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JOBS**

THE NTU MAGAZINE **MAY-JUN 2017** NO.32

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MEETS JC STUDENT

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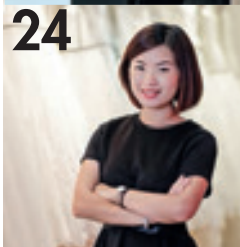
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HEY! GO GREEN

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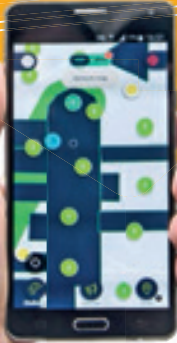
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Hey! CATCH US ON...



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Lee Kong Chian School
of Medicine

FYI



WATTS ON TAP

Is your classroom too warm or the library too cold? Log on to PowerZee and give real-time feedback with just a few taps on your mobile phone.

Updated with new features in March, the app hands users – including students and staff – direct roles in managing energy consumption on campus. Achieving comfortable temperatures is not the only reward of using the app. Racking up points for participating in challenges and other activities puts you in the running for prizes, such as the hoverboard that was given away in March, and the Bluetooth speaker and e-scooter that will be given away by the end of April.



It's all

RUSSIAN to me

NTU students want to learn Russian. And their wish is NTU's command.

NTU is probably the only local university offering the language as an elective, the latest among 14 language electives that include perennial favourites Korean, Japanese, French and Sign Language. You might even get the chance to travel to the world's largest country – famous for its tasty *borscht* – to polish your language skills and open new doors to your future at the same time.

REACH YOUR PEAK

Are you a student aspiring to be your own boss or to lead an organisation in future? NTU's new leadership programme, NTU PEAK, will give you a leg up. Get an insider's view of corporate life in the upper echelons of companies like Mediacorp. High-achieving second- and third-year NTU undergrads who make it to the programme will be mentored by senior executives for four weeks, engaging with CEOs and top management as they work on real-life business challenges. This programme is about grooming leaders for the business Olympics. Are you ready to be chosen?

WATCH OUT, KEYBOARD WARRIORS

It's simple. Don't put online what you wouldn't want your future boss to see – it may cost you a plum opportunity. In a study, four NTU students found that more than half of the students they surveyed have posted content on social media that future employers might frown at, such as a binge drinking photo, provocative selfies or a status update that bad-mouths someone. Their campaign, Your Keyboard, Your Career, warns students not to harm their future careers with things they post online. Now where's that delete button?





ON THE ROAD TO SMOOTH TRAFFIC

Switching to a faster-moving lane during rush hour will get you to your destination quicker but might slow down the cars behind you. Researchers from NTU have discovered that incorporating this human tendency into smart traffic management programmes ironically optimised the flow of traffic in simulations. With BMW providing a trove of data from its Munich car-sharing fleet, NTU's algorithm could be refined to help driverless cars navigate efficiently through heavy urban traffic in future.



When **JEALOUSY** strikes

The next time the green-eyed monster strikes, don't be surprised if you end up looking like a gaudy signboard. An NTU professor has found that jealousy can result in more flashy behaviour, such as wearing a brightly-coloured jacket, a handbag with a big logo or a loud pair of sunglasses. This tendency to bring out the bling, observed during a series of five studies involving more than 1,000 people, could be due to the need to recapture lost attention when one is green with envy. Key

CONGRATULATIONS...



NOTHING VENTURED, NOTHING GAINED

Mentored by Prof Vijay Sethi, the world's top business professor in 2013, an NTU team playing the roles of venture capitalists negotiated their way to second place in the Southeast Asian round of the world's biggest venture capital competition for students. Congrats, **VISHWANATH K SREENIVASAN, RISHABH GANERIWALA, DELLA TIAN, ERMAN ZHANG** and **SHIPRA SHRIMALI** for making it to the global finals in the US in April.

BRAND SLAM

Marketing wunderkinds **TAY KUAN YU, LOKE SI HUI** and **TERENCE HOR** beat teams from other local universities to be named Brand Challenge Champion in the L'Oréal Brandstorm competition. This is the sixth time a team from the Nanyang Business School has lifted the national trophy in the prestigious contest. Next up: A regional selection that pits them against the best in Asia for a chance to compete in the global finals in Paris, France.



MAKING A CASE

NTU beat a 500-member strong global community to come up tops at The Case Centre Awards and Competitions 2017. **PROF CHRISTINA SOH, ASSOC PROF SIA SIEW KIEN, DR PETER WEILL** and **YVONNE CHONG** took the crown when their assessment of DBS Bank's digital innovation journey came away as a category winner in the knowledge, information and communication systems management category. Well done!



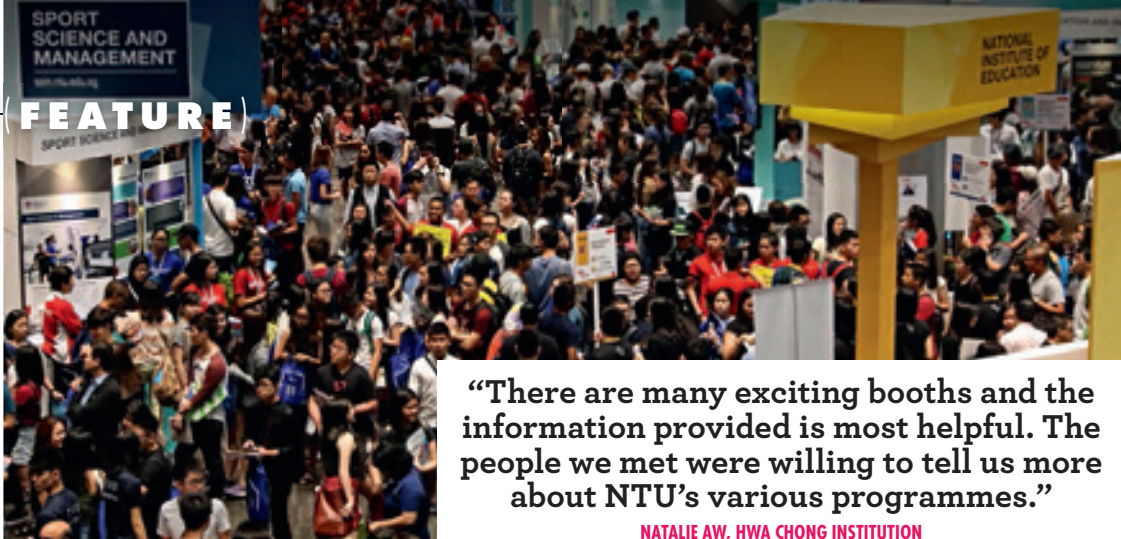
HACK-TRICK HEROES

It's a double triple for a team from the **SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE & ENGINEERING** that took part in a supercomputing competition in Salt Lake City, USA. They competed against 14 other international teams in a 48-hour non-stop challenge and bagged three wins in three categories. Kudos to these razor-sharp minds!

SHE'S ALL WRITE

POOJA NANSI, 35, who teaches creative writing at NTU, has been tasked with inspiring young people to seize the day. As Singapore's first Youth Poet Ambassador – which includes an honorarium and an \$18,000 budget for professional development and public programming – she will help nurture a new generation of budding poets.





(FEATURE)

“There are many exciting booths and the information provided is most helpful. The people we met were willing to tell us more about NTU’s various programmes.”

NATALIE AW, HWA CHONG INSTITUTION

NTU OPENS UP



More than 16,000 students and their parents thronged the campus at the annual open house on 4 March, discovering NTU’s wide range of courses and state-of-the-art facilities as well as the vibrant campus life and overseas opportunities that await them. Chrystal Chan checks in on NTU’s most visited day that was jam-packed with talks, demos and tours

“The open house is very informative, and everyone is nice and friendly. I’m interested in applying for an engineering course as I like physics and maths.”

PRANAV YELLORE, VICTORIA JUNIOR COLLEGE

“When I first walked in, I felt NTU was very vibrant. There were a lot of people and activities everywhere.”

EZEKIEL TOH, RAFFLES INSTITUTION

“I LIKE THE HIVE. IT IS A NICE BUILDING. I’VE ALSO HEARD GOOD THINGS ABOUT THE NEW HALLS, WHICH LOOK LIKE CONDOMINIUMS.”

JIE LE, HWA CHONG INSTITUTION

“I’m excited about NTU’s medical school collaboration with Imperial College London as the learning experience is unique.”

CHRISHMA RAVINDRANATH, HWA CHONG INSTITUTION

“I WANT TO APPLY TO THE SCHOOL OF CHEMICAL & BIOMEDICAL ENGINEERING. I’M HERE TO FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE JOB OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE AND WHAT STUDENTS ARE TAUGHT IN CLASS.”

DANIEL LEE, NATIONAL JUNIOR COLLEGE

“The courses offered are very comprehensive and interesting. The biomedical aspect appeals to me as I’m interested in science.”

IVAN OH, VICTORIA JUNIOR COLLEGE

EXTRA!



FIRST IMPRESSIONS REVISIT THE BUZZ OF THE OPEN HOUSE AND HEAR WHAT SOME STUDENTS HAVE TO SAY ABOUT NTU IN THIS VIDEO ON NTUSG YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK.

See how else NTU makes the grade as a globally renowned university on page 5.

GO FIGURE

Different global university rankings place NTU among the world's best and most beautiful universities. We crunch the numbers and present our vital statistics

BY DEREK RODRIGUEZ

AMONG THE WORLD'S ELITE

13th Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings

1st QS Top 50 Under 50 From 2014 to 2016

3rd Times Higher Education 150 Under 50 Rankings

RESEARCH IMPACT*

1st **1st** **1st**

Clarivate Analytics' InCites 2014 and 2015

QS Asia University Rankings

Times Higher Education Asia University Rankings

*Normalised citations per paper

Best in Class

ENGINEERING/TECHNOLOGY

4th

QS Subject Rankings

6th

US News & World Report

MATERIALS SCIENCE

2nd

US News & World Report

7th

QS Subject Rankings

CHEMISTRY

3rd

US News & World Report

8th

Nature Index

COMPUTER SCIENCE

4th

US News & World Report

ELECTRICAL & ELECTRONIC ENGINEERING

4th

ShanghaiRanking's Global Ranking of Academic Subjects

6th

QS Subject Rankings

MECHANICAL, AERONAUTICAL & MANUFACTURING ENGINEERING

11th

QS Subject Rankings

COMMUNICATION & MEDIA STUDIES

14th

QS Subject Rankings

TOP 15

MOST BEAUTIFUL UNIVERSITIES

"Classrooms are cutting edge."

- TRAVEL + LEISURE MAGAZINE

"A master class in green architecture."

- BUSINESS INSIDER



NTU'S SECOND CAMPUS AT NOVENA

With its brand-new Clinical Sciences Building, NTU is now at the heart of Health City Novena, Singapore's new modern healthcare hub. Derek Rodriguez and Amin Shah discover that the prescription for the holistic training of medical students entails everything from realistic hospital settings to snug recreational rooms that inspire creativity



ALL YOU NEED IS PATIENTS

Almost exact replicas of hospital spaces, the simulated ward and consultation rooms are where actors challenge students in various doctor-patient scenarios, giving them realistic training in what it means to put patients first.

When the simulated ward is configured as a hospital ward, students perform basic diagnostics and learn how to interact with patients. When transformed into an intensive care unit or an accident and emergency ward, the doctors-in-training get attuned to making quick and accurate medical decisions.

The practical skills laboratory is another authentic clinical setting. Here, students practise skills from drawing blood to suturing on simulated patients fitted with prosthetic wounds.

Says second-year student Beverley Lim: "Practising with simulated patients puts what we have learnt in class in context. It also gives us valuable bedside experience."



MEDICAL INNOVATIONS IN THE MAKING

NTU is known for its biomedical innovations and with a new medical school, there will be even more reason for NTU scientists to collaborate and find solutions to healthcare woes.

Fourth-year medical students spend six weeks working alongside clinicians and NTU researchers on

research projects spanning themes like medical education, basic research, and clinical and health services outcomes.

Says Asst Prof Yusuf Ali, a leading diabetes researcher: "The facilities here are beyond brick and mortar. The laboratory is filled with natural light in the day and this provides a beautiful ambience conducive to creativity. It's a very uplifting place to be in as well."



LAUGHTER IS THE BEST MEDICINE

Students can take a chill pill between classes at the student lounge, and wash it down with drinks and snacks from the fully stocked pantry. It's easy to build new friendships over pool, foosball or board games here too. Right next door, jamming with friends in the soundproof music room is the ideal distress band-aid.

Says second-year student Muhammad Fadzil bin Kamarudin, who plays the drums and guitar as his relaxation therapy: "I can work hard and play hard here. Everything from the seminar rooms to the labs to the music room is under one roof."



NO ALTITUDE SICKNESS

Occupying the penthouse level on the 20th floor of the Clinical Sciences Building is the medical school's library. With its eclectic collection of medical tomes and breathtaking views of the city, the library is a popular spot.

Cosy couches and floor-to-ceiling windows create perfect study nooks, and discussion rooms are designed for group projects.

"The medical library is definitely my favourite place here," says fourth-year Medicine undergrad Leon Tan. "It has majestic views of the Singapore skyline, including the city centre, and great study corners to soak in the sights from."

NTU students from other disciplines are free to visit too. Those interested in interdisciplinary studies can find their niche and grab a title from the medical humanities and medical art print sections.

Inspiring touches of creativity can be found around the library's spacious interior, such as furniture and sculptures with wood from trees that were once part of the NTU campus. It has a casual feel, with low bookshelves doubling up as chairs, where students can get comfy and reflect on what they have learnt.



COUCH DOCTORS

Medical students are placed into five different houses, much like the students of Hogwarts. Through regular house meetings, students are able to forge new friendships from their freshman year and find mentors easily.

Each house is given a room that the students have furnished to their taste. The spacious pads have become homely places to rest in between classes, with downtime gear like large-screen televisions, massage chairs and console games.

"The house rooms are really versatile. Some of us use them to gather for meetings, or just to hang out with friends. Some of us study there, and others – like me – use them to take naps during lunchtime," says Sophia Wong, who is in her third year of medical school.

Some students were even spotted playing Mahjong after class. A study on how to keep dementia at bay perhaps?



Medicine in the city



The Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine is a joint school by NTU and Imperial College London.

The Clinical Sciences Building is the new kid on the block of NTU's Novena campus. On the ground floor, the entrance plaza is designed to frame the heritage building that houses the headquarters of the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine.

The Experimental Medicine Building on the main NTU campus, which was unveiled in 2015, and the Novena campus form the key part of the dual campus for the medical students, many of whom live in a hall of residence on the main campus. A free shuttle bus brings them between the two campuses.

At the Clinical Sciences Building, the 250-seat circular learning studio is a smart classroom where students, armed with iPads, engage in team-based learning. To facilitate active discussion, they are seated in clusters of five to seven in the learning studio as well as in the three 90-seat seminar rooms. A 500-seat auditorium is equipped to host interactive lectures including mock surgical demonstrations.


A skybridge on the fifth floor links the Clinical Sciences Building directly to Tan Tock Seng Hospital's new blocks, which will be completed in the next few years.

"NTU's Novena campus is the academic heart of Health City Novena, and the campus creates a symbiosis of education, research and healthcare," says NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson, the driving force behind Singapore's youngest medical school.

IN THE PINK OF HEALTH

As doctors-to-be, NTU's medical students must know the importance of keeping a healthy mind and body. The indoor gym is no run-of-the-mill centre with its row of treadmills facing a panoramic view of the surroundings.

With full shower facilities and modern equipment, and a dance studio on the eighth floor, this lifestyle area includes a student lounge and a music room.

"It's awesome that we have spaces like these to relax in and pursue our other passions beyond medicine," says Yap Hong Wei, a second-year student and an avid dancer who is in NTU's hip hop dance club. 



MEDICAL DRAMA GET YOUR PULSES RACING WITH THIS QUICK TOUR OF THE CLINICAL SCIENCES BUILDING, NTU'S NEWEST FACILITY FOR ITS MEDICINE STUDENTS, ON NTUSG YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK.

EXTRA! ↗



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Enjoy fireside chats around the world.

Fire up your ambitions and go the distance with NTU. Whether for exchange, competitions, field studies, internships or more, 8 in 10 undergraduates go overseas for a rewarding global experience. Our top destinations are the USA, UK, Sweden, Canada and South Korea. Gain different perspectives and be exposed to diverse cultures. Enrich your experience with our global partners like BMW, Rolls-Royce and Lockheed Martin. Get on board a world of exciting opportunities at ntu.edu.sg/admissions

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Fintech, a hybrid of finance and technology, has become one of the most lucrative sectors to be in.

HEY! reported last year that graduates of NTU's double-degree programme in Business and Computing saw the highest jump in average starting salaries to \$4,583 in 2015, up from \$3,450 in 2014.



NTU graduates see a jump in starting salaries

BY KAYCEE TEO

TOP DRAW

In the latest graduate employment survey, the newly-minted alumni in the top 10 percent of the programme continue to lead the pack with the highest average monthly salary of \$5,746. On average, graduates of this programme also earned more (\$4,407 monthly) compared to those of other disciplines.

This powerful pairing of Business and Computing is not expected to be knocked off its perch anytime soon – those

with the new specialisation in business analytics will be sought after as more companies are keen to analyse big data, especially in banking and e-commerce.


Hot on this programme's heels, in terms of remuneration, are Accountancy and Business, Aerospace Engineering, Computer Science, and Information Engineering & Media. The top 10 percent of fresh NTU graduates from these programmes commanded about \$5,000 in gross monthly salary.

Explaining the appeal of NTU's engineering graduates, Assoc Prof Wong Chee How, Associate Dean of Engineering, says: "Singapore is the leading aviation hub in the Asia-Pacific, and the government's Smart Nation drive also means deep engineering expertise is needed in many areas. Ranked fourth in the world in engineering and technology, NTU offers a multidisciplinary and industry-relevant education that equips students with skills that are highly sought after by employers. Companies recognise the ability of our students and are willing to pay top dollar for our best graduates."

Kathy Ong, who holds a double degree in Aerospace Engineering and Economics, and works for a leading engineering multinational, says: "Engineering taught me to be a problem-solver, while economics gave me a sense of how macroeconomic variables and political events around the world have an impact on consumers and businesses. Studying these two disciplines equipped me with skills that enable me to provide a fresh perspective."

Incidentally, the highest-paid graduates from the College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences took Economics, with the top 10 percent drawing an average gross monthly pay of \$4,316.

Adding to these impressive numbers, top-earning Physics and Applied Physics graduates took home a monthly salary of \$4,900, a 25 percent jump over the previous year's graduates. A number of them have gone into the defence science sector, like Teh Bing Hong, who is working as an engineer at a national defence R&D organisation.

"The programming, analytical and logical thinking skills that I have acquired in my degree programme are fundamental to my work. I'm also able to grasp concepts easily," he says. 

HIRING THE BEST

At the 2017 NTU Career Fair, a record number of 4,400 jobs were offered by more than 240 public and private sector employers, including companies like Accenture, Halliburton, ST Engineering, Tata Consultancy Services, General Electric, IBM Singapore and Cognizant.

"Hiring the best talent is central to Cognizant's market leadership and industry-leading growth," says Mr Jayajyoti Sengupta, Asia-Pacific Head of Cognizant. "Our NTU recruits have contributed a great deal towards enhancing our digital capabilities to help clients make the fundamental, technology-enabled changes across all aspects of their organisations in order to compete and win in today's technology- and data-intensive world."

Despite a sluggish economy, fresh graduates from NTU's Class of 2016 earned more compared to their seniors from the Class of 2015, with average monthly salaries hitting \$3,300, up from \$3,250 in 2015.

(FACE TO FACE)



COURSE OF ACTION

Like many 18-year-olds, National Junior College student Rachel Cheong is unsure about which university course to pursue. Final-year CN Yang Scholar Chan Hoi Ki gives an insider's view of the options as Chrystal Chan listens in

RACHEL: I hear you're in the CN Yang Scholars Programme, which I'm considering. As a scholarship holder, is your academic experience different?

HOI KI: My curriculum covers courses in biology, chemistry, mathematics, physics and

even climate change. There's a lot of emphasis on research, which a typical biological sciences major might not have. This programme is good for those who want to explore their potential in research. You get good financial support and plenty of opportunities to be involved in life-changing



research, both locally and abroad.

How did you know this was the course for you? I'm still unsure of what to study...

Don't worry, that's normal! I chose biology because I knew I didn't want to major in chemistry or physics.

Actually, I'm not sure if research is for me – I don't have much experience with it.

Some of us in the programme were just like you. You'll get your research experience almost right from the start, and you can even get an allowance for your hours in the lab if you produce some results or a lab report. As part of our holistic curriculum, you will get to study other things, from computing to ethics. It prepares us for the real world.

I see. What else do you get to do under this programme?

We go overseas to broaden our knowledge of research. Most of these learning trips are subsidised. I was at the California Institute of Technology for two weeks to learn about earth science. Some of my friends went to Switzerland to visit CERN, which has the largest particle physics laboratory in the world.

So what has been the most memorable part of university life?

The time I went on exchange in Stockholm, Sweden, in my third year. I took the opportunity to travel around Europe during my free time.

Cool! Is it tough to secure an exchange spot?

It depends on where and when

you want to go. You start by identifying the universities that offer the classes you require.

Quite often, other students in your course will end up applying to the same few universities. In this case, the higher your overall grade, the better your chances of securing a spot.

Does that mean there is a grade requirement to even be considered?

Yes. For exchange, it's a cumulative grade point average of 3.3 to 3.5, depending on your school's requirements.

So how is university life different from junior college?

You can plan your own timetable, which means you might even be able to fit your classes into three days if you plan it well! But you need to be self-disciplined. Don't expect the professors to spoon-feed you. You can email them after class if you're shy. One good thing about NTU is that most lectures are recorded. You can revise anytime by watching the lecture again online.

Do you ever find university life stressful?


I think as long as you're

studying something you're interested in, you'll be fine. I am fascinated by biology and learning more about it, so it hasn't been too difficult for me. Once you're in university, go with the flow and enjoy yourself!

By the way, do you stay in a hall on campus?

Yes, I do! As a Nanyang Scholar, I get \$2,000 per academic year to cover the cost of living on campus. I recommend that you stay in a hall – it's a unique, fun experience that's a big part of university life. For example, I acted in a hall play and was a lead organiser of a community project. Our hall residents went to a village in Vietnam to teach children English.

Is there a minimum number of hours of community work that everyone has to fulfil? This applies to my sister, who is from another university.

No, there's no such requirement for NTU students. We do these community projects because we want to! 

CHAN HOI KI
Final-year CN
Yang Scholar

RACHEL CHEONG
National Junior
College student





OLIVIA HIGGINS

- Third-year Communication Studies student
- Six-month internship at **LOLA MullenLowe**, a leading creative agency in **MADRID, SPAIN**



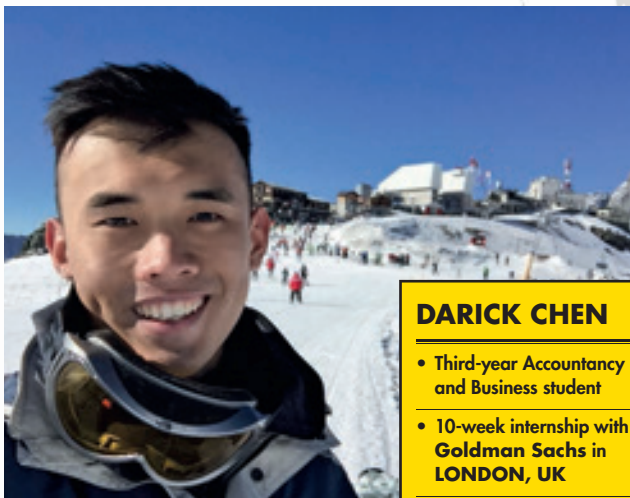
NO PAIN, NO SPAIN

“**M**onths of planning, starting from when I was on exchange at the University of California, went into securing this internship. I attended career events, worked with NTU’s Career & Attachment Office to improve my cover letter and resume, reached out to

INTERNATIONAL APPEAL



From Madrid and Seattle to London, NTU undergrads spill the beans on how they landed *that* dream overseas internship **BY KAYCE TEO**



DARICK CHEN

- Third-year Accountancy and Business student
- 10-week internship with **Goldman Sachs** in **LONDON, UK**
- 15-week internship with **JP Morgan**, **SINGAPORE**



BANKING ON STEELY NERVES

“**P**reparation and persistence are key when applying for internships. I remember frequently checking the job portals of the firms I was eyeing.

Before bagging the internship with JP Morgan, I attended campus presentations held by the firm and got acquainted with its team members. I found the opportunity with Goldman Sachs through the Nanyang Business School’s career portal. The job scope was similar to my stint at JP Morgan, so I had an advantage.

There were multiple rounds of interviews to go through in both cases. Nerve-racking as they were, I learnt that interviewers look for

individuals on LinkedIn, and even sent direct messages on Twitter and Snapchat. I spoke to over 50 companies and had intense online interviews and aptitude tests.

On my first day at LOLA MullenLowe, I was asked to



appear in a short video made for social media. These days, I work in front of and behind the camera. I am involved in video production, online journalism and public relations.

I arrived not being able to speak a word of Spanish, but within two months of total immersion, I could order food and start my emails in the language.

Work is fast-paced, but the Spaniards value their work-life balance and know how to unwind. People bring their children and even their pets to work. The office gym is always full and during breaks, people take their children to the park or simply sit under the sun with a good book.

On a recent company trip to Cerler, near the border of France, I met the LOLA MullenLowe team from Barcelona. I had fun interacting with everyone in a relaxed, social setting, and I even found myself on a snowmobile with my boss!"



candidates who can articulate why they fit a particular role in a simple yet engaging manner. At times, I felt like I was having a casual chat with the interviewers.

At Goldman Sachs, I was involved in equity investments within an internal hedge fund. I was tasked to interact with company management teams, brokers and industry consultants to build financial models. Beyond coffee catch-ups with seniors, the company also planned weekly dialogues with senior management.

I was fortunate to have met several big guns at dialogue sessions: Lloyd Blankfein, the Chairman and CEO, investment banker Gary Cohn, who left the company to become chief economic adviser to US President Donald Trump, and Michael Sherwood, the former co-CEO of Goldman Sachs.

Working in London as the only Singaporean intern at the firm was an intriguing experience that was both refreshing and challenging. Beyond that, London is actually similar to Singapore. Both are bustling financial hubs and cultural melting pots that attract talents from across the region."



BRANDON YOUNG

• Final-year Business student

• Year-long internship at Boeing, the world's largest aerospace company, in SEATTLE, USA

HIGH-FLIER


"Boeing is huge, and being in the Everett Factory, which assembles the 787 Dreamliners,

puts into perspective how small we are. But it also shows how the impossible can be accomplished when hundreds and thousands of people work together.

I work in the Flight Services Data Analytics department, where I support the streamlining of operations through data analysis. I interact with staff from other departments as well as the leadership team to understand the overall business.

Location was my top priority when sourcing for my internship. I've worked in both China and Singapore, and since I'd lived on the West Coast of the US as a child, I wanted to find a company there.

I've always loved the concept of aerospace and the ingenuity of human engineering that allows us to take to the skies. My experiences in NTU and previous internships, coupled with my deep reverence for the aerospace industry, convinced Boeing to offer me an internship and subsequently extend it to a year.

Working here gives me a taste of life after I graduate. I have to budget for rent, transport and food — a big difference from when I was on exchange at Curtin University in Australia. Other than that, there's been no major culture shock, although I really miss my Hainanese chicken rice, *bak kut teh* and *laksa*." 



THE DOCTOR'S IN

A consultant at Tan Tock Seng Hospital, **ASSOC PROF NANDINI RAO** brings real-life scenarios into her lessons at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. Working in hospitals in India and the UK has also exposed her to vastly different medical systems, knowledge she's happy to pass on to her students. "Take every opportunity to learn, to think and to know that you are privileged to be part of the patient's journey to recovery," she tells them.

INSI OUT

What is your idea of perfect happiness?

Cooking. **What is your greatest fear?** Snakes.

What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?

I am too much of a perfectionist and am too self-critical.

Which living person do you most admire?

The Dalai Lama. **What is your greatest**

extravagance? My car - buying a car in Singapore is

an extravagance for anyone. **What is your current**

state of mind? I'm in an "at work" mood. **What is the**

quality you most like in a man? Honesty.

What is the quality you most like in a woman?

Poise. **Which words or phrases do you most**

overuse? Basically. **When and where were**

you happiest? Taking hiking trips with my father in

India when I was young. **Where would you most**

like to live? In the foothills of the Himalayas.

What do you most value in your friends?

Being genuine and open. **Who is your favourite**

fictional hero? Toph Beifong from *Avatar: The*

Last Airbender. **Who are your heroes in real**

life? Everyday people who get on with life despite the

downsides. **What is it that you most dislike?**

When people treat animals badly. **How would you**

like to die? Peacefully. **What is your motto?**

Just be happy. Most things we worry about will never really happen.

MATH IDOL

As someone who uses the flipped classroom approach to teaching, ASSOC PROF CHUA CHEK BENG's teaching of mathematics is guided by three principles: being student-centred, having active classes and adopting team-based learning. When you build a learning environment around students, they can actively participate in the learning process, both on their own and together with their peers, he says.

What is your idea of perfect happiness? To be content with one's present situation. **What is your greatest fear?** Losing my mind. **What is the trait you most deplore in yourself?** Short-temperedness. **What is the trait you most deplore in others?** Dishonesty. **Which living person do you most admire?** Eli Manning, quarterback of the New York Giants. He's a hardworking professional who doesn't dwell on mistakes. **What is your greatest extravagance?** On average, I sleep at least eight hours each night. **What is your current state of mind?** I feel peaceful and content. **On what occasions do you lie?** To avoid upsetting the other party. **What do you most dislike about your appearance?** My belly. **What is the quality you most like in a man?** Trustworthiness. **What is the quality you most like in a woman?** Having self-respect. **Which words or phrases do you most overuse?** In other words. **What or who is the greatest love of your life?** My first love:

mathematics. **When and where**

were you happiest? When my

girlfriend (now wife) visited me

in New York. **Which talent**

would you most like to

have? A great singing voice.

If you could change one

thing about yourself,

what would it be? I wouldn't

change anything. **What do**

you consider your greatest

achievement? So far, it's

getting my tenure at NTU. **Where**

would you most like to live?

Singapore. I gave up a tenure-track

post at the University of Waterloo

in Canada to return here so I

could be close to my parents.

What do you regard

as the lowest depth of

misery? Losing all loved

ones. **What is your most**

marked characteristic?

I try very hard to be

precise. **What do you**

most value in your

friends? Loyalty. **Who**

are your favourite

writers? Louis Cha and Gu

Long. **Who is your favourite**

fictional hero? Xiao Feng in

Demi-Gods and Semi-Devils, a Louis


Cha novel. **What is it that you**

most dislike? Second-hand smoke.

How would you like to die?

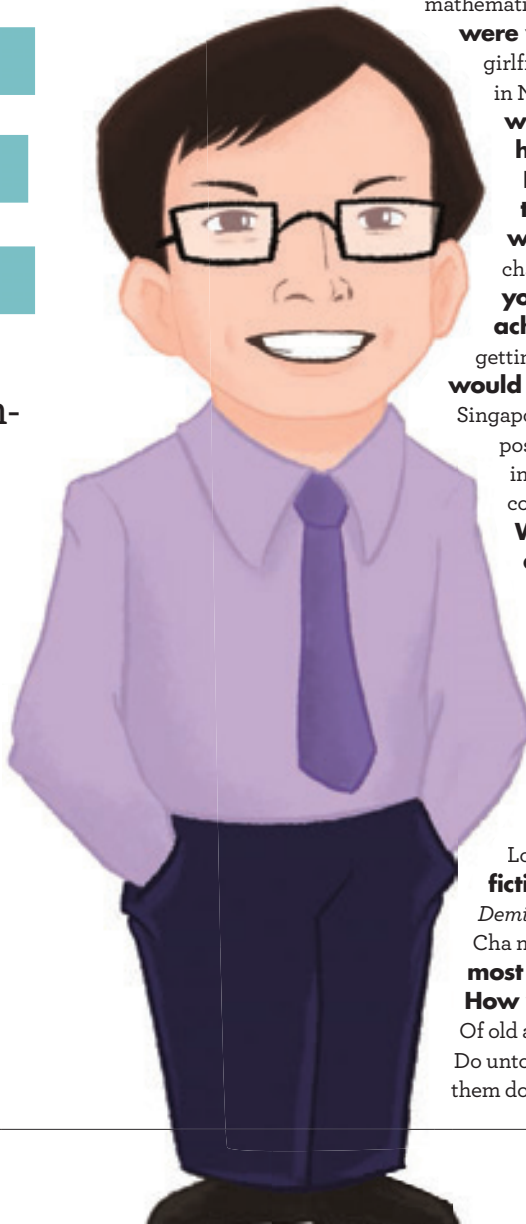
Of old age. **What is your motto?**

Do unto others as you would have

them do unto you. 

DE

Habits, loves and fears – larger-than-life professors you look up to have regular thoughts too. Derek Rodriguez puts two Nanyang Education Award winners through the Proust Questionnaire, a time-tested personality quiz, to peek inside their heads



How NTU-made technologies are changing our future

BY LESTER KOK



SELF-DRIVING SHUTTLE

NOW Later this year, you can ride a self-driving minibus after your lecture at the North Spine back to your hall room. ARMA, an air-conditioned shuttle, can comfortably fit 15 passengers. Board it at one of its designated bus stops on campus.

FUTURE A tap of your smartphone is all it takes for a shuttle to come pick you up and send you to the MRT station, or from the MRT station to your home. Friendly on the environment, this driverless “green wagon” will be fully electric with no emissions.

WHEEL SMART

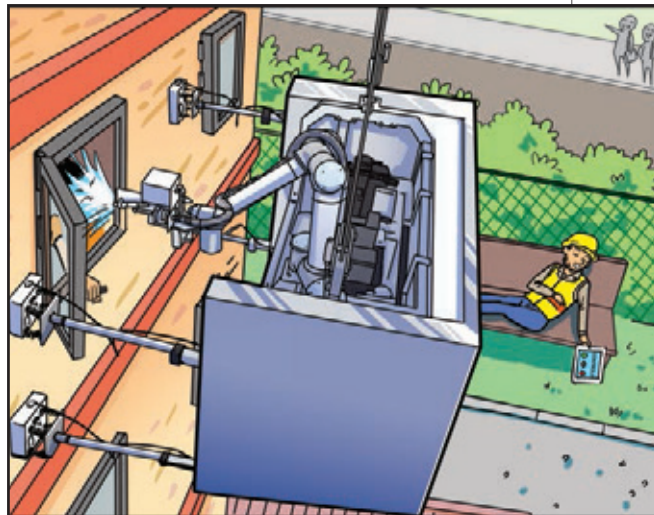
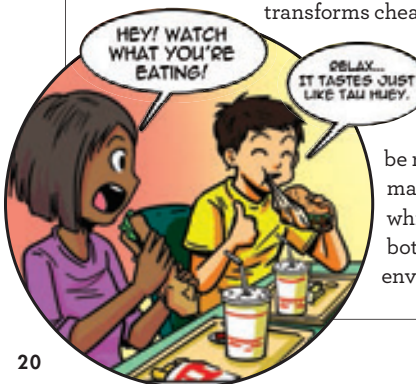
NOW NTU and autoparts manufacturer Schaeffler are designing next-generation smart personal mobility devices, such as e-bikes, e-scooters and two-wheeled convertibles. These two-wheelers fitted with smart screens will be clever enough to warn you of traffic jams and road hazards.

FUTURE Tuck your ride to class under your arm. Your three-in-one electric kickboard can be transformed into a seated or standing e-scooter, and it will show you the shortest route to take. It can also be turned into a trolley with a tracking function that tells you which groceries you need to buy – perfect for hall cookout days.

SOYA WRAP


NOW NTU’s food technologists, led by Prof William Chen, have turned waste soybean residue into cling wrap for the food industry. Their upcycling technology transforms cheap waste into useful products.

FUTURE Food packaging made from plastic could be replaced by wrappers made from food waste, which is non-toxic to both humans and the environment.



HARDWORKING BOTS

NOW Taking the pain out of skyscraper window cleaning, Singapore scientists, led by NTU’s Prof Chen I-Ming, have developed a robot that can wash and paint tall buildings. The patent-pending Outobot is controlled remotely through a tablet and can work tirelessly throughout the day.

FUTURE All high-rise buildings in Singapore can be safely cleaned or painted by robot washers and painters, which also cuts manpower costs. Workers will have an easier time, as they can control the robots remotely with just a tablet. 

ILLUSTRATIONS: DEREK CHUA

TOP OF THE WORLD

This NTU trio has a mountain to climb

BY TAN YO-HINN



(From left) Yusrina, Jeremy and Dr Saravana are attempting to become the first Singapore team to summit Mount Everest since 2009 and they hope they can inspire others to climb their own “Everests”.

Jeremy Tong, Dr Arjunan Saravana Pillai and Nur Yusrina Ya’akob left Singapore on 26 March with a plan to summit the world’s highest mountain, and they could become the first Singapore team to do so since the Singapore Women’s Everest Team in 2009.

Apart from their common dream of scaling Everest, being part of NTU was the catalyst that brought them together. Yusrina is pursuing a postgraduate diploma at the National Institute of Education, while Jeremy is a recent sport science and management graduate. Dr Saravana, a teaching fellow, taught them both at NTU’s teacher-training institute. “But they are now my seniors, mountaineering-wise!” Dr Saravana, 47, quips.

It was Yusrina, 30, who set things in motion, having been part of a Singapore expedition in 2015 that was forced to abort their climb up Everest at about 5,500m, due to an earthquake.

“It’s not the mountain that you conquer, but yourself. That’s my motto,” she says.

Yusrina, who has scaled the 8,201m Cho Oyu – the world’s sixth highest mountain – roped in Jeremy and Dr Saravana after learning that they too were planning to scale Everest after conquering peaks like the 7,134m Lenin Peak in Kyrgyzstan and the 6,400m Kang Yatze II in India respectively.

NTU pitched in, connecting them with sponsors and donors to raise more than \$150,000 for the journey.


“Resilience is one of the key attributes that Singaporeans must have to be future-ready,” says NTU Board of Trustees member Mr Tan

Chin Hwee, who was at the airport to see the team off.

“NTU is supportive of this expedition because it resonates with the university’s belief that values such as discipline, teamwork and a spirit of adventure and risk-taking are qualities that will help Singapore adapt and remain competitive in a volatile world,” he adds.

The team’s training included hauling 20kg backpacks up and down 40-storey buildings and Bukit Timah Hill over the past year.

“We felt like we were on a roller coaster ride. But we hung in there,” says Jeremy. “We hope this Everest expedition will inspire NTU students to dream big! Sometimes, the dreams that really scare you are the ones worth chasing. It’s always about taking the first step.”

Says Dr Saravana: “For climbers, Everest is the epitome. Its magnificence and grandeur inspires and fascinates us.” 

“SOMETIMES, THE DREAMS THAT REALLY SCARE YOU ARE THE ONES WORTH CHASING. IT’S ALWAYS ABOUT TAKING THE FIRST STEP.”

CHANGE-MAKERS

Students raring to make a difference in society show Ang Hui Min the causes they stand for

HATCH OF HOPE

According to Malaysian news reports, about 100 babies are abandoned in the country every year, with more than half dying.

“Some people think mothers who choose to give up their babies are heartless, but we hope to reveal another side of the story, such as the desperation and great societal pressure these mothers face,” says Corine Tiah, one of four communication students who went behind the scenes of baby hatches in Malaysia for their final-year project.

Baby hatches are places where people can safely abandon newborns. Speaking to single mothers, humanitarians and a caretaker behind the baby hatches, the team weaved together a compelling documentary that explains the social phenomenon. They plan to work with Malaysian organisations to distribute the documentary to women in need of such information.

Corine, who directed the documentary, says: “We wish to see a future where women with unexpected pregnancies receive the societal support they need to safely give up their babies for adoption or be empowered to raise their child.”

Watch the documentary trailer from the team’s fundraising Indiegogo page (goo.gl/FIAeIs). It will have your heart beating in anticipation, just like how the caretaker’s heart thumps whenever she hears the baby alarm go off.



Grishm Chandru Mirpuri (seated, right) learns in a fun and interactive way with a specially designed toy train set and game card questions.



GAME CHANGER

For Grishm Chandru Mirpuri, 10, who is visually impaired, learning concepts like “big and small” and “left vs right” can be challenging.

Enter 12 Renaissance Engineering Programme undergrads who designed a handmade toy train set with 3D-printed parts to transport Grishm into a whole new world.

Grishm moves the train by touch and answers game-card questions whenever the train meets an “obstacle”. In this way, learning becomes fun and interactive.

The 12 NTU undergrads designed four different sets of learning aids after observing classes at charity organisation iC2 PrepHouse, which supports kids with disabilities.

Since visually impaired children cannot grasp concepts by sight, the games draw on



The caretaker of the baby hatch in Johor Bahru cuddles a baby who was given up by her parents.

their sense of touch. For instance, they have to pair tiles of the same texture, which can feel like fur, grass or cloth. Parts of the train set game were 3D-printed in the Makers' Lab at NTU's new Binjai Hall.

Team member Low Chang Hong says: "We believe engineering and technology can play a greater role in social work. With some ingenuity and resourcefulness, even simple technology can be applied to improve the lives of others."

Injecting a local flavour into the games, the students also created tactile diagrams of everyday items for the teachers to use.

Ms Lee Lay Hong, a teacher at iC2 PrepHouse, says: "With the learning aids designed by the NTU students, children with visual impairment now have a variety of ways to make sense of 2D and 3D objects."

YES, THEY CAN!

In an active society, even the figure on the classic blue and white wheelchair access signs can't sit still. Cleverly redesigned by a group of communication students, the figure finds new passion in playing table tennis, tennis and basketball with a friend.

These redesigned signs can be seen alongside the original signs at public places like MRT stations, sports centres, hospitals and universities across Singapore, as part of "Project This Ability". The students started on the meaningful project after a survey found that those with disability did not know much about how they could participate in various games.

"Playing sports helps to build our mental and physical strength, and we did not want to leave out our friends with physical disability, who would be able to benefit from various recreational disability sports as they make friends at the same time. We were inspired by the determination and zest of the athletes with disabilities that we met during this project," says team member Jeremy Hau.

As part of their campaign to raise awareness for disability sports in Singapore, the students created a one-stop information portal (www.projectthisability.com) that lists disability sporting opportunities in Singapore, and a micro-film that will be screened at train station platforms. To encourage others with



Learning to sign the letters of the alphabet.

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN

We hear this group of NTU communication students loud and clear as they hammer away at workplace stereotypes surrounding the deaf.

After surveying 77 employers, they found that one in two have no intention of hiring the deaf due to common misconceptions. These can include a mistaken belief that the hearing-impaired are less productive or harder to communicate with. A meeting with the Singapore Association for the Deaf also found deaf employment to be a major issue.

The final-year students decided to correct these misperceptions with their public campaign project, "Breaking The Sound Barrier", which also brought together the deaf and the hearing in an intense "escape room challenge".

Team member Wong Jia Rong, who was inspired to make a change after volunteering with the deaf, says he was heartened by the outcome. "Difficulties communicating at the start of the challenge were overcome — by writing on white boards. With a little effort, the deaf and hearing can work together for a more inclusive Singapore."

There is nothing more pleasant to the ears than the shattering of divisive barriers.

Incidentally, NTU is also believed to be the only local public university that offers an elective in the Singapore Sign Language.

disability, the students posted Facebook videos of inspirational people like Sze Ning, who plays boccia (a ball sport) despite having cerebral palsy, and Qian Yin, who not only swings her badminton racquet from a wheelchair but also parasails.

The campaign was mentioned in Parliament by Ms Grace Fu, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth, after she attended the team's Para Sports Day. It also caught the attention of the International Table Tennis Federation, which posted a redesigned sign on its Facebook page without at first acknowledging its source. 

PERFECT FIT

Three years after graduating as Class of 2007 valedictorian, Teo Peiru went from managing private equity funds to becoming the boss of a thriving bridal company. Chrystal Chan finds out how she did it

It is 2pm on a sweltering Friday afternoon, but La Belle Couture on Tanjong Pagar Road is bustling. A couple is methodically going through photos from their pre-wedding shoot. Another couple giggles as they “try on” wedding gowns and suits in front of a screen called the FXMirror, an augmented reality virtual fitting room that’s also the first to be used in a bridal studio in Singapore. Yet another pair of lovebirds listens attentively as a cheerful consultant describes the various packages available.

Things didn’t look this rosy seven years ago, when the

managing director of La Belle Couture, Teo Peiru, 33, and her then-business partner took over the bridal studio. To their shock, they discovered that the previous owner had left the outfit with a debt of half a million dollars and many unfulfilled orders. They were thrown into the deep end. Her partner bowed out after about six months, but Peiru vowed to press on, even taking up bank loans to keep the business afloat.

It was a hard-won crash course for the mechanical engineering graduate with zero experience in running a company, apart from the





business classes she attended as an NTU undergraduate.

“I was interested in learning the basics of starting my own business, so I took a minor in business and another minor in entrepreneurship during my four years in NTU. I was in the first batch of students taking the entrepreneurship minor. Viola Tan from Love, Bonito was my classmate,” she says.

On why she did not pursue a business degree right from the start, the former class valedictorian says: “I felt I would be able to learn the ropes of running a business hands-on, so I went for a professional degree since mathematics and the sciences came naturally to me. Also, I really enjoyed making things with my hands and loved practicums and tinkering around in the engineering workshops.”

The entrepreneurial spirit runs in her family. Her father runs a software development company, while her sister, also an NTU graduate, owns an education technology firm. Deep down, Peiru always knew that she would eventually be betrothed to her own business.

“If I wasn’t doing this, I would probably be running a tech company. In fact, I am currently working on a start-up building artificial intelligence bots,” she says.

What was your undergrad life in NTU like?

I had a really exciting time in NTU. I joined many student activities and was very active in the cultural activities club.



“I BELIEVE THAT IF YOU PUT YOUR MIND TO SOMETHING, YOU CAN ACHIEVE IT.”

In my first year, I chaired the organising committee for the National Cheerleading Competition with 80 team members. The following year, I was the vice-president of the students’ union. I also joined the inter-hall games and planned some events for my hall of residence. In my third year, I spent a year abroad in the United States and China as part of my studies.

Tell us one highlight of your time in university.

It was when I delivered my valedictorian speech. That moment was really special to me as distinctions were so hard to come by for me and I was never on the Dean’s List. But what’s funny is that I visualised myself doing that even before I joined NTU. I watched the movie *Legally Blonde* and saw the lead character overcoming challenges to become the class valedictorian. I thought to myself: “I want to do that!” I believe that if you put your mind to something, you can achieve it.

That’s so cool. So how has NTU shaped you?


Honestly, I’m very grateful to

NTU because I was the recipient of the Nanyang Scholarship, which funded my studies at a time when it was much needed. The minor in entrepreneurship that I took was like a 101 on starting your own business, and that’s a foundation that has served me well. That said, I think it’s just as important to go out there and just do it. That’s the fastest way to learn.

Were there some challenging moments in university?

Like many other university students, I frequently thought about what I would do after graduation. So I took up more internships and courses than needed to try and discover my interests. The four years really flew by! I even started studying for the Chartered Financial Analyst exams in my final year. Being involved in all these meant that I had to set priorities, including giving up some of the fun things, like going out with friends.

What advice would you give to your 21-year-old self?

Be brave and don’t hesitate. If you want something, don’t wait to be 100 percent prepared or sure, just go for it. 

(BLIPS IN MY LIFE)

I was very cheeky when I was a young boy. I broke a mannequin's finger and until today, I can still remember that my aunt had to fork out \$16 to the store owner at Far East Plaza. Of course, I also got a scolding.

As a nine or 10-year-old, I was curious to see if the mannequin's finger could move. At that age, I learnt a lesson that actions could be costly in more than one way.

MISSION POSSIBLE

BY BERNARD NG

For every decision and action we make, there are consequences; there are always lessons to be learnt. Mistakes make you wiser – you are more careful the next time as you can draw on your experiences.

I wasn't from a well-to-do family and \$16 was a lot of money back then. During the 1997 financial crisis, my dad got retrenched. He was in his 40s, and it was difficult for him to look for another job. This incident triggered a new perspective for me. My parents had always told us to study hard and find a good job. But I saw how tough it could be to hold on to a job. I decided there and then that I would be my own boss.

I decided to study accountancy at NTU's Nanyang Business School as it is a three-year direct honours programme, the shortest offered by any local university. I remember the first year well because I almost got kicked

out. It was the thing back then to look for past examination questions in the library as a reference. I hit on the idea to print copies of these questions for distribution. The idea was tremendously popular and I got lots of orders. But the Dean got wind of it and I was called up for infringement of copyright.

Fortunately, the Dean appreciated my entrepreneurial spirit and did not expel me!

I soon began thinking of other enterprising things to do. While still in university, I started a printing and marketing business together with my course mates, Brian Ng and Samuel Pei. Before we graduated in 2005, we opened a laptop repair



service shop at Sim Lim Square. Rental was our priority then. But we found that the effort spent in marketing did not compensate for the lack of a good, visible location. That was one lesson learnt.

When we opened our hairdressing business almost a decade later, we made sure our salons were in very good locations.

Another lesson learnt from our laptop business: don't build your business around one key expert. It's very tiring for that person. The business was breaking even at best and had to be closed eventually. Now, we always have a team of at least a few experts for all our businesses.

We also learnt to be humble. Sometimes, pride gets in the way and we cling on, hoping to make things work. When something fails, admit defeat, acknowledge your mistake and move on. Think of other ideas.

We hit on our idea for kcuts when the Government announced the White Paper on Singapore's population growth in 2013. With more heads coming in, what could be better than going into the hair business?

At the time, such quick haircut salons were Japanese-themed. And being former customers of these express salons, we knew their prices were on the rise. So we decided to go the Korean way to give the Japanese-style salons a run for their money.

We've come a long way since starting our first business in NTU. It was really tough back then. We worked very late into the night because of our studies in the day. Brian would drive us back after work in his family's van. One night, it was very late, and we were all sleepy. He sent us home safely, but he bashed into a trailer on his way home as he was


so tired and we weren't around to keep him awake.

We took a lesson from this. So now, there are no more sleepless nights for us. We keep very balanced lifestyles and try to have dinner with our families whenever possible. We appreciate and cherish our time more with our families and friends. Work is not everything because we do not know what tomorrow will bring. Having adequate rest is also absolutely necessary.

This family-care culture also runs through our businesses. When we face our teams, we want to be the best bosses that we can be. We don't just sit in our office. We walk the ground. We are always reachable and approachable.

Life is dynamic and destinations change.

"WHEN SOMETHING FAILS, ADMIT DEFEAT, ACKNOWLEDGE YOUR MISTAKE AND MOVE ON. THINK OF OTHER IDEAS."

The Korean wave may be replaced by some other waves one day. Our plans should be as fluid as possible to ride out each change. Today, we still run Bideas Group of Companies, the business we started as NTU students, which now covers printing, advertising and marketing. We are in the midst of birthing our newest venture in the hair and beauty industry, a Japanese concept hair salon with Japanese stylists, AOYAMA Hair Studio. 



Enterprising trio (from left) Bernard, Samuel and Brian have embarked on many business ventures together.

THREE HEADS ARE BETTER THAN ONE

From starting a company as accountancy students at the Nanyang Business School, to turning heads in the big business of beauty, Bernard Ng, Brian Ng and Samuel Pei, founders of KC Group, have always operated as a trio.

KC Group, which employs some 200 staff, is most well-known perhaps for Apgujeong and kcuts, which has an outlet at NTU.

Riding on the Korean wave proved to be a good move. There are now 33 kcuts outlets, seven branches

of Apgujeong Hair Studio and four outlets of Myeongdong Hair Studio. More shops will be added to each business, including Yakson Singapore, a Korean aesthetics company, and food chain Rong Hua Bak Kut Teh, under the Bideas Group of Companies.

The three men are such good friends that their wives, who are also NTU graduates, got to know one another well enough to start a business themselves. For almost five years now, they have been running two branches of Heguru Method, a school for children. Their celebrity clients include Fann Wong, Diana Ser and Stefanie Sun, who send their kids to the school.

(GIVEAWAYS)



MUSIC TO OUR EARS

Strum a winning tune with a brand-new Higher Ground acoustic guitar from Believer Music if you answer this correctly: Name a field NTU has been hitting the right notes in as one of the world's top performers (turn to page 5 if you're stuck).

Don't pass up this opportunity to be among six lucky winners!

PROMOTION CODE: **ACOUSTIC GUITARS**

FUN ON ICE

Don't miss out on the fun of ice-skating, which is also a great way to keep fit.

For a chance to be among 30 lucky winners of a pair of ice-skating passes to The Rink at JCube, state how Prof Andersson's missing script at the State of the University Address was delivered to him. (Hint: Watch the video "What came to #NTUsg President's rescue?" on NTUsg Facebook.)

PROMOTION CODE: **ICE-SKATING PASSES**



THE REAL PEEL

Transform your skin in 20 minutes with the Luminous Peel Treatment by Donna Beauty.

You'll stand a chance to win a free session worth \$160 if you can name one of the facilities at the Clinical Sciences Building at NTU's Novena campus.

PROMOTION CODE: **BEAUTY TREATMENT**

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Have your next meal sent to your doorstep with a \$20 voucher from Foodpanda.

To be one of 18 winners, answer this: What material has NTU's food scientists turned into edible cling wrap?

PROMOTION CODE: **FOOD VOUCHERS**



FACE THE WORLD WITH CONFIDENCE

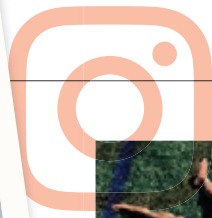
Put your best face forward with the THEFACESHOP Chia Seed Moisture Holding Kit.

To win a set, identify one of the three alumni featured in this issue who co-founded a chain of hair and beauty salons.

PROMOTION CODE: **FACIAL KIT**



TERMS AND CONDITIONS FOR ALL GIVEAWAYS Email your answer, with the respective promotion code (e.g. Acoustic guitars) as the subject line, to hey@ntu.edu.sg by 15 May 2017. Include your full name, school and year of study or graduation (if applicable), contact number and email address in your entry. Only one entry per person for each giveaway will be accepted. Winners will be picked from those with the correct answer in a lucky draw and informed via email. All prizes are to be collected from the Corporate Communications Office, NTU, except the Higher Ground acoustic guitars.



(#SEEINGTHINGS)

BY KWOK PEI FANG



The Hive is your oyster.



You are my sunshine.



We love to make a statement.



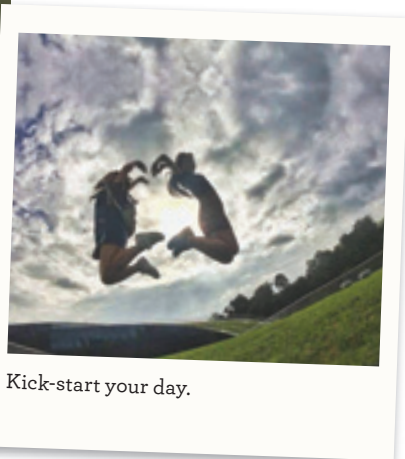
Lighten up: When there's a view, there's a way.



Swimmers bringing sexy back.



Hall of a view.



Kick-start your day.



Roomies on cloud nine.



Bro, I've got your back.



Learning curves.



Catch the nature bug at Pioneer Hall.



Turn on your heartlights.

PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM FEED OF @ILL_BANDIT, @HALL3NTU, @LINETELLR, @PHOTONICSSG, @JANWHITTON, @CHRISHEL, @SIASPARROW, @WINNIEHENRYXIN, @CROXINGPHOTOGRAPHY, @HARGAHOUK AND @HEMINING, FACEBOOK FEED OF RAMISH GOBY



PARTY TIME!

DRONE DELIVERY

NTU President Prof Bertil Andersson's missing script for the State of the University Address arrives by air.



Faculty, staff and students came together in full force to sing and dance to the university's achievements at Celebrate NTU!, an annual highlight. Derek Rodriguez relives the fever with these super snaps

KODAK MOMENTS

No university bash is complete without a wifie with the President.



YOU SPIN ME ROUND

One of the games that made us giddy with excitement.



THE ART OF PARTYING

Here's how to double the fun on the house.





GUITAR HEROES

Local singing duo Jack and Rai strike a chord with the audience.



THIS HOUSE IS ON FIRE

Like an accidental spoonful of *belachan*, the hot hits get a fiery reaction from the crowd.



HE'S NOT LOSING HIS HEAD

He's just a little over-helmed by the occasion.



PURPLE LIGHT IN THE QUAD

The army of revellers didn't need standing orders to party until the early morning.



I WANT TO BREAK FREE

NTU's breakdancers take the floor with their gravity-defying moves.



SHOW YOUR TRUE COLOURS

Neon-stop fun at the face-painting booth.

STAY IN TOUCH

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HOT SHOT

Rachel Liew, a fresh School of Art, Design & Media graduate, found herself sharing the stage with Academy Award winners under the world's biggest spotlight for cinematographers

Congrats! You're the first in the Asia-Pacific to win the top award for students at the 2016 Camerimage International Festival for your final-year project, *Han*. We're told this is the highest award in the world for student cinematographers. What was the high point of shooting *Han*?

Filming overseas – and seeing autumn in Korea! There were so many locations to play with, unlike in Singapore. How many filmmakers in Singapore get to shoot a movie on location overseas on a tight budget?

We hear horror movies scare you... yet you're keen to shoot a thriller?

I know it sounds strange! I'll just

skip the blood and gore, and go for something atmospheric. However, I think the market here for this genre is small.

As a cinematographer, you're responsible for all the visuals in a film. What's most important to you?

I'm very much influenced by Vittorio Storaro, the cinematographer who won his first Oscar for *Apocalypse*



Now and whose credits include *The Last Emperor* and *The Sheltering Sky*. For him, it's never only about technicality. It's everything, from the lighting and literature to the music.

As a cinematographer, I try to look at each production in its totality.

Was it difficult achieving that for *Han*, a story about grief and loss that also starred Jonathan Choo's dad, veteran actor Zhu Houren?

I had many arguments with Jonathan, the director, who was my course mate. We didn't come to blows though, as we have mutual respect for each other. It was only through opposing each other that we ventured deeper into the possibilities.

Your strength shines through. What's been a challenge?

I constantly feel inadequate. As a female cinematographer, I need to be able to make a stand and take control, to be at the top of the chain. You need to be strong-minded if you want your views to be heard and respected.


At Camerimage, you shared the stage with top cinematographers like Anthony Dod Mantle of *Slumdog Millionaire* fame and Michael Auted, director of *Gorillas in the Mist*. Who would you most like to work with?

Singapore filmmaker K Rajagopal. His films have such interesting themes and I would love to explore cinematography with him. I would also like to work with the acclaimed young cinematographer, Bradford Young. Incidentally, he also won an award at Camerimage for his work in *Arrival*.

What's your biggest wish right now?

I'm freelancing to build up my portfolio as I hope to continue my studies abroad. I've sent an application to the American Film Institute and UK's National Film & Television School. I am on tenterhooks waiting for their replies!

Good luck! And what will you do after that?

Get a job overseas, then come back to make a difference in the film industry here. 



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