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CLASS OF RESILIENCE

The COVID-19 outbreak stripped their early uni years of normalcy as Zoom classes took over and socialising became difficult. But in uncertainty and challenges come opportunities, and as these fresh grads from the Class of 2024 show, their shared struggles have made them stronger

GREEN LIGHT AHEAD

While most people retreated indoors at the start of the COVID-19 crisis in 2020, NTU freshman Robert Querimit hit the roads as a food delivery rider to boost his finances.

His family was facing a tight financial situation, and the gig, though risky and tiring, offered the Singaporean undergrad flexibility and decent pay.

In his first year in NTU, Robert made about 10 food deliveries each day while studying full time. If he had a two-hour break between his Zoom classes in chemical and biomolecular engineering, he'd squeeze in two to three orders on his motorcycle.

"I was on the road about eight hours daily, so there was always the risk of accidents. My motorcycle would skid when it rained or if I hit a pothole," he recalls.

Customers often scolded him for the long wait times too. "But I tried not to take their complaints to heart, as I understand their frustrations too," he says.

Cruising through the crisis

Despite these setbacks, Robert remained upbeat and resilient. As he moved into his second and third years at NTU, he discovered the heady world of research and stopped delivering food.



His love of and flair for research unexpectedly paved the way to new streams of income. He also received help from NTU bursaries that offset his tuition fees from his second to fourth year.

Through NTU's work-study programme, he put in hours as a part-time research assistant, helping his chemical engineering professor, Asst Prof Tej Choksi, optimise sonochemical reactions, which is the use of sound waves to transform substances.

He also did internships with Micron and the Agency for Science, Technology & Research (A*STAR).

In his third year, he worked on an interdisciplinary engineering project as a research intern under NTU's Assoc Prof Kedar Hippalgaonkar.

The study with A*STAR aimed to use machine learning to speed up shampoo formulation, which usually takes years.

A paper on the project findings that he co-authored was recently published in a prestigious journal. This is the second paper he has published so far.

He also dabbled in biomedical research, growing cells in labs to explore new ways to combat viruses, as part of a project under NTU's Undergraduate Research Experience on Campus (URECA) programme.

Great chemistry around every corner

For Robert, friendships are a big part of his NTU experience. Due to the pandemic, his own orientation as a freshman in 2020 was virtual, but he enjoyed meeting new people so much he later became a group leader and committee member for similar camps run by his school and NTU's Cultural Activities Club.



REFLECTING ON HIS FOUR FRUITFUL YEARS AT NTU, ROBERT SAYS:

"I never thought I'd go into research before this. But I received so many wonderful opportunities to try my hand at it. NTU's brilliant faculty also opened me up to new possibilities and let me take on different kinds of engineering work. I've found my path in process systems engineering, and I'm eager to give back to society through my future work."

"I also joined outreach activities like open house and tea sessions for prospective students to inspire them to study chemical engineering at NTU," he adds. His enthusiasm even led him to become a peer tutor for a process control and dynamics module.

Seven PhD scholarship offers

Robert's diverse research experiences in school and during his internships allowed him to find his niche in process systems engineering.

"Process systems engineering is about analysing and solving complex, large-scale optimisation problems in the chemical field. It's quite satisfying to work on these problems and come up with a solution," he says.

"I find it meaningful to contribute to sustainability through this field. For example, one challenge is integrating renewable energy into the energy grid effectively.

We have to consider factors like economic viability, storage and intermittency, which is the unreliability of sources like solar power since the sun doesn't shine all the time."

In August, Robert will begin his PhD studies in chemical engineering at Carnegie Mellon University, which has a well-known process systems engineering programme. He will be on a scholarship and will receive a monthly stipend for living expenses while studying in Pittsburgh.

Assoc Prof Kedar, Assoc Prof Raymond Lau, Asst Prof Tej and Asst Prof Paul Liu not only advised him on crafting a standout PhD application, but also wrote him recommendation letters.

When Robert received seven PhD scholarship offers, they helped him assess the offers based on growth opportunities and guided him in choosing a research team he would work well with.



Great chemistry: Robert (far right) with his final-year project groupmates.

In his third year in NTU, Jonathan scored a fence-tastic gold medal at the SEA Games.



Jonathan competing at the Asian Games in Hangzhou last year.

KEEP CALM AND PARRY ON

Switching swiftly between sword and stethoscope, fresh medical grad Jonathan Au Eong's five years at NTU has been nothing short of eventful.

Besides being on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic as a medical student attached to a hospital, the 23-year-old also bagged a historic fencing gold in the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in 2022. All after nearly burning out from the pandemic isolation in his second year.

Adapting to Zoom classes from in-person learning was the most challenging part of university life for the outgoing grad.

"Medicine requires a human touch. You need compassion and empathy to treat patients holistically. It's just as important to know my patients' background as it is their symptoms," he says.

"So, learning medicine through a computer screen from 8am to 5pm every day, and not being able to interact with my lecturers, patients

or friends, was very challenging. It took a toll on me," he shares.

Aside from social interaction, Jonathan missed his stress relief outlet, fencing. As a national athlete, he usually trained five times a week, sparring with his teammates to unwind from his intense academic workload. But these occasions, too, turned into solitary Zoom sessions with his coach.

Despite the difficulties, Jonathan pushed through with the support of his loved ones. As exams neared in their second year, he and his friends held studying sessions on messaging service Discord to motivate one another.

When he returned to the hospital wards for clinical studies in late 2021 as a third-year student, Jonathan "rediscovered his joy for medicine".

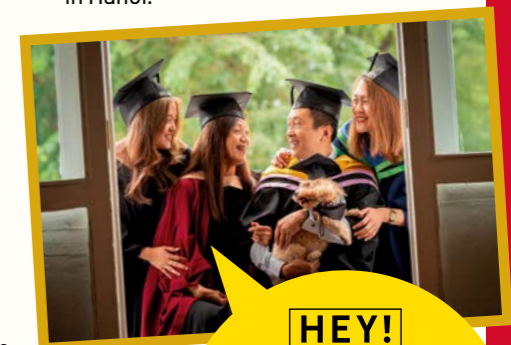
The doctor who duels

Jonathan's third year in NTU's Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine (LKC Medicine) was "challenging and character-building" for him, but also especially fulfilling as he

became the first Singaporean fencer to win a gold in the men's individual foil event at the SEA Games.

He was supposed to compete in November 2021, but the games were pushed back due to the high number of COVID-19 cases in the host country, Vietnam. It was "demoralising", but Jonathan continued to train.

When the postponed match in May 2022 clashed with his clinical postings, LKC Medicine brought forward his in-person dermatology clinical sessions at the National Skin Centre so he could compete in Hanoi.



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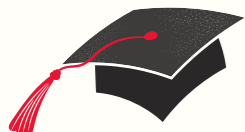
In their fourth year, Jonathan (left) and his classmates got hands-on experience at the paediatric department of KK Women's and Children's Hospital.



"Winning the SEA Games gold was a very proud moment for me. The victory was made sweeter because of the tough times that came before it – from competition delays to juggling training and lessons with clinical postings, and persevering through the pandemic," he reflects.

Besides fencing his way to gold while in university, Jonathan published 11 medical papers on topics such as the effect of COVID-19 on myopia and a report on trigger finger in an adolescent fencer.

Fresh out of med school, he is a houseman at Singapore General Hospital. National Service comes next, after which he hopes to apply for specialty training in a surgical discipline.



JONATHAN SAYS:

"LKCMedicine's mission to train 'doctors you and I would like to care for us' resonates with me. Through my classes, clinical exposure and these personal challenges, I've grown to become a more understanding, compassionate and loving doctor. I will carry these lessons with me as I embark on my medical career."

GOWNS, GOGGLES & GRIT ON THE PANDEMIC FRONTLINE

On the second day of his first clinical posting at Tan Tock Seng Hospital in August 2021, medical student Jonathan Au Eong got an alert. He had come into close contact with a COVID-19 patient while examining patients in the general medicine ward and needed an immediate swab test.

"It was quite frightening. At that point, COVID-19 was not fully understood or treated as endemic yet. I worried about quarantine disrupting my lessons and clinical postings," he says.

Luckily, Jonathan and two classmates in the same posting tested negative and resumed their third-year studies, a mix of hospital attachments and tutorials at NTU's LKCMedicine.

To protect patients and students during the pandemic, the school limited

students' exposure to patients in lower-risk wards and increased the number of simulated patient practice sessions.

For Jonathan, his hospital attachment during the pandemic was "gruelling and memorable".

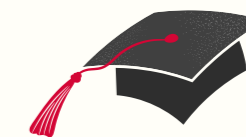
He donned stifling personal protective equipment (PPE) – a long surgical gown over medical scrubs, goggles and an N95 mask – to learn how to physically examine patients and pick up signs of potential health issues. Each ward round with the hospital doctors lasted up to four hours.

"It was hard to concentrate while sweating and breathing harder in full PPE. Once, my N95 mask was so tight, I ended up with bruises on my face," he recalls.

"But my body got used to wearing PPE eventually. After all, it's in the best interests of our patients and ourselves, to take these precautions. My experiences have made me appreciate the importance of a prepared healthcare system."



Learning on the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic: Jonathan's first clinical posting at Tan Tock Seng Hospital was gruelling yet memorable.



RANDY SAYS:

"As a boy, I loved reading about relativity and space. Taking Dr Leek Meng Lee's astrophysics module reminded me of my childhood. Dr Leek broke down complex topics into easier material, starting with basic algebra before advancing to differential geometry. I really enjoyed learning in his classes and it re-ignited my passion for astrophysics."

A QUANTUM LEAP TO SUCCESS

The lag between the visuals and audio of a Zoom lecture may seem minor to the average student. But for Randy Tan, who is hearing-challenged, the split-second delay makes the difference between comprehension and confusion.

Even though the Zoom classes of his earlier varsity years were tough, the Physics major's bold discipline and determination helped him do well in university. Along the way, he shot to TikTok fame, discovered his strengths in teaching, and re-ignited his love for the cosmos.

Zooming past hearing difficulties

A high fever when he was 11 damaged Randy's inner-ear nerves, leading to 50% hearing loss in both ears. Besides wearing an in-ear

hearing aid, he relies on lip-reading to understand others.

"When I attended Zoom lectures as a freshman, what I saw the lecturer mouth on screen would be different from what I heard through my headphones. The information wouldn't 'match', and it was very disorienting," Randy says.

At in-person lab sessions in his first and second years, his classmates and lab tutor wore face masks due to safety measures. Their voices were softer, and he could not read their lips. "I had to ask my lab supervisor to speak louder and to repeat himself three or four times," he recalls.

Thankfully, Randy did not have to struggle on his own. NTU's accessibility unit recruited his seniors and batchmates to provide him with weekly lecture and tutorial

notes throughout his four years here.

"My note-takers were really helpful. They would transcribe class notes, assignment pointers and important deadlines for me. We became friends. If I wasn't sure I was going down the right path for certain tutorials, I would check my progress against their answers to see if my thinking on the subject was correct," Randy says.

TikTok teaching star

Besides studying full time, Randy worked while in university to cover his tuition, hall and living expenses due to his family's financial difficulties.

He began teaching physics and mathematics part time in his first year and even became a physics relief teacher at Nanyang Junior

Randy as a relief physics tutor at Nanyang Junior College last year.



College. "Helping my students understand difficult concepts and later do well in school is meaningful to me," he says.

"Juggling work and studies was tricky, but my love for physics and teaching kept me going. It all boils down to streamlining your time and activities. I'd write tuition notes for my students on the bus. And when I'm walking on the treadmill at the gym, I'd study and think about my NTU course problems on my iPad," he shares.

In his fourth year, a friend roped him in to be a content creator for the School of Physical & Mathematical Sciences' TikTok account, as part of the school's ambassador programme.

His creative and fun TikToks on physics formulas and study tips are among the channel's most watched. A clip of Randy's tips for studying quantum electrodynamics went viral this April, snagging over 7,000 likes, saves and comments.

Shooting for his PhD-ream
Energised by helping students, Randy is now a full-time tutor.

He teaches online group classes and gives one-on-one sessions at both junior college and university levels.

While at NTU, he explored his interests in the field, even taking graduate-level classes. One class in particular, astrophysics and cosmology, illuminated a new path.

"My NTU degree in physics has given me a great foundation for advanced studies in any other branch of physics. So I now want to pursue a PhD in astrophysics, ideally before I turn 30 in five years," Randy adds.

However, pursuing a PhD in the field will be expensive, as it can currently only be done overseas. "My friends even tried to talk me out of it as they think a higher degree in astrophysics might not be very lucrative," he says.

Undeterred by the hurdles ahead, Randy has laid out his journey. He'll increase his active and passive income by doubling down on his current work and will start a tuition business with a friend from August. Next year, he'll enrol in a part-time online master's

programme in astrophysics with The Open University to work towards his PhD dream.

He adds: "Astrophysics research feels like the great frontier for me; a chance to venture into the unknown and embark on the adventure of a lifetime. I may have to jump through hoops to get there, but I want to live life on my terms. I believe I can make it work, as long as I bite the bullet and fully commit to my plan."



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SCAN THIS VISUAL to learn how to study quantum electrodynamics with Randy in his viral TikTok video

HOW TO GET HIRED

Your dream job can be within reach if you start planning early in university. Class of 2024 grads reveal how they landed hot jobs, even in this tough job market

1 SHARPEN YOUR SKILLS WITH INTERNSHIPS

Goh Wei Kiat (Accountancy) will be an associate at Boston Consulting Group in August.



"I was so keen to find my perfect fit in the corporate world that I took a leave of absence to try out consulting with a six-month internship at McKinsey & Company in my second year. It was a leap of faith. The learning curve was steep, but I honed my analytical and problem-solving skills. I also learnt how to convince C-suite executives by being clear and succinct in my analysis and recommendations.

This experience helped me secure three more consulting internships while at NTU. And each opportunity enhanced my thought process, further sharpening my critical thinking and articulation skills. I also advised non-profit organisations as a director of the NTU arm of an international student consultancy. My stints made me realise that I enjoy the varied and challenging nature of consultancy and want to pursue it as my career.

In two of my internships, I expressed interest in full-time positions and got offers from both consulting firms. Besides performing well during your internship, building relationships at work, and learning more about the company you're working for, I think it's important to advocate for yourself as an employee. How else will others know what you want?"

Karen Chong (Electrical & Electronic Engineering) will join Micron as a process integration engineer in September. ...



GET HELP FOR YOUR RESUME AND JOB SEARCH

"In my second year, I had no idea what to include in my resume when applying for a professional internship. After joining my school's career workshops and consulting a career coach, I learnt how to tailor my resume for different roles by including the right keywords when applying for internships or jobs.

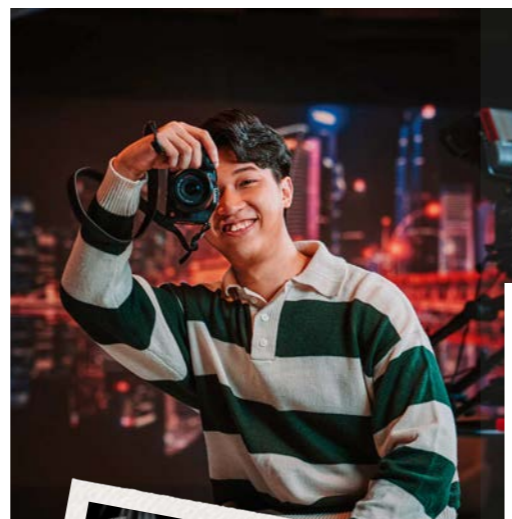
For example, I didn't think it was important to mention my mini lab projects, such as a real-time facial recognition system that I researched and coded with my team for an intelligent systems design module. But phrases such as 'researched face detection and face recognition models'

and 'implemented the code using python' demonstrate skills and achievements recruiters look for. I'd reference sample resumes from my career coach and check online resources to ensure I used effective keywords relevant to the field I'm applying for.

In my final semester, my friends and I attended NTU's physical and virtual career fairs, where we asked recruiters about the skill sets they wanted. In total, I sent out around 10 job applications, was shortlisted for four, and received two offers.

To refresh my interview skills, I went for NTU's career workshops and crafted talking points for common interview questions. As a result, I was well prepared, gave confident, thoughtful answers, and wasn't nervous during my interviews."

Seth Low (Communication Studies) is a junior art director at McCann Worldgroup. ...



believe that enthusiasm can be just as convincing as any accolade.

It all came together when I landed my first job with McCann, an international advertising agency. I had met the executive creative director when my team's project won **Best of Show** at the Crowbar Awards 2023, and also kept in touch with the chief creative officer since she guest lectured two years ago. Additionally, a referral from my advertising lecturer, Ms Wong Pei Wen, helped in the interview process.

In fact, to increase the visibility of my fellow students' works, I led the organisation of a three-day exhibition and networking session at Gillman Barracks last August as an extension of the school's annual student awards. We invited alumni to view outstanding broadcast, journalism, advertising and research projects. Sharing our work with industry experts can open doors for the future."

BUILD YOUR PORTFOLIO AND NETWORK

"Work on side hustles and join competitions to boost your portfolio while in university. It'll showcase your skills and how you can add value to companies. I have been freelancing as a content creator and illustrator for clients like McDonald's and New Balance for some years now.

Guided by our mentors from the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information, my coursemates and I joined competitions and won several awards for our creative advertising campaign ideas. These occasions provided great networking opportunities.

LinkedIn is a great tool to connect with professionals in the industry, especially when they see my posts explaining my ideas. When I talk about the work I'm proud of, my passion shines through. I

SHOW YOUR PERSONAL SIDE

"I find that when it comes to fresh graduates, employers are more interested in hiring individuals who are a good fit with their culture, as they are prepared to teach newcomers the necessary technical skills.

Running group interviews and asking situational questions are ways to see how you communicate, collaborate, adapt and handle conflicts.

So be open and talk about your interests outside of work and school. In my case, many interviewers were intrigued by my involvement in NTU's Welfare Services Club Growth & Opportunities! (WSC GO!). They were looking for demonstrations of my soft skills and asked for examples of how I worked with my team to organise events under time pressure.

I also mentioned my love for classic movies and sitcoms, and when some interviewers asked about my favourite show, it helped me build rapport with them.

In my freshman year, I had difficulties securing an internship. Nevertheless, I continued applying for lots of different roles to explore various opportunities. Eventually, I did five internships across sectors such as capital markets, asset management, financial regulation and auditing. My third-year internship with HSBC led to the offer of a full-time role, so I was fortunate to not have to hunt for my first job."

Sooria C M R (Accountancy & Business), class valedictorian, secured a role as an investment banking analyst with HSBC. ...



Perlyn graduates with two degrees – a Bachelor of Engineering Science (Computer Science) and a Master of Science in Technology Management – under the Renaissance Engineering Programme.



She got 5 job offers. How did she pick the right one?

Computer science graduate and Renaissance Engineering Programme valedictorian Perlyn Chew nabbed five job offers from companies in consulting, technology, oil and gas, and finance. In her final two years of studies at NTU, she began job hunting, applying for over 100 positions and receiving interview invitations for around half of them.

"Nearing the end of 2023, I was lucky to receive three offers, including from companies I interned with. At the same time, my Strategic Decision Making lecturer, Dr Chen Songlin, had us assess our offers using the decision-making models we learnt in class.

Dr Chen advised me to think long term when choosing my first job. Instead of focusing on whether I liked the hiring manager, company reputation or salary, it was more important to choose a role with career growth that aligns with my interests.

With these principles in mind, I accepted an engineering position early this year, and have just started the job in Hong Kong. I'm positive it will lead to exciting career opportunities, and I look forward to stepping out of my comfort zone while I live and work overseas."

WHY DOING 7 INTERNSHIPS WORKED FOR HER

Fresh NTU graduate Koh Yu Xuan shares what drove her to take on seven internships in four and a half years, and emerge better for it

Shopee, Grab, TikTok, Goldman Sachs... Computer science graduate Koh Yu Xuan has nailed internships with these giants, and even twice at Shopee. All part of her impressive seven-internship streak while studying at NTU.

It all started in 2020 when the Renaissance Engineering Programme (REP) student took part in her first mobile app-building hackathon while "bored" at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Joining and winning more competitions with her friends had her hooked on creative problem-solving.

"But I wasn't satisfied with just coming up with quick ideas over a few days for these contests. I wanted to know more about the real business challenges, and be part of teams that come up with solutions to tackle problems in different industries," she says.

App-solute insider

Yu Xuan ended up getting a taste of product management, data analytics, operations and cyber security work in e-commerce, social media, ride-hailing, finance and the government across her seven internships.

"I'm a frequent user of Grab, TikTok and Shopee, so I wanted to be part of the teams refining and delivering meaningful features that provide a better user experience and improve people's lives. For instance, I helped integrate a new bill payment product in the Shopee app," she says.

From her first to fourth year, Yu Xuan did one full-time internship per summer break.

As her interest in different industries grew, she pursued three more part-time internships while studying full time. Luckily, her gigs with Grab and TikTok were mostly remote, so she could juggle her studies and work through careful time management.

Besides interning for organisations, Yu Xuan also honed her research skills analysing the effects of game-based learning on tertiary students' mastery of science subjects, as part of a project under NTU's Undergraduate Research Experience on CAmpus (URECA) programme in her second year, and even presented her paper at an international undergrad research conference.

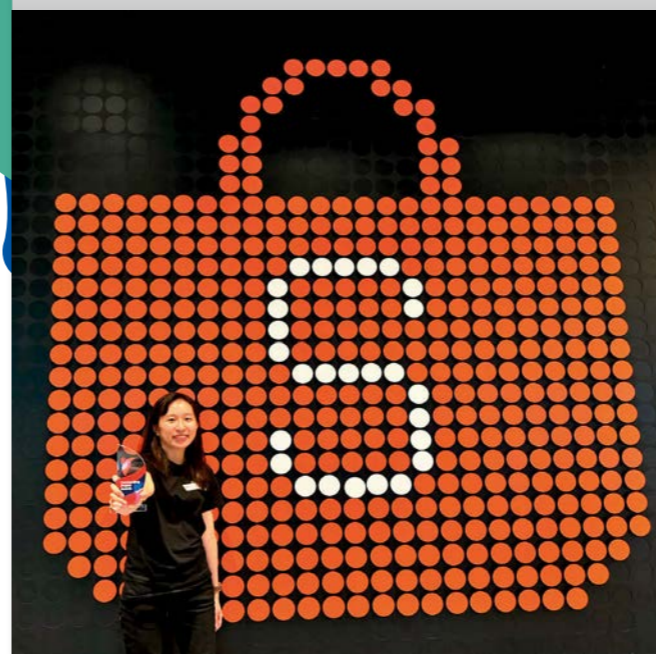
Top of the stack

Each internship application usually involves three rounds: a brief chat with human resources, a coding test for technical roles, and an interview with the hiring manager.

Yu Xuan estimates that she beat "hundreds of applicants" to secure her attachments with companies like Goldman Sachs and Shopee.

"NTU's brand name helped me stand out. Our team-based learning and interdisciplinary projects boosted my cross-collaboration and presentation skills. This meant I could adapt to fast-changing situations, speak up and deliver convincing pitches, and work with people from all backgrounds," she says.

Excelling in competitions is another way to secure hot internships. Yu Xuan's team reached the semi-finals in a Shopee product design



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You're going places, whether as an NTU alumnus or a student. Wherever you go, enjoy the beat with exceptional bass and improved noise cancelling, and feel like you're at a concert.

competition, which led to her first internship with Shopee's financial services team in her second year. She returned to do her mandatory attachment with their app performance team the next year.

Yu Xuan explains: "At NTU, completing one internship is a curriculum requirement, but we have the flexibility to do more than one internship if we are motivated and curious to explore further. REP's curriculum, which blends business acumen with technical know-how, also helped me stand out as a prospective intern. For example, my software module gave me a solid foundation in app-building, while a management class taught me the qualities of an inspiring leader."

Among her internships, Yu Xuan found her stint with superapp Grab's trust and safety team especially eye-opening. She and her team sourced and ran tests to assess if certain security tools could effectively enhance the platform's user security.

Since then, she has become fascinated by the growing field of cyber security, finding it meaningful to safeguard user data.

Intern intel

"My internships strengthened my problem-solving skills and let me discover the fields I'm interested in.

I've realised that I'm passionate about finance, cyber security and technology," Yu Xuan adds.

She received multiple job offers even before graduating. Following her interests, she accepted the position of Associate Specialist, Product and Solutions, with Mastercard as the job scope combines her favourite fields and taps skills she's refined through her internships.

But doing so many internships can be tiring and stressful, and may not be for everyone, cautions Yu Xuan.

She reiterates that her curiosity drove her to take on the internships. "The experiences not only exposed me to a

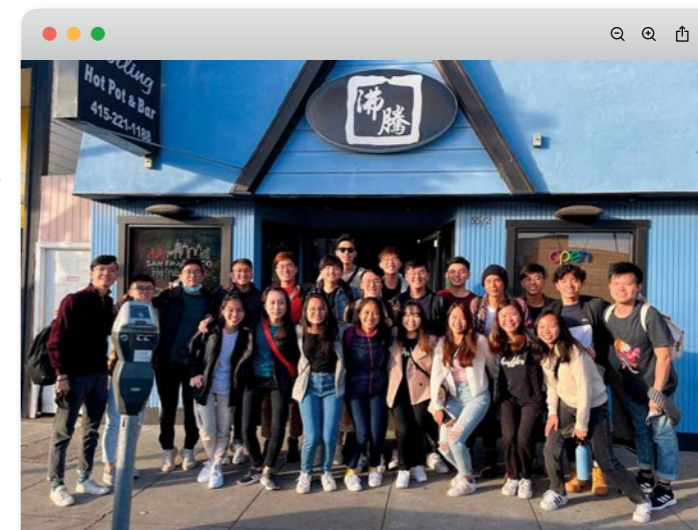
wide range of industries, but also sharpened my critical thinking and gave me diverse skill sets. I also made many friends and built valuable connections with people from different backgrounds."

To juniors contemplating multiple internships, Yu Xuan advises: "If you're clear about your career path and are a good fit for your target industry or company, then you don't need so many stints."

She adds: "But if you're unsure about the type of work you like, then internships are a great way to explore different roles and sectors. You'll learn, make mistakes, and find out if you're passionate about a certain field or should pivot in a different direction."



Keen to improve the consumer experience of everyday apps she uses regularly, Yu Xuan interned with Grab, Shopee and TikTok.

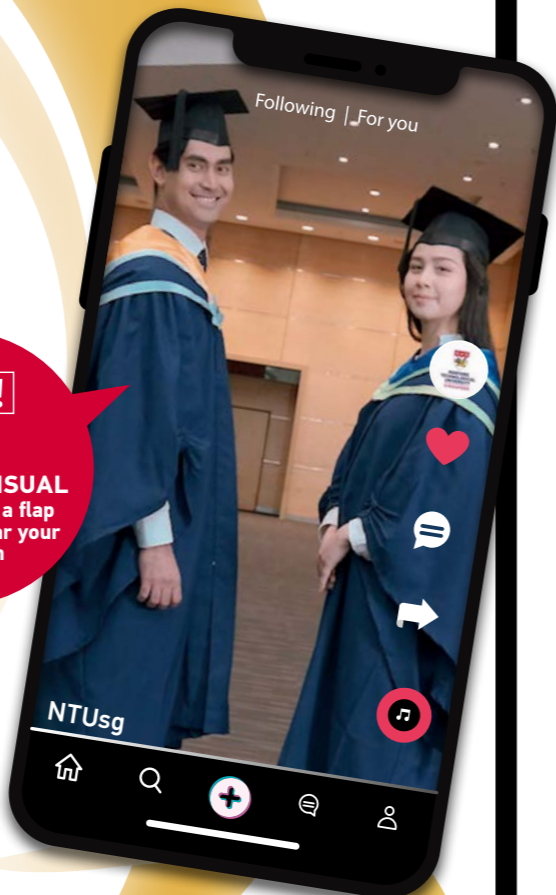


During her exchange at University of California, Berkeley, Yu Xuan (first row, second from left) took courses in artificial intelligence as well as product management and development.

CONVOCAATION DOS

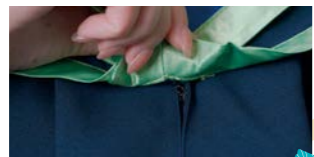
Ace your graduation. Get the tricky bits – the hood, mortarboard and your conduct – right, with the help of NTU students Iqbal Singh, Anais Herbaux and Oh Ling En

HEY! AR
SCAN THIS VISUAL if you're still in a flap over how to wear your graduation gown



Lookin' good with the hood
Wear your hood proudly, like a medal. V-shaped fold at the front, odd-shaped flap at the back.

Seal the deal
Hugs, high-fives or TikTok fun? They'll go better when your hood stays in place, so use these fasteners. Now you're ready for the spotlight.



The card up your sleeve
The attendance cards you get at registration are your golden tickets. You'll need to present one for your stage moment and use the other to collect your graduation cert off-stage.

Applaud the squad
Let your friends bask in their moment of glory. Cheer them on loudly and remember to silence your phone.

Stage presence
Impress with your best smile and a firm handshake. Save selfies and cutesy poses for after the ceremony.



HEY! AR
SCAN THIS PHOTO for a convo etiquette refresher with psychology student Oh Ling En



Be cap-tivating
As your moment is cap-tured by fam, look sharp with your mortarboard nicely level, secured with bobby pins if needed.

6 WAYS TO KEEP IN TOUCH WITH NTU

Graduation is just the start of a new phase of your journey with NTU. Here's how you can stay connected to your alma mater and find even more support for your aspirations

1 Tap career experts
It's a tough job market out there, partner, but we've got your back. Buff your CV and job hunting strategy with career coaches at NTU's Career Attachment Office. Have your eye on a specific role but not sure what it really entails? Go from noob to pro with career consultants who have the inside scoop on which companies are hiring, when they are hiring and what their screening processes are.

2 Don't be a stranger
Join your school's or club's alumni association and stay on top of the latest developments from NTU with the News To youU newsletter and with U, NTU's alumni magazine, which are filled with inspiring stories and handy tips for alum. And if you need an excuse to visit us, mark your calendars for the annual Alumni Homecoming on 19 October and bring your friends and family down for a day of free food and games.

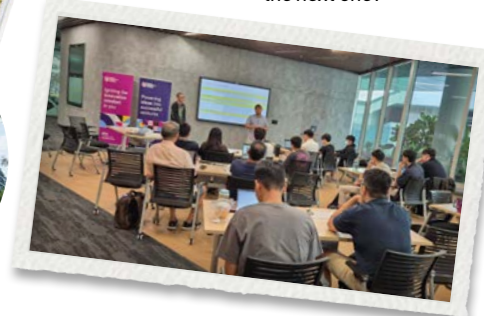


HEY! AR
SCAN THIS PHOTO to relive the excitement of last year's Alumni Homecoming

3 Help your juniors
Congrats on becoming a grad. Now put your experience to the best use by sharing it with your juniors. Come back to coach your former hall sports team or become a mentor to students participating in competitions. If you have a niche skill or an interesting professional path, consider giving a talk or webinar; get in touch with the Office of Alumni Engagement or your school.

4 Take your next degree at NTU
There's no better time to take your master's degree with a 10% discount on course fees for NTU alumni. Plus, you'll get a S\$5,000 subsidy if you're a Singapore citizen or permanent resident, and up to another \$5,000 more if you're eligible for financial aid. As an alumnus, you also have \$1,600 worth of course credits that can cover up to 50% of fees for courses, including flexible modules that stack towards a master's degree, programmes that lead to graduate and specialist certificates, and others designed to help you pivot to growing sectors.

5 Chase your entrepreneurial dreams
If bringing your ideas to market is in your plan, NTU's Innovation & Entrepreneurship ecosystem can support you at every stage of your journey. Begin with the free-for-alumni NTU Entrepreneurship & Startup Training programme that helps you to develop your concept. After this, it's time to create a prototype and build your company, drawing on NTU's connections, including a rich alumni network of mentors, venture capitalists and angel investors, and a team that can provide administrative and advisory support. It's been four years since an NTU startup became a unicorn – will yours be the next one?



6 Stay active and fit
Bring your family to the NTU@one-north campus in Buona Vista for a workout at the gym or the pool, which alum can use for as little as \$3.





FRESH BITES ON CAMPUS

Familiar names like Gelaré and Chateraise, along with a chic halal bistro, 13 Bites, have arrived at NTU. Grab your pals and dig in

1 13 BITES

This aesthetic spot isn't your typical canteen. Once you enter the bright space at Hall 13, grab a seat with your friends before you order and pay via the QR code on the table – no queuing needed. Collect your grub from the counter once it's ready. Everything served here is halal.

Fuel up for a busy day with a well-balanced meal. Choose from Asian, international and vegetarian menus that change daily.

Each hearty plate comes with four dishes, giving you a good mix of carbs, protein and vegetables. Want something lighter? Opt for the noodles of the day. All drinks, either from the soda or coffee machine, are free flow.

P.S. This hall caters for the lunch and dinner crowds and opens 11am to 2pm and 5pm to 8pm daily.



MEALS YOU'LL LOVE



Tuck into a hearty, balanced meal of chicken ham carbonara, Cajun chicken with tomato frittata and greens.

Bet your friend will ask to try a potato wedge from your mac & cheese, fried chicken and mixed veggies plate.



Asian main

Spice up your day with sambal eggplant, fried chicken, begedil (potato patties) and turmeric rice.



Opening Jul

HEY! AR SCAN THIS VISUAL to win a meal and drink from 13 Bites. 20 sets to be won!



Noodles of the day

Warm up on a rainy day with a comforting bowl of Thai beef noodle soup.



Opening Aug/Sep



3

CHATERAISE

Prepare your taste buds for more delectable treats as this beloved patisserie from Japan comes to NTU. Feeling peckish after a midnight study session? Satisfy your sweet tooth at its 24-hour unmanned store at the North Spine – a first for schools here.

Opening Aug



4

BISMILLAH BIRYANI

Feast on flavourful dum biryani, kebabs and curries at this Muslim-operated joint near The Soup Spoon in the North Spine. Their Dunlop Street outlet is an eight-time winner of the Michelin Bib Gourmand award. Stay tuned for student specials here too.

| ADVERTORIAL |

5 reasons you should own the new Sony ULT Wear headphones

Sony's new ULT Wear headphones aren't just for jamming out. They're your secret weapon for acing exams, staying connected and looking fly while doing it all. Here's why:

1. Block out noise with the best in noise-cancelling

You're trying to study, but the world won't stop buzzing. Enter Sony's noise-cancelling magic. Tap to make all that background sound disappear. With two microphones in each earcup that are shaped to reduce wind sounds, dual noise sensor tech and an advanced integrated processor, these headphones effectively cut out ambient noise, keeping your calls and music clear and uninterrupted.

2. Hit the button, feel the bass

Tap the ULT button for heightened bass and power, and be whisked away from your mountain of assignments to the front row of an epic concert. Get sound that makes every song feel like a live performance and crystal-clear calls.

3. Power on with all-day battery

You've been there. You're in the zone, and suddenly your headphones die. Not with Sony. These babies have up to 50 hours of battery life. You'll get 90 more minutes of play time with a 3-minute quick charge.

4. Comfy and stylish too

Soft earpads and ample space around the ears ensure comfort. Stylish and foldable, these headphones will have you looking fresh whether they're being worn or resting on your neck or bag.

5. Smart features that wow

Level up your headphone game: Move music between devices with multi-point connection, pause your tunes with speak-to-chat, and enjoy voice control and personalised audio that surrounds you like a hug.

BONUS:

Sustainability. ULT Wear headphones are made with recycled plastic and there's no plastic in its packaging.



Sign up for your FREE student account now to enjoy additional discounts of up to 25% OFF Sony products!

Apply code **NTU-HeyMag24** at checkout to get a mystery gift worth \$14.90.

(Only applicable to NTU students who made purchases before 30 Sep 2024.)

SONY

HEY! TIPS

Derek Rodriguez

+ Vivian Lim + Hillary Tan

MORE REASONS TO STAY IN HALL

It's great to have a cosy, convenient space on campus to call home, but that's not the only reason to sign up for hall life

HEY!

AR

SCAN THIS VISUAL to explore hall activities with Hailey, an AI-generated persona of an NTU student

POWERED BY GenAI



Apple crumble, anyone? Hall 13 residents whipped up a sweet treat last semester.

WHIP UP A FEAST

If you've never had the chance to make your own food, now's the time. Sign up for cooking and baking classes that many halls organise. From pretzels and cupcakes to fried rice and dumplings, you'll enter your chef era in no time.

ROLL OUT OF BED TO UNIQUE CLASSES

PLAY & LEARN IN VR

Ready, player one? Dive into the world of virtual reality (VR) with a class jointly organised by Halls 4 and 14. Donning VR headsets, you'll learn about cell organelles, solve vector puzzles and put engines together inside the VR universe.

"After exploring VR's potential in fields such as medicine, engineering and recreational gaming, you might be inspired to put VR to other creative uses," says Dr Chen Kaijing, a Residential Mentor from Hall 14.



PROTOTYPE YOUR IDEAS IN A GARAGE

At Crescent and Pioneer (CresPion) Halls, students build prototypes in a garage. Some have seen their projects join the ranks of completed innovations such as an autonomous vehicle that parks itself and a Telegram chatbot that can identify the exact models of screws from pictures using computer vision.

"Start by introducing your project and letting us know what equipment you'll need," says Clarence Teo from the Class of 2021, who is now a researcher at NTU and a Residential Mentor at Pioneer Hall. Tinkerers can use equipment like woodworking and soldering tools, drills and a 3D printer in the garage.

Don't have a Game Boy or a Switch? Why not join a soldering workshop and build your own gaming console.



RENEW YOURSELF WITH THERAPEUTIC ACTIVITIES

TEND A GARDEN OUTSIDE YOUR ROOM

Brain fried from yet another tough class? The beauty of hall-based programmes is that they can help you relax while you gain life skills.

In Halls 9, 10, 11 and 12, residents plant and harvest crops in gardens. Hall 12's grounds boast a variety of herbs, fruits and vegetables, including basil, okra, aloe vera, kang kong, spearmint and azalea.

Business student Shelden Lee has been tending this garden of edibles since joining the hall as a freshman. He says: "I really like gardening, but my home is too small. In NTU, the garden is just outside my room, and I can plant what I want. It's therapeutic and helps me to ground myself and take some time out from studying. I enjoy the social aspect of it too."

Shelden now leads a group of student gardeners who spends about an hour each week planting seeds, weeding and harvesting crops. He adds: "Everyone has a say in what is planted, so all of us have a bit of ownership."

FUR-GET YOUR WORRIES

In addition to joining planned activities, residents can organise their own too.

Over at Saraca Hall, "Paws and Unwind" draws on the therapeutic powers of man's best friend. Clara Chew, a business student, stumbled upon the idea on Instagram and wanted to bring it to her hall.

She says: "As a passionate dog lover and mental wellness advocate, the idea really resonated with me. I proposed a pet therapy session to the hall president, who agreed enthusiastically. I then reached out to various pet therapy organisations and found one that shared our passion for helping our residents unwind after a demanding school day."

One happy participant, psychology and linguistics & multilingual studies student Vineeta Priya, says: "Playing with the cute dogs was a great way to destress and brighten up my week. We even received balloon dogs to take back to our rooms as 'pets'."



START A BUSINESS IN YOUR ROOM

With friends and hallmates surrounding you, there's a ready market for your wares, if you're starting a business.

One such biz with roots in a hall room is stickmansdrip, a vintage clothes shop founded by Hall 11 resident Tavis Tay.

The mathematical sciences student, who sets up a stall at hall and pop-up events on campus, says: "I wanted to earn some money with something I love, which is vintage clothing. Most are second-hand, so I get to give them a new lease of life. In hall, my peers can see the clothes in person rather than through photos online."



BE PART OF A CLOSE-KNIT COMMUNITY

Ask any NTU alumnus what they miss most about uni and it'll likely be their heart-to-heart talks in a friend's dorm room and memorable hall events.

Environmental engineering student Raeann Tan, who is president of Hall 16, says: "Gathering in each other's rooms and suppers in the pantries are cherished hall traditions. Even at 2am, the hall is full of life. We also host activities like Cultural Night and Halloween celebrations. The inter-hall games not only promote sportsmanship but help us meet new people."



Hall 9's "picnic under the stars", where residents bond over food and live music.



Hall 16 residents at a night cycling session – a time-honoured tradition in NTU halls.

THE F1 RED BULL INTERNS

They beat thousands to land their dream internship

Charis (left) and Yi-Hsin at Red Bull's headquarters.



At the Silverstone Circuit during the British Grand Prix.

Communication studies students Charis Chua and Heng Yi-Hsin pulled ahead of thousands of other applicants to score a coveted two-and-a-half-month internship at Red Bull Racing's headquarters in the UK.

Now in the driver's seat, they are supporting the Red Bull F1 team's hospitality and marketing efforts. HEY! gets up to speed with the duo one week into their journey.

REVVING UP FOR THEIR DREAM JOB

Thousands in Singapore vied for this to-die-for internship. What drove you to give it a shot? Have you always been a fan of F1?

Charis: I've wanted to work in F1 since I was 15, but it always felt like a distant dream until this internship was announced, and I knew it was the opportunity I had been waiting for. Every year since I became a fan, I would hang around the Marina Bay Street circuit just to soak in the vibes. The most thrilling moment was the first time I heard the F1 cars live during a free practice session – the sound reverberating through the streets was unlike anything I had heard before.

Yi-Hsin: I fell in love with F1 a few years ago when I went to the Singapore Grand Prix to watch one of my favourite bands perform. After the performance, I decided to stick around for the race and was immediately hooked by the thrill of the sport and the electric atmosphere in the grandstand. I've been following F1 ever since.

You had to ace various laps of this rigorous "internship championship". How did your NTU education gear you up for it?

C: As communication studies students, we have been taught how to convey ideas in ways that most effectively reach our target audience. I think this was quite integral to our success. We knew how to communicate the aspects of our personalities that best fit what Red Bull Racing was looking for.

Was there anything memorable about the selection process?

Y: I found the case study component in round three very exciting. I had the opportunity to pitch a video idea that showcased Red Bull Racing's F1 car against Southeast Asia's beauty and diversity.

Now that you are in the thick of the action, how do you hope to contribute to the team?

C: We started our stint at Red Bull Racing's headquarters in Milton Keynes during a busy period, with the European leg of races coming back to back. I hope to provide the best support for the team by working efficiently and meticulously.

What's your ultimate must-do during this internship?

Y: Seeing how large-scale events like Red Bull Racing's promotional showruns are planned and executed.

ACCELERATING AHEAD

You've only been there a week. Any adrenaline rush yet?

C: We bumped into a few well-known people in the factory, like Adrian Newey, Max Verstappen and Sebastian Buemi. It's surreal that these people I have seen on TV are literally just here and working alongside me. You can follow our adventures on Red Bull Singapore's Instagram and TikTok (@redbullsg), where we share what we've learnt in the fast lane.

What has been the coolest moment?

C: At an exclusive factory tour, we saw all of Red Bull's older cars from past seasons – and all 413 trophies Red Bull has won since their F1 debut. Another cool thing is that on race weekends, we can watch TV channel Sky Sports F1 to catch the on-track action while working in the office.

If you could be anyone in the team, who would you choose to be and why?

Y: If I'm Max Verstappen, I'd know what it feels like to be the current world champion.

What is the most fascinating piece of F1 tech that most people don't know about?

Y: There's what we call the "NASA room" at the factory, which is the operations room that has a huge floor-to-ceiling 4K screen that streams race feeds. A team there uses technology by AT&T and Oracle to carry out remote analysis to strategise for races in real time.

Have you been privy to any F1 secrets?

C: Even the paint used on F1 cars must be as lightweight as possible, and Red Bull Racing uses secret ingredients in their paint that other teams would be unable to reverse engineer even if they obtained a sample.

If you could design your own F1 car, what feature would it have?

Y: I would embellish my car with underglow lights. This feature debuted on F1 cars at a Las Vegas showrun. It looks cool!

HEY!

AR

SCAN THIS PHOTO to see how Charis clinched pole position with her promo video

Photo: Red Bull



HEY!

AR

SCAN THIS PHOTO to watch Yi-Hsin dazzle in French and Italian in her fun audition video

Photo: Red Bull



FIRST-YEAR FAQs: HOW TO THRIVE IN UNIVERSITY

Starting university is exciting, but it takes adjusting to. HEY! student writer Zaneta Ng learns about the challenges two students faced in their first year and gets NTU experts and seniors to help them out

“Uni classes are quite fast paced. There are only a few hours of lectures each week and we’re expected to learn on our own too. As a freshman, I often felt like I was just trying to catch up. What can I do better as I move into my second year?”

While there are fewer assignments now compared to my polytechnic days, I find them more difficult and complicated. We were supposed to be easing into things last year, but I felt like I was drowning more as time went by. Other than that, it’s been fun choosing from a wide range of electives I’m interested in taking, like creative writing and animation.

NTU’s campus is so much bigger than my polytechnic’s. There are many nice places to study at, but lectures can be huge and intimidating if you don’t know anyone. Tutorials can be quiet if people like me don’t speak up because we’re scared to sometimes. My polytechnic class wasn’t that big, so it was easier to talk to others. Now, I meet different people in every tutorial.”

Reflect as you learn

“Reflect on what you are studying, and how and why you are studying it, to become a better learner.”

It’s more than just sitting down and reading. It’s asking questions like: ‘Why am I struggling with this? At which point am I struggling? How do these points connect? Are there different ways that I can get unstuck?’

Step back and look at the big picture when you’re studying. Talk to people – not just those who are better, but also those who are struggling and listen to the questions they ask.

Figure out different ways to engage with the content learnt and actively seek help from your professors.”

DR TEO CHEW LEE

CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN PEDAGOGY & PRACTICE



Q Any tips on how to handle difficult coursework?



from poly

SNG HWEE WOON
YEAR 2, ENGLISH

Find your own motivation

“I try to apply the enjoyment I get from my other interests to studying. Having a personal goal, no matter how lofty or weird it may be, also motivates me to stay on task. This is especially helpful when I’m taking modules that I find less interesting or challenging to keep up with.”



SARAH SOON
YEAR 3, COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Don’t lose out on sleep



“A regular sleep routine gives me sufficient rest, so I go to class energised and ready to absorb what is taught.”

WANG YI SHENG
YEAR 3, PUBLIC POLICY & GLOBAL AFFAIRS

“Student life is much livelier in university compared to JC since I stay in the hall; I eat with friends and we have no lack of fun things to do after class.”

In fact, I might be putting socialising before my studies right now, and I’m trying to find a good balance.

In NTU, my schedule is more flexible, thanks to some recorded lectures. Studying is more self-directed here, so I need to carefully plan my time for both work and socialising. If I’m not motivated, I might fall behind in schoolwork. I found that studying in groups helped keep me on task, especially leading up to my final exams.

I love meeting new people in my interdisciplinary modules, but the assignments are tough for me.

ChatGPT is a great help in generating ideas for report writing. How should I use it appropriately?”

Set goals and tweak them along the way

“Use your time in university for self-development and discovery. For example, you can explore your interests through holistic and constructive activities like CCAs and a semester’s exchange to learn more about yourself and those around you who may share similar or different interests.”



Be open, start conversations with others, whether you’re in class or engaging in activities. Views of friends and new acquaintances from different walks of life can help you shape your outlook and understand yourself better, such as your values and what matters to you.

Think about what you want and consult with trusted people to help you make informed decisions, instead of getting somewhere only to realise, ‘Oh, this is not really what I want. I wish I had thought about it more.’

As you set goals, stay flexible and be okay with altering them. They are not supposed to be static, but attainable, progressive and of value to you.”

DR MELVIN CHAN
NIE’S OFFICE OF EDUCATION RESEARCH

Be accountable



“Hall life was perfect for a big extrovert like me. I always had plans, but hanging out too much with my friends caused me to oversleep, skip classes and neglect my schoolwork.”

If you stay out late one night, try to have a restful day after that. Remember, you’re in control of your choices and any consequences that may come.”

PRUDENCE LIM
YEAR 4, COMMUNICATION STUDIES

Q How can I better juggle my studies and student life?



from junior college (JC)

AMAR SHAM NAIR
YEAR 2, MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

AI is only an aid

“Understand what AI can do, but never let it ‘become your brain’.”



You can use ChatGPT as a productivity tool, bearing in mind its limitations. Then use the time saved from info-gathering to critically review and analyse your answers, and to be creative. Don’t let ChatGPT replace your thoughts by stopping at the generated responses. I am confident that we are far superior in connecting ideas in the face of complex problems.

Also, you have to be open about how it’s used in your work, and think about how it was helpful or not helpful to you.

Interdisciplinary learning requires seeing things from many perspectives. This may take getting used to. You’ll feel challenged but the reward is in finding a good solution to a problem that incorporates different kinds of insights and expertise. When it all comes together, it is very satisfying.”

DR TEO CHEW LEE
CENTRE FOR RESEARCH IN PEDAGOGY & PRACTICE

HEY! STUDENT WRITER



Zaneta enjoys watching action and thriller movies. If she feels down, eating dark chocolate never fails to cheer her up.

TOMORROWLAND

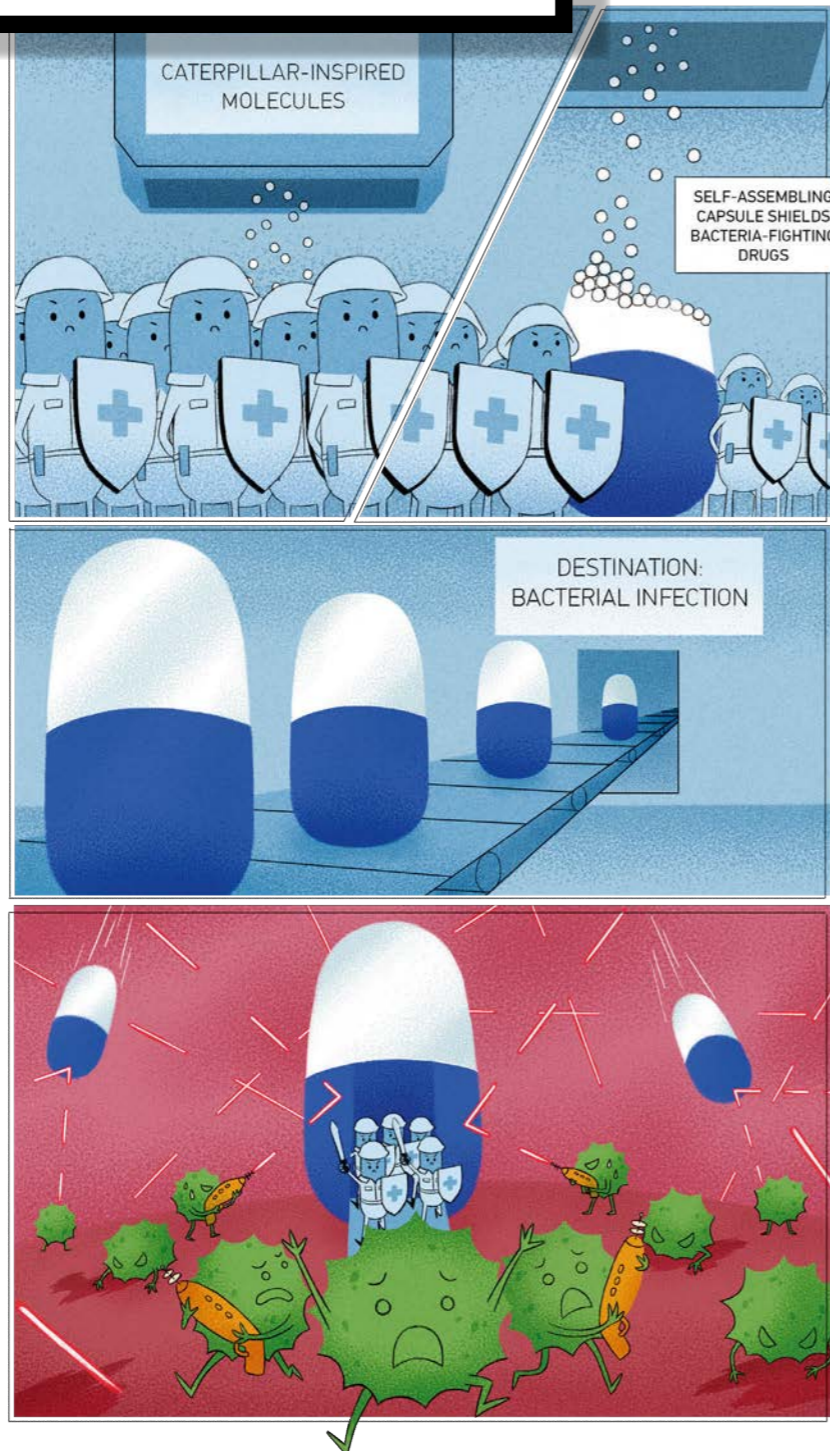
How NTU's homegrown technologies are reshaping our future

Caterpillar-inspired nanocapsules for drug delivery

The big idea: Inspired by how nature designed the hard shells of moth caterpillars using self-assembling proteins, scientists have adapted this self-assembling process to make nanocapsules that better protect medicines as they journey through the body.

What's unique: Self-assembly isn't just cool (imagine IKEA furniture that builds itself) – it's also eco-friendly, quick and cheap. This can pave the way for everything from better-targeted drugs and time-release capsules to futuristic robots that can heal their own skin when damaged.

Benefits: NTU has cracked the code on these caterpillar-inspired nanocapsules that can shield messenger RNA (mRNA) molecules, essential for vaccines like those for COVID-19, from degradation. This means the mRNA can instruct cells to make the proteins that humans need to stay healthy. With this breakthrough, delivering vaccines and treatments will be much easier and faster.



Waste plastics to cooling paint

The big idea: With climate change causing more extreme weather, reflecting more of the sun's heat away from building surfaces with special paint made from plastics is an appealing idea.

What's unique: By using discarded PVC pipes and styrofoam packaging combined with barium sulphate, NTU scientists created a new type of paint with billions of tiny air pockets. These air pockets act as excellent insulators to reflect sunlight and reduce heat transmission from the painted surface to the wall under it.

Benefits: This innovative paint can lower temperatures by 1.2 to 2.5 degrees Celsius, outperforming conventional cool paints currently on the market. As a result, air conditioners can use less energy, and energy-efficient fans will work more effectively, leading to cost savings and reduced carbon emissions – all while recycling waste plastics. Truly a cool invention!

Sticky pads that could turn you into Spiderman

The big idea: What if humans can climb walls like geckos? Scientists have copied the secret of gecko feet – which have billions of tiny microscopic hairs with spatula-shaped ends – and created a shape-memory polymer pad that can hold up to 200 times its weight.

What's unique: Unlike conventional glue or sticky tape, which are often single-use, this shape-shifting polymer glue can return to its original state after use when heat is applied. So its "stickiness" can be switched on or off.

Benefits: Hail the arrival of smart, reusable sticky pads for securing hooks or anchor points to walls. If robots had these, they could climb walls and revolutionise tasks like cleaning and painting. It might not be long before humans can scale walls like Spiderman.

HEY!
AR
SCAN THIS ILLUSTRATION to see why we're stuck on this new tech like glue



AI GIZMOS WE WANT

NTU students dream up gizmos powered by artificial intelligence (AI) that will make their university lives better

DATA ANALYSIS DROID

Suggested by Ryna Shireen Sherif
 Biological Sciences postgraduate student

Those in the sciences conducting experiments know the struggle all too well: too much data to wade through and too little time. This lab assistant gizmo helps with time management, data analysis, error detection, and even updating literature.

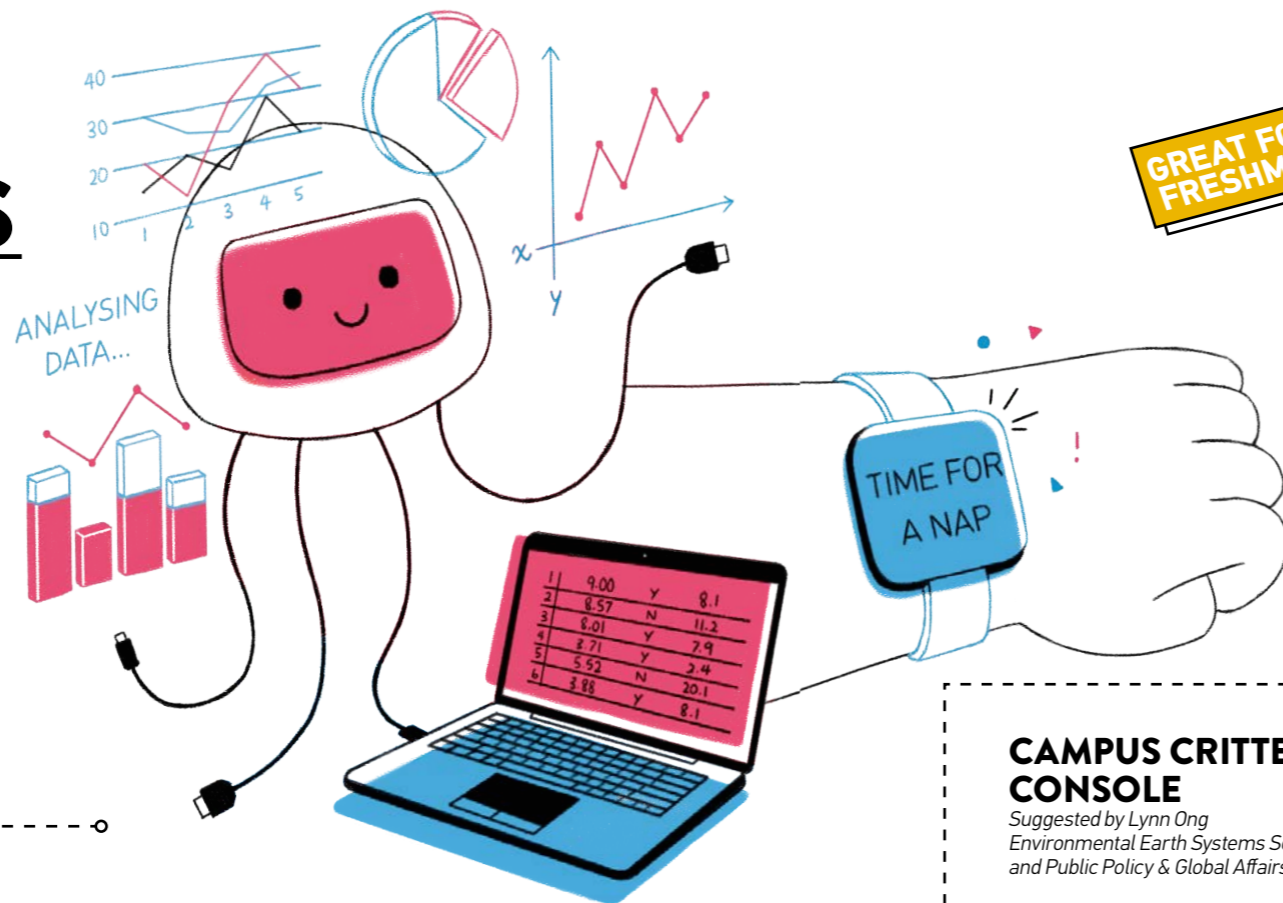
How it works

Housing billions of lab datasets, it keeps track of what needs to be done in the lab and provides helpful suggestions in real time.

Why we need it

"The droid analyses project timelines, experimental durations and deadlines, offering an optimal schedule for conducting experiments. It functions like a lab buddy, flagging errors or inconsistencies in your data for you to address. Better yet, it updates you on the latest research in your field.

It would be cool if the droid comes with a touchscreen and a host of different ports, so I can easily connect to the machines that provide raw data. This feature will streamline my work tremendously, and all my research friends will love it too!"



BODY BIOMARKER BEACON

Suggested by Bernadette Toh
 Communication Studies, Class of 2024

Your smartwatch can tell you your heart rate and how many steps you've taken. How about a wearable AI-powered device that does all that, while also keeping track of your other vital health stats, emotional states and overall wellbeing?

This gizmo provides real-time updates, alerting you when your stress levels are too high or if you need a nap or to see a doctor.

How it works

This health buddy identifies health issues even before they arise.

For example, it might tell you to hydrate yourself to alleviate a mild headache or to contact a telehealth professional if your vitals are not normal. If you've just caught the flu or been bitten by an Aedes mosquito, the device will ping you with exactly what ails you, so you don't have to worry when you start feeling ill.

Why we need it

"I'm sometimes guilty of Googling my medical symptoms and letting WebMD diagnose me. But a simple itchy bump from a mosquito bite can grow into something much bigger and send me into a panic. With this tool, we'll know when we actually need medical assistance or when we just need to apply a balm to soothe the itch."

CAMPUS CRITTER CONSOLE

Suggested by Lynn Ong
 Environmental Earth Systems Science and Public Policy & Global Affairs, Year 4

NTU's location at the edge of the Western Water Catchment makes it a true campus in nature with numerous wildlife sightings.

The campus critter console device is like a real-life Pokédex, but instead of monitoring Pokémon, it targets the critters you might encounter on campus.

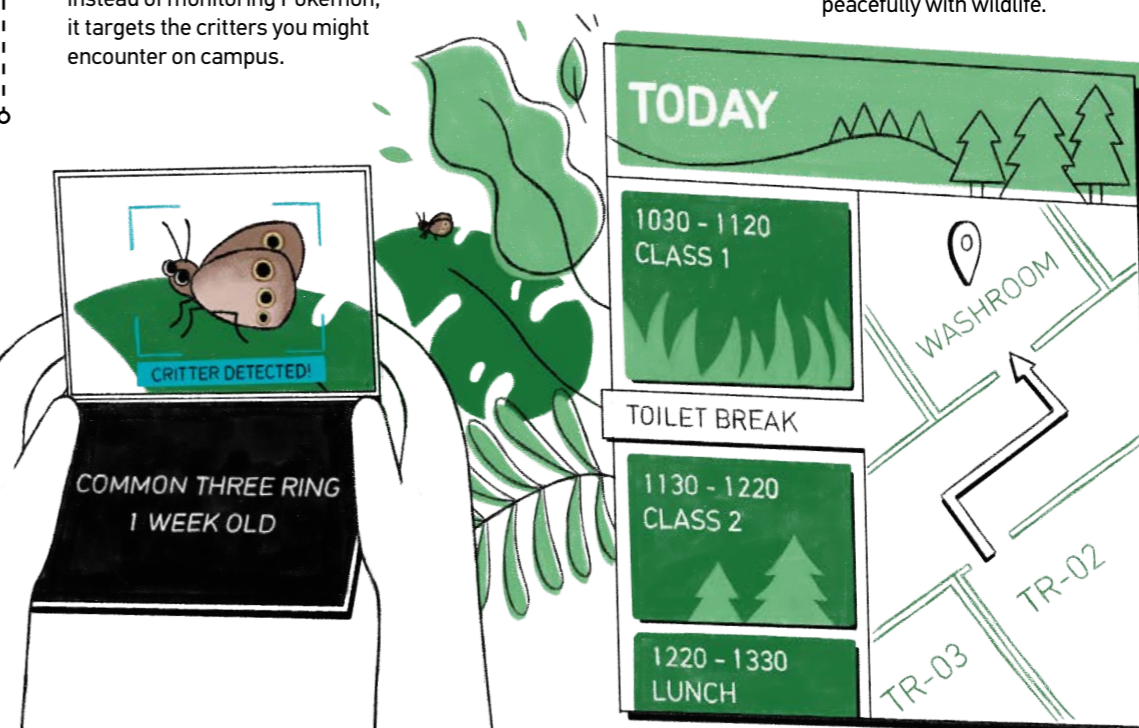
How it works

The portable device comes with a high-tech camera featuring advanced zoom and infrared functions, allowing you to snap pictures and videos of critters at any time of day. Its advanced AI can even determine the animal's age, gender and health based on biomarker tracking.

Why we need it

"Students can take pictures of creatures they spot and 'collect' species photos, even when it is dark. With just a quick snap, the NTU community can help catalogue the biodiversity found on campus.

The device also provides users with advice on what to do and who to call if they encounter wildlife in need of help. Ultimately, this tool will help the NTU community coexist peacefully with wildlife."



TIMETABLE TAPESTRY

Suggested by Joel Chern
 English, Year 2

Putting together modules for the new semester is exciting, but the actual timetable planning can be tricky when classes clash.

How it works

A plug-in tool for the current STARS scheduler lets you input the modules you want to take each semester, the days you want to go to school, and how much time you intend to spend on campus each day. It even provides directions to your lesson venues.

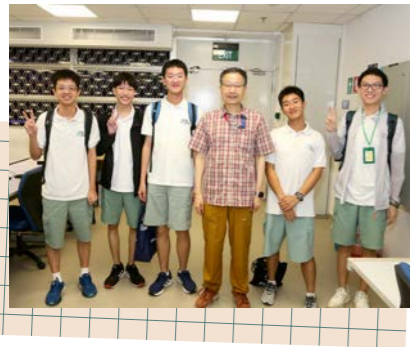
Not only do you get your dream

timetable with an interactive campus map, but you can also prompt the AI to customise the theme of your STARS timetable with words like "forest" or "cyberpunk", just like how you might prompt Midjourney.

Why we need it

"The gizmo, a large billboard with touchscreen functions, builds timetable plans with classes that don't clash. You can even prompt it to bring you on a quest around the virtual campus, using superpowers such as flying or teleportation. Practise navigating from your tutorial room to the lecture theatre via virtual reality headsets, so you'll never get lost in our sprawling campus."

FYI!



Training AI Olympiad champs

Singapore's first teams at the inaugural International Olympiad in Artificial Intelligence (AI) have been chosen by NTU. Since April, experts from NTU's College of Computing & Data Science have put a large group of local pre-university students through several rounds of training sessions and tests, including a one-week camp in Hall 15, to determine two final four-student teams. Led by faculty from NTU, they will travel to Bulgaria in August to compete for the top spot at the pinnacle of AI contests.

To infinity and beyond, Mr President

In his second trip to the NTU campus as Singapore's premier, Singapore's President, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam (second from right), looked to the stars as he was briefed on NTU's 14th satellite, its most advanced to date.

The satellite, which more than 20 NTU students had a hand in building, is the size of a small fridge and is designed to operate at a much lower altitude than other satellites of its size. Apart from taking high-resolution photos of the earth when it's launched, the satellite will also be a testbed for other satellite technologies.



Photos: Earthlink NTU Nature Guiding

Photo: David Wirawan, SingaporeGeographic.com

156 MORE SPECIES SPOTTED

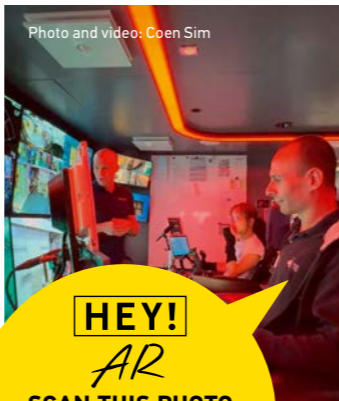
Here's some wild news. More than 150 new species of wildlife have been documented on campus, thanks to the effort of student volunteers who covered the university grounds to spot and record its fauna during the NTU BioBlitz 2024 exercise. This brings the total number of unique wildlife species on campus to almost 400. Among the rarer ones discovered were a wasp-like army ant drone and a spider that disguises itself as an ant. Luckily for us, these critters couldn't escape the attention of our eagle-eyed students.

DEEP INSIGHTS

Students from NTU's Asian School of the Environment and Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information boarded the ocean exploration vessel, OceanXplorer, earlier this year.

Run by the famed ocean exploration initiative OceanX, which captured the first-ever footage of the elusive giant squid, the vessel is studying marine life in the region and helping to develop the next generation of ocean leaders at the same time.

Photo and video: Coen Sim



HEY! AR
SCAN THIS PHOTO to watch communication studies student Coen Sim's clip of his experience on OceanXplorer



HEY!, Hailey thanks you

Hailey's a hit. The hyper-realistic persona we created for HEY! and our use of her in the AI-themed issue, where she came to life through augmented reality (AR) on the cover, received the nod with the Best Publication prize at the PR Awards Asia-Pacific in Hong Kong. Generated by our in-house team, Hailey is both an experiment and expression of the times, appearing in the issue of HEY! that showcased NTU students' exciting forays into AI. We thank all our students and readers for inspiring us on this journey. You're AR-some!



HANNOR, ABUDEN?

ALAMAK

WALAO EH

WAH PIANG EH

NO LAH!

EH, IS SINGLISH GOING GLOBAL?

In response to Taylor Swift saying, "We're never getting back together", her dancer goes "Hannor, abuden?", sending the crowd into raptures. Each night of the singer's six-day concert in Singapore featured a different Singlish expression that elicited wild shrieks from the crowd. At their Singapore concerts this year, K-pop stars IU and Cha Eun Woo busted out some Singlish too.

These are examples of how Singlish has turned into a marketing tool and a marketable product, says an NTU prof. And it turns out we're not the only ones lapping it up – Singlish has also been used to sell Singapore's unique culture abroad, as evidenced by "Singlish", a popular speakeasy in New York City boasting concoctions like *Chope* and *Ho Seh Boh*.

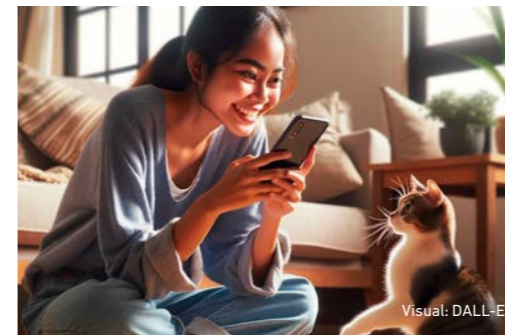
A STAR AMONG UNIVERSITIES

Three different ranking indicators have marked NTU as a university on the rise.

In the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings, NTU climbed to 15th place among more than 1,500 universities listed, thanks in part to its reputation among employers and its impact on global sustainability.

Separately, NTU's momentum as a young, leading university was verified again as it took top spot in the latest Times Higher Education Young University Rankings for the second year running. The only Singapore university in the rankings, NTU's strong performance was driven by its strengths in teaching and research, as well as its international outlook, ability to attract industry income and high-quality research.

Most recently, NTU had 10 subjects ranked in the global top 4 by US News & World Report. NTU was ranked the world's best for electrical and electronic engineering, and was named the world's second best university in these five fields – artificial intelligence, computer science, engineering, condensed matter physics and materials science.



Visual: DALL-E

Happy Hacks

Nudge yourself towards happiness with two daily exercises. First, take a smiling selfie. Next, take a picture of something that brings you joy. An NTU psychology expert says smiling activates muscle groups in your face that trigger the release of feel-good chemicals in your brain. And taking pictures of your favourite things keeps negative thoughts away by helping you to reflect on what brings meaning to your life. So snap away!



HEY! AR
SCAN THIS VISUAL for a chance to win one of these books about finding lasting contentment



COLOURFUL CAMPUS

Core memories are made of these

SCAN THIS PHOTO



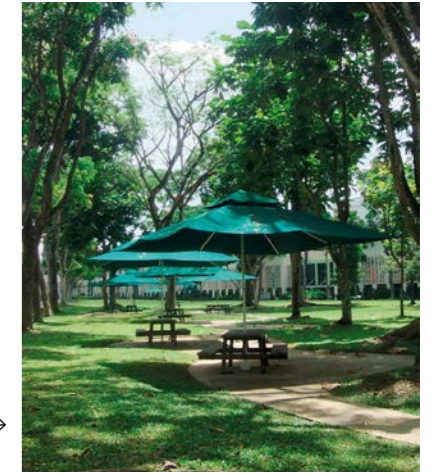
SCAN THIS PHOTO

HEY!
AR
SCAN THIS PHOTO
to feel an abundance of youth

Swinging a step closer to stronger friendship.



It's a galaxy out there!



Where we plant knowledge and cultivate young minds.



Wander down this walkway with natural charm.



Double happiness.

SCAN THIS PHOTO

HEY!
AR
SCAN THIS PHOTO
for a sweet ending



Find your own pot of gold at the end of the rainbow.

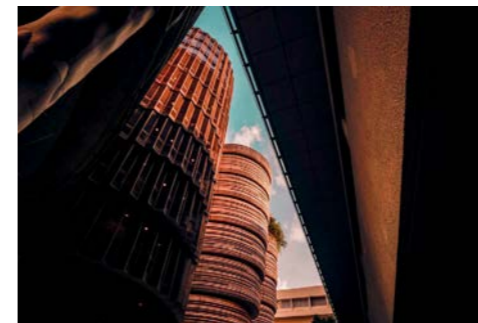
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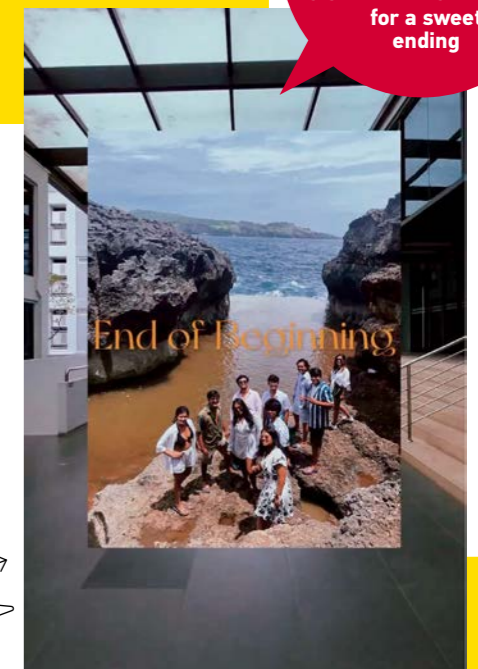
SCAN THIS PHOTO

Tee-rific memories.

HEY!
AR
SCAN THIS PHOTO
to see what we art-ually did



Enjoy the space from a whole new angle.



Wrapping up our uni journey with these takeaways.

SCAN THIS PHOTO



HEY! EXPLORE
 Coen Sim

LESSONS FROM LAOS

Four groups of NTU students ventured to Laos during their university break and came home with valuable life lessons



Phuanmit School students proudly showing off their drawings in an activity conducted by the NTU students.



Computer science student Chen Hongpo in a candid moment with the village children.



NTU student volunteers constructing a garden wall for a local school.



Photographing cheerful Laotian kids.



The communication studies students scouting out a well-known Buddhist landmark, the Wat Siphouthabath temple in Luang Prabang, for their documentary.



Hall 5's overseas community engagement project team painted the Sivily School in Laos.

Be adaptable in the face of language barriers

In June, 15 NTU students from community service club University-YMCA travelled to a village in Laos with a plan to teach the local schoolchildren English, science and music, and to help their school construct a wall and play area. Despite extensive research and preparations, they soon faced a problem.

"The village children had varying levels of exposure to the English language and distinctly different personalities, from rowdy and over-energetic boys to shy and reserved girls. At first, we struggled to gauge how much English they understood, unsure whether to proceed with our pre-planned lessons," says Toh Li Ning, a biological sciences student.

The team shifted tack to focus on keeping the students' interest in the subjects taught.

"By interacting with them as friends rather than just teachers, we not only delivered content in a flexible and fun manner, but also formed strong bonds with them," Li Ning explains. "Some of us exchanged contact details and plan to visit the children again, during our own trips."

We can harness the power of the media for many reasons

When the volunteers from NTU's Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information received permission to shoot a documentary with sketching group Luang Prabang Sketchers, they were ecstatic at the opportunity, despite warnings from the group's founder that only a few sketchers might show up for the session.

But they needn't have worried. Nearly 20 Laotian sketchers, eager to have their artform documented on film, turned up to sketch the Wat Siphouthabath temple in the historic centre of Luang Prabang, the capital of Laos.

"Witnessing this showed me the power of the media – that the community believes in its impact and its ability to give their stories a voice," says volunteer Savanna Tai.

To their surprise, the team also learnt that unlike much of the media world today, virality, views and likes were not the primary goals of the Laotians who participated in the documentary.

"For our partners, including the sketchers and other social enterprises, their priorities were not to raise awareness of their causes, but to create memories and preserve Laos' cultural landmarks like its temples and local artforms," says Edgen Teng, a trip leader. "Our documentary work is also a way to honour their culture and traditions," he explains.

"By continuing to work with these Laotian partners in our school's annual volunteer programme, we hope to foster self-sufficiency within their community. We bring perspectives from Singapore to support their growth, while also learning from their unique outlook on life in Laos," reflects Edgen.

Build community wherever you go

For communication studies student Foo Yan Ning, a member of Hall 5's volunteer programme, her first trip to Laos marked a daunting first step with a team who were initially acquaintances. But when faced with a challenge, their true colours shone through.

"We took turns cooking in teams for everyone during the trip. One night, after a particularly tiring day of work, the cooking team accidentally burnt our dinner," recalls Yan Ning. "It was disappointing, but instead of getting upset, everyone was incredibly understanding and pitched in to make instant noodles."

"In that moment, I felt a strong sense of camaraderie that made me more appreciative of my teammates," she adds.

For chemical engineering and biotechnology student Jovin Leong, who volunteered at a Laotian school with an energetic bunch from Saraca Hall, working together in a foreign land showed him how consolidating friendships also amplifies team impact.

"The volunteers are hallmates I interact

HEY!
AR

SCAN THIS PHOTO to stand to win a 5D Contiki trip to Thailand (Phuket, Krabi and Phi Phi islands) worth \$880

CONTEST TIME

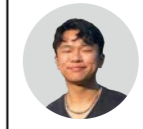
Do you have an inspiring university journey to share? Or an inspiring teacher to talk about? Tell us about it in at least 100 words and you could be one of two lucky winners of a 5D Contiki trip to Thailand.

with regularly, so it's easy for us to communicate," says Jovin. "Being comfortable with one another is crucial for our productivity as a group, allowing us to focus on creating positive change in the Laotian community."

But of course, any volunteer trip comes with its challenges. The Saraca Hall team sometimes found themselves out of their depth in tasks like building shoe racks and painting school walls. But the locals were warm and understanding, working with them to get the job done.

This reminded Jovin of what he loves about his hall community. He says: "Despite being in a different country, it felt like home. This is something we can practise at NTU too – taking the initiative to help others, whether in academics or organising events, and always encouraging one another, so that hall and school feel like home."

HEY! STUDENT WRITER



Coen is a nocturnal sci-fi fanatic with a sense for wordplay and a knack for creating his own problems.

FROM NTU

THE STAR

As Mediacorp's rising star and linguistics alumna Jernelle Oh (Class of 2018) blazes a trail in the local entertainment scene, she reflects on her time in university with her NTU junior, Coen Sim

Congrats on your Most Popular Rising Star win at this year's Star Awards. What's next, career wise?

I don't have a specific big goal, but I am looking forward to new experiences, such as filming in different countries. I'd love to act in a movie or theatre production too.

Why did you choose to study linguistics and multilingual studies in university? Have any of the modules helped you in your career?

I've always had a strong interest in language and communication, so I enrolled in NTU's course to learn about the scientific aspects of the field. For instance, sociolinguistics helps me understand how society shapes language. This knowledge comes in

handy when I need to analyse the characters I portray and interpret their lines.

You lived on campus for four years. We heard you had an eventful hall life!

Life works in unexpected ways. When I was a freshman, a Hall 11 senior convinced me to audition for a play. When I first joined the production cast, I struggled with memorising my lines. Eventually, though, I became the director, producer and chairperson, and led the entire Hall 11 production team in my second year. I believe the many hall rehearsals helped my acting career; now I find it much easier to memorise long chunks of lines.

I also met my fiancé in hall. In my last year of university, I moved into Tamarind Hall and signed up for their orientation programme, thinking it was for all the residents. It turned out to be for freshmen only. My fiancé was one of the orientation group leaders. He probably found me funny back then.

You're part of Mediacorp's 'girl group' 4567 with three other celebrities. On the topic of friends, what were your friendships in uni like?

NTU students are always willing to support their friends – it's part of the uni culture. I was in the hall jam band and theatre productions, and our friends would always come to our performances. My buddies from the NTU Fencing Club always showed up on competition day to support team members, even if they weren't competing themselves. Every year, many exchange students joined us as fencers, and we still keep in touch with them.

Any advice for freshmen joining NTU soon?

Embrace every opportunity! Try out different modules, join clubs, go for events, and step out of your comfort zone. University is a time for exploration and growth, so have no regrets knowing that you've tried everything you wanted to.



Photo: Mediacorp

Photo: Jernelle Oh

A memorable Halloween with the Hall 11 production team.

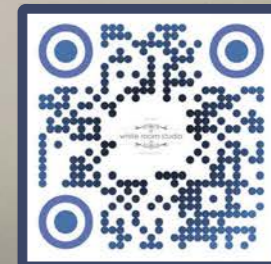


HEY! STUDENT WRITER

Coen is a nocturnal sci-fi fanatic with a sense for wordplay and a knack for creating his own problems.

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