

HEY!



Superstar!

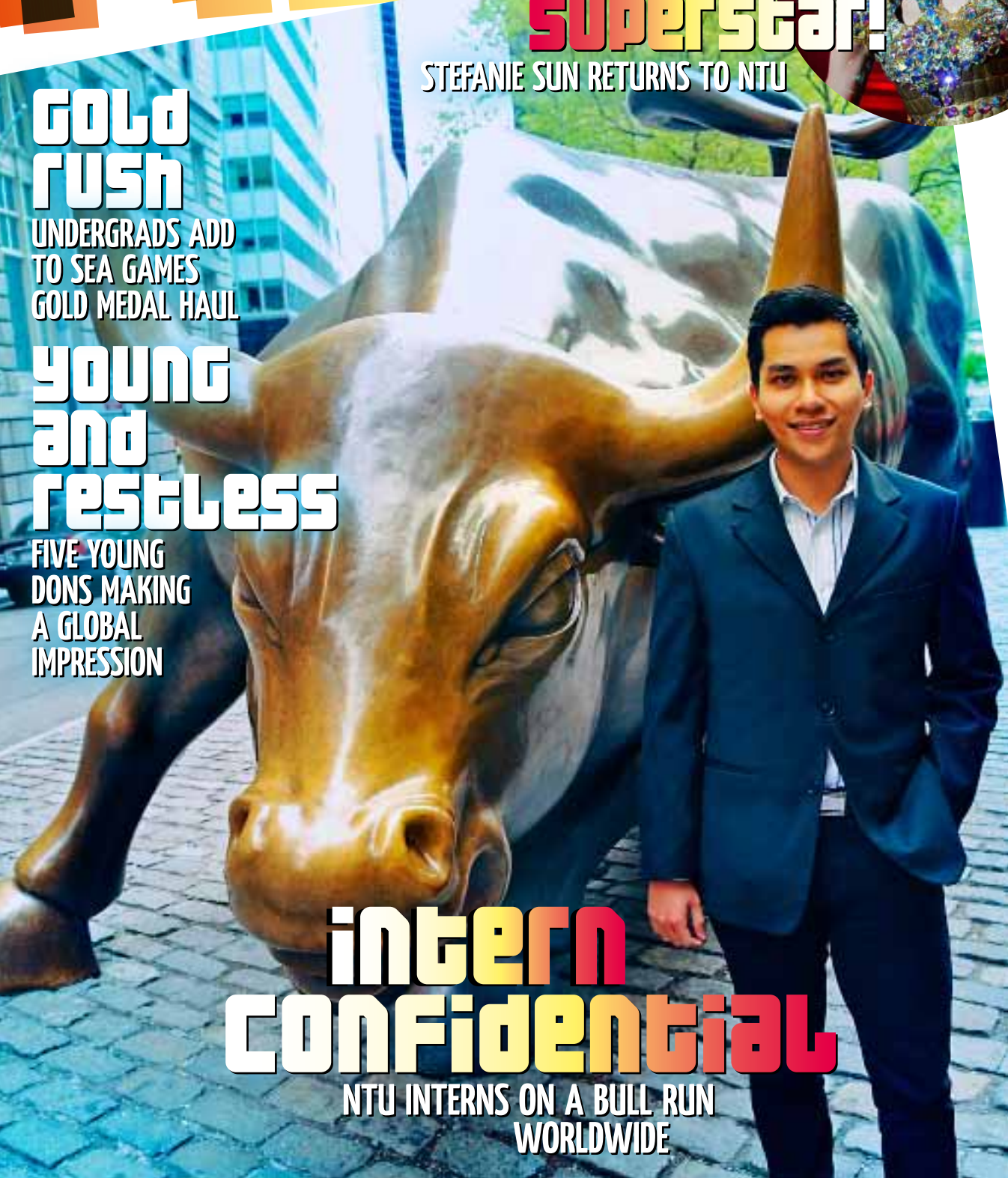
STEFANIE SUN RETURNS TO NTU

GOLD RUSH

UNDERGRADS ADD
TO SEA GAMES
GOLD MEDAL HAUL

YOUNG and restless

FIVE YOUNG
DONS MAKING
A GLOBAL
IMPRESSION



intern CONFIDENTIAL

NTU INTERNS ON A BULL RUN
WORLDWIDE

Swipe us, *please!*



Read *HEY!* on the iPad and discover
interactive stories, exclusive pictures,
plus loads of bonus content.
And help save some trees.

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CHIEF EDITOR

Dr Vivien Chiong

EDITOR

Eileen Tan

ASSISTANT EDITOR

Christopher Ong

STAFF WRITERS

Lester Kok

Michelle Chow

Siddiqua Ovais

Tan Mike Tze

Wang Meng Meng

CONTRIBUTORS

Jean Qingwen Loo (Class of 2007)

Lee Junyi (Class of 2012)

Nicholas Lim (Class of 2013)

EDITORIAL CONSULTANT

Michael Chiang

DESIGN

Cheah Wei Chun

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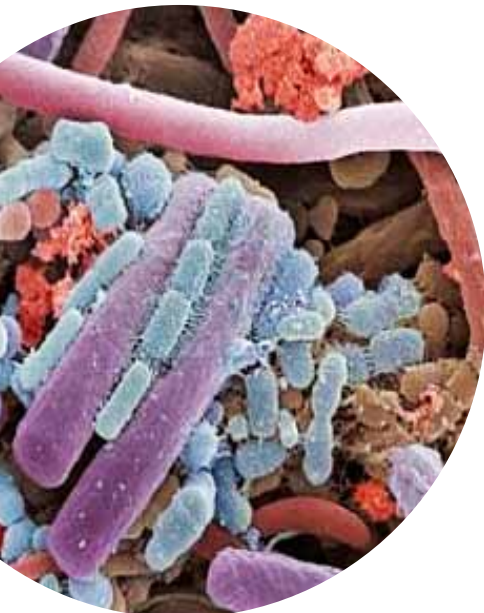
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TAN XUE SHEN'S HALL ROOM





GOOD AND BAD FILMS

THEY'RE THE LIVING ORGANISMS RESPONSIBLE FOR MANY THINGS – FROM THE PLAQUE ON YOUR TEETH TO THE LAYERS THAT ACCUMULATE ON THE HULLS OF SHIPS AND SLOWS THEM DOWN. WELCOME TO THE TINY WORLD OF BIOFILMS – COMMUNITIES OF MICRO-ORGANISMS LIKE ALGAE AND FUNGI THAT CLING TO SURFACES.

THEY ARE BEING STUDIED AT NTU'S NEWLY LAUNCHED NATIONAL RESEARCH CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE – THE SINGAPORE CENTRE ON ENVIRONMENTAL LIFE SCIENCES ENGINEERING. BUT NOT ALL BIOFILMS ARE "BAD". THE "GOOD" ONES CAN BE USED TO CLEAN POLLUTED WATER, MAKING IT SAFE TO DRINK.

Imagine being able to customise the amount of light that falls on your desk, just by walking into your personal space. The solution lies in a smart lighting system that draws on sensors around you. Best of all, you get just the right amount of light, as the technology takes into account ambient lighting such as sunlight or glare from nearby bulbs. NTU is working with JTC Corporation and global electronics giant Philips to test-bed the smart lighting system at the CleanTech Park. The team hopes to score major energy savings – up to 45 percent, by some estimates – as well as shed light on eco-friendly urban living.

Light Work



Wind and wave power

The wind and waves at East Coast Park are great for sailing. Soon, get them to power up your laptop too. Riding the crest in renewable energy, NTU has started over 25 projects that will explore the use of ocean-based techniques and offshore wind turbines to generate electricity for the country. This work is led by the Energy Research Institute @ NTU and involves top multinational companies like Rolls-Royce.

4TH in THE WORLD

WHERE CAN YOU FIND NOT ONE, BUT TWO FIRST-RATE ENGINEERING SCHOOLS? IN NTU, OF COURSE. IN NOVEMBER, THE SCHOOL OF ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING AND SCHOOL OF COMPUTER ENGINEERING WERE BOTH RANKED NUMBER ONE IN SINGAPORE AND FOURTH IN THE WORLD (AFTER BIG-GUN INSTITUTIONS MIT, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY, AND STANFORD UNIVERSITY). CONDUCTED BY THE HIGHER EDUCATION EVALUATION & ACCREDITATION COUNCIL OF TAIWAN, A BODY THAT REVIEWS STANDARDS IN HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH, THE RANKINGS TAKE INTO ACCOUNT CRITERIA SUCH AS RESEARCH PRODUCTIVITY AND IMPACT.

#1 **for 8 years**

We've done it again – for the eighth year in a row, *The Economist* has ranked the Nanyang Business School's MBA programme the best in Singapore. With a global ranking of 69, the Nanyang MBA is also among the top three in Asia. Our formula for success? Theoretical rigour and industry relevance. "We were the first Singapore business school to make it on *The Economist's* top 100 MBA listing in 2004, and our MBA programme continues to be the top-ranked in Singapore," says NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson.



High honours

For their far-reaching contributions to NTU and society, former Singapore President and NTU Chancellor Mr S R Nathan was conferred an honorary Doctor of Letters by NTU, while NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson received his third honorary degree in 2011 from Symbiosis International University in India. Prof Andersson also received honorary doctorates from the University of New South Wales and Hebrew University of Jerusalem last year.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THESE WINNERS OF INTERNATIONAL AWARDS...



NTU DEPUTY PRESIDENT & PROVOST PROF FREDDY BOEY

He received an honorary doctorate from Loughborough University as well as the Distinguished Alumni of the Year Award from Monash University's Faculty of Engineering, which recognises his achievements in education, research and innovation, and community service.

NTU PRESIDENT EMERITUS PROF SU GUANING

He was conferred the Friendship Award, China's highest honour for global experts who have advanced its progress. He was also named Engineer



of the Year by the Federation of Engineering Institutions of Asia and the Pacific.

NTU EMERITUS PROFESSOR EDDIE KUO



He was presented the Hsing Yun Communication Award 2011, a testament to his pioneering efforts to promote communication education in Asia.

FLYi

TOP 5 GLOBAL UNIVERSITIES: ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING & COMPUTER SCIENCE

1. MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
2. UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY
3. STANFORD UNIVERSITY
4. NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY
5. NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE (ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING)/TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY (COMPUTER SCIENCE)

ACE in SPACE

Singapore's first micro-satellite, jointly developed by NTU and DSO Laboratories, has made the news again, this time for winning the national Defence Technology Prize. Since its launch last April, X-SAT has been beaming back a stream of environmental data and images from space. It's kitted out to observe large-scale geographical changes such as floods and forest fires.



Ginger Chia
HUMANITIES, ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES



Wilfred Lim
HUMANITIES, ARTS
& SOCIAL SCIENCES
“It isn’t about
whether you
dress nicely or
not. It’s about
dressing for the
occasion.”

Leong Chong Yen
ENGINEERING



Alice Ng
HUMANITIES, ARTS
& SOCIAL SCIENCES



Ong Soon Kwee
ENGINEERING



style

PLAIN WHITE DOESN'T MEAN PLAIN AS THESE FIVE FINALISTS OF THE NAIL THAT UNIQUE STYLE (NTU STYLE) CONTEST SHOW TO GREAT EFFECT. ASKED TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR FLAIR WITH A WHITE T-SHIRT, OUR CAMPUS FASHIONISTAS BROUGHT THEIR OWN TWIST TO THIS STYLE STAPLE.

by Tan Mike Tze



Zhuang Wei
BUSINESS



Fabian Tan
HUMANITIES, ARTS
& SOCIAL SCIENCES



Jessie Atmadja
BUSINESS



Niclas Wennstroem
ENGINEERING



Zaishereen binte Aman
NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF EDUCATION



Martin Hong
HUMANITIES, ARTS
& SOCIAL SCIENCES

ORGANISED BY *THE NANYANG CHRONICLE*, THE POPULAR NTU STYLE CONTEST HOLDS A MIRROR UP TO THE VIBRANT CAMPUS SCENE. HERE WE FEATURE OTHER STUDENTS IN THE SECOND SEASON OF THIS COMPETITION.

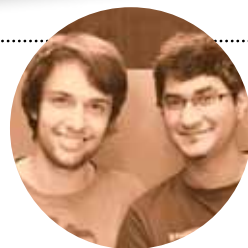


PHOTOS: JEAN QINGWEN LOO

Campus Buzz

What say you?

THE STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTRE is a hub for students with its central location at the North Spine and long opening hours from 7am to 2am. Christopher Ong asked some undergrads: what activities would you organise at the centre at midnight?



“There’s no disco or club in NTU, so let’s make this a dance floor for everyone to de-stress!”

ANURAG DHUTTI & JOSHUA FURLLOW
ENGINEERING (EXCHANGE STUDENTS
FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SURREY)

What's In Here?

A PLACE TO CALL YOUR OWN

There's always a spot in the STUDENT ACTIVITIES CENTRE that hits the spot



❶ Wow Wii! Console games help to beat the stress ❷ Share your next big idea in comfort and style ❸ Can't solve that tutorial problem? Between strikes, the solution may come to you ❹ International TV channels in an international university – more than 20 satellite channels to choose from ❺ Find your zone. Hunker down to work or relax with friends ❻ Need caffeine to help you stay awake? Starbucks brews daily and there is a 10 percent discount for NTU students, faculty and staff ❼ Your one-stop student lounge. It's right below the Lee Wee Nam Library – you can't miss it

“Serve ice-cream to everyone at midnight!”

AISYAH IBRAHIM BUSINESS



“An after-exam celebration for my hall, with lots of great food for everyone.”

JONATHAN LIM ARTS

“Hold a snooker competition together with a beer party.”

VAJBHAV VIJ ENGINEERING



“Midnight movie screenings – have a different genre for each day of the week, such as ‘Monday Romance.’”

LYN LOW ARTS

Let's Talk

GOLD RUSH

"Spotlight" on five undergrads who added to Singapore's haul of 42 gold medals at the Southeast Asian Games. For them, life can seem like one mad dash to the finish line

by Christopher Ong and Wang Meng Meng

PHOTO COURTESY OF SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL



Wushu wonders: Tay Yu Juan (centre) was part of the women's team that struck gold at November's Southeast Asian Games.

WUSHU TAY YU JUAN, SCHOOL OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES

A member of the women's team that bagged the wushu gold, this third-year undergrad hails from a family of martial arts practitioners. Elder sister and NTU alumnus Tay Yu Ling is a fencer and fellow SEA Games gold medallist.

She spent more time training for the SEA Games than revising for her exams:

"I had a challenging time juggling my studies with preparing for two major meets, the World Wushu Championships (where she won a gold) and the SEA Games."

Her schedule last November:

"School ended on the 11th, I competed at the SEA Games

from 15 to 23 November, and my NTU exams started two days later. I was supposed to take my first paper on 14 November, but NTU was flexible and allowed me to take it on a different day."

One misconception about her sport: "That I can 'fly' or fight people in real life! Personally, I don't believe in violence, so if a fight ever breaks out, I'll run away. Wushu is more of a demonstrative sport. It is an amazing sport that trains the coordination of the whole body and also aims to show one's spirit through one's facial expressions, as well as the swiftness and agility of one's movements."

Whether she updated her Facebook status after winning the SEA Games gold: "Yes, I updated my status after I won. Many of my friends were very happy for me and I'm grateful for their support."

Superstitions and lucky charms: "Before I compete, I'll take deep breaths to clear my mind. I may still feel nervous, but I know very clearly what I have to do and focus on that."

Favourite spot on campus: "Starbucks. I love the coffee there and I study at the outlet regularly."

SAILING VICTORIA CHAN, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

Last August, this second-year Sports Science & Management undergraduate won Singapore's first-ever medal – a silver – at the World University Games in Shenzhen. At the SEA Games, the EW Barker Scholar steered her way to a gold in the Laser Radial class.

Is the gold medal really made of gold? "If only it was made of gold! But it does feel heavy."

She spent more time training for the SEA Games than revising for her exams:

"I tried devoting time to both, but it was quite hard finding a balance as I was overseas competing or training before the exams."

From left: Victoria
Chan, Tay Yu Juan
and Suzanne Seah





Kelvin Ong



Tay Yu Juan (right)



Victoria Chan



Jasmine Yeong-Nathan
(front row, centre; and below)



Suzanne Seah (left)



PHOTOS OF JASMINE YEONG-NATHAN, SUZANNE SEAH, TAY YU JUAN & VICTORIA CHAN COURTESY OF SINGAPORE SPORTS COUNCIL

Favourite spot on campus:

"Starbucks is a great place for me and my NTU friends to discuss our projects."

Some of her NTU mates know she's a top national athlete:

"They know only because I went to compete in the SEA Games. I've never really told my classmates about my accomplishments."

One misconception about her sport:

"Some people think sailing is windsurfing or rowing."

Superstitions and lucky charms:

"I try not to finish the practice race if I am doing well, as the winner of the practice race usually doesn't win the actual race!"

CANOEING SUZANNE SEAH, NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION

The third-year student was part of the duo that raced to the gold in the women's K2 200m event.

What she intends to do with the award money: "Get a couple of pretty cool presents, like new mobile phones for my closest friends. I'll give what's left to my parents or put the money into a savings account."

She spent more time training for the SEA Games than revising for her exams: "My professors at NTU would agree with me! I have been training for this ever since I joined the team, which was around the time I started my Sports Science & Management course. I took fewer modules last semester so I could cope with school and training."

"Some people think bowling is just throwing the ball towards pins but it's a lot more than that."

One misconception about her sport:

"It would have to be that kayaking is all about brute strength and having huge arm muscles, when it is really a very technical sport. Actually, I'm not very strong. The power generated during kayaking comes mainly from the legs."

Whether she updated her Facebook status after winning the SEA Games gold:

"No, I did not update my status online after I won. I only called my parents and told one friend."

Superstitions and lucky charms:

"I tend to wear the same clothes and do the exact same warm-up routine. I will also take the same cocktail of ProNutrition supplements that I've previously achieved good timings with."

Favourite spot on campus: "As long as I'm on campus, you can find me patronising Starbucks. It's one of those things I can't live without."

WATER POLO KELVIN ONG, NANYANG BUSINESS SCHOOL

The third-year Accountancy student took part in his third SEA Games this year as a member of the national water polo team. He has represented the national team for more than five years.

What he intends to do with the award money: "Well, it's really not a lot to begin with but I will still treat my family and friends to a scrumptious meal and probably save the rest for myself."

Not many people in NTU know he's a top national athlete: "I'm just your average guy and I certainly prefer keeping a low profile."

One misconception about his sport: "That everything goes on peacefully underwater and that you can actually stand on the floor of the pool during a game."

Full-time sportsman or 9-to-5 job? "A regular job, perhaps as an accountant, because water polo is still considered an amateur sport in Singapore. Although we train close to

full-time, we don't get paid like other professionals such as the Chinese and Japanese national water polo players. For us, it's all about passion for the sport!"

BOWLING JASMINE YEONG-NATHAN, NANYANG BUSINESS SCHOOL

Striking gold in the women's team event, this second-year business student and bowling veteran first made sports headlines when she became the first Singaporean bowler to win the 2008 American Machine and Foundry Bowling World Cup.

What she intends to do with the award money: "I'll probably put it back into the sport – maybe for new equipment or future tournaments."

She spent more time training for the SEA Games than revising for her exams: "I took a lighter load last semester so I had more time to focus on the Games."

One misconception about her sport: "Some people think bowling is just throwing the ball towards pins and getting strikes. But it's a lot more than that. You have to consider factors like the equipment, lane conditions and tactics in order to 'read' the lanes to get the best 'carry' (strike). Usually, the bowler who reads the lanes the quickest will have a good shot at winning."

Full-time sportswoman or 9-to-5 job? "I'm not too sure which I would pick. Being a full-time sportsperson will allow me to focus and therefore improve my game more quickly, but it might not provide me with financial stability for the future. Having a 9-to-5 job will help me gain work experience as well as financial stability. Whatever I take on, it has got to be something I enjoy doing."

Whether she updated her Facebook status after winning the SEA Games gold: "Yes, I posted an update after winning the team gold. It was my first ever status update on bowling. I usually keep that part of my life away from social media."

Intern confidential

Whether in Singapore, cosmopolitan cities abroad or more exotic locales (Brazil, Ukraine, anyone?), NTU interns impress their colleagues and bosses, sometimes landing coveted permanent job offers. Here, straight from our intern files are stories that showcase the many highs (and occasional lows) of being a gutsy, go-getting intern

UNITED STATES

Wunderboy!

Adamson Alagan gets an internship in New York, then lands a dream job in the same company. He tells HEY! about his life in the Big Apple as Chief of Staff of Wunderman

by Christopher Ong

If NTU needs a poster boy for its internship programme, it need look no further than Adamson Alagan. Like many students on overseas internships, the 24-year-old left for the New York headquarters of global marketing powerhouse Wunderman with a sense of apprehension and excitement.

Being in a dog-eat-dog corporate culture and a melting pot like the Big Apple can be an overwhelming experience for anybody, let alone a young man like Adamson.

But all that took backstage

four months into his six-month internship last year when that Wundermoment happened: a board meeting where the Nanyang Business School student had to make a presentation to the board on the digital marketing space Wunderman operates in.

Wunderman's Chairman and CEO was so impressed with this refreshing lad from Singapore that he offered the Pioneer Junior College alumnus the job of Chief of Staff to the office of the big boss, a job that needs at least five years' experience.

Bull run: Adamson with the iconic *Charging Bull* at Wall Street.



Says Mr William J Manfredi, Executive Vice President for the company's global talent management: "Adamson impressed everyone with the presentation. It was a unanimous decision to hire him right away."

"I am very impressed with the quality of NTU students we have met and worked with. They work hard, question, challenge and have a great sense of humour. It is fun to work with them and to listen to their insights. They also have a real sense of maturity."

"Adamson demonstrated all these qualities," he adds.

Adamson, who graduated last July, had done his internship in the CEO's office under Wunderman's Z Academy talent programme from February to July 2011.

As a "ZED", he was part of a high-level global team involved in client analysis and client pitches, amongst other things. He says: "I was given an exceptional opportunity to work with some of the best minds in the industry. Plus, it provided a unique vantage point to view the dynamism and inner workings of agency life."

He was undeterred by the thought of moving away from family and friends for six months, explaining: "I felt it was a great opportunity for me to find out more about different cultures and, more importantly, learn more about myself. Working in a fast-paced job with little experience and no support network makes you more focused."

It helped that he had few problems adapting to life in the Big Apple. "New York as a city is truly similar to Singapore – tall buildings, fast-paced work and people always walking purposefully," he points out. Whatever spare time he had was spent exploring the city's many museums, restaurants and bars.

Neither did Adamson have any trouble coping during his internship. "The Nanyang Business School gave me

technical knowledge on best practices and processes, while my passion for marketing drove me to work harder and be constantly curious in applying myself," he says.

This potent combination has helped him become the youngest-ever Chief of Staff at Wunderman's New York office, a fact he is at ease with. As he puts it: "My lack of experience means I have not picked up bad habits that others in the industry might have."

As Chief of Staff, Adamson helps ensure that top management decisions get communicated to middle management. He also supports the CEO in tasks "needing an additional pair of eyes and hands". While it has been a steep learning curve, he overcomes challenges by "having an open mind, identifying good mentors and people to learn from, and always applying logic in decision-making".

He advises NTU students going on their internships to "dream big".

"Demand more work and do not be afraid to swim with the sharks. If you find that there is time to check Facebook, it means you have not applied yourself fully."

"I am very impressed with the quality of NTU students we have met and worked with. They work hard, question, challenge and have a great sense of humour."

FRANCE

Wander Lust

Aerospace engineering student Andre Lim has travelled to four countries under NTU's various initiatives. He did his six-month internship in Toulouse, France

by Christopher Ong

Andre Lim is happily ticking off his destination checklist: France, the United States, Hong Kong and Malaysia. He has visited all these countries in just three years – and all as part of his NTU education.

Lucky chap!

The ardent globetrotter first went to the University of Washington in Seattle for a 21-week exchange in 2010.

This was followed by a six-month research attachment at the École Nationale de l'Aviation Civile (French Civil Aviation School) from January to June last year. That stint opened his eyes to something that we hardly experience in fast-paced Singapore.

Says the 24-year-old: "My colleagues at the school felt I was working too hard, so I had to slow down. It showed me what was really important in life. The French have a very good work-life balance."

And under NTU's CN Yang Scholars Programme, which is open to top science and engineering students, he took part in a research dialogue with The Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. He also headed to Malacca for the 1st

University Scholars Leadership Symposium, where he shared his experiences in humanitarian work.

“I enjoy travelling, meeting new people and experiencing new things,” says Andre. “When I graduate, I would love a job that allows me to travel or be based overseas for a period of time.”

The final-year student has certainly made the most of these overseas stints by exploring neighbouring cities and countries. In Seattle, the rollercoaster junkie was among the first to visit Universal Orlando Resort’s The Wizarding World of Harry Potter.

Fuelled by his passion for aerospace engineering, Andre also dropped in at the Kennedy Space Centre in Florida to catch a glimpse of NASA’s 30-year space shuttle programme before it ended. He says enthusiastically: “I saw the sacrifices man made to go into space. The more we explore other planets and our own, the more we learn how to save our planet.”

While in Toulouse, the big rugby fan was part of the exuberant celebrations that erupted when the rugby-crazy city’s team won the prestigious Top 14 Orange competition. On his time in France, he adds: “I’ve dined at Michelin-star restaurants, bottled wines on my own in Lyon, and I was in Monaco when Prince Albert got married!”

Andre had chosen to join the École Nationale de l’Aviation Civile as a research intern because he wanted to find out more about research as a career. He was also drawn by the school’s location in Toulouse, “a very strong aerospace hub, where Airbus is headquartered”.

Over 22 weeks, he worked on a camera system for unmanned aircraft that can be used by electrical distribution firms to inspect high-voltage power lines. He felt keyed up for the task, having previously researched on airborne vehicles under the



Andre at (from top) the Louvre Pyramid in Paris, the final lesson of his French class at the École Nationale de l’Aviation Civile, and Mount Rainier National Park in the US.



CN Yang Scholars Programme Undergraduate Research Experience.

It is not just Andre who has gained from his overseas exploits. After all, travelling is also an opportunity to share one’s culture with the world – as Andre did with his colleagues at the École Nationale de l’Aviation Civile. “I’m a huge foodie, so I decided to cook curry chicken and chicken rice for them before I returned to Singapore.”

“They really enjoyed the chicken rice but I think some of them found the curry too spicy!”

OIL'S WELL, ENDS WELL

*Benjamin Kwek goes on
an African stint – and
picks up a valuable lesson*

by Wang Meng Meng



EXPLORING EMERGING MARKETS

Bond-free and open to NTU's business school students, the KKH Opportunity Scholarship supports internships in fast-growing economies, covering travel and living expenses. It is named after and funded by Mr Kuok Khoo Hong, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Singapore-listed agribusiness group Wilmar International Limited, which deals in commodities such as natural rubber, sugar and fertiliser.

To market: Fact-finding at a busy marketplace in Tema, Ghana.

For sure, Benjamin Kwek will be looking at a bottle of cooking oil very differently these days. That bottle has taught him a basic, but valuable, lesson in marketing: that you must have the presence of mind to throw out textbook solutions to respond to new market conditions.

Going against the trend of taking a summer internship position in a comfortable office, the 23-year-old was among six Nanyang Business School students who went to work in an emerging economy after

applying for the new KKH Opportunity Scholarship at NTU.

While the others were attached to Wilmar International offices in Sri Lanka, Ukraine and South Africa, Benjamin opted for an adventure in Ghana,

Africa, where he found himself in a division that sells cooking oil in the port city of Tema from May to July last year.

And there, he discovered that textbook examples don't necessarily apply in the hustle and bustle of Ghana.

"The general manager asked me to rejuvenate the brand," the cheerful 23-year-old recalls.

"I suggested holding road shows to further promote the brand. She liked the idea and we also gave out free T-shirts, which is something less frequently done in Singapore. In Ghana, it's a surefire way to grab attention as the people there proudly wear the shirts."

And there was also the culture shock of arranging for security personnel at the road shows to manage large crowds.

Realising that sales figures could be boosted with the help of freebies, Benjamin respected and embraced the local practice.

As the final-year student says: "This is where I went back to basics."

Coming to terms with Ghanaian marketing strategies, Benjamin quickly left his mark over 10 weeks, formulating a winning strategy.

Noting that the company sold its cooking oil in 25-litre jerry cans and many buyers profiting from reselling it in smaller packets to the locals who live under US\$1 a day, Benjamin explored ways to recalibrate the product.

"Cooking oil is bread and butter for these people," he notes. "That's why both the company and consumer can benefit when we sell the product in smaller one-litre bottles."

Despite the vastly different market conditions and being "a stranger in a strange land", Benjamin will not trade his time in Ghana for anything else.

"It was a fantastic experience," he insists.

"I got my chance to work in an exotic country. It was a real eye-opener for a guy coming from a city. I now have greater empathy for people from other parts of the world and I've learnt to adapt in a different business environment."

Cooking oil, anyone?

*"The general
manager asked
me to rejuvenate
the brand."*

Intern today, instant job tomorrow

NTU'S INTERNS ARE HOT ITEMS. COMPANIES MAKE JOB OFFERS BEFORE THEY EVEN FINISH THEIR STINT

Adamson Alagan and Sharifah Nasser (right) are becoming class acts. Both were offered jobs in companies where they did their internships.

Business student Adamson impressed his New York marketing consultancy company Wunderman while Art, Design & Media student Sharifah wowed her bosses at computer manufacturer ASUS in Taiwan.

Both got instant job offers in these companies. They are a growing band of NTU students who are making an impact in their internship companies.

In 2010 alone, nearly 800 out of about 4,000 NTU students surveyed got such offers.

"I'm grateful to NTU for the internship; it has given me a head start in building my career in product design," says Sharifah.

Others like Communication & Information graduate Goh Ji-En impress their bosses so much that they take on freelance work after their internship ends. The advertising major worked an average of three days a week at international brand design agency Design Bridge in her final year of studies at NTU.

In the last academic year, about 4,300 NTU students did their internships at more than 1,200 organisations worldwide, including 3M, Deloitte & Touche, ExxonMobil, Glaxo Wellcome Manufacturing, Lucasfilm Animation,



"A number of companies use internships to spot talent."

MediaCorp, OCBC Bank, Rolls-Royce and Siemens.

Says Mr Loh Pui Wah, Director of NTU's Career & Attachment Office: "A number of companies use internships to spot talent. Our Graduate Employment Survey published in 2010 found that nearly 800 NTU undergraduates received job offers from their internship company."

Not surprisingly, companies that have gained from hiring NTU interns continue to recruit them. "This benefits our students too," notes Mr Loh, "as they are often given added responsibilities, which means more chances to hone their skills and gain industry-relevant knowledge. The upshot is that they are even better prepared to compete in the competitive global job market."

Companies keen to offer internships to NTU students can email cao@ntu.edu.sg.
— Christopher Ong

Brazen in Brazil

Encounters of the good and the bad kind make Wang Sijia's internship experience fulfilling

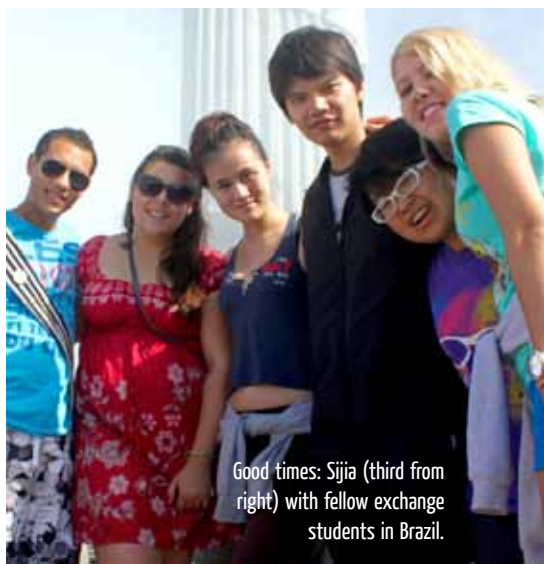
by Wang Meng Meng

In the seven weeks that Wang Sijia was in Brazil, he came face to face with robbers and ended up hugging reformed criminals – encounters he will cherish for a very long time.

Sijia says: "I was walking on a street with a Brazilian friend one day and we were suddenly surrounded by a group of seven teenagers."

"That street is near an area where drug peddlers operate. Although the Brazilian teenagers didn't brandish any weapon, my friend told me it's best to just hand over our money. I'm not a small guy, standing at 1.8m tall, but some of them were taller and stronger"

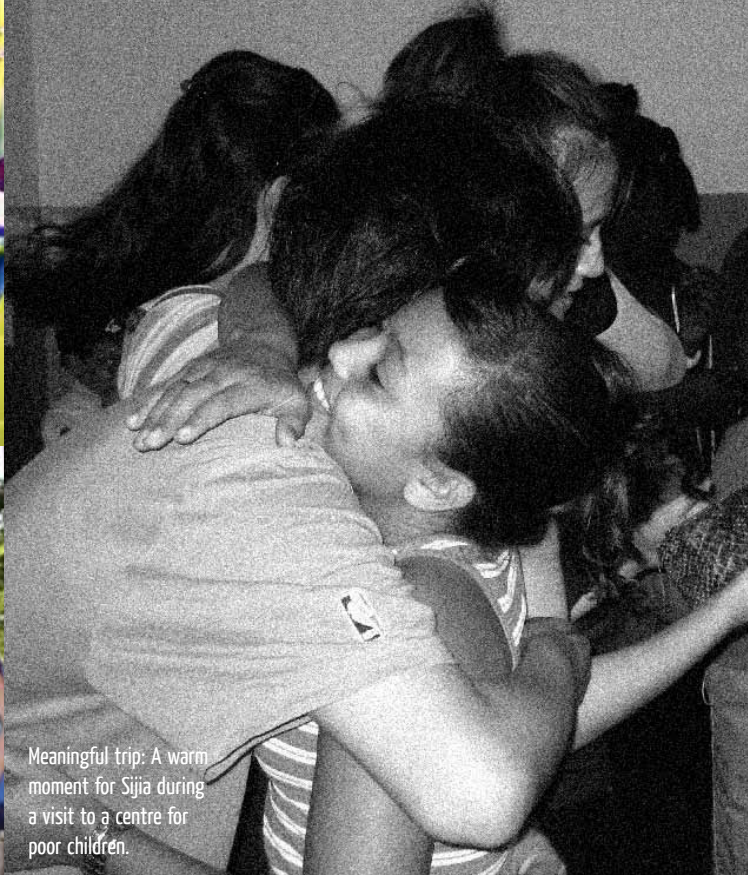
He didn't lose much money, but he did lose his mobile phone.



Good times: Sijia (third from right) with fellow exchange students in Brazil.



HEY, THAT'S ME!



Meaningful trip: A warm moment for Sijia during a visit to a centre for poor children.

"An iPhone," he adds. "3GS."

A week later, the third-year Physical & Mathematical Sciences student found himself face to face with a group of former criminals, this time as part of his internship programme with a non-governmental organisation.

It was an outreach programme that aims to befriend imprisoned teenage criminals, including gangsters, drug mules and robbers.

His trip last May was made possible by AIESEC (*Association Internationale des Étudiants en Sciences Économiques et Commerciales*), a global not-for-profit organisation run by students and recent university graduates. AIESEC offers internships with a community service element and its members are interested in world issues, leadership and management.

Besides eating with the youngsters, Sijia shared stories about life in Singapore.

"At the end of my time there, the inmates applauded and hugged me," he says, his voice filling with pride.

"It was a most fulfilling experience to travel so far to experience a whole new culture and to help make a difference. It was not a luxurious trip but it was a trip where I felt I really did something right."

While Sijia has not decided what to do after graduation, he believes the ideals he chased in Brazil will guide him along.

"I'll probably aim for a Master's degree followed by a PhD. After that, I may become a consultant or an academic. One thing's for sure, whatever I choose to do, it should allow me to make a positive impact on the world."

"At the end of my time there, the inmates applauded and hugged me."

UKRAINE

TRY SAYING THIS: DNIPROPETROVOSK

It rolls off Melissa Zheng's tongue effortlessly after her stint in Ukraine, where she taught English at a summer camp

by Wang Meng Meng

"They are so eager to find out more about Singapore, our culture and our political views. It was a trip where I felt I really had time to understand another community..."

First, she had to master a tongue-twister.

"Dnipropetrovsk," Melissa Zheng chirps confidently.

That's the name of the city Melissa was based in during her internship in Ukraine, the second largest country in Europe, where she gave English lessons to children at a summer camp.

Seizing the opportunity offered by AIESEC's Global Community Development Programme, Melissa, 21, a third-year Economics major from the School of Humanities & Social Sciences, found herself in the land of wide, fertile agricultural plains.

"It was a good chance to travel to an exotic place that I might never visit as a tourist," she says of her two-month stint in the former Soviet Republic in June 2011, during which she received no wages but had her accommodation and meals taken care of.



"In Ukraine, it is common for parents to go on holiday and leave their children behind at summer camp," Melissa explains.

Apart from an unpleasant incident where she had to hand over a 50 euro "sweetener" to a police officer who refused to let her board a flight as she had a pocket knife in her luggage, she has nothing but a glowing appraisal of the eastern Europeans.

"I find the Ukrainians very relaxed, hospitable and open-minded. They are extremely warm and helpful and will not hesitate to come forward to offer assistance, even though most of them don't speak English."

"They are so eager to find out more about Singapore, our culture and our political views. It was a trip where I felt I really had time to understand another community and culture despite the big language barrier."

The experience also helped her discover more about her strengths and weaknesses. "It taught me to think on my feet, and I also learnt to be tolerant and to persevere through tough conditions, both mentally and physically," she says of the intangibles that will help her in her future career. "Working with people from other countries and cultures has made me a better communicator too."

Happy campers:
Melissa's best reward.



ink in her blood

Lim Yi Han gets a high as some of her stories get prominent treatment during her internship in The Straits Times, strengthening her aspiration to be the next

Brenda Starr
by Wang Meng Meng



Bringing you the news: Lim Yi Han (right) with Tan Dawn Wei, News Editor of *The Sunday Times*.

While her internship with Singapore's flagship daily *The Straits Times* ended more than seven months ago, Yi Han can't seem to stop talking about it.

"My internship was from 3 Jan to 18 June," she says. "In that time, I had 34 bylines, including three for cover stories in *The Straits Times*' Home section."

The chatty final-year student from the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information found that contrary to her expectation, interns are not wrapped in cotton wool, kept out of harm's way and allowed only to do menial and meaningless work. In fact, her spell at the national broadsheet was anything but that.

She says: "Apart from the initial days of learning the ropes and familiarising myself with the newsroom, I was entrusted to chase my own stories."

She learnt to manage her time better due to the tight deadlines, and the importance of fact-checking a story before filing it. "In our journalism classes at NTU, we learnt that accuracy is important in news writing, but I only realised its significance during my internship because publishing wrong information could mean sending out the wrong message."

Her big break came in her debut week when she scored a cover story for the Home section after her contacts with driving instructors yielded the news that fewer people in the country are taking driving lessons due to skyrocketing Certificate of Entitlement prices and a declining birth rate.

That led to two more thought-provoking cover stories from the rookie – one on Singaporeans not giving way to ambulances during emergencies and the other on foreigners finding local drivers less than polite.

Still, while she gets a high from scoring a scoop or seeing her story published in a prominent part of the newspaper, journalism, like most

things else, is subject to the laws of gravity, and things can easily come crashing down.

That happened when Yi Han got the crime story assignment she coveted when she was asked to interview the family of the man whose body was found floating in a suitcase off Sentosa.

"But after an hour-long stakeout and finally getting to meet the family, they rejected my request for an interview," she rues.

"When a stakeout doesn't work out, it can be disappointing and frustrating, especially after the time spent on it. But such things happen and I've learnt to take it in my stride and move on, knowing that I've done my best."

There was another case of a nine-year-old boy who fell five stories and survived after suffering injuries to his jaw, neck, ribs and leg. "He had tried to climb out of his bedroom window and into the living room window after being accidentally locked in the bedroom. I spent hours going door to door looking for witnesses. I certainly didn't expect journalism to be so tiring."

These challenges and long hours have only strengthened Yi Han's resolve to return to the newsroom after graduation.

"I definitely want to go back to print," she intones.

"The working hours were irregular but that's exactly what I like about the job. I enjoyed going to work not knowing what I'd be facing or working on that day unless there were scheduled events to cover. And we'd leave the office only after our stories were cleared, sometimes at midnight."

"I now know that writing a newspaper story involves a great deal of effort and ground work, but it is extremely satisfying and fulfilling!"

The Istana, which means “palace” in Malay, is open to the public only five times a year on public holidays, but See Jing Jing spent eight weeks in the compound in 2010 as an intern in the President’s Office.

The Nanyang Scholar from the School of Physical & Mathematical Sciences was invited by NTU to apply for the prestigious Istana Internship Programme, and was one of three interns in Singapore who bagged the coveted internship.

“The internship gave me an unparalleled opportunity to go behind the scenes at the ceremonial and community events that the President graces,” Jing Jing says of her stint in the office of former President Mr S R Nathan, who initiated the internship programme. Mr Nathan is also NTU’s former Chancellor.

The interns were assigned projects – from coordination work to feedback-gathering – which helped them learn about the roles and responsibilities of the President.

One of the best experiences for her was mingling with the friendly staff of the Istana, from the butlers to the general office staff and officers. “It was in the

day-to-day interaction with them as they carried out their duties that I appreciate the most,” she says. This “personalised narrative” also put into perspective what she witnessed at the ceremonial events held inside the 100-acre Istana to welcome foreign dignitaries.

She says of the President’s regular patronage of community events: “Attending such events graced by the President gave me a glimpse into his efforts to help the needy through fund-raising drives, to inspire youths through candid dialogue at youth forums, and to share his wealth of experience with different groups of civil servants at regular ‘fireside chats.’”

Beyond Singapore’s shores, Jing Jing, who graduated with a degree in Chemistry and Biological Chemistry in July 2011, participated in a state visit to Mauritius along with the other interns – an event that left her “honoured and humbled” as, in her own words, “such a visit is the highest diplomatic gesture between two countries”.

“Towards the end of my internship, my parents and I were invited to have tea with

“The internship gave me an unparalleled opportunity to go behind the scenes at the ceremonial and community events that the President graces.”

the President,” she recalls. “It was a thoughtful gesture to be accorded the prestige of being the President’s invited guests.”

The tea session turned out to be a candid exchange with the President, and Jing Jing is grateful for the time he invested in the interns and their family members, as well as for the entire internship experience.

“This experience has sensitised me to the workings of the government and governance in Singapore,” and this knowledge is something she will carry with her as she embarks on a career in the public service.

SINGAPORE

the istana intern

See Jing Jing lands an internship in one of the most storied residences in Singapore – the Istana



Feature

FLIP, SWIPE, READ

HEY! makes its debut with the help of dancing robots, campus trendsetters and curious onlookers

by Tan Mike Tze

"Hey! Professor Andersson...
I have a special delivery
for you! Please look into
my backpack."



Edmund Chen



Teo Ser Lee





No doubt about it, NTU's newest campus lifestyle magazine has won fans with its breezy editorial style and lively content.

Launched by NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson late last year, *HEY!*, as its name suggests, aims to draw attention to surprising or awe-inspiring facets of NTU, from success stories to the next big thing in research and education.

It's all part of the cool new vibe on campus. "*HEY!* marks a change in how we've been engaging a new generation of undergraduates," says Prof Andersson, who unveiled the magazine with the help of a backpack-toting robot programmed by Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering students.

Lending a touch of glam to the occasion were the five student-finalists of the Nail That Unique Style (NTU Style) contest. NTU's very own student fashion parade saw a large and vocal crowd turn up to cheer on our campus trendsetters. Spotted among the guests were celebrity judges Edmund Chen (whose son will be enrolling in the School of Art, Design & Media this year) and NTU alumna Teo Ser Lee.

Look for *HEY!* on eye-catching magazine racks across NTU – at busy walkways, halls of residence and student hotspots. Junior colleges and polytechnics also carry the free bimonthly magazine. If it's digital media you crave, check out the iPad edition of *HEY!*, which comes with multimedia content and an easy-to-navigate layout.

More surprises are in store. Hey, you can count on us!



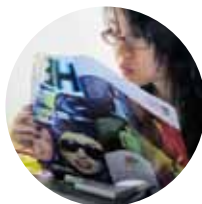
"Wow!
It's ultra-cool..."

ARUCHAMY PARTHIBAN
ENGINEERING



"A fresh concept.
It updates us
on matters that
concern the student
population."

ALVIN WU
SCIENCE



"Awesome...
innovative...
reader-friendly...
eye-catching and
smashing!
:D:D:D"

NG JIE QI
BUSINESS



"Cool, funky,
catchy! Appeals
to young readers.
Great publication."

JEFFREY HUANG
HUMANITIES, ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES

HEY! We're Glad to hear FROM YOU

What NTU students and alumni are saying about NTU's newest magazine

"I mistook *HEY!* for a lifestyle magazine. I like how the 'Let's Talk' profiles give alumni the chance to recall their days at NTU and how it changed their outlook on life."

TAN CHOR CHIA
BUSINESS (CLASS OF 2002)

"So much more refreshing and a fantastic effort to connect... I love *HEY!*'s approach and the great paradigm shift it took to achieve it. Keep it up!"

ALUMNUS ADRIAN QUEK
DIRECTOR (CORPORATE
SALES & MARKETING), SAFRA

"The inaugural issue is great! I particularly liked the profile of Prof Bertil Andersson – it's full of advice."

GRACE CHEW
HUMANITIES, ARTS &
SOCIAL SCIENCES

"It would be good if there are more promotions and fun features such as food reviews."

SHI YI CHEN
ENGINEERING

"I really enjoyed reading *HEY!*. It's the first magazine from NTU that I flipped from the first to the last page. I even got my husband to read it. Well done! Looking forward to the next issue."

TEH HSIAOWEI
HUMANITIES, ARTS & SOCIAL
SCIENCES (CLASS OF 2004)

"A great way to showcase NTU's talents and achievements. It's heartening that the features reflect our globalised world and its rapid pace. The profiles of successful alumni give students a boost in confidence and determination. Inspiring stories motivate us to never give up. I'm looking forward to the next issue!"

DU YINWEI
NATIONAL INSTITUTE
OF EDUCATION

"It's a big step forward and I hope *HEY!* will continue to surprise us!"

SHENG HAIFANG
ENGINEERING (CLASS OF 2002)

From left: Asst Prof Adams Kong, Asst Prof Arul Chib, Assoc Prof Louis Phee, Asst Prof Poh Chueh Loo and Asst Prof Matthew Chang.





Venture

YOUNG AND RESTLESS

Early career scientists in the world of academia, these five NTU dons have already made their presence felt globally, with inventions that improve lives around the world. Lester Kok finds out that their restless energy in the quest for the unknown keeps them going and growing...

"When you have passion for your work, it becomes a very serious pastime and that is what drives you."



From top: Assoc Prof Louis Phee, Asst Prof Arul Chib, Asst Prof Adams Kong, Asst Prof Poh Chueh Loo and Asst Prof Matthew Chang.



LOOK, NO SCAR Assoc Prof Louis Phee is a serial inventor. In a career spanning 15 years, he has come up with six inventions, mostly in the field of medical robotics.

His latest – and proudest – invention is a world first: a robotic endoscope with two small arms that can remove tumours in the stomach without leaving scars.

And it slashes surgery time to a fraction of the eight hours originally.

"I wake up for my hobby," says Assoc Prof Phee from the School of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering.

"When you have passion for your work, it becomes a very serious pastime and that is what drives you."

Assoc Prof Phee built his first robot – a device that can insert a flexible endoscope through the anus to inspect the large intestine – in 1995 when he was a 24-year-old NTU undergraduate. "Innovation has no age limit," he explains. "Even a six-year-old boy building with his Lego set does it in his own unique way."

Some of Assoc Prof Phee's robots have been commercialised and used in hospitals. He has won honours for his work, among them the Tan Kah Kee Young Inventors' Award in 2001, Singapore National Academy of Science Young Scientist Award in 2006 and Outstanding Young Persons of Singapore (Honoree) Award in 2007.

"Whatever I do, whether it's for research and development or something else, it needs to be tangible. There must be some product at the end that makes a difference to someone. I always hope to see my work bringing benefits to patients," says the elder of two siblings whose parents supported his early interest in creating and fixing things.

"You need to really want to do something to be thinking of it all the time," he says of his passion. "It's a kind of commitment that consumes you and gets your subconscious mind working on it."

So how can we be more inventive? Always look at things differently, be critical and test the limits, he advises. "Innovators always push the boundaries to see how things can be done better."

HELP, A PHONE CALL AWAY This Assistant Professor has a life-changing story to tell. It is a story with the word passion written all over it.

Saddened by the plight of millions of people the world over, 39-year-old Arul Chib dumped his high-paying job at Procter & Gamble for something that is now bringing smiles to the faces of thousands of underprivileged women in the tsunami-ravaged Indonesian province of Aceh Besar.

The cause of the smiles: one of the world's first healthcare mobile phone systems which the don from the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information developed for midwives.

Each phone comes with an easy-to-use application that can transmit expectant mothers' vital signs to city hospitals, helping doctors anticipate complications in pregnancy.

His efforts helped improve the delivery of rural healthcare services and in 2011 he was recognised with the ProSPER.Net-Scopus Young Scientist Award in the category of information and communication technologies for sustainable development.

"I have a favourite catchphrase: *make it personal*," he says.

In his younger days, Asst Prof Chib sold products like soap and shampoos at Procter & Gamble, a multinational corporation. He was earning more than twice his current pay but gave it all up for his passion.

He recalls the turning point: he had been selling a new kind of adhesive sanitary pad to villagers when one of the women asked him what panties were.

He soon found himself spending time in underdeveloped regions using information and communication technologies in

creative ways to help the poor.

"If you are a young person wondering what to do with your life, let me ask you: should there be this huge divide between the rich and the poor, or a society in which everyone has the same opportunity to reach a basic standard of quality of life?"

"It's very easy to expect the next person to pick up the baton and run with it, join a non-governmental organisation, create innovations for the poor or develop a vaccine to eradicate cancer. If you feel for something, just go ahead and get involved. Once you make it personal, you'll have this connection with the community and you will want to get involved anyway," he says.

Asst Prof Chib believes innovators must get down close to the ground in order to fully appreciate the needs of the community.

It helps that, growing up, his parents instilled in him the value of respect for all others, no matter what their social status. "Fishermen, for instance, deserve my utmost respect. In remote rural areas, they are the ones who keep me alive and fed," he says simply.

"We have a choice what to do with our lives. I could have a multi-million-dollar bank account and leave this world with the money sitting there, or I can leave knowing I have been a positive force. Which option is more satisfying?"

I WITNESS, I FIGHT His reverse-engineering skills combined with a consuming spirit not to let criminals roam the street led Asst Prof Adams Kong to a world-beating discovery.

He is the proud inventor of the world's first body vein identification system.

This leading expert in palm print identification has gone one step further by having a system that identifies criminals by taking photographs of them and reverse-engineering them so the veins, or blood vessels, on the bodies are more visible.

These are then compared to photos of suspects that are also put through the same process. The system was inspired by a case Asst Prof Kong helped crack when he used skin marks to identify a paedophile and put him behind bars in the US.

In 2010, he received a \$250,000 proof-of-concept grant from the National Research Foundation for the identification system. Despite his success, the humble don from the School of Computer Engineering insists he is just trying to do his bit for society.

"Many girls suffer as victims of sexual offences while the perpetrators roam free. How would a normal person react? They would want to help," says the 37-year-old, who holds five patents and has two more in the works.

"I care for the young ones among us and I would also like for there to be justice in society. It is a driving force for me," Asst Prof Kong adds.

With fresh media reports about victims of crime being left in the lurch and, in some cases, to die, Asst Prof Kong feels that helping people is slowly becoming less of a social norm.

It's a trend he attributes to rising individualism. "Society tends to overemphasise accomplishment, which draws on the 'I am better than you' mentality instead of 'what can I do for others?'"

"As an educator," says Asst Prof Kong, "do I equip my students with knowledge that will aid their careers in a self-serving way? Or do I equip them with values that help them become good people eager to contribute to society?"

"To shape the world – that's the goal I'm working towards," he adds.

I CONTROL, YOU FOLLOW It is not something a newsmaker is likely to admit in public. "I'm a control freak," says Asst Prof Matthew Chang in describing his work with microbes.

"I want to be able to direct

the behaviour of microbes and programme them to do the things we want them to do," he says.

Last year, this scientist from the School of Chemical & Biomedical Engineering bioengineered an E coli bacterium to kill a deadly bacterium resistant to most antibiotics.

Thanks to Asst Prof Chang and his colleague, Asst Prof Poh Chueh Loo, the world can now combat the superbug *Pseudomonas aeruginosa*, which causes infections in the upper respiratory, gastrointestinal and urinary tracts.

Asst Prof Chang's pet peeve turned out to be the inspiration for this innovation. "What frustrates me is that we can't control bacteria. I've always believed that someday I would make microbes act like robots."

A biochemical engineer by training, Asst Prof Chang, 36, is part of a team that was awarded a research grant in 2010 under the National Research Foundation's Competitive Research Programme funding scheme for their innovative work in engineering microbes to produce valuable biofuels from bio waste. Under the scheme, a project can receive up to S\$10 million in funding.

"I'm keen to return the help I received as a child using what I'm good at," says Asst Prof Chang. Hence, his continuous desire to innovate.

For Asst Prof Poh, it's a privilege to groom the next generation of scientists as well as develop new technologies in the field of healthcare, which is his interest.

"Research means being at the forefront of something new and exciting that could potentially make our lives better," says the 35-year-old.

"Whenever I visit a hospital and see sick people on their beds, I'll wonder what else I can do to help them."

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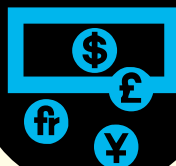
Feature

SO YOU WANT TO BE A SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER?

Armed with good grades and looking for a scholarship?

David Loh, head of the university's scholarships team, gives you the high points of the different scholarships available at NTU

by Christopher Ong



David Loh

1 THERE ARE SO MANY SCHOLARSHIP CHOICES.

HOW DO I TELL THEM APART? NTU

administers a number of scholarships, from university and college scholarships to school-based ones. There are also scholarships funded by government agencies and private organisations which typically come with a bond and a job upon graduation.

Among the university-based scholarships is the bond-free Nanyang Scholarship, a prestigious award recognising students who not only excel academically but have strong leadership qualities and an outstanding record of co-curricular activities. The College Scholarship is awarded to outstanding NTU freshmen pursuing full-time undergraduate programmes.

If you are passionate about research in the science and engineering fields, you should apply for the CN Yang Scholars Programme. The Nanyang Scholarship will be awarded to successful local applicants who can also fast-track their way to a PhD if they do well on the programme.

If you aspire to be a CEO or technology leader one day, get a head start with the Renaissance Engineering Programme, which trains you not just in engineering but also in business management and communication. All students accepted into the Renaissance Engineering Programme will be supported by scholarships such as the Nanyang Scholarship and College Scholarship. Upon completing the 4.5-year programme, you will get two degrees – a Bachelor of Engineering Science degree (with a specialisation in an engineering discipline) and Master of Science in Technology Management.

School-based scholarships include the Wee Kim Wee Legacy Fund Undergraduate Scholarship for students

pursuing a Bachelor of Communication Studies and the EW Barker Scholarship for Sports Science & Management undergraduates.

2 WHAT BENEFITS ARE OFFERED WITH THE VARIOUS SCHOLARSHIPS? Payment of tuition fees (Nanyang Scholarship and College Scholarship); travel grants and accommodation allowances (Nanyang Scholarship); a direct PhD option (CN Yang Scholars Programme); priority for or guaranteed overseas immersion (Nanyang Scholarship and Renaissance Engineering Programme). A number of scholarships also come with living, book or computer allowances.

3 ANY ADVICE ON HOW I CAN DECIDE WHICH SCHOLARSHIP IS BEST FOR ME? It's very important to pick a course you have passion for, and then to look for a scholarship that is applicable to the course. Like I've mentioned previously, you should also decide what is important to you in a scholarship, be it overseas opportunities, financial assistance or a career opportunity with an organisation that sponsors your studies.

4 I PREFER A BOND-FREE SCHOLARSHIP. WHICH ONES CAN I CONSIDER? You'll be happy to hear that all the scholarships administered by NTU are bond-free. There are eight such scholarships. For Singapore Permanent Residents and international students who get a Ministry of Education tuition grant, the usual three-year bond will apply.

5 GETTING A PLACE TO STAY ON CAMPUS IS A PRIORITY FOR ME SINCE I WANT TO ENJOY THE FULL CAMPUS EXPERIENCE All freshmen are guaranteed accommodation in one of NTU's 16 halls of residence in their first year. As a scholarship holder, you will be assured of a place in a hall of residence throughout your undergraduate

studies if you successfully enrol for the CN Yang Scholars Programme or Renaissance Engineering Programme.

6 I LOVE TRAVELLING AND DISCOVERING NEW PLACES. WHICH SCHOLARSHIPS WILL SUPPORT MY DESIRE TO STUDY OR WORK OVERSEAS? On top of global immersion and internship opportunities overseas, the Nanyang Scholarship provides a fixed travel grant of \$5,000 for overseas exchange and study trips. Scholarship holders on the Renaissance Engineering Programme spend their third year in the US doing courses at the University of California, Berkeley, and an Industrial Orientation programme in Silicon Valley.

7 DO ANY OF THESE SCHOLARSHIPS GIVE ME THE FLEXIBILITY OF CHOOSING MY INTERNSHIP COMPANY? All the scholarships I've mentioned allow you the freedom of choosing your internship company, subject to availability and your course requirements. So start your search for that dream internship now!

8 WHAT IF I LATER REALISE THAT THE ACADEMIC PROGRAMME I PICKED DOESN'T SUIT ME? IS THERE A SCHOLARSHIP THAT LETS ME CHANGE COURSE AFTER I'VE BEGUN MY STUDIES? NTU allows its scholarship holders to change their course along the way as long as their new choice falls under the list of eligible courses covered by their scholarship. For example, the CN Yang Scholars Programme covers both science and engineering courses. Because CN Yang Scholars do a common core curriculum during the first three semesters, they can switch courses, from a science to an engineering degree programme or vice versa, in their second year.

9 DO ANY OF THESE SCHOLARSHIPS ASSURE ME OF EMPLOYMENT WITH MY SPONSOR? The scholarships administered by NTU are bond-free and do not provide employment

to graduating scholarship holders. Many students are offered employment when they are doing their internship. Scholarships by external organisations usually come with a bond and you are expected to serve the organisation for a certain number of years after graduation.

10 WHAT ELSE CAN I EXPECT AS A SCHOLARSHIP HOLDER? On your part, if you do receive an NTU scholarship, you will be expected to excel both academically and non-academically. Nanyang Scholarship recipients are student ambassadors who often have the opportunity to represent the university at various public activities. For special programmes like the Renaissance Engineering Programme, you will receive multi-faceted training in areas ranging from communication to leadership and management skills.

"It's very important to pick a course you have passion for, and then to look for a scholarship that is applicable."

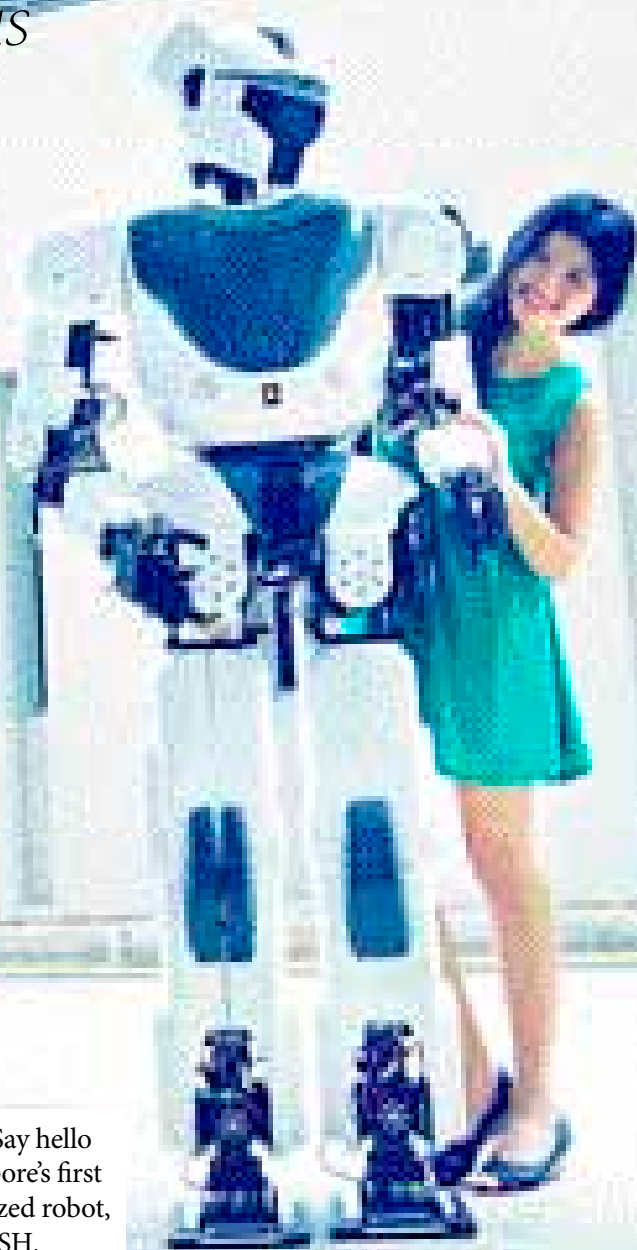
Hot Shots

hey! it's NTU

NTU's 2012 desktop calendar, themed Hey! It's NTU, uncovers facets of our campus that you may have never noticed



JANUARY Say hello to Singapore's first human-sized robot, NASH.





APRIL Looking good! Campus chic is all about expressing your personality.



MAY Different strokes for different folks and an underwater window to watch them all.



SEPTEMBER A 6.8km scenic periphery embraces our campus, the largest in Singapore.



OCTOBER Ideas get brewing at the Innovation Centre's Pitchstop Café.



MARCH Morning breaks at Hall 16.

DOWNLOAD THE FREE
HEY! IPAD APP TO
ENJOY THE FULL SET OF
CALENDAR PICTURES IN
AN INTERACTIVE FORMAT.

NOVEMBER Immerse yourself
in 3D and virtual worlds
at the Institute for Media
Innovation.



hey, stefanie!

Wang Meng Meng sat down for a heart-to-heart talk with Stefanie Sun, one of NTU's most famous graduates, when she returned to receive the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award

First things first, how do you feel about winning another alumni award from the university? (Stefanie also won the inaugural Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award in 2005.) I definitely feel very honoured and hope that in the future I'll have opportunities to work with NTU to further promote the university.

You're Singapore's biggest Mandopop star and have sold over 10 million copies of your albums. In what ways are you still ordinary? I eat at hawker centres, sometimes alone. I share rooms with my girlfriends and sisters when we travel. I take the train occasionally. I also rent DVDs and eat popcorn at home when there is nothing good in the cinemas.



Another accolade: Stefanie was at the Nanyang Auditorium last October to receive the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award from NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson (left) and Education Minister Heng Swee Keat.

You mentioned that your fans speak well of Singapore and of NTU. I've met some fans who claimed to be in Singapore and NTU because of me. I'm not sure how true their claims are, but it's a compliment for sure!

We hear that your family is closely linked to NTU. Yes, my dad (Sng Yeow Hong) was an Associate Professor at the School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering, so it seemed like a natural choice for me to study at NTU. After lectures, I would pop over to his office to read my notes.

You studied at Nanyang Business School. So tell us more about your internship experience. Did it have anything to do with music? I did my internship at Warner Music Singapore, where I met Princessa (a Spanish pop artiste) and Dr Bombay (the Swedish-Danish Eurodance performer who made Indian dance music). I had quite a bit of fun and quite a lot of stress! But it was a good experience and I am very thankful for the exposure.

What is the most valuable lesson you have learnt here at NTU? The value of camaraderie, especially after living in a hall of residence and being involved in many activities. It takes teamwork to make things happen. This, for me, is still the most valuable takeaway.

Any cherished memories of your time on this campus? I stayed in Hall 6 for a year and was very active hosting, compering and performing.


Once, I had this idea for a Mooncake Festival celebration, but nobody wanted to organise it. I said to myself: "It's all right, I'll organise it." But then I discovered no one wanted to be the emcee or to perform either. So I became the host and the performer too! It was really *bao ka liao* (colloquial Hokkien term for "to do it all")!



So was that how your showbiz career began? My friends at Hall 6 later talked about forming a band. So, a few of us started "Rubber Band" (giggles). There was a pond next to Hall 6 and we set up a stage in the middle of it and performed there. It's a special memory as it was one of the very first times that I had performed in front of an audience. And the location made it equally special. That day, I felt quite cool and I thought, hey, that's my image and I'm in a band! I think it was a stroke of luck that I did Business at NTU – it was a very interesting time of my life.

And what was the most outrageous thing you did in university? During a hall orientation, we climbed into drains and put on tonnes of makeup for "fright night". I also remember chatting till dawn and acting as a schizophrenic girl in a competition. We won!

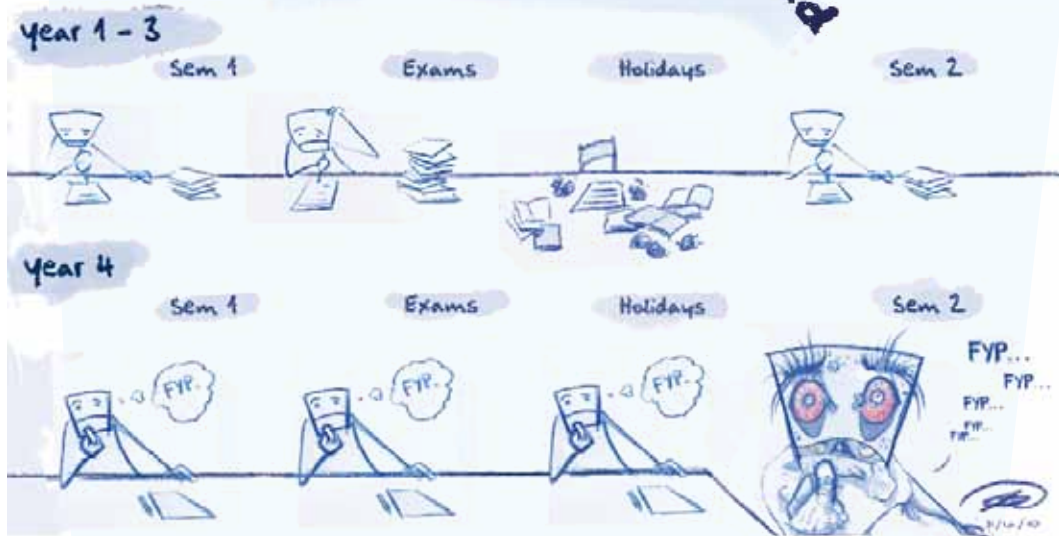
What's one misconception about NTU? I don't think there is any. NTU has a stellar group of alumni from many fields.

Complete this sentence: Success comes to those who... ...want it. If you want it bad enough, you will find all ways and means to get it. This is something that I have learnt over the years. You don't get somewhere by doing nothing. Find the one thing that you love doing and just go for it. If you are not good enough at it, you had better get cracking.
We can't end this interview without asking you how's married life. Pretty fantastic!

A woman with dark hair pulled back, wearing a highly decorative, sequined and beaded outfit with a wide, textured gold belt. She is holding a microphone and appears to be performing on stage. The background is a solid red color.


"I've met some
fans who
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Life of an Undergrad



*The FYP, or Final-Year Project, is something that all NTU students need to complete before they graduate.

By Lee Junyi, a final-year Digital Animation major at the School of Art, Design & Media and recipient of the Media Development Authority's Media Education Scheme scholarship.

HEY!

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Choose from four dinner sets. Each set includes Sakae chawanmushi, miso soup, rice and a can of Coca-Cola. Available from Monday to Saturday for dine-in at NTU outlet from 6pm to 9pm



HEY!

CONTEST

Email your answer, with "Chronicle" as the subject line, by 8 February to hey@ntu.edu.sg, along with your name, NRIC, school/department (indicate your year of study if you are a student) and contact number.

Winners will be drawn from among contestants with the correct answer. Multiple entries with the same NRIC or contact number will not be accepted.



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WIN TICKETS TO CHRONICLE

Ten pairs of tickets to be won for the screening of 20th Century Fox's new sci-fi thriller.

To win, simply answer this question: Who directed the movie Chronicle?



Thinking Aloud

another week, another adventure

by Nicholas Lim

Nicholas Lim is a second-year Business student majoring in Tourism & Hospitality Management and Marketing. He writes regularly for The Straits Times' YouthInk column.

As the saying goes, *the best way to learn is to do*. And that was exactly what I did when I hit the ground and sprinted down my self-crafted route of adventure, immersing myself in the many moments of a vibrant university life.

Where else to better learn Chinese culture and values than in China itself? Unleashing the globetrotter in me, I found myself spending an enriching summer at Peking University in Beijing, where I had the opportunity to rub shoulders with the nation's brightest minds. I also found time to explore the magnificence of the Forbidden City and the scenery from atop the Great Wall of China took my breath away. Also, who can resist the delicious food at Ghost Street?

Upon my return and before I could unpack my luggage, I headed off to market research firm The Nielsen Company as an intern. Nothing beats the steep learning curve towards acquiring industry-relevant knowledge, while working alongside inspiring colleagues over countless cups of coffee till midnight on mega projects with clients like Sentosa. Indoor skydiving at iFly Singapore as part of our job scope? No problem!

Soon, the semester began, but that meant I could venture into exciting case competitions, such as the Public Policy Challenge and 3M MarkeTHINK



Challenge (yes, I am that crazy to participate in these for the second consecutive year). From examining social issues we face every day to carrying out market analysis for yet-to-be-launched products, we did them all. While some see this as another load upon their shoulders, my teammates and I relished the adrenaline rush.

When the sun set, we would transform into nocturnal animals and busy ourselves with night activities (read: type relentlessly on our laptops) to complete projects whose deadlines once seemed so distant. But the community spirit would come alive as fellow comrades joined us on social media (read: MSN chats), dispelling the coldness and

loneliness that often comes from working way past our bedtime. Yet, we now also realise the real reason work never gets completed despite staying up till the wee hours.

When recess week came, it was unbridled fun as we pushed aside work (if only for seven short days) and let loose our youthful energy. My club, the Risk Management Society, organised an "Amazing Race" at VivoCity, and we dashed off to find clues and solve puzzles around the sprawling complex – to the chagrin of the weekend crowd, I surmise. In the process, we bonded with our new members and laughed over ice-cream.

There is certainly no better ice-breaker than a day of sheer entertainment!

With yet another semester behind me, I am keeping my fingers crossed that my application for yet another overseas trip gets the nod – this time to Vietnam National University in Hanoi during the summer break to explore its emerging industries and to experience the rich Vietnamese culture. I hope to share the insights gleaned with my schoolmates when I return.

So globetrotter persona I shall resume once more, as I anticipate my cycle of vibrancy starting all over again with nary a complaint that I had barely caught my breath over the previous one.

My trusty stereo
and mugging
companion

My other
important study
companion – a
cooking pan to
curb late-night
hunger pangs

This big ducky
keeps my
shillings safe.
The little one
supplies my
shower foam!

The precious
teddy my
grandma gave
me – it keeps
homesickness
at bay

My MacBook
for the serious
stuff!

Mini-fridge to
house my daily
calcium source,
fresh milk

Soccer boots
that earn me
precious hall
points to secure
my “turf” in
NTU



my space

TAN XUE SHEN'S ROOM



It will be a sad day for senior hall resident Tan Xue Shen when he finally parts with his beloved room in Hall 9. Retaining his cosy “home” on campus semester after semester requires active participation in hall events, but the final-year Environmental Engineering student feels energised by the bonding sessions with his hall mates. If there is late-night studying to be done, he eases

his hunger pangs with a “mean dish of Maggi Mee” – his favourite comfort food. He has observed that more freshmen are getting creative in the pantry, even pitting their culinary skills against one another. While Xue Shen’s room is fitted with an air-conditioner that operates on a pay-per-use CashCard system at an affordable rate of S\$0.30 per hour, he still prefers the natural, fresh breeze his hall is blessed with, being situated on a gentle hill amidst lush greenery. – Michelle Chow



Seeing Stars

Adding a touch of stardust to our garden campus in December were artistes Rui En, Xiang Yun, Elvin Ng and Tay Ping Hui (clockwise from top), who were here to film the latest MediaCorp blockbuster *Unriddle 2*.

Nanyang Business School graduate Rui En found time to browse a copy of *HEY!*. "This is actually quite a step forward and I think it looks really, really cool," she said of the magazine.

Meanwhile, Xiang Yun, whose son will be enrolling in NTU's School of Art, Design & Media this August, took the opportunity to explore the campus facilities. "After touring the university today, I feel reassured knowing he will have a great four years ahead in a happy environment in NTU," she said. – *Christopher Ong*

