



# VOICES

ISSUE  
**35**  
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## PRACTICUM TIPS



Practicum season is upon us! Check out these tips and tricks from the desk of Dr Lim Seok Lai, Asst Dean, Practicum.

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## TRAVELLERS



Satiate your wanderlust with the return of our Travellers column! Join us as we pay homage to picturesque Sweden.

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## STARGAZING



It's a sky full of stars with Club Sci.Napse's Stargazing event.

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## WHEN ART SPEAKS



Foray into the rich inner landscapes of our graduating art student teachers as we listen to the transcendental language of art.



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## THE RACE TO MOUNT OLYMPUS



Check out our coverage on the 2018 Freshman Orientation Programme!

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## SERVICE LEARNING



Find out how this year's SALT expedition to Cambodia has impacted the lives of our student teachers!



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## GETTING TO KNOW PROF LOW EE LING



Join us as we speak with Prof Low Ee Ling to find out more about her career and thoughts on teacher education.

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## EDITOR'S



## NOTE

January – a time of beginnings and the burgeoning new dawn. January, like December before it, sits on the threshold of the old and new. A time heady with the soft thrill of new experiences and possibilities, our fascination with the new year and with resolutions is testament to the indomitable and all-too-human will to endure despite the hurt and pain of the past year.

Issue 35 hopes to centre itself on the myriad of experiences that make up the messy, wondrous lives we lead – in all their spectacular and unspectacular glory.

This issue features the return of our popular Travellers column; join us as VOICES contributor, Nicholas Teo, takes you away to beautiful, picturesque Sweden. Our exclusive feature on The Language of Art – the biannual Bachelor of Arts art exhibition – will give you pause to meditate on the little wonders that make up our human experience and the role that art plays in the expression and celebration of this human condition. VOICES has also had the privilege of speaking to our new Dean of Teacher Education, Prof Low Ee Ling to find out more about her thoughts on teacher education. A continuing tradition from issues past, issue 35 also features a plethora of club and student activities in NIE that make up the vibrant student life in these hallowed halls.

*“For last year’s words belong to last year’s language  
And next year’s words await another voice.” - TS Eliot*

So, this January, dear reader, let your voice usher in a new semester of hope, trials and tribulations as we recommit to the endeavour of the human experience.

Want the latest news from the Trainee Teachers’ Club?

Join our WhatsApp\*\* or Telegram channels!



\*\*Note that by joining our WhatsApp channel, you consent to your number being made public in the group.

*Crescencia Chay*

Editor-in-Chief, VOICES  
Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)  
28th Trainee Teachers’ Club

# GETTING TO KNOW PROFESSOR LOW EE LING

We recently welcomed Prof Low Ee Ling as the Dean of Teacher Education at the start of the academic year. VOICES is very fortunate to have the opportunity to speak with Prof Low to get a sneak peek into her career, personal life, and thoughts on teacher education.



## ABOUT

**POSITION**  
Professor

**DESIGNATION**  
Dean, Teacher Education

**DEPARTMENT**  
Office of Teacher Education (OTE),  
English Language and Literature (ELL)

**Why did you decide to devote your life and talents to furthering the cause of education?**

I believe that education is about being able to maximise the potential of each and every individual. To me, that brings great meaning to my life. In contributing to providing the best possible education to each teacher of the future and by extension all their future students, I take great pride in imagining what a bright future would await all our young in Singapore.

**What is something you look forward to most in your new appointment as Dean of Teacher Education?**

Having spent a large part of my career researching teacher education, I am excited to translate research findings into the practice of teacher education. Most of all, I look forward to any touchpoints to engage my student teachers because I find them truly invigorating and inspiring.

**What do you do in your free time? Are there any daily rituals that are a must to get through the day?**

Honestly, in order to help me to be at my best for my Teacher Education team and my student teachers, I do reflect about each day after it has ended: What I can do better and what I can do the next day. When the going gets really tough, I pray to God for wisdom and a clear lens to make my decisions.

**Share with us your biggest epiphanies: the moments of life-defining change that shaped you into the person you are today.**

I've always wanted to teach. Having been inspired by many teachers in my life who have not only impressed me with their knowledge but also by being inspiring role models. I have always

known that teaching and education will be my lifelong commitment. As a preschooler, I used to assemble all my stuffed toys on my garden swing, take a portable blackboard and teach them whatever I had learnt at kindergarten that day. One defining moment in my career was the decision to pursue my doctoral studies, which meant that I would be teaching at the tertiary level instead of the school level. This has led me to where I am today and I cannot think of any role that is more important than educating future teachers. In educating teachers for the future, I feel that I have a part to play in creating the future.

**Are there any good book or movie recommendations you have for the NIE student population?**

There are many movies that have focused their attention on an inspiring teacher or a teachable moment. However, a recent movie that was based on a New York Times best-seller that personally inspired me was Wonder. This is an inspiring story of August Pullman, a boy who has facial differences and who enters into mainstream elementary school only in his fifth grade. Through the movie, you see the wonderful transformation of how August turns from one who is bullied by his classmates to one who emerges as a hero in the eyes of his peers.

# IN THE SPOTLIGHT

## WITH KELLIE KOK



In this edition of 'In the Spotlight', VOICES speaks to our very own PGDE PE student, Kellie Kok, to find out how she juggles the demands of life and academics on the programme and what inspires her to soldier on.

### ABOUT

YEAR  
Year 2

INTAKE  
AY 2017/2018

PROGRAMME  
Postgraduate Diploma  
in Education  
(Physical Education)

#### Why did you choose your subject area?

To slack! Haha, I'm kidding. Physical education lessons were always the lessons I looked forward to back when I was a student. I loved the freedom I had in being able to be out of the classroom and not worry about the stress of academics, and I loved the great fun there was in engaging in play with my classmates.

Choosing to teach physical education allows me the avenue to hopefully enable my students to have the same experience I had as a student! True joy or satisfaction comes when I will get to see my students genuinely excited for lessons and participating actively in the two hours of lessons we have with them each week :)

#### Tell us about your experience on the PGDE programme in NIE

The PGDE programme in NIE exposes us to a wide variety of modules that would help us to be more effective educators by the time we graduate! Other than the sports content modules which we got to learn, there were modules that provided broader teacher preparation coverage to better equip us in our multi-faceted teacher roles.

Through the modules, we got to understand and respect the teaching profession in Singapore's educational context a lot better. Projects and modules like GESL, Meranti or PPI also helped us

explore our beliefs as teachers-to-be while reflecting on what informs an effective 21st century educator today.

While tests and exams in the PGDE programme are minimal, be prepared for lots and lots of essays and project work for each semester!

#### What do you do in your free time to balance the demands of the PGDE?

Soccer in between lesson breaks for sure! Or any other sport that we can think of to play together as a class. Trips out of NTU for meals are taken too to give ourselves a good break from work.

I joined a CCA in NTU too, where the twice-a-week training allows me to take my mind off the academic workload! Other than that, NTU does have a nice running route to have a night run; you'll see many other students doing that too, so you won't feel too alone!

#### What advice would you give incoming PGDE student teachers?

It's not every day that you get to study while getting paid, so enjoy these two years of 'holiday' as much as you can and have as much fun! Grades won't matter in the long run, but what will last are the memories you'll create here with your classmates.



# PRACTICAL TIPS FOR PRACTICUM SEASON

Crescencia Chay  
Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)  
Editor-in-chief, VOICES

Another semester has passed, and practicum season is now upon us! To allay any anxieties that come with the season, VOICES has invited Dr Lim Seok Lai, Assistant Dean of Practicum, to provide us some tips to help facilitate your fruitful practicum experience. Every practicum stint is as unique as the students we teach. But here are five key tenets to help you along the way.

1

## Professionalism

A term we are all familiar with – professionalism is one of the key tools in a teacher’s toolbox. Remember that you are now a respected member of the school’s staff and that you should thus act accordingly. This includes punctuality in all matters - including the marking and returning of students’ scripts and the submission of detailed and well-prepared lesson plans to your CTs at least one working day in advance (during office hours).

2

## Positivity

The stresses of classroom teaching can be overwhelming – especially during the initial practicum stage. Be equipped with a ready smile, genuine warmth, and a can-do disposition conducive for learning. Take criticism in stride and treat the process as a learning experience.

3

## Proactiveness

Part and parcel of effective classroom management is the idea of being ‘with-it’ – the same applies for all aspects of teaching. So prepare your materials and lesson plans well, brief the lab or studio assistants beforehand if necessary, and always check the equipment prior to the lesson. Remember to stay on top of your to-do list: nobody has to remind you to attend staff meetings or to submit that report to your CT.

4

## Passion

Above all, teaching is a calling. Dr Lai advises that “Good teaching is as much about passion as it is about reason. It’s about not only motivating students to learn, but teaching them how to learn, and doing so in a manner that is relevant, meaningful, and memorable.” When the going gets tough, remember what brought you to this profession.

5

## Perseverance

When motivation and inspiration prove to be fleeting, take heart – resilience is the fuel that will get you through the day. When the going gets tough, it’s easy to feel disappointed and stressed out. But don’t let imposter syndrome wear you down – see problems as they are, not worse than they need to be. Keep at it and remember that teaching is a continuous learning experience.

# WELCOME ABOARD!

• Nicholas Teo  
• Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)  
• Kho Hui Han  
• Year 4, Bachelor of Science (Ed)

## A Warm Welcome to NIE

This year, the NIE Welcome Ceremony was warmly graced by Professor Christine Goh, Director of NIE, marking the formal introduction to NIE for the newest intake of student teachers from the BABSc (Ed), Dip (Ed), and PGDE (PE) programmes. The Welcome Ceremony is also a platform to acquaint freshmen with the landscape of student life in NIE – ranging from niche interest groups run by the Trainee Teachers' Club (TTC) subsidiary clubs, to the events hosted by TTC for the student population in general.



The programme also featured a performance by DanceFuzion. The dancers took to the stage and showcased their passion for the art form.

The outgoing President of the 27th TTC Management Committee, Johan Ezran, exhorted NIE's freshmen to take up the mantle of student leadership in NIE, and to immerse themselves as fully as possible in the clubs and societies of NIE. Johan added, "We look forward to welcoming you to our subsidiary clubs and societies, where you can ... directly make an impact and contribute to making this community of ours a vibrant, strong, and united one."

## NIE Clubs' Fair January 2018

The NIE Clubs' Fair held on 15 August 2018 was organised by the Trainee Teachers' Club (TTC) and the various subsidiary clubs to assimilate new student teachers into NIE. The fair was held at the U.iD Student Hub where interactive booths were set up to showcase the clubs' identity, their upcoming events for the academic year and for the recruitment of new committee members

Each club hosted short activities for the student teachers to participate in. Upon completion of each short activity, student teachers received a stamp and stood a chance to redeem exclusive NIE merchandise such as T-Shirts, travel adaptors, NIE cutlery sets and many more!

Furthermore, there were recruitment drives to form the committees for the upcoming Seniors' Camp and NIE Freshmen Orientation Programme (FOP), as well as, the NTU National Police Cadet Corp (NPCC).

Let us thank TTC and all subsidiary clubs for putting together a successful event. We hope that all student teachers will look forward to more exciting events organised by the various clubs.



# FROM THE TTC TO YOU

Nicholas Teo  
Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)  
Quek Yu Pin  
Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)

## The 28th TTC Steps Up

The NIE Clubs' Investiture 2018 formally inducted the newly-elected members of the 28th Trainee Teachers' Club (TTC) Management Committee into a one-year term. The Investiture was witnessed by Professor Christine Goh, Director, NIE, who graced the occasion as the Guest-of-Honour.

The Investiture began by honouring the achievements and dedication of the outgoing 27th TTC and its subsidiary clubs, whose contributions undoubtedly left an indelible mark on student life in NIE.

In his President's Address of the 28th Management Committee, Nicholas Teo outlined the major initiatives proposed by the TTC, and urged its members to embrace change as a driving force of improvement for TTC to hold itself to high standards consistently. He said, "Change is both a challenge and an opportunity – it's our chance to adapt, improve, and make ourselves better."



## Aloha! Welfare Pack Giveaway 2018

This semester's theme for the Welfare Pack Giveaway (WPGA) was Aloha. Originating from Hawaii, Aloha is a word typically used in both greetings and farewells, signifying love, peace, and affection.

Two things come to mind when recapitulating the highlights for this semester's WPGA: the do-it-yourself (DIY) welfare pack and the professional photo booth. Close to 500 welfare packs were given out this semester, with items ranging from snacks, drinks, vouchers, stationery and other sponsored goodies. We hope that these items have served our student teachers well and have proven to be useful during the preparation for finals.

A crowd favourite – the Aloha-themed photo booth – delivered unlimited photo strips amidst a dazzling array of flower crowns and other props. These shared moments are now permanently encapsulated in more than 230 shots taken throughout the event, and we hope you managed to bring back a small piece of the memory.

A big mahalo (thank you) to all those who came down to help set-up the event, making it a fruitful and memorable one! From arranging the tables, items and queue posts, the event would not have materialised without the support of our volunteers. Stay tuned for the next WPGA! Aloha!



Follow us to receive the latest updates!



@niettc



@niettcsg

Drop us a line at [niettcfeedback@gmail.com](mailto:niettcfeedback@gmail.com) if you have any suggestions for future WPGA events!

# THE RACE TO MOUNT OLYMPUS

Lim Si Xuan, Rachel  
Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)

## NIE Freshman Orientation Programme 2018

The NIE Freshman Orientation Programme took place from 6 to 8 August 2018. The theme for this year's orientation programme was 'The Race to Mount Olympus'. The overall programme premise saw the adventures of four demigods – Asklepios, Perseus, Orion, and Cepheus – battling to ascend to a position among the other gods in Mount Olympus. The participants were split into groups named after the aforementioned demigods. Throughout the 3-day programme, participants took part in a variety of games. Each game represents the different trials of the gods of Olympus, and they have to pass these trials in order to win the race.

The activities allowed for the freshmen to familiarise themselves with the NIE campus as well as bonding with fellow peers from other levels and programmes. Through this programme, the freshmen created new memories to give them a headstart in their journey at NIE.



"NIE FOP 2018 was an excellent opportunity for me to forge new friendships and to get to know student teachers from the different programmes. The facilitators were not only approachable but also made sure all of us were comfortable and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves."

Lim Wen Hao Joshua Augustine  
Year 1, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)  
Participant

"One thing I really like about NIE FOP 2018 was its inclusivity where student teachers from various programmes came together and really bonded well. After all, we are one teaching fraternity, so such spaces for interactions are really invaluable."

Koh Yi Fan  
Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)  
Asklepios Group Leader



"While working to ensure that the planning and execution of the various activities were exhausting, it gave the planning committee an indescribable feeling of satisfaction at the end of the day. To us, the programme was a time for freshmen to be introduced to the institution that will play a pivotal role in shaping their teaching philosophy and to forge bonds that may last well into their teaching careers. This was what drove us to work together as a team to overcome all obstacles and execute a successful orientation."

Aw Yang Jie Ling  
Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)  
OPMC' 2018 Treasurer



# TEAMWORK MAKES THE DREAM WORK

Khairul Nizam Bin Abdul Aziz  
Year 2, Diploma in Physical Education

## PESS Sports Carnival 2018

Every academic year, the Physical Education and Sports Science (PESS) Club hosts its annual Sports Carnival and this year proved to be no different. Set during the recess week, student teachers from all programmes were invited to participate in a friendly competition through games like Ultimate Frisbee and Kinball. This year we brought in an inflatable Gladiator Arena where participants fight to earn the title of Gladiator Warrior.

On 3 October 2018, we saw 120 participants and student helpers coming together to run and participate in the Sports Carnival.

The Ultimate Frisbee court seemed like a gymnastics class. The numerous jump-turns and twists were breathtaking, proving that our participants are very nimble and there was a certain grace to playing this sport.

Kinball was relatively new to most of our Year 1 participants. As it is a staple in our carnival, the seniors proved to have the upper-hand. However, this did not prevent our juniors from giving them a run for their money. Teamwork and communication were key in playing this game. The juniors picked up quick and prevailed against all odds.

Overall, the event was a success filled with laughter and joy. Despite it being a competition, it was obvious that winning was secondary in our participants' minds. The one takeaway from this was knowing that in that moment, we were all nothing more than just people having fun – that was the true prize.





# WHEN ART SPEAKS

••• Crescencia Chay  
••• Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)  
••• Editor-in-Chief

A beloved cat. A grandmother’s warmth. The small moments make up the magic of the human experience. When the words to articulate their tenderness and meaning elude us, art allows us the liberty to pin down the fleeting and indescribable.

The Language of Art exhibition started as a year-long exploration into the rich inner landscapes of our graduating BA (Ed) art student teachers. Some chose to explore their culture, and in doing so created gorgeous pieces that combine two art forms.

For instance, Nursyazwani Binte Ghazali’s ‘Bayangan’ sees the stunning imprint of Javanese batik burnt onto larger-than-life pieces of copper ribbon – a bright, burnished ‘reflection’ – as the artist deems it – both of Javanese culture and the perennial quest to find oneself. Nur Nadiah Binte Junadi’s own foray into her heritage culminated in a mixed media masterpiece – titled ‘Dewata Seuwae Puang Seuwae’, translating to ‘The One True Almighty God’ – which espouses the Bugis belief system of the esoteric and the spiritual.



Dewata Seuwae Puang Seuwae



Bayangan

Experimenting with spice and paper, Andy Tan's 'Spice Blanket' (see previous page) is an olfactory art piece that evokes the warm embrace of his Peranakan grandmother. Tan took spices such as pandan and star anise – the cornerstones of Nyonya cuisine – and hand-ground them together with paper, later sewing the pieces together in pyramids reminiscent of Nyonya rice dumplings. Each colour corresponds to the spice used and the intricate patterns on the paper are symbols of Chinese and Malay culture hand-pressed by Tan. A mortar and pestle, accompanied with a hidden sound recording of pounding, completes the piece.



It's me. It's you.

Hung aloft the ceiling of the art gallery is Nurulhazirah Jumiran's interactive mixed media installation titled 'It's me. It's you.' Nurulhazirah started her exploration with the medium she loved most – paint on canvas. To begin, she poured layers of paint onto unstretched canvas, later including materials like silicone into the mix. The end result – the imperfect circular shapes – are emblematic of the circular continuity of life, a concept which fascinates her. These circles are also fragments of the artist and mimetic of the inconstant state of identity and emotions – both in the viewer and the artist.



Goli, how are you?

Glenda Ding's 'Goli, how are you?' is a heart-breaking tribute to a beloved calico. The installation takes the form of a columbarium of miniature urns detailing the final year of the calico's life. The calico, Marbles (or Goli, meaning 'marble' in the local vernacular), was found abused with her teeth jammed into her jaw, and ended up in the care of Ding and her husband. The memorial chronicles the life of Marbles with astonishing tenderness – immortalising her both at play and during the final days of her life.

In Muhd Hasyim's 'The real art teacher from Yishun' the personal is the political. Making use of the contemporary medium of the video to interrogate the politics of art education in Singapore, Hasyim constructs a political portraiture of the self as educator. Employing tropes of satire and pop culture, the world Hasyim has created is discordant and dissonant – the traditional closure of the narrative artform interrupted frequently by static and non-sequitur. In doing so, Hasyim's work demands the viewer's active and critical involvement in piecing together the message behind the installation – thus fulfilling his call for a critical pedagogy in art.



The real art teacher from Yishun



Land Re-form

A cartographer of clay, Sebastian Tan scoured construction sites in different parts of Singapore for the clay samples used in 'Land Re-form'. Taking the form of a topographical map, 'Land Re-form' combines Tan's feelings of connection to the land with his artistic interest in ceramics. Of worthy note is the spot of negative space on the map – clay samples from the reclaimed land of Marine Parade. 'Land Re-form' plays with this mismatch of colour – a mismatch of the old soil with 'new' attempts at expansion, and in doing so reconciles the perennial anxieties associated with national identity.



# TRAVELLERS

## SATISFY YOUR WANDERLUST - AN ODE TO SWEDEN



Nicholas Teo  
Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)

Hej hej! Sweden is known for many things: Salmon, snow, the Northern Lights, and of course, IKEA. It is one thing to sit in IKEA Tampines talking about Swedish cuisine, and another entirely to set foot in that land and actually eat homemade Swedish meatballs drizzled generously in sauce.



Streets of Gamla Stan

I flew to Sweden in March 2017 for a 16-day trip of a lifetime. The stunning view of Stockholm from the top of Skinnarviksberget looked like it came straight out of a postcard and the trip to Gamla Stan (Old Town) with its narrow alleys lined with squat, bricked buildings heady with nostalgia will put you in another world altogether. Don't forget to take long walks along the stunningly blue waters that surround Stockholm, and pay a visit to the Vasamuseet (Vasa museum) that houses a restored 300-year-old shipwreck retrieved from the seabed. The chic shopping district along Drottningatan satisfies any shopaholic urges that arise and is lined with homegrown boutiques and H&M outlets.

No Swedish experience is complete without a trip up north, so I took the train up to Örnsköldsvik, a tiny town covered on foot entirely within 30 minutes, which also happens to house the headquarters of Fjällraven Kanken (sounds familiar?). It was here that I had my first encounter with the Northern Lights, dancing in the night sky to the north. The tiny town was a welcome breather from the bustle of large cities – the utter silence as the sun goes down makes for an intimidating, but ultimately rewarding, soul-soothing experience. If you're going to miss Asian food (and get sick of meatballs in the process), don't fret – Asian restaurants serving Thai, Chinese and Japanese cuisines are plentiful in Sweden. Caifan-style buffets may even be found, should you manage to stumble upon one.



Örnsköldsvik



300-year-old shipwreck on display in Vasamuseet



Djursholm

I took one more trip even further up north to the iced-over town of Umeå, a university town whose river is frozen over entirely, even at the end of March. If you do end up that far up north, pay a visit to the Bildmuseet, an arts museum that features a three-storey exhibit on nuclear science and its interpretation in the realm of arts. Remember to dress warmly should you be here in the middle of winter, as temperatures can drop to  $-10^{\circ}\text{C}$  or lower.

In Sweden, you will be pleased to find that tap water is entirely safe and drinkable, so don't bother with boiling water or buying bottled water (which is prohibitively expensive at SGD3.00). Transport is a breeze, with the SJ intercity trains linking Sweden's cities, and the local Stockholm metro – the Tunnelbana. It's also relatively easy to take a bus. It's all a lot like public transport in Singapore, really. Minus the huge crowds.

Sweden is a wonderful place if you're looking for a retreat to the cold nature of the North, never quite far away from the comforts of urban living. Just be prepared for the cold, and a full stomach.



Streets of Gamla Stan

# MLCS AND TLC PRESENT

● Khairil Bahri Bin Kamal  
● Year 3, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)  
● Shammini & Vasheela  
● Year 2, Diploma in Education

## MLCS Welcome Tea and Appreciation Night

The MLCS Welcome Tea and Appreciation Party is held to introduce the members to the NTU-NIE Malay Language and Cultural Society (MLCS) and also to show our heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the members who have contributed to the success of the club for the past academic year.

This year's theme, "Anak 90an" (90's Kid), proved exciting for the members as they were given the opportunity to dress up according to the theme. Best dressed awards were also given to a male member and female member each who were dressed to impress and enthusiastically managed to capture the essence of the 90's theme.



To help the new members understand our society better, the yearly calendar of events was introduced. Not only that, trivia games such as Wheel of Fortune were also played to test the members' knowledge of the society and to gain a better understanding of it. Special performances by our cultural groups such as Beztari, Dewi Samudera and Nusa Sarjana were also showcased to attract more members into these cultural groups.



Certificates were also given out to members who have participated in the ad-hoc committees over the previous academic year. 'Most Valuable Member' (MVM) awards were also given to a male member and female member each who have contributed greatly to MLCS over the years. This was done through a voting system from the audience.

All in all, we would like to extend our warmest welcome to our new members and to bid farewell to past members who have contributed greatly to the flourishing of Malay language and culture in NTU-NIE. Stay tuned for our upcoming events!

## TLC Short Story Competition 2018



The Short Story Competition is a new initiative organised by the 21st Executive Committee of Tamil Language Club (TLC). The invitation to participate in the event was extended to students from the Secondary and Pre-Tertiary level. It is a platform for these students to showcase and hone their creativity and talents to greater heights. Participants were given story topics prior to the competition to prepare. Thereafter, on 14 September 2018, the participants were given 3 hours to complete their short stories on campus. These stories were judged by one of the foremost authors in our local Tamil literature scene, Ma Elangkannan.

The prize giving ceremony was then held on 28 September 2018. Mdm Santhi Sellappan, Deputy Director, Mother Tongue Languages, CPDD, MOE, was invited as our Guest of Honour. In her speech, she encouraged all students to build the habit of reading and to continue to hone the talent in crafting compositions to a short story to contribute to Singapore's growing Tamil Literature scene. It was a tough fight but Miss Keerthana from Riverside Secondary School emerged victorious.

# CONVIVIAL CELEBRATIONS

• Khairil Bahri Bin Kamal  
• Year 3, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)  
• Koh Yong Keong  
• Year 2, Diploma in Education

## A Hari Raya of Sacrifices: (ber) korban

Every year, the Malay Language and Cultural Society (MLCS) has celebrated Hari Raya with laughter and joy. This year was different as our Hari Raya celebration took a more serious and meaningful turn.

This year's celebration was based on Hari Raya Haji instead of the more famous Hari Raya Aidilfitri. The theme for this year's celebration was (ber) korban, which means the act of sacrifice. Usually Hari Raya Haji sees Muslims on pilgrimage to Mecca (hajj). Those who do not participate in the annual hajj would in return make animal sacrifice in their home country where they will share the blessings of the sacrifice with the less fortunate.

The notion of sacrifice means a multitude of things to those who practise the Muslim faith. The storyline for the drama performance reflected this and was pivoted on the struggle and sacrifices of an NIE student teacher who is struggling between studies, family, and passion. But with the help from peers and families, the student teacher manages to overcome all challenges.

Sacrifice is more than the struggle of the self – it is a collaborative effort to help each other in times of need. The drama performance proved effective in pulling the heartstrings of many in the audience.



## Serenading the Mid-Autumn Festival

CLEAR Club held the Mid-Autumn Festival (MAF) celebration together with the 8th SHINE Singing Competition. To welcome our multiracial audience, our emcees hosted in both English and Mandarin. Halal-certified snacks and mooncakes were also provided. This year, we introduced carnival games to inject a spark of fun and creativity into our event.

The celebration was enlivened by the performances put up by NTU's Malay dance group Beztari and NTU's Chinese Orchestra (NTUCO). The SHINE Singing Competition was held concurrently with our Mid-Autumn Festive Celebration to boost the celebration with an array of songs.

After much deliberation by the SHINE committee, 5 talented individuals made it to the finals. Jun Hao from the PGDE programme was the champion of the 8th SHINE Singing Competition. The magnificent singing performance by the participants, coupled with encouraging and witty comments from the panel, brought liveliness and excitement to the MAF Celebration.



Jun Hao, champion of the 8th SHINE Singing Competition



# A TALE OF SHIPS AND STARS

Charmaine Chan Xin Hui  
Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)  
Marcus Lai Sze Yen  
Year 1, Bachelor of Science (Ed)

## Board your ships and game away

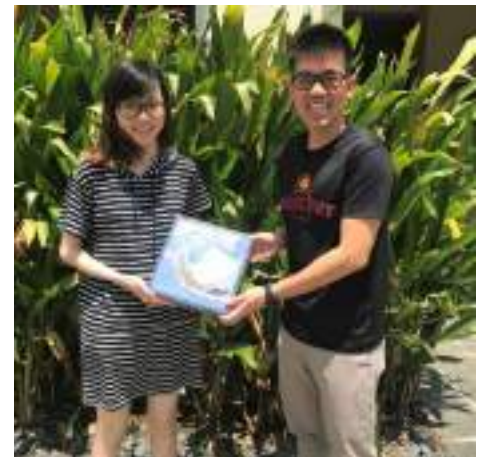
The die rolls, the players await the outcome with bated breath. “You’ve summoned another monster!”

“Not right in my path!” complained another. The group breaks out in mixed expressions of relief and resignation as the pieces on the game board shift once more.

The time has come for another Game of the Month when Club Jeux introduces a new board game to the school community. The game of the month for September was Tsuru of the Seas. Do not let the simple layout of the game fool you. It combines the use of strategy and teamwork (or mercy), to see through to the last man standing. In the game, every player is the captain of a ship, having to manoeuvre your ship around the high seas using wake tiles that contain sailing routes. At the same time, the player has to avoid colliding into other ships and stay clear of dragons that emerge with the wrong roll of the die.

The next time you are feeling lost in the sea of work and assignments, keep an eye out for Club Jeux’s next Game of the Month.

“It was quite an eye-opening game as I needed to strategise to ensure that I can survive. The game was filled with random events such as dragons spawning at random spots and success also depends on the cards that I receive. All of these gave the game an element of surprise.” Don Seah Wei Kang, Year 2, Bachelor of Arts



Don Seah, winner of Club Jeux’s monthly giveaway, and happiest clam

## A Partying Explosion of Constellation Parades

Stars around, constellations abound. A night of kaleidoscopic, cosmic displays saw a group of enthusiastic astronomers from NIE coming forth to traverse the galaxy. The participants bonded over sumptuous delicacies and engaged themselves in activities such as Club Sci.Napse’s personally designed Stargazing photo booth. Participants were all smiles and brimming with laughter as they participated in the DIY galaxy jar activity and created their own galaxies.

The club has engaged Science Centre Singapore to install Starlab, a dome-like portable planetarium within the perimeters of the NIE gymnasium. Through a phenomenal simulation of stars in the set-up, participants caught a glimpse of how breath-taking constellations are formed throughout different times of the year.

“Club Sci.Napse’s Project Stargazing was a smashing success! I was transported into our mesmerising galaxy, where I witnessed how majestic and magnificent our sky glitters at night.”

Ryan Tan Zhi Wen  
Year 1, Bachelor of Science (Ed)



Many created their own galaxies in a jar to seal their wondrous memories in these souvenirs.





# A HEART FOR SERVICE

Leong Ying Xuan Eunice  
Year 2, Bachelor of Science (Ed)

## Service and Leadership Training (SALT) Programme 2018

SALT was not just a platform for us to hone our leadership or to practice our pedagogical skills, but it pushed us out of our comfort zone to interact and bond with the local students whom we had difficulty conversing with due to the language barrier.

Our sole mission there was to teach English to the Cambodian students at Sang Khoem Khmer (SKK), as well as to engage them in team-bonding physical activities. This was done in the hopes of equipping these students with proficiency and a collaborative mindset. We were delighted to know that we have achieved our goal as throughout that week of teaching, we were able to observe significant growth in these students' language confidence and attitude towards learning.

However, we have certainly learnt more from these humble students than they have learnt from us, and we were greatly heartened by their relentless spontaneity and enthusiasm in the classroom. Our night reflection sessions also gave us time to reflect on the day's work, which motivated and encouraged us to make meaningful adaptations to our lesson plans to improve it further. Though it was a grueling 5-days of teaching at SKK, this overseas immersion experience has certainly reinforced our role as educators in our globalised world, – selfless, adaptable and inspiring – and reaffirmed our commitment to nurture each child to their greatest potential, regardless of his or her socio-economical background.



# VISUAL & PERFORMING ARTS

Nur Amira Bte Rahim  
Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)  
Chou Qi Ling, Felicia  
Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)

## Uke Can Do It!

In just under an hour, a total of 15 student teachers learnt how to play the ukulele. Though it was a struggle at first, they managed to master the instrument quickly and with finesse.

The workshop started off with some background information regarding the instrument itself (did you know that 'ukulele' translates to 'jumping fleas'? - that explains why the ukulele strings produce such high sounds). Apart from that, the participants also learned how to read ukulele tabs and play different chords on the ukulele.

The workshop ended with a chill jamming session where the participants accompanied pop songs such as 'I'm Yours' by Jason Mraz and 'Hey Soul Sister' by Train. It was a huge success with many staying on after the workshop just to continue jamming or even experimenting with more challenging chords on the ukulele.



"I'm amazed I managed to learn the ukulele so quickly! It's a lot easier than I thought. Can't wait to learn more instruments in the future!"

Arshvini D/O Manohar  
Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)  
Participant

## PRINT-teresting Day!

On 12 September 2018, the Visual and Performing Arts Club (VPA) held their first event of the year – a printmaking workshop! Printmaking is essentially an art form that consists of the production of images, usually on paper but occasionally on fabric. The process allows for the production of multiple copies of a piece of art. Although there are various techniques of such multiplication, the technique that was introduced during the workshop was monotype printing. In particular the wiping method of monotype printing was produced, whereby participants will cover an acrylic plate with ink and wipe out the design that they desire before printing it onto a single sheet of paper.

During the workshop, the participants had a lot of fun learning about the basics of inking and printing through the hands-on activity. They were also challenged to use novel and innovative methods to create interesting textures and marks in their prints. As a facilitator of the workshop, it definitely gives me a sense of satisfaction knowing that the participants had an enjoyable time learning about this new art form. I was also very amazed by all the interesting masterpieces that the participants had produced at the end of the workshop!

"One would not have known about how amazing printmaking is without attending the workshop. Each participant had the opportunity to try using the press machine to create their own art pieces within a short time span! Through the workshop, I have gained new insights as to how prints are made. It provided me a space to express my creativity in a period of stressful schedule. Just remember that there is no limit to creativity!"

Yee Jie Ying  
Year 2, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)  
Participant



# OF POETRY AND FILIGREE

- Amanda Sarah Chin
- Year 4, Bachelor of Arts (Ed)
- Ang Hui Wen, Grace
- Year 4, Bachelor of Science (Ed)

## Poetry arrived in search of me

“And it was at that age ... Poetry arrived in search of me. I don’t know I don’t know where it came from, from winter or a river.”  
-“Poetry” by Pablo Neruda

Poetry is a beautiful thing many of us don’t often find ourselves in contact with. How does poetry come in search of us? In late October 2018, Club Ar.Nex answered this by installing a series of posters with poetry around the NIE campus. Ask a Singaporean on the street (or a student teacher specialising in a non-ELL NIE Academic Group) to name a prominent figure in English Literature. Got Shakespeare as your first answer? The canon, which some determine Shakespeare to be the lynchpin of, for decades has had a strong hold in our English Literature syllabus. Club Ar.Nex also sought to provide a counterpoint to this dominant narrative. This poetry movement intentionally selected pieces from a broad range of cultures, including African-American, Russian and Spanish ones.

As our late Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew once said, “Poetry is a luxury we cannot afford.” But times have changed. Recently, MOE has formally recognized the value of local poetry for its recent syllabus update. All students taking full Literature must study local poetry for the ‘O’ Level examinations. To celebrate this, Club Ar.Nex dedicated a significant portion of its selection to local poetry from prominent poets. Some of them include Arthur Yap, Theophilus Kwek and Natalie Wang. Poetry is a luxury. And all of us deserve to soak in its glory.

## Skills for the Future!

Back by popular demand this semester is the Calligraphy Workshop by the Food and Consumer Sciences (FCS) Club. When the event was first introduced in AY 16/17, we were so gratified to receive such an overwhelming response from our participants that we decided to have another go at the event! We had our very own homegrown facilitator, Amanda Soo Li Xin from the Bachelor of Arts (Education) who majors in Art and Drama to teach and guide participants on how to write in calligraphy and in practicing and developing their own styles and flourishes.

The participants were gifted with a small starter kit inclusive of a few calligraphy pens, some paper and a frame (to put their work in) to assist their learning and practice of calligraphy even after the workshop ends.

Eventually, the participants will be able to use these skills to be a blessing to the people around them by making their own cards and gifts, which is part of our vision in the club. Mastering such life skills also fosters a lifelong learning culture that is important for us as educators.





# SNAPSHOTS

## SNEAK A PIC AT STUDENT LIFE AT NIE



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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.pe.nie.edu.sg/WEELLNESS.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.

