

My best memory from practicum was Caramel Day in Randersgades Skole. It's an annual tradition that the school celebrates in conjunction with the graduation of the Grade 9s. On this day, graduating students would get to dress up in any costume. At noon, they would be given one hour to run around the whole school with waterguns. As a "reward" for getting shot, juniors would be able to get sweets from the seniors. What I found interesting was the inter-level bondedness, and how the whole school had rallied to support the graduating students. Also, the teachers showed their love for the students by participating actively too!



### WHAT WAS THE GREATEST CHALLENGE?

I feel that the greatest challenge is the language barrier, as English is not their first language in Denmark. Thus, it is quite a challenge to communicate with the students especially when giving instructions and trying to explain some difficult mathematical/English terms.

### WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO A STUDENT TEACHER GOING FOR THIS PRACTICUM?

Go with an open mind. Be flexible and adaptable and learn as much as you can because it is definitely a worthwhile and fulfilling experience. More importantly, enjoy every moment there!

### HOW IS INTERNATIONAL PRACTICUM DIFFERENT FROM THE PRACTICUMS DONE IN SINGAPORE?

The work load such as preparing for lessons is less tedious as we get to teach in a pair during international practicum, while in Singapore they have to teach the class individually. This definitely makes it less stressful!

There is also a lot of trust and respect between the teachers and students. The teachers and students are like friends yet at the same time students still respect teachers as an authority figure.





## NIE T-SHIRT SALES

T-shirts fly off the shelves at NIE!

**Lin Siyue**  
First-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)  
Publications Officer | Trainee Teachers' Club

The NIE T-shirt Sale was held on 18-20 August 2014. It was met with a huge success as people flocked to purchase their t-shirts.

Organized by the Trainee Teachers' Club (TTC), the sale was carried out for a span of three hours on each day. However, there was such an overwhelming response that most t-shirts were sold out in less than an hour.



Queues started more than half an hour before the sale time, proving how popular the t-shirts were. Student teachers and staff alike lined up early at the linkway between Block 2 and 3 to ensure that they could get their t-shirt in their preferred colour and size. Some even ran from lectures and tutorials just so that they could get their hands on one (or more) of these highly sought after t-shirts.

The t-shirts this year came in 5 different colours – yellow, maroon, black, blue and pink. Featuring a simple but classic collegiate design, they were met with a positive response. If you missed the opportunity to get one this year, look forward to next year's sale and make sure you queue up early!

We asked people what their favourite t-shirt colour was. Here are the results!



## CHILL@X NIE

TTC organises a 3-day programme consisting of games and a welfare pack giveaway to spread some cheer as exams approach!

**Ricky Rueban S/O David John**  
First-Year, Bachelor of Arts  
Special Projects Officer | Trainee Teachers' Club

Chill@X NIE was a fresh initiative rolled out by the Trainee Teachers' Club (TTC), to provide an avenue for the student teachers to relax through the healthy means of sports and games, as well as to encourage the students before their exams with the traditional Welfare Pack Giveaway!

With the support and help of Club Jeux, the recreational games were held on Day One. The two hour session was filled with strategic thinking, laughter and certainly, lots of fun! In collaboration with the Physical Education and Sports Science (PESS)



Photos by Amanda Huang



Club, badminton and captain's ball games were held on the second day. The morning session of badminton saw several enthusiastic participants smashing the shuttlecock in the courts, while many players turned up in teams to prove their formidable might at the captain's ball match in the afternoon. The one hour worth of action went by fast and in some ways, furious.

This year's Welfare Pack Giveaway was a tremendous success. Not only did we manage to clear the queue as fast as it formed, this year's pack had more goodies than ever, with the items having a total value exceeding \$400. Most praises (and some critiques) came from the weight of the bag, which corresponded to the diverse range of items inside. In addition, we also had a separate ice cream counter, where free Cravio and Melona iced concoctions were given out.

TTC hopes that everyone enjoyed Chill@x NIE and that the Welfare Pack brought you much joy (and sustenance)!

## DYNAMIGHT!

Student teachers pick up new skills at various workshops during Dynamight!

**Farah Rosalan**  
Third-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)  
Vice-President | Bachelor of Arts Club

DynaMight!, formerly known as Learning Festival, is an annual collaborative event organized by ten various clubs of NIE to celebrate the spirit of learning. It is a unique event that takes after the explosive effect of a dynamite in which participants will be able to feel the rejuvenation of learning a new skill within 60 minutes. Like a dynamite that explodes with flames and passion, DynaMight! bursts with similar vigour and excitement as participants learn something new.

On 10 September 2014, those who signed up for this event could learn various skills during the designated OTE slot. Activities such as balloon sculpting, henna drawing, cooking workshop, Danish games and many more were conducted within the school compound by members of the NIE Family. During the fun-filled hour, the student teachers participated enthusiastically in the various events and had a great time learning something new!



The event allowed participants to discover new interests and be inspired to fuse the element of fun into teaching and their everyday lives. It has also created a platform for NIE student teachers to showcase their 'hidden talents' and to promote greater interaction between student teachers, as well as, teaching and non-teaching staffs. Ultimately, Dynamight! has facilitated the spirit of co-operative learning among members of the NIE community.



## INSOMNIAC XIV

BSc Club holds a thrilling night cycling event!

**Yeo Quan Kai**  
Second-Year, Diploma in Education  
Co-logistics Officer | Bachelor of Science Club

NIE's Bachelor of Science club recently held INSOMNIAC XIV in October to kick start the new semester with a blast. Taking on a new route this year, the club packed in the food, fun and games into the night!

The night began with some activities such as the sharp shooting game which saw much laughter and bonding for the groups. The challenges were met with hilarious accounts of individuals who thought of unconventional methods to complete the games.

It was a good but tiring start so we headed down to Bedok Simpang for various mouthwatering food like roti prata, mee goreng, and curry, accompanied by milo dinosaur to replenish our energy! With our stomachs filled and ready to go, we cycled to Elias mall for another game where everyone posed for photos in a photo hunt, to find the right pose and background.



Photos by Marcus Liang

Next, we cycled to the breathtakingly beautiful Halus Bridge with small dim lights dotted across its red steel frame. After crossing the bridge, we cycled through the Punggol Waterfront Park and immersed ourselves in the serenity of the quiet night. As we slowly made our way back to East Coast Park where we first started off, we found ourselves cycling along the Serangoon River for most part of the remaining journey.

Fun games, good food as well as great views and beautiful sceneries worked hand in hand that night to create the most wonderful memory and experience for all of us. As the last bicycle arrived at East Coast Park, we toasted with the Milo cans in our hands and gave each other a pat on the back for completing the route.

Even though the fun and excitement was over, we still have many ideas that we would like to include in the next INSOMNIAC. So stay tuned and see you again in INSOMNIAC XVI!



# GAME OF THE WEEK

Club Jeux introduces new games to NIE during the fun-filled Game of the Week event!

**Foo Mow Chien Darren**  
Second-Year, Diploma in Education  
Media Relations Officer | Club Jeux

For two weeks, Club Jeux organised a fun-filled event titled the 'Games of the Week' in NIE on the 17th and 24th of September 2014. Held at level 1 of the NIE Canteen, the two week event attracted an impressive number of participants.

This event is in line with our mission at Club Jeux to empower student teachers to tap on the potential of board games in learning in classrooms. We were able to share with the NIE community the possibility of introducing board games into their pedagogy as well as provide them with an avenue to have fun and meet up with new people.

Two of the games which we introduced for the two weeks were 'Saboteur' and 'Ooga'. 'Saboteur' is a mining-themed card game where players are randomly (and secretly) assigned a 'Miner' or 'Saboteur'



role which consists of different aims and purposes. The game relies a lot on luck as well as instinct from the players. 'Ooga' is a game where players have to collect dino cards to fill up their respective chief menus and the one with the most at the end of the game wins.

After playing the games, participants were asked to brainstorm ways they could incorporate these games into their teaching. They were then entitled to a lucky dip and won prizes in the form of stationery and chocolate. Overall, this was a successful event as the participants not only had fun but also enjoyed learning playing new games and ways to incorporate them into their lessons.

*We welcome you to our weekly board gaming sessions at UiD level 3 of the Student Services Centre at these times, feel free to join us!*  
Monday: 5.30pm – 7.30pm  
Wednesday: 10.30am – 11.30am

Contact us at [clubjeux@gmail.com](mailto:clubjeux@gmail.com) or follow us on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/ClubJeux> if you have any inquiries.

Photos by Alexia Quek and Crosby Teo



# FOOD DONATION DRIVE

NIE participates in a food donation drive organised by FCS to help needy families.

**Nur Fateha Kamsani**  
Third-Year, Bachelor of Science (Education)  
Treasurer | Family and Consumers' Science Club

NIE Family and Consumer Science (FCS) Club organised a second Food Donation Drive from 27 to 31 October 2014, following the success of the first food donation drive previously held last semester. Student teachers and staff were already familiar with the non-perishable food items they can donate such as dry noodles, biscuits, canned foods, instant coffee, powdered beverages, cooking oil, spreads etc. and donated generously to the cause.

In collaboration with The Singapore Food Bank Ltd, the non-perishable food received will be

allocated to the needy via various channels through voluntary welfare organisations, family service centres, charities, soup kitchens and more. The goals of our club were aligned with our collaborator in raising awareness for hunger and food wastage in Singapore.

We hope that the food donation drive this time around successfully raised the importance of the shortage of food supplies for the needy among the NIE community.

Members of the FCS Club would like to thank all NIE student teachers and staff for giving generously. We appreciate every individual's efforts in paying it forward. A little generosity goes a long way and we hope that you will continue to support us in the upcoming exciting events that we have planned just for you. Get ready to be thrilled!



# MIDAUTUMN FESTIVAL & 4TH SHINE COMPETITION

**Lin Jia Ning**  
Second-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)  
Editor | Chinese Language Education and Research Club

Mid-Autumn Festival is a traditional Chinese Festival that is celebrated on the 15th day of every eighth lunar month. It was said that the moon shines the fullest on this very night, thus marking this day as a significant symbol for a reunion with our families and loved ones.

On 5 September 2014, more than 250 NIE student teachers, alumnus, staff and their family members gathered at NIE Lecture theatre 2 for the annual Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration, organized by the Chinese Language Education and Research (CLEAR) Club and Chinese Language and Culture Department (CLC).



The celebration kicked off with an opening speech by the Guest of Honour, Associate Professor Liu Woon Chia, Dean of Teacher Education. Delivering her speech in Mandarin, she expressed her best wishes and blessings for the NIE community, and emphasized the importance to show gratitude to our loved ones. The celebration was followed by a variety of music, songs and dances, performed by over 30 student teachers from the Postgraduate Diploma in Education Programme. One student teacher, from the Diploma of Education, even took on the stage to perform one segment of the Traditional Chinese Opera.

Photos by Kwok Fang Jie



The highly anticipated SHINE Singing Competition 2014 became one of the main highlights of the night as six grand finalists showcased their talents and awed the audience with their stunning and beautiful vocals. Later, some audience were invited onto the stage for a Pomelo Peeling Competition. In the next segment, a total of ten lucky draw winners walked away with attractive prizes, such as thumbdrives, portable chargers and even a Canon printer.

At the final part of the celebration, the participants were invited to a Retro-themed Mid-Autumn Carnival, which was right outside of Lecture theatre 2. There was a range of retro games and carnival style foods, such as ice-cream cones, cup corn and BBQ Satays. The participants had a great deal of fun making their very own mooncakes at the snow-skin mooncake-making booth. They also gained a deeper understanding of the rich history and culture of China along with the exquisite taste of Chinese tea at the Tea Appreciation booth.

Overall, it was a joyful night of celebration for all!







## HARI RAYA SHOW: RAYA'S NEXT TOP MODEL

Muhammad Azli Azfar Bin Onn  
Third-Year, Bachelor of Arts (Education)  
Logistics Officer | Malay Language & Cultural Society



Similar to the “Miss Universe” concept, our models were expected to be all-rounded and multi-talented, hence, each contestant was required to model, have knowledge of Hari Raya customs and even sing Hari Raya songs during the “Don't Forget Your Lyrics” segment. All of these qualities were the judging criterion to determine our male and female winner for the event. Our event was hosted by two entertaining emcees, Ms Nurul Iman and Mr Hafiz, who engaged the audience and contestants well. Furthermore, they provided clear instructions on how each segment of the event was to be played out. Their emceeing skills were clearly well-rehearsed and the audience was treated to some great on-stage humour from them.

Raya's Next Top Model was held on 20 August 2014, Wednesday. This year, the Hari Raya event was graced by our Guest-of-Honour, Associate Professor Low Ee Ling, Head, Strategic Planning & Academic Quality, NIE. The concept of this year's Hari Raya show was unique. We combined the concepts of the previous year's events to include a game show, singing and quizzes. Additionally, we introduced the art of modelling this year.

NTU Malay Language & Cultural Society (NTUMLCS) wanted the audience to not only watch the show, but be a part of it as well. Thus, we created the idea of having a runway to showcase our models and their ability to promote the Hari Raya costumes and the traditional Malay food they were holding. This encouraged the audience to provide support and help sway the judges to which model deserved to advance to the next round. Adapted from the popular reality show, “America's Next Top Model”, we decided to infuse this western show with the Malay traditions which included a runway to showcase traditional Malay clothing such as baju kebaya and baju kurung telok blangah. At the same time, we wanted to share more information with the audience about traditional Malay food such as kuih laying-layang, kuih gajus, wajik, kuih cipotan, kuih suji, kuih baulu, kuih bangkit and kuih makmur.

Besides the Raya's Next Top Model segment, other highlights included a showcase by our very own dance troupe, “Beztari” and female dikir barat team, “Dewi Samudera”. Both of the cultural groups showcased great performances that pleased the audience as well as the Guest-of-Honour and the VIPs. The event was a great success and our invited guests enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

NTUMLCS would like to thank Dr Aidil Subhan for his advice, his wisdom and most importantly, his unwavering support for the event. We would like to give our gratitude to all staff and student teachers who came and gave their support to the event as well. Educating the society in NTU/NIE regarding the Malay customs and traditions will and always be our priority and we hope to have more opportunities to organise such events in the future.



Photographer: Dian Nadhirah Bte Sachiman



## DEEPAVALI CELEBRATIONS

Buvaneshwary Ilangovan  
First-Year, Diploma in Education  
Editor and Publications Officer | Tamil Language Club



This year's annual Deepavali Celebration 2014, jointly organized by the Tamil Division of Asian languages and Cultures AG and Tamil Language Club, was successfully held at NIE LT4 on 15 October 2014.

The celebration was graced by Guest-of-Honour, Mr Saba Muthu Natarajan, Head of Tamil radio news, Mediacorp, who was warmly welcomed with Indian Traditional Music, Urumi Melam.

Right after delivering his inspirational opening speech in English and Tamil, Mr Natarajan lighted up the Indian Traditional Lamp to mark the start of the concert. He also praised the lecturers and student teachers for hosting a fun-filled celebration.

The colourful decoration of LT4, fast beat dance and song items performed by the student teachers were some of the key highlights in the morning.

Watching student teachers from other ethnic groups dressed up in Indian Traditional outfits, during the Fashion Parade segment was a treat to the eyes. Throughout the entire segment, the audience were seen enjoying themselves by cheering and applauding each time a student teacher modeled across the LT, to the beat of fast paced Indian runway music.

Following the Fashion Parade, the student teachers presented the insights of Deepavali through an interactive sharing approach with the audience who filled up the entire lecture theatre.

To mark the end of the concert, all the Tamil student teachers came together for a final dance item that comprised a few upbeat Tamil songs. The self-choreographed steps kept the viewers glued to their seats till the end. The audience were then invited for a delicious Indian Lunch buffet with a variety of dishes outside the LT.

The main objective of the celebration was to promote inter-ethnic understanding and inter-cultural appreciation. Amidst our assignment-filled semester, coming together as a team to organise such an event allows us to bond and showcase our individual talents. This will definitely go down as an indelible experience in NIE.

Photographer: Buvaneswari Subramaniam





## UPCOMING

### CLUB EVENTS/ CONTESTS

NIE T-SHIRT SALES

WELFARE PACK

GIVEAWAY

STARLITE

GRAD DANCE

BASH WORKSHOP

VALENTINE'S DAY

STARGAZING

CHINESE NIGHT

NEW YEAR

CHILDHOOD GAMES DAY



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## 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 Z) at the National Institute of Education.