VOL. 59 ~~ SEP - OCT '24

AN AUGMENTED REALITY MAGAZINE

HEY!

HEY! AR
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INSIDE

- The NTU students who cooked up A Hot Hideout
- Top tips from overseas startup interns
- My original summer exchange experience

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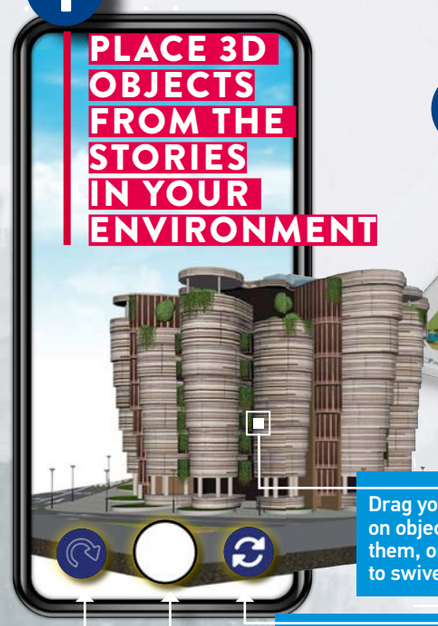
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Tap to go to selfie/ wefie mode

Tap to take a photo or hold to take a video

Tap to reset

3 TAKE PART IN GIVEAWAYS



Tap here to submit a contest entry









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Tan Zi Jie & Kenny Chee | Don Tan & Tan Hui Qin

YOUR STARTUP STARTS HERE

Want to be the next Steve Jobs or Mark Zuckerberg? Kick off your entrepreneurial journey in university

As teenagers, NTU mechanical engineering undergrad Ian Tan (far left) and his secondary school classmate Lucas Lim wanted to start a business together and had a list of technological and engineering venture ideas they wanted to try out.

Earlier this year, they stumbled on a potential innovation. They realised that the showers in some overseas student dormitories are not heated and existing portable heating solutions are bulky. But what if there's a simpler and more compact way to get hot water?

This sparked an idea for a portable hybrid water heater powered by turbines and batteries that works with different types of shower heads.

The duo further developed their idea with NTU's help and are tapping resources at its new Innovation Port to create a proof of concept before bringing their idea to market.

The Innovation Port, launched earlier this year at The Arc and Gaia, aims to be the go-to hub for helping students realise their venture goals, from developing their burgeoning ideas to prototyping and seeking funding for them.

Here's a step-by-step guide on how students can jumpstart their entrepreneurship journey at NTU.

1 DISCUSS IDEAS WITH PROS AND PEERS

For students with startup ideas, where do they even begin? Is there a market for their venture plans? And what are the next steps?

In Ian's and Lucas' case, discussions with NTU innovation pros helped them realise that their portable water heater idea has a much bigger scope. Beyond students in dormitories, their concept could benefit people affected by war, poverty and limited infrastructure.

Students can now get help with their ideas by speaking with innovation gurus at NTU's new Innovation Port.

No question is too big or small for them. Students can walk into the ports during office hours for a casual chat, even if they're just curious about innovation or entrepreneurship.

The experts are ready to offer guidance every step of the way – from discussing how feasible ideas are, to finetuning prototypes.

If you have an idea or project in mind, give the experts a clear description of it and the problem you're trying to solve, plus the challenges you're facing – whether technical, funding-related, team building or something else.

And it's not just the pros who can help. Student can share their ideas on the interactive Venture Link board at the Innovation Port in Gaia, and see their ideas evolve with suggestions from fellow student innovators.

INNOVATION PORT GRIA (L3)





NTU'S NEW INNOVATION PORT ACTS AS A HUB AND SAFE HARBOUR FOR BUDDING STUDENT ENTREPRENEURS TO EXPLORE IDEAS AND TEST THE WATERS.

The Innovation Port at The Arc is where students can brew breakthroughs – and perhaps even hatch the next unicorn. With space for 100 people, focus pods, coworking coves and a coffee corner, it's the place for tech events and meetings with potential business partners. Students can also get advice on their prototype at The Makerspace right next door.

At the Innovation Port at Gaia, decked out with a stylish student-designed lounge and plenty of cosy collaboration spots, students can join networking sessions and CEO fireside chats.

2 PICK UP ENTREPRENEURSHIP SKILLS

Even if you have a big idea, there's still the question of how it can actually become a business and if it can be scaled up.

To navigate the realities of business, one way students can level up is with a minor or a second major in entrepreneurship at NTU.

This is what Alisha Wadkar, a third-year Electrical & Electronic Engineering student, did. She didn't know how to launch an idea she had with schoolmate Kritika Seth from Mathematical Sciences. They initially wanted to start a "Grab for grooming" service that allows customers to quickly find and get beauty services at their doorstep.

Alisha decided to do a minor in entrepreneurship to learn the basics in six months. Kritika and Alisha also went through NTU's Entrepreneurship & Startup Training bootcamp twice to finetune their final solution.

Says Alisha: "The entrepreneurship classes connected us to essential resources to kickstart our idea. As part of the bootcamp, we interviewed salon owners and customers to gain insights about their needs. With this and advice from NTU's business pros, we refined our startup concept and are now building a B2B platform that automates salon bookings – the owners' biggest pain point – while streamlining operations and managing accounting and financial analytics."



3 TEST IDEAS WITH INITIAL FUNDING

To take things to the next level, students can find out if their venture ideas can withstand the scrutiny of experienced industry leaders and experts by joining hackathons and competitions organised in NTU or elsewhere.

If their ideas are really good, they could win cash prizes to help kick off their startup efforts too. For example, this year's Port63 Challenge pushed students to tackle Web3, public safety and social issues with a $10,000 prize for the top winners in each category, while the upcoming Kumar Sustainability & Innovation Prize offers $50,000 for the most impactful green solution.

Third-year Mechanical Engineering major Daniel Foo and his team won $20,000 at the Hungry for Change Challenge in February.

The challenge led them to develop a new idea to turn leftover potato peels into biodegradable coffee cups, which can be composted into fertiliser.

Whatever the outcome, students will gain from the expert advice and hands-on workshops, and maybe even land a dream internship to get relevant experience when they take part in these events.

Another avenue for students to get some startup capital is to apply for NTU's array of funds with a convincing business case. They might just secure funding, plus hands-on mentorship, incubation support and additional resources, to bring their plans to life.

4 CREATE A PROTOTYPE

After securing initial funds, students can use them to create a prototype of their product or service to test that it works. The prototype will also be useful in later pitches to get additional funding for its refinement and commercialisation.

A quick check with the concierges at the ports will connect students with product design pros who can open doors to a suitable makerspace or lab at NTU to tinker and experiment with their proofs of concept.

Ian and Lucas are doing just that at The Arc's Makerspace and NTU's Open Innovation Lab.

Using the funds they got from NTU, they're now working on a prototype of their portable water heater concept by finetuning its turbine design and 3D-printing each version of the turbine.



PRO TIP

Needy students who want to do a minor or second major in entrepreneurship can apply for the Chua Thian Poh Scholarship, worth $5,000, to help fund their studies.

NTU LAUNCHES FIRST UNIVERSITY VENTURE CAPITAL FUND IN SINGAPORE

In November 2024, NTU and leading global venture capital (VC) firm Walden International launched the Nanyang Frontier Fund to support deep-tech startups from NTU.

The first among Singapore universities, it is backed by Mr Tan Lip-Bu, Chairman of Walden International, who has invested significantly in similar VC funds that focus on supporting research of professors and students at Stanford University and University of California, Berkeley.

"I strongly believe the Nanyang Frontier Fund can identify startups of disruptive technology from NTU and Singapore, and it can nurture and scale them to become Singapore-based global companies," says Mr Tan, dubbed the "pioneer of Asian VC" by Forbes for pioneering the US venture capital concept in Asia.

"We are very fortunate to have the strong backing of Lip-Bu in the establishment of our first VC fund. His global experience will be invaluable not just in the NTU entrepreneurship ecosystem but also in Singapore," says NTU President Prof Ho Teck Hua.

5 SEEK HELP FROM MENTORS

Despite the best-laid plans, when challenges arise, students can turn to NTU's industry mentors for guidance.

These advisers' deep industry connections and experiences can also give students the boost they need to advance their startup ideas, be it sharing market expertise or introducing them to the right people.

Students can choose a mentor that best suits their needs from a list of over 30 experts when they sign up for NTU's mentorship clinic sessions that are designed as chat consults to help them gain clarity or unlock new opportunities.

While Mechanical Engineering graduate Mohammed Adnan Azam's first venture idea of a voice-based dementia detection device – conceived as a second-year student – didn't succeed, it introduced him to invaluable mentors.

His NTU adviser guided him through roadblocks and connected him to a medical innovation expert and a venture-building pro, who ultimately linked him to Assoc Prof Nagaendran Kandiah at NTU's Dementia Research Centre.

Together, Adnan and Assoc Prof Kandiah have developed and are now marketing a clinically-backed games app that helps neurologists detect pre-dementia in patients.





Grab

HEY!

AR

SCAN THIS VISUAL for a lift on your journey. Stand to win a $10 Grab voucher when you tell us about an interesting business or social enterprise you or your uni mates are working on

6 GET EVEN MORE FUNDS TO GO TO MARKET

With a working prototype in hand, students can improve it further to get it ready for commercialisation, such as pitching to prospective investors.

Taking this big step requires additional funding, but students can turn to the Innovation Port to seek out and identify relevant funds that they can apply for through NTU, ranging from $50,000 to $250,000. The funds can, for instance, help innovators better understand their customers' needs and finetune their prototypes accordingly.

Such additional financing helped Business graduate Ridhwaan Radzi from the Class of 2023 and his schoolmates bring their halal investment platform closer to market.

NTU gave them an initial $10,000 grant to develop the platform, as well as office space, entrepreneurship advice and industry connections. The university also sent them to a venture competition in Saudi Arabia, where they beat over 300 teams from more than 40 countries to win second place.

With NTU as their incubator, Ridhwaan's team received another $50,000 in government funding to get their product market-ready.

"We launched our halal investment website in September and this is just the beginning," says Ridhwaan.

NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY SINGAPORE | Entrepreneurship Academy

YOUR IDEA, OUR FUTURE

3RD KUMAR SUSTAINABILITY & INNOVATION PRIZE

1ST PRIZE
S$50,000

2ND AND 3RD PRIZES
S$25,000 EACH

WIN UP TO $50,000 TO DEVELOP YOUR WORLD-CHANGING IDEA

Teams, bring your A-game! We are looking for the next big digital and sustainable innovations to spark real change. Show us a solid business model and you could walk away with up to $50,000 in the grand finale of the 3RD Kumar Sustainability & Innovation Prize (KSIP).

Registration closes on 17 November 2024, so act now.

All current matriculated students (full-time) from Institutes of Higher Learning are eligible to join. Terms & conditions apply.

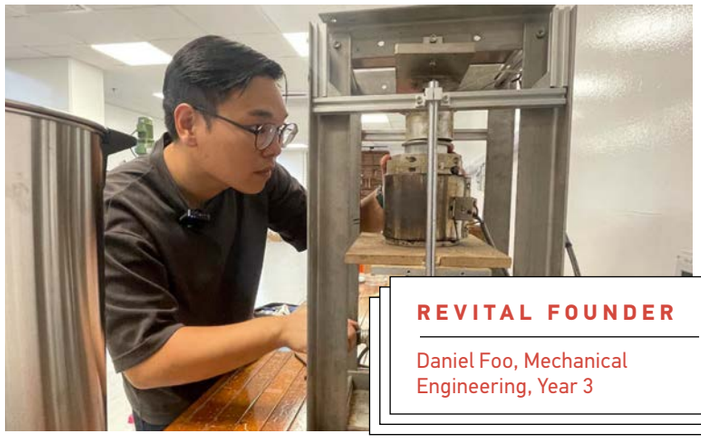
www.ntu.edu.sg/ntupreneur/ksip

NTU INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Tan Zi Jie

3 UNI(QUE) IDEAS TO LOOK OUT FOR

With NTU's support, these enterprising students and young alumni are shaking things up with their bold new ventures



REVITAL FOUNDER

Daniel Foo, Mechanical Engineering, Year 3

GO GREEN WITH A POTATO CUP

THE FRESH TAKE

In a zero-waste world, the humble sweet potato peel has three lives. First as spud skin, then as a coffee cup and finally as fertiliser. This isn't a futuristic scenario, but a circular economy project Daniel Foo, a Mechanical Engineering student, is bringing to life.

He found a way to turn leftover sweet potato skin waste – obtained from food court chain Koufu's factories – into cups or containers that can be composted after use.

"The idea is simple. Grab our Revital cup for your takeaway coffee from the food court. After getting your caffeine fix, simply drop the used cup into a special bin to get a voucher. The used cup is then composted into feed, potentially for fish, black soldier flies or even mushrooms," explains Daniel.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

The idea won big at the recent Hungry for Change Challenge, where Daniel's team partnered Koufu to reduce food waste and single-use packaging, and bagged $20,000 to pilot it.

Creating a viable eco-cup – from breaking down the skins for cellulose pulp to concocting an organic binder or glue to hold the pulp together – required months of experimentation at NTU's materials science and food tech labs.



Engineering grad Fernando Tan and Chemical & Bioengineering undergrads Eileen Paw and Marcus Wee came on board to help create the coating that can keep the cup waterproof for about 12 hours. The team tapped NTU's Ian Ferguson Innovation Fund and were supported by Prof Mary Chan, a chemical engineering expert at NTU.

WHAT'S NEXT?

The challenge now is to automate the manufacturing process in a cost-effective and food-safe manner.

That's where NTU's incubation support comes in. Guided by entrepreneurship mentors, Daniel is now developing and testing his final product at NTU's Open Innovation Lab. He aims to pilot Revital at a Koufu food court in early 2025.

GAMES THAT SPOT DEMENTIA

THE FRESH TAKE

Dementia is on the rise in rapidly ageing Singapore, driving up healthcare costs. But what if there was a quick, affordable way to catch it early?

ReCOGnAIze is a games app that detects pre-dementia in just 15 minutes.

WHY IT'S A GAME-CHANGER

"By the time a patient forgets their father's name and sees a doctor, it's likely too late. Severe memory loss may mean dementia, an irreversible brain disease," says the app's co-founder, Mohammed Adnan Azam.

The app identifies pre-dementia – subtle signs of mild cognitive impairment – so doctors can prescribe medicine or other treatments to better manage the condition.

Right now, there's no fast screening tool for the pre-dementia stage, but ReCOGnAIze could change that if it reaches clinics and hospitals soon.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

The app's games are built from clinical findings and ideas from NTU's Dementia Research Centre director Assoc Prof Nagaendran Kandiah, and developed with Adnan, an NTU Mechanical Engineering grad.

NTU backed them with a $250,000 grant that helps NTU researchers commercialise their technologies and build a good prototype.



Through four games, the artificial intelligence-powered app swiftly determines if players have a high, moderate or low risk of early dementia.

A study with 200 Singaporeans showed that the app is 89% accurate.

WHAT'S NEXT?

Trials with their first customers, a handful of neurology clinics, start in early 2025. The goal is to sell the app to hospitals and clinics for screening high-risk patients.

With extra funding on the way, the team is also working on a robust diagnostic tool that pairs the app with blood tests to detect brain diseases.

"Creating a clinical games app involves dealing with dense medical research, healthcare regulations and software development. My mechanical engineering degree has trained me to be agile and responsive – skills that have come in handy in this startup journey."

– Adnan, who is doing a PhD in neuroscience



RECOGNAIZE CO-FOUNDERS

Mohammed Adnan Azam, Mechanical Engineering grad (Class of 2022) who develops brain health apps at Dementia Research Centre (Singapore)

Prof Nagaendran Kandiah, director of NTU's Dementia Research Centre (Singapore)

CRACKING THE BILLION-DOLLAR HALAL INVESTMENT MARKET

THE FRESH TAKE

Rizqx.sg is a finance content site similar to Seedly, but for Muslim investors.

Its socially responsible investment approach is guided by Islamic laws, which includes avoiding companies that deal in haram (forbidden) activities like gambling or alcohol.

WHY IT'S A GAME-CHANGER

With 240 million Muslims in Southeast Asia, the potential for halal investing is huge – worth billions – but info is scarce and scattered.

"Many Muslim investors don't realise there are over 100 Islamic-compliant products available – from stakes in private startups to real estate in Dubai – that they can opt for," says co-founder and NTU Business grad Ridhwaan Radzi.

RizqX fills that gap with articles, forums, independent reviews and tools. Investors can discover and analyse halal investments available worldwide, as well as plan and track their portfolios.

MAKING IT HAPPEN

The platform's founding trio secured $10,000 in initial funds from NTU, and another $50,000 from the government with the university's incubation support. After a year of building and testing their website and engaging customers, they launched it this September.

WHAT'S NEXT?

This finance aggregator portal is just the beginning. The team dreams of launching an investment fund, a halal brokerage and even a bank in the future.



RIZQX CO-FOUNDERS

Foong Yan Kai, Linguistics & Multilingual Studies grad (Class of 2024)

Ridhwaan Radzi, Business grad (Class of 2023)

Salihin Samsudin, Public Policy & Global Affairs, Year 4

HEY! | INSIDER

Derek Rodriguez

TAKEAWAYS FROM OUR INTERNSHIPS IN STARTUPS OVERSEAS

Top tips of students from the Overseas Entrepreneurship Programme who interned in China and the US



Even the COO learns from everyone, so I should too



Shanghai, China

"While I was interning as a research software engineer in Shanghai, I was struck by how everyone was driven and 'on the ball'. This prompted me to adopt the same mentality.

China is often criticised for its work-centric culture but at Boonray Intelligent Technology, I saw how my colleagues thrived in a supportive environment that encouraged collaborative work.

The company designs algorithms that drive autonomous mining vehicles and my role was to improve the algorithms, such as to train them to ignore rain and noise while still sensing the obstacles around the vehicles. To do this effectively, I spent many nights on Coursera brushing up on my technical skills.

Even our supervisor, the COO, who has a PhD in robotics, was willing to learn from us interns and other newbies. Through him, I've learnt to admit my mistakes. Being open to gaining new knowledge has made me unafraid to ask questions, even if they seem wrong."

Ng Daw Sern, Year 4, Electrical & Electronic Engineering



HEY! AR

SCAN THIS PHOTO and let Daw Sern show you around his office in Shanghai

I should be a team player, even if I'm working solo

Hazim with Louis Rossmann, the famed electronics technician and YouTuber, at a networking event for cyber security professionals.



Houston, USA

"My biggest takeaway as a software developer intern is that I'm not writing code for me. I'm writing it for the next developer. When I create a new feature, I have to plan for how it will be integrated with the current infrastructure, and ensure that in the future, another developer can make changes to it without breaking the feature."

Hazim Ghazali, Year 4, Computer Science



"I was impressed by how hands-on and technically capable the CEO was. When we encountered issues, we'd often escalate them to him. I had many chances to interact directly with him. From him, I learnt about hidden operating costs, business models, customer risk appetite and the mindset required to run a cyber security company like Allthenticate. I also joined many industry events and connected with professionals. I've become more confident about starting my own cyber security business in the future."

I can pick my CEO's brain about my future startup

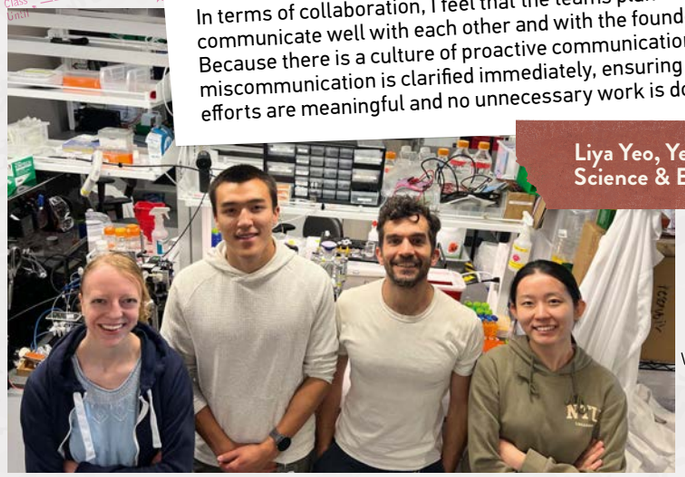
Cambridge, USA

"This internship at Anthology Biotechnologies, where I design devices to test biological substances like DNA and proteins, has helped me figure out my preferences when it comes to company culture, and the importance of open communication.

Here, the founders sit beside other employees, making them approachable and connected to the issues we face on our projects. It's also easy to have casual conversations with them.

In terms of collaboration, I feel that the teams plan ahead and communicate well with each other and with the founders. Because there is a culture of proactive communication, any miscommunication is clarified immediately, ensuring everyone's efforts are meaningful and no unnecessary work is done."

Liya Yeo, Year 3, Materials Science & Engineering



Liya with her teammates at Anthology.

I know what I want my next manager and company culture to be like



HEY! TIPS

Dr Daphne Ng

GIVE YOUR ChatGPT PROMPTS A POWER BOOST

NTU undergraduate and artificial intelligence (AI) enthusiast Arav Behl shares some tricks to prompt ChatGPT like a pro, so that it can be like that study buddy on speed dial or your brainy bestie



Give ChatGPT some context on what you want it to do

Having critical details in your prompt, such as what you will be using the information for, will help ChatGPT give accurate responses that are relevant to your request. Adding context to your prompts is like giving ChatGPT a map, guiding it to understand exactly what you want.

EXAMPLE:

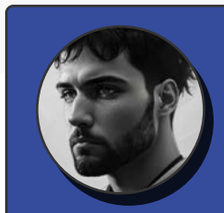
"I am having difficulty understanding the process of photosynthesis, particularly how the stages work together and why it is significant in biological systems. Could you provide a detailed explanation of photosynthesis, breaking down each stage and explaining its importance? This will help me better prepare for my Year 2 Biochemistry exam."

Ask ChatGPT to rank options if you are unsure what to choose

University life is packed with opportunities, so it's essential to prioritise what aligns with your interests. Arav suggests using comparative prompts to help you make smarter choices. Since your disposition can influence your preferences, share your personality traits, likes and dislikes with ChatGPT, so it can help you make better decisions.

EXAMPLE:

"I am an introvert who enjoys my personal time. Help me decide between three extracurricular activities – joining a debate club, volunteering or learning a new language. Rank them according to how they will improve my communication skills, providing reasons for each."



Arav, a third-year Data Science & Economics major, has published a research paper on prompt engineering and built several AI tools, including a data protection assistant that safeguards a company's internal documents, a teaching assistant and a service that streamlines the job application process.

Visual: Arav Behl and Lensa AI

Use ChatGPT as a study buddy to help you learn faster

To learn new topics effectively, ask ChatGPT to pose questions that push you to think critically. This learning approach, called Socratic prompting, is inspired by the Greek philosopher Socrates.

EXAMPLE:

"Instead of giving answers outright, ask me probing questions to help me reflect and work through the problem. Encourage me to explain my reasoning, and if I get stuck, guide me with subtle hints."

Tell ChatGPT what you don't want it to do

Telling ChatGPT what not to do is just as important as telling it what to do, Arav says. Negative prompts can enhance ChatGPT's performance and give you more control over the results.

EXAMPLE:

"I want to build a website with a modern, responsive design that showcases my academic achievements. However, do not suggest tools that require extensive setup or configuration."



HEY!
AR
SCAN THIS VISUAL to win a box of seven TAG Espresso coffee capsules (worth $16.60) to supercharge your study sessions

Tell ChatGPT to adopt a persona that is best suited for the task

If you're struggling to understand your lecture notes while revising, you can ask ChatGPT to roleplay as a professor and explain the concepts to you as if you're a student in one of their lectures. By taking on the role of a particular type of expert, ChatGPT can guide you through tough material.

Another example is asking ChatGPT to play the role of a venture capitalist if you're interested in launching your own startup.

EXAMPLE:

"Take on the persona of a venture capitalist with over a decade of experience evaluating startups. Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of this startup's business model, market potential and scalability. Share insights on what investors typically look for in a pitch and give guidance as if you're mentoring an undergraduate preparing for a venture capital pitch competition."

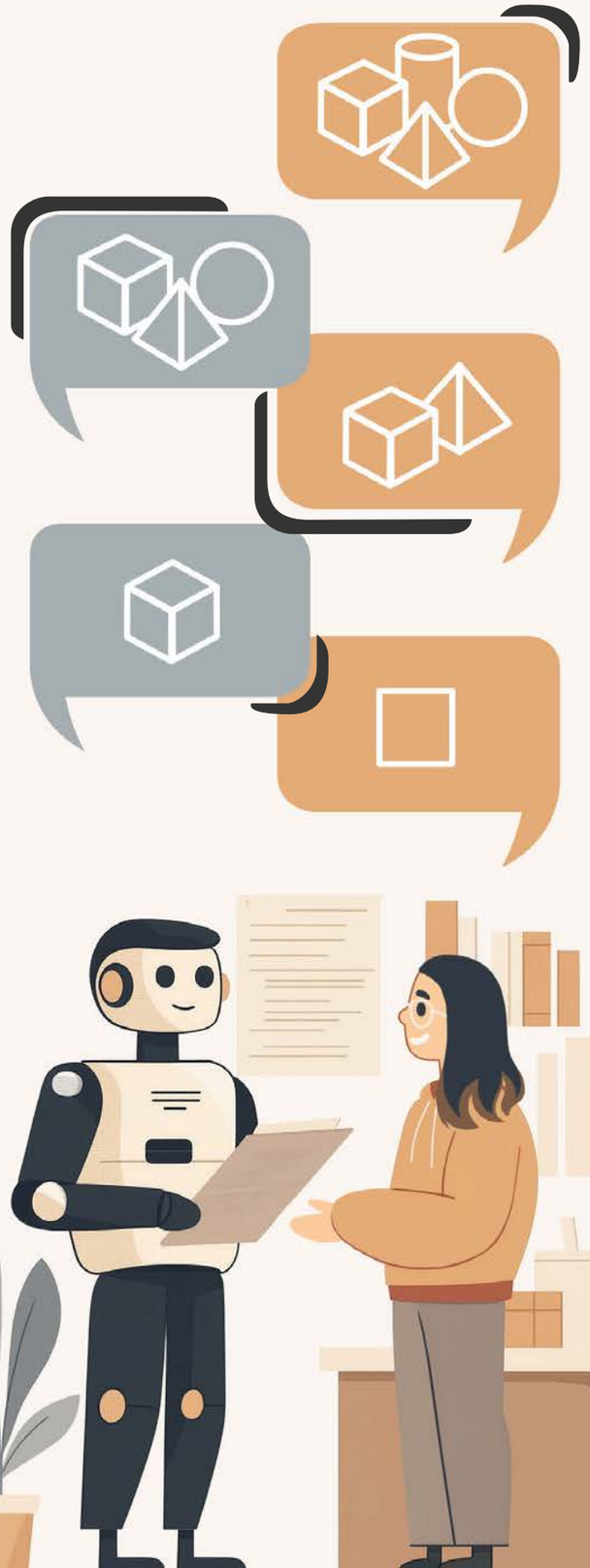
Break down complex tasks systematically to get accurate responses from ChatGPT

You can use ChatGPT to help with complex tasks, like creating a study plan. Just break the task down step by step so ChatGPT knows exactly what you need.

EXAMPLE:

"I need help planning my study schedule for the finals. Let's break this task down step by step. First, list the subjects I should focus on, including Math, Computer Science and Economics. For each subject, identify the key topics that are crucial for my academic success. Next, based on our chat history, assess which topics need the most attention. Then, create a day-by-day plan for the next two weeks, allocating time for each subject."

Zaneta Ng | Vivian Lim



GenAI -IS THERE A RIGHT WAY TO USE IT?

It's okay to have mixed feelings about using AI. HEY! student writer Zaneta Ng reflects on GenAI use in university and shares expert tips on how to approach it

Generative artificial intelligence (GenAI) has recently become the world's favourite buzzword. After all, it's accessible to everyone and saves time, allowing us to "work smart, not hard" – until doubt starts to seep in.

"I try to create original work. But sometimes I use ChatGPT because it generates ideas quickly. I can pick the good ideas and work on them further," says psychology student Angela Chua. "I understand that some courses allow AI usage, but I try not to use ChatGPT for assignments, as I still enjoy writing."

Like Angela and some of my NTU peers, I've found that using AI in our work can sometimes conflict with how we see ourselves. We believe that, as good students, we should be fully engaged with and deeply understand our subjects. When we use GenAI, our work – and by extension, who we are as individuals – can feel inauthentic and uninteresting. It could even lead to a form of what has been termed "AI guilt".

Given the relatively recent adoption of GenAI in university courses, it's understandable to feel uncertain about using it, according to the experts I spoke to.

To navigate this confusion, we can start by recognising the difference between using GenAI as a tool and becoming overdependent on it.

"Your use of AI shouldn't undermine your ability to think deeply and independently," says Dr Ho Shen Yong, who is involved in driving pedagogical innovation in NTU. "AI tools should augment, rather than replace, human intelligence."

"Are you using AI as a critical friend?" asks NTU's Assoc Prof Damien Joseph, Associate Dean of Undergraduate Education at the Nanyang Business School. "If you have taken the time to critically review your work and have made numerous changes to any raw input that you may have adapted – drawing on your competence in the subject – your professors can recognise that."

"Also, bear in mind that the extent to which you can use GenAI, if at all, depends on the nature of the course and its learning objectives," adds Assoc Prof Joseph. "If you are unsure, always check with the instructor regarding the AI policy for your specific course."

When feeling unsure about AI use, ask yourself...

? **Do I understand the boundaries of GenAI use in this course, and have I overstepped them?** If I have used AI appropriately and handed in my declaration of AI use, my academic integrity remains intact, and I shouldn't feel this way.

? **Do I have a good understanding of the topic and the competence to recognise GenAI's helpful points, fix its errors and improve on its mediocre outputs?**

Assoc Prof Damien Joseph, Nanyang Business School

? **Am I using AI as a tool to enhance my efforts, or am I outsourcing my effort to AI?**

? **Do I take full responsibility for the work that I have created with the help of AI?**

Mr Ian Tan, Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information

? **Is there a chance that the GenAI response is reinforcing my biases by agreeing with my past inputs? How can I, or the AI, further play devil's advocate to discover new ideas or perspectives that challenge my current understanding of the topic's problems and solutions?**

Asst Prof Tanmay Sinha, National Institute of Education

INCREASE YOUR AI LITERACY

- Be sure of NTU's AI use guidelines: Search "Generative Artificial Intelligence guidelines" on the student intranet.
- Learn about GenAI tools and get tips from the Institute for Pedagogical Innovation, Research & Excellence.

Visit **@InsPIRE_NTU** on Instagram and Telegram.

HEY! STUDENT WRITER



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

HEY! PIX
Kwok Pei Fang

LEISURE AFTER LECTURES

Good times on our vibrant campus

OneNTU Day



Hive a good time.

shazza gets into the sing of things.



SCAN THIS PHOTO



HEY! AR
SCAN THIS PHOTO
to view the sum of its p-arts

Wall-come to Canopy K's makeover.

SCAN THIS PHOTO



Elevating OneNTU Day with interactive art.



Clockwise from top of the page: Kwok Pei Fang, @christinafujiapple and @_shuminnn_, Hillary Tan and @ntumuseum



Flexing our fit-nesse.

HEY! AR
SCAN THIS VISUAL
to stand to win a pair of Sony headphones (worth $589) to get into the groove after a hard day's work





Hoppy Mid-Autumn Festival.

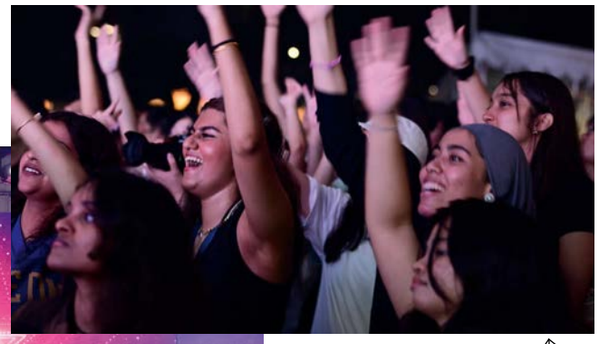


Landing on the best drone team ever.

NTU Fest

SCAN THIS PHOTO





Hands up for a smashing semester.

When the rhythm hits, we become one.

HEY! AR
SCAN THIS PHOTO
to bop along with the Hall 9 Jam Band

SCAN THIS PHOTO

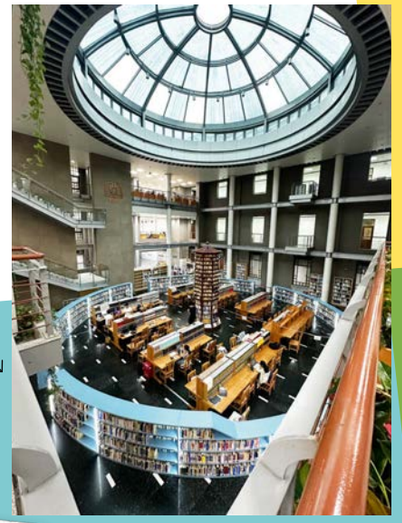
Clockwise from top of the page: @ntuaerosoc, Hanafi Ramdan, @ntuhall9, Hillary Tan and @ntujudo

Gwenneth Teo

MY ORIGINAL EXPERIENCE... ON EXCHANGE

School's almost out, time to fly out to... another university? NTU students share their eye-opening encounters from exchange with HEY! student writer Gwenneth Teo

Like living in 2100



Peking University's beautiful library.

“

I was wowed by the advanced tech in Beijing. Locals use facial recognition to pay at vending machines in parks and malls. However, my face wasn't in their database so my local friends bought my drinks and I paid them back via Alipay or WeChat. I didn't use any cash during my month there; everything was done digitally. Unlike in Singapore, where we scan the store's QR code to pay, in Beijing, vendors scan the QR code generated by your app – it's much more convenient. Robots even delivered my takeout to my hotel. Did you know the Meituan app automatically provides a voucher if your food delivery is delayed? It really shows how efficient life in Beijing is."

Priscilla Lee
(Accountancy & Business)
went to Peking University, China



Priscilla at a Japan-themed escape room with her friends.



Experiencing nature like never before

“

I visited a *desa*, or local village, where the leader brought us to a serene meeting area. I distinctly remember the cool breeze and seeing the rice fields and jungle go on for miles. It was such a healing experience. On my final day, we had breakfast on a hilly spot, Bukit Rhema, at sunrise. The fog, along with the view of the mountains and valleys, was honestly breathtaking."

Amy Jane Fitzgerald
(Public Policy & Global Affairs)
went to Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia



Reagen (in white, back row) with NTU friends at their university in Spain.

Watching one of his favourite football clubs, Atlético Madrid, play on their home turf.

Dealing with theft

“

During a short trip before school started, my hotel room in Ibiza, Spain, was broken into, and my credit card, over $200 in cash and my AirPods were stolen. The police categorised it as petty theft and said such incidents are quite common. Even though I could track my earpods using the Find My app, the police didn't initiate a search and just closed the case, which was frustrating. This encounter made me appreciate Singapore's security even more. My NTU exchange coordinator, Ms Anna Guerrero, was incredibly caring and called to check on me. I'm very grateful for that. The experience was a massive reality check – I've always been cautious, but I've now learnt to take extra precautions when travelling."

A different work culture

“

Spaniards eat late, typically having a light breakfast, lunch at around 3pm and dinner at 10pm. Their siesta, or midday break, is taken seriously – many shops, but not the university, close from 2pm to 5pm. This is a stark contrast to Singapore's non-stop work culture. I've learnt to slow down, take breaks and embrace this lifestyle for a healthier, happier life."

Reagen Chia
(Electrical & Electronic Engineering)
went to Universidad Carlos III de Madrid, Spain

Code-switching to fit in



With the Bruin bear, UCLA's beloved mascot.

“

I often had to code-switch in California, whether in class or when ordering food. Americans like small talk; they'd ask about my day, and service staff would ask how my food was. I tried speaking in my Singaporean accent, but I was often met with: 'I'm sorry, can you say that again?' So I switched to an American accent, a mix of accents I picked up from YouTubers and Hollywood movies. I've found that Singaporeans are somewhat experts at code-switching because of our diverse experiences."

Navigating limited transport options

“

Without a driver's license in car-centric Los Angeles, I relied heavily on Uber, even for supermarket runs, which was costly. I researched the area's safety and initially avoided certain metros and public buses at night. Later, I started taking some buses as they were cheaper and not as unsafe as I'd heard. I also enjoyed the 45-minute walk from my dorm to classes, using these occasions as opportunities to explore the campus. It made me appreciate how convenient transportation is in Singapore."

Emelia Tang
(Communication Studies)
went to University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), United States

HEY! AR
SCAN THIS PHOTO to see Emelia take on Hollywood and hit the books at UCLA



At Universal Studios Hollywood.



HEY! STUDENT WRITER

Gwenneth is an avid fan of *teh peng* (iced milk tea). Your conversations with her will likely include plenty of TikTok and meme references, and sooner or later she'll bring up Taylor Swift or Seventeen.

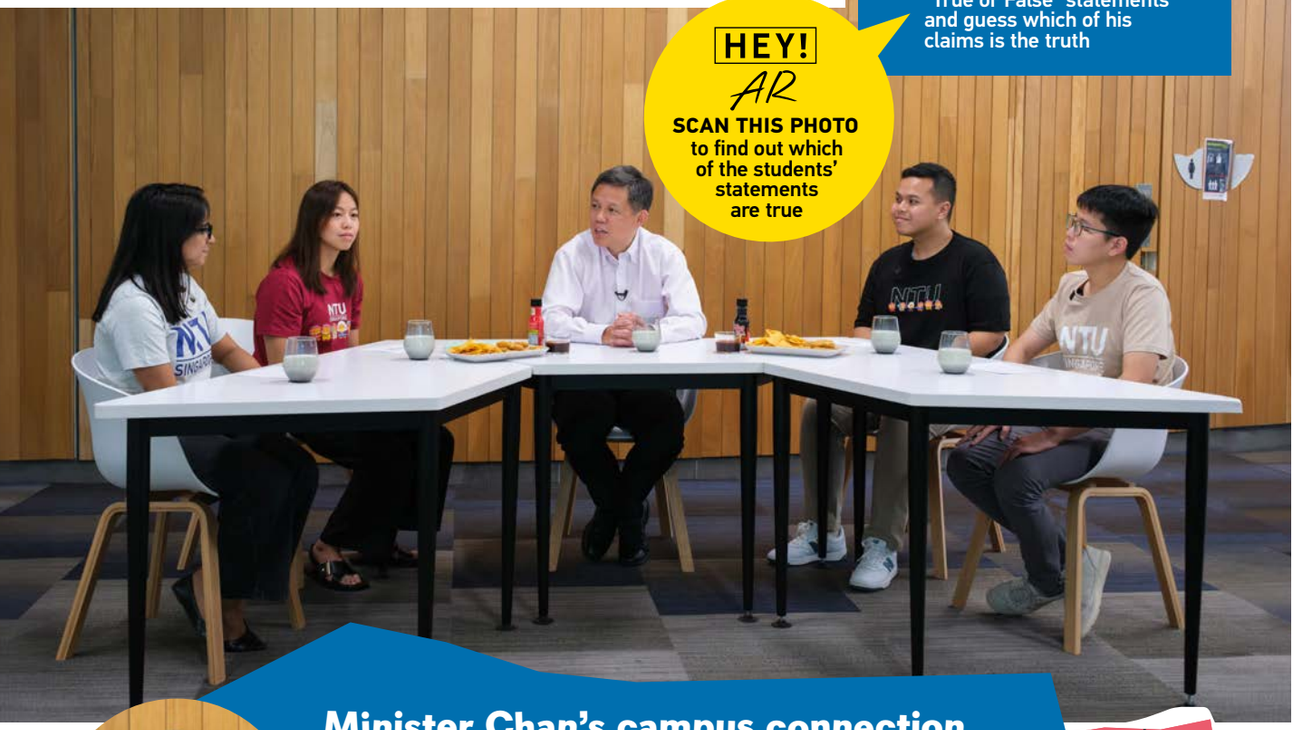
Rahila Daud

REAL TALK OR STRAIGHT CAP?

Uni days are filled with incredible – and sometimes unbelievable – moments. When Minister for Education Mr Chan Chun Sing paid NTU a visit recently, four recent NTU grads challenged him to a game of "True or False". Now it's your turn to guess which of their claims are true. Scan the AR marker for the answers



Plus, hear Minister Chan's "True or False" statements and guess which of his claims is the truth



HEY! AR
SCAN THIS PHOTO to find out which of the students' statements are true



Minister Chan's campus connection

Who knew? Education Minister Chan Chun Sing once played interior designer for an office at NTU.

Nearly 30 years ago, while in the armed forces, he helped set up the Institute of Defence & Strategic Studies, now part of the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS). In those early days of starting the institute, which was then led by Mr S R Nathan (who later became Singapore's president), it was all hands on deck. Mr Chan was involved in conceptualising the use of the space, including helping to pick out furniture and decide where to place the electrical sockets.

"Once in a while, I feel that I should go back to RSIS and see if the wires are still laid according to our plan," he quips.

"Which line is the truth?"



B Viveka
Mathematics & Computational Thinking and Education

I tasted 100 bottles of red wine for a research project.

VS

I represented NTU at a global United Nations leadership forum.



Nicole Lim
Sport Science & Management

I'm a national athlete and I train up to 10 times a week, even while managing a knee injury.

VS

I took a gap semester to train and compete in the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games.



Haikal Rizal
Sociology

A few days after I reached my exchange destination, I was recalled because of the pandemic.

VS

During COVID-19, I volunteered to go for house visits to convince the elderly to get their vaccinations.



Dylan Kwok
Media Art (Game Design)

I published three short stories as an NTU undergrad.

VS

I designed nine video games, one of which topped the App Store charts.

Lester Kok | Hillary Tan

A FITNESS PLAN FOR SPEED

What happens when you put a race car on a fitness regimen?

Students from the Nanyang Venture Formula 2 (NVF-2) team spent the last one and a half years engineering NTU's latest car to be lighter, faster and smarter than its predecessor, the NVF-1.

We break down the car's carefully calibrated "fitness plan" that transformed it into a track-ready beast. The open-wheeled one-seater recently went head-to-head with some 90 teams from across Asia at Formula Student Electric China. The students won the Pioneer Racing team award, given to the best new team in the competition.



NVF-2 in numbers

Top speed:	120km/h (twice as fast as racing go-karts)
Battery capacity:	4.87kWh (enough power to fully charge 300 mobile phones)
Weight:	280kg (lighter than a Harley-Davidson motorcycle)
Power:	20kWh
Length:	2.95m
Wheelbase:	1.6m
Track width:	1.25m
Rim size:	10 inches (25.4cm)

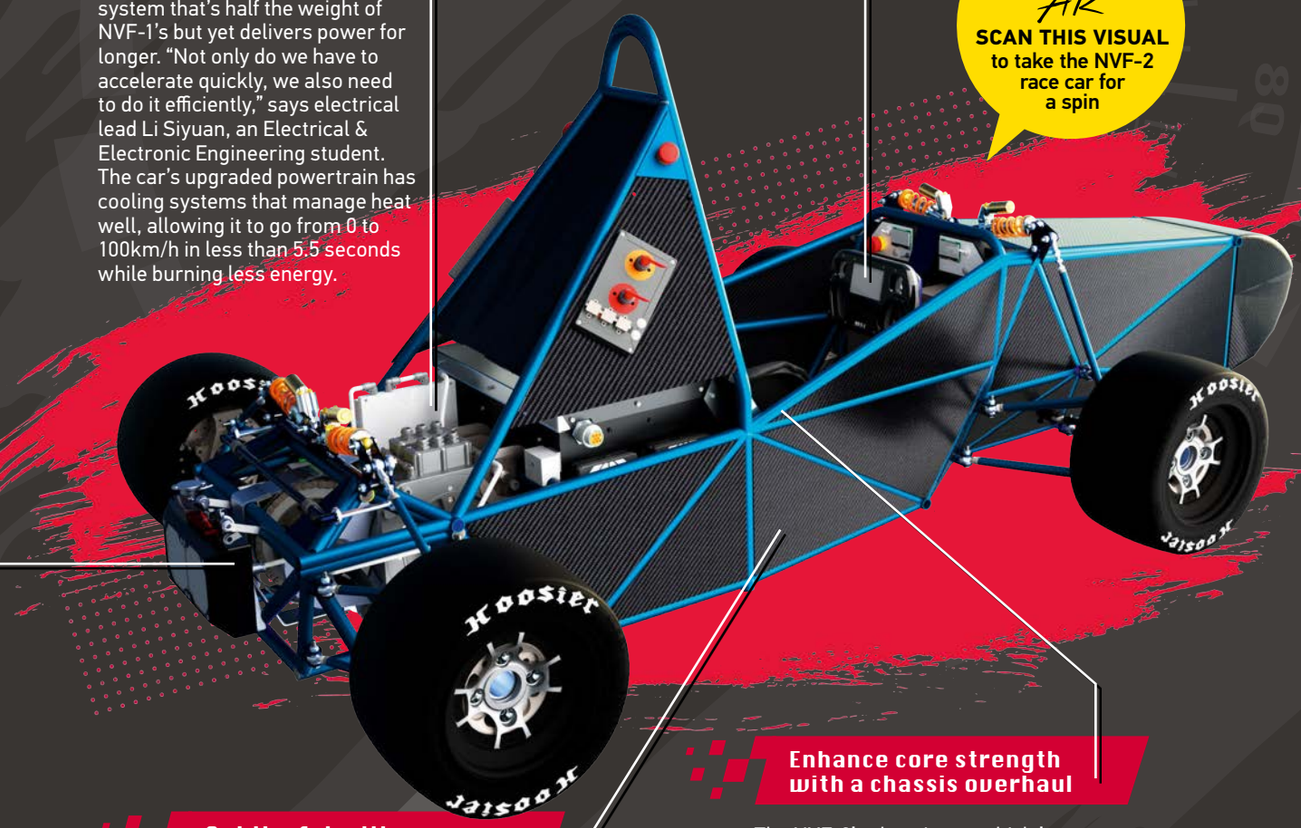
Burn energy efficiently

NVF-2's electric powertrain setup is like the green smoothie of the racing world – it packs a punch with less waste. The team custom-designed a new battery system that's half the weight of NVF-1's but yet delivers power for longer. "Not only do we have to accelerate quickly, we also need to do it efficiently," says electrical lead Li Siyuan, an Electrical & Electronic Engineering student. The car's upgraded powertrain has cooling systems that manage heat well, allowing it to go from 0 to 100km/h in less than 5.5 seconds while burning less energy.

Race smarter with better brains

A smarter car is a faster car. The NVF-2 features an advanced driver display, real-time telemetry, improved brakes and a Vehicle Control Unit – the brains behind the brawn. With real-time data on performance, the team can adjust their strategy on the fly, just like professional race teams.

HEY! AR
SCAN THIS VISUAL to take the NVF-2 race car for a spin



Skip the bells and whistles to streamline your physique

Aerodynamic kits, such as front wings, can be great for speed, but when you're racing on shorter circuits, they're just dead weight. The NVF-2 skips the aero kit in favour of an open-wheeled design reminiscent of 1950s Formula One cars. "We didn't need the extra downforce," explains Mechanical Engineering student Daniel Foo, who handles the project's media and outreach. "We prioritised agility and manoeuvrability, which is more crucial on shorter tracks like the one used for the recent race."

Cut the fat with lightweight materials

NVF-1 was a solid performer, but it was on the bulkier side at 420kg. So the team swapped heavier materials for carbon fibre and Kevlar, a lightweight material made from synthetic fibres. Team lead Shivam Selvam, a Mechanical Engineering student, explains: "By using advanced carbon fibre to build our panels and 3D printing to redesign and produce the car parts, we reduced the weight of the car to just 280kg – that's a massive 30 per cent or 140kg off. It's like shedding the weight of two people from the car!"

Enhance core strength with a chassis overhaul

The NVF-2's chassis – a vehicle's supporting frame – was completely reworked. "We've made it both lighter and stiffer," says chassis lead Srimitha Sridharan, a Mechanical Engineering student. "This improves the car's handling, with better weight transfer during tight corners, which is crucial for slalom time attacks. We've also improved the ergonomics with a custom seat and optimised controls, so the driver can focus better, have better car control and be less tired. Plus it's a safer design in the unlikely event of a crash."

HEY! | PEOPLE

Foo Jie Ying | Hillary Tan

WHAT'S COOKING, PROF?

What does cooking have to do with running an engineering college? More than you think, as HEY! finds out from Prof Warren Chan, NTU's new dean of engineering, who also hopes to cultivate a greater appetite for risk-taking among students

Prof Warren Chan loves to cook.

Little wonder that the dean of engineering leans on culinary metaphors to get his points across.

Running the college of engineering, for instance, is like making a pizza.

"You figure out the pizza you want to make and think about how to make it. You assemble the ingredients, then taste the pizza you've made to see if it's good, before deciding what to change so it tastes better the next time you make it," he says.

"You manage the engineering college in the same manner. You define a goal, develop a strategy to reach the goal, execute the strategy, see if the outcome matches, and make adjustments. You figure out what is needed to make each school run and keep optimising until you get the 'pizza' or 'meal' you want."

Since July, Prof Chan has been "making pizza" at NTU. An American Canadian, he was formerly from the University of Toronto, where he spent the last two decades advancing research in nanomedicine, diagnostics and drug delivery.

It was his wife who encouraged him to take up the career opportunity, and the couple and their 14-year-old son, 11-year-old daughter and dog moved over.

Prof Chan says that his curiosity about Singapore as well as the "momentum of good things happening in NTU" sealed the deal.

His daughter, Sophia, however, was less excited about the move halfway across the globe.

"My son loves computers and keyboards, and he says that Singapore is supposedly the 'keyboard capital' of the world, so he's very happy. But my daughter has a group of friends she misses a lot," says Prof Chan.

If it's good enough for Taylor Swift, we'll be there

That Taylor Swift stopped by Singapore for The Eras Tour helped to sell Singapore to Sophia, who is a Swiftie.

"She thought it was cool that Taylor Swift came to Singapore. But she wasn't totally happy until she went to the Olivia Rodrigo concert," he says with a laugh.



Prof Chan himself is also easing into life on this sunny island. Sitting by the door of his office are two huge boxes shipped from Toronto, waiting to be unpacked.

He is still trying to get used to various things on campus, from the high heat intensity of the stove – it's not ideal for French cooking, he says – to the sartorial choice that many profs opt for on campus.

"I don't think I own a white or blue shirt, nor do I have black dress shoes," he quips. "It's a North American thing," he says, referring to the t-shirt and jeans combination that he goes for back in Canada.

FUN FACTS ABOUT PROF WARREN CHAN

1. **His career began at the science fair.** Prof Chan developed an interest in science when he was 12, after tagging along with his older brother to science fairs, where students perform experiments and present their findings. He also found that attending these science fairs was a lot more fun than sitting in class.

2. **French cooking is his jam.** Back in Toronto, Prof Chan did a lot of French cooking, simmering stews like bouillabaisse (a French seafood stew). He has not been able to do it here because he is still trying to get a hang of the stoves in Singapore, which heat up much faster. He has mostly stuck to stir-fries but has recently expanded his homecooked meals to include steak, curry and pasta.

3. **He was knee-deep in Toronto's dragon boat racing scene.** For eight years, Prof Chan was part of Toronto's thriving dragon boat racing scene. He put his paddles away after becoming a father but hopes to be back on the water one day.

4. **His kids love the handmade noodles at NTU.** The Wonderful Café at Canteen 2 has long been a favourite among NTU students for its juicy soup dumplings. Now, it has gained two new fans in Prof Chan's children, who love the stall's freshly hand-pulled noodles. The noodles are a breath of fresh air from the pre-packed ones that are found in North America, even in the restaurants, says Prof Chan.

> "Everyone loves food here, right? The idea is to get people together to talk about science and engineering in an environment that is not stressful. That's how new ideas, new projects, or even companies come about."





Prof Chan making waves with his dragon boat team, Bod Squad, in his younger days in Toronto.

Cooking up ideas

Over the past few months, Prof Chan has been attending events and seminars, and familiarising himself with how things work in NTU.

Food, he realises, is a love language that most people here speak. "I've put on so much weight since I got here," he says.

An idea he has been cooking up for the engineering college is to create more "soft events" that bring students, faculty and the community from different disciplines together over food and drinks.

"Everyone loves food here, right? The idea is to get people together to talk about science and engineering in an environment that is not stressful. That's how new ideas, new projects, or even companies come about."

This diversity is important because through these interactions, students learn to communicate with people from different disciplines, says Prof Chan.

The co-founder of four startups also hopes to create a culture that encourages failure – an ingredient he believes is essential for entrepreneurship. He explains: "Students need to see failing as part of entrepreneurship, because that's how you learn? From failure, you learn how to build things. You learn how to accept the failure psychologically and grow from that experience."

Derek Rodriguez



HEY! AR

SCAN THIS VISUAL to win a collectible pin featuring NTU mascot Lyon at The Hive

3 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THE HIVE

World-renowned British designer Thomas Heatherwick, designer of the Hive, was on campus to talk about sustainable architecture. Here are some fast facts about NTU's Instagrammable building that you may not know



1 HEY! readers helped to name it

"Wanna have pasta at SPiREX?" That's what you would have asked your friends if some readers had their way in 2014 when HEY! ran a contest to name NTU's first learning hub. Other names on the table were NTUtopia, Eureka and, of course, The Hive.

2 It's a sustainable building

The Hive is Mr Heatherwick's response to what he calls "harmful, boring" buildings. It was designed to make people care about it enough to prevent it from being demolished within a few decades.

3 It transformed teaching spaces

CNN said The Hive redefined the traditional classroom. Circular tutorial rooms support new tech-enabled and interactive ways of learning. The building, which was designed to have no corners, is a manifestation of NTU's collaborative spirit too. According to Mr Heatherwick, The Hive isn't one building. It's 12 buildings that stop and start at different heights and come together, with no roof.

HEY! AR

SCAN THIS VISUAL to explore The Hive wherever you are



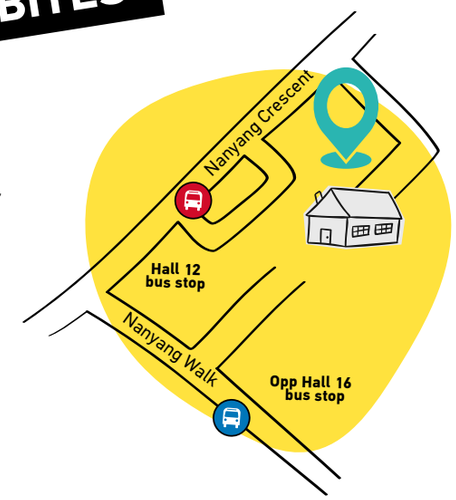
*Mr Thomas Heatherwick visited the NTU campus in October 2024, where he spoke on "Humanising Cities" at the inaugural Mapletree Annual Sustainability Lecture.



Good food,
GREAT VIBES
ALL AT 13 BITES

HALAL CERTIFIED

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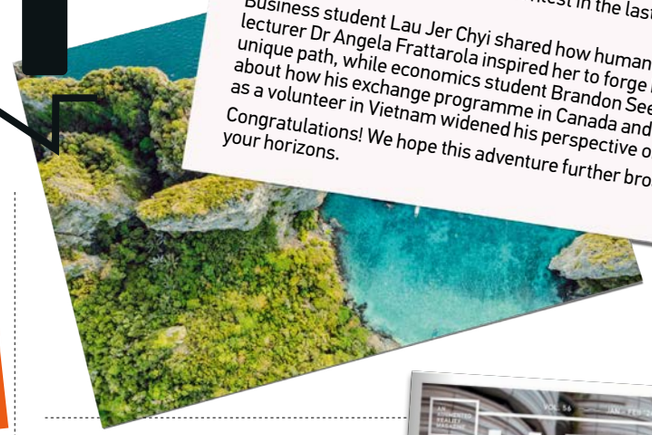
Derek Rodriguez

FYI



MAKING WAVES AT SEA

A team of NTU undergrads made a splash at a competition organised by tech giant Sea. Accountancy and business students Clarice Tan, Gerwyn Teo, Ho Keong Lin and Yiong Jon Lon tackled a series of accounting-themed puzzles on financial reporting, tax treatments and risk management to emerge as champions among 30 teams. They rode the tide of victory with their sharp analysis and proposal, which showed a deep understanding of the company's diverse business portfolio.



THEY JOINED A HEY! CONTEST, AND SCORED A VACAY

Two HEY! readers turned their personal reflections into tickets to a 5-day Contiki trip to Phuket, Krabi and Phi Phi islands worth $880, thanks to a contest in the last issue of HEY!.

Business student Lau Jer Chyi shared how humanities lecturer Dr Angela Frattarola inspired her to forge her own unique path, while economics student Brandon See talked about how his exchange programme in Canada and stint as a volunteer in Vietnam widened his perspective on life.

Congratulations! We hope this adventure further broadens your horizons.

AND THE PR OSCAR GOES TO...

Hyper-realistic Hailey recently made a pitstop in Serbia. HEY!'s bold experiment of using AI to co-create an entire issue, including Hailey, captivated judges at the 2024 International Public Relations Association (IPRA) Golden World Awards for Excellence, held in Belgrade. At the ceremony, dubbed the "Oscars of PR", HEY! received double honours – for being the best publication and for exemplifying the integration of traditional and new media. We thank all of you, our readers, for being a part of our success.

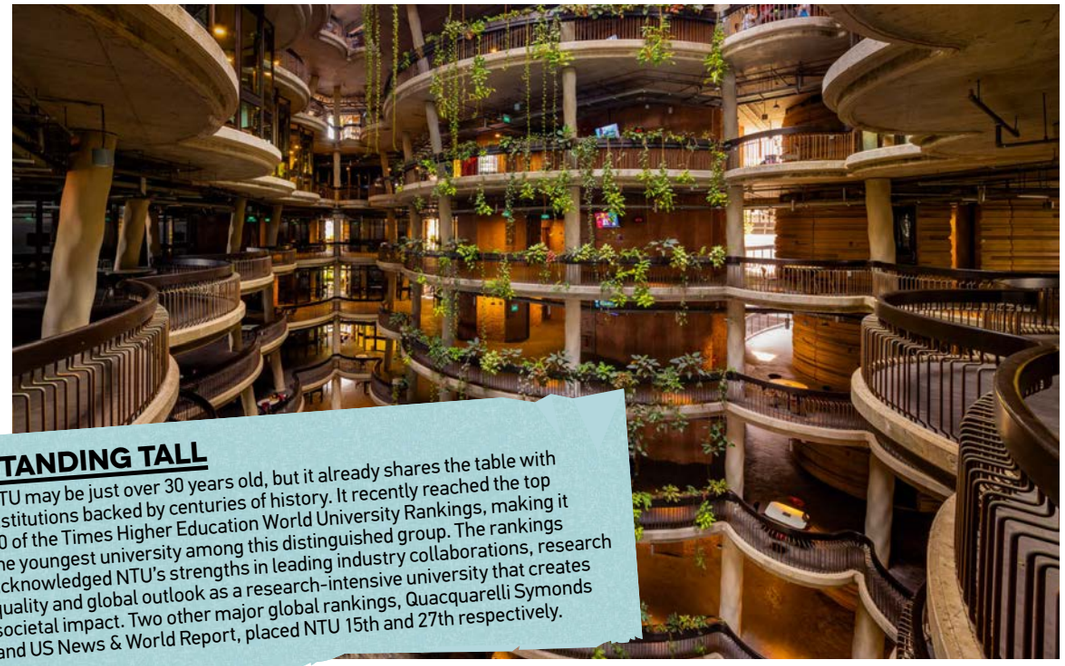




TURNING PASSION INTO A PATHWAY

Talent and success aren't one dimensional. They can be defined in multiple fields and are manifested and achieved across time.

This message by Singapore's Minister for Education Mr Chan Chun Sing at the launch of NTU's Student Talent Development Programme (left) captured the spirit of this new initiative. Created for students who want to turn their passion in areas such as sustainability, tech and the arts into purposeful action, the year-long programme will put its inaugural batch of 200 undergraduates through curated learning opportunities, as well as leadership and capability development modules.



STANDING TALL

NTU may be just over 30 years old, but it already shares the table with institutions backed by centuries of history. It recently reached the top 30 of the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, making it the youngest university among this distinguished group. The rankings acknowledged NTU's strengths in leading industry collaborations, research quality and global outlook as a research-intensive university that creates societal impact. Two other major global rankings, Quacquarelli Symonds and US News & World Report, placed NTU 15th and 27th respectively.



HEY! AR

SCAN THIS VISUAL to watch an acrobatic robot in action

LIKE RICE, BUT SMARTER

Inspired by a 60s sci-fi flick about a submarine crew shrunk to fit into a scientist's body to repair his brain, NTU scientists have made rice-sized robots to help heal patients. These acrobatic miniature robots can carry four different drugs and release them in programmable orders and doses exactly where they are needed in the body. The team is now looking to shrink the robots even further so they can be used to provide revolutionary treatments for conditions such as brain tumours, bladder cancer and colorectal cancer.



WORLD AI CHAMPIONS TRAINED AT NTU

We've cracked the code to getting an Olympiad gold. A bootcamp in NTU led by experts from NTU's College of Computing & Data Science proved to be pivotal for Singapore's teams at the first ever AI Olympiad in Bulgaria. The two teams, made up of eight students from NUS High School, Nanyang Polytechnic, Singapore Polytechnic and Temasek Polytechnic, claimed two of the four awarded gold medals in the Olympiad's scientific round for their problem-solving know-how in natural language processing, machine learning and computer vision. NTU's young charges credited the NTU training, saying it introduced them to new AI concepts. Some are also keen to study at NTU in future.

Lester Kok | + Vivian Lim

TOMORROWLAND

How NTU's homegrown technologies are reshaping our future



HEY! AR
SCAN THIS ILLUSTRATION to see how NTU's RoboFabric can give you a leg up or lend you a hand

3D-printed boost for limbs

The big idea: Exosuits – think of them as wearable suits powered by robotics – and joint supports are often made of metal and smart motors, much like what you see in sci-fi movies. But what if we could stiffen fabrics and everyday clothing to achieve the same functions?

What's unique: NTU scientists have developed a flexible fabric by 3D printing small plastic tiles and connecting them with thin metal wires. This fabric can stiffen into a brace on demand. When worn on the elbow, for instance, it reduces the strength needed to hold an object by 40 per cent.

Benefits: Easy to wear and produce with 3D printing, this technology could create customisable casts for joint injuries or be used as support to help the elderly carry heavier loads.

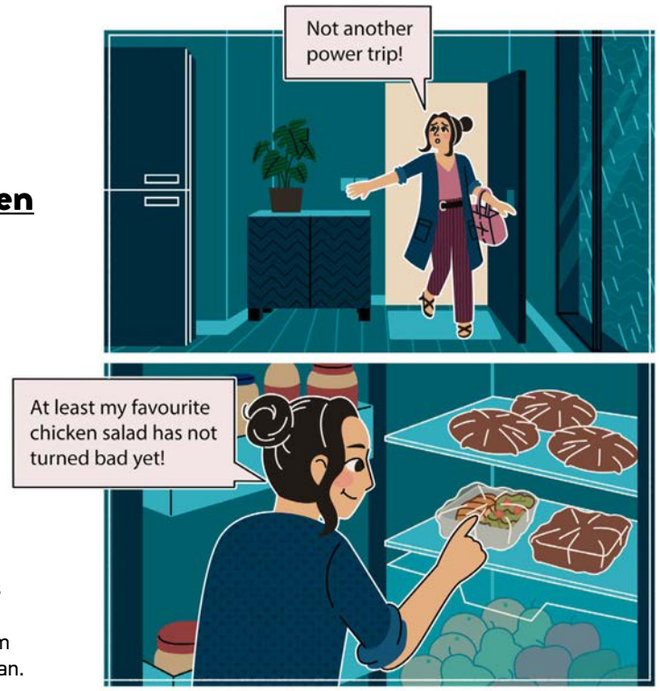


Smart plaster, how's my blood sugar?

The big idea: For diabetic patients, pricking their fingers to check blood glucose levels is a daily routine. It would be far better if the same outcomes could be achieved painlessly with a smart patch, reducing the need for finger pricks.

What's unique: Unlike conventional devices that require a blood sample, this plaster-like patch invented at NTU uses tiny microlasers to detect biomarkers such as lactate, glucose and urea from sweat on the skin.

Benefits: No more painful finger pricks – this patch gives an instant glucose reading. When levels spike, the indicator changes colour when read with a device, making it easy for diabetic patients to know exactly when to take insulin.



Clever cling wrap knows when your food turns bad

The big idea: Expiry dates are just estimates. How can we tell if food has gone bad before it starts to stink?

What's unique: This biodegradable food wrap not only prevents bacteria from contaminating raw food like prawns and meat but also changes colour when it detects high nitrogen levels emitted by rotting food, serving as a warning.

Benefits: Monitoring food spoilage would be as easy as pie. And you'll be glad to know that this sustainable alternative to traditional plastic cling wrap helps reduce food waste since it's made from the seeds of fruits like avocado, jackfruit and durian.

Emmy Kwan

SMALL, MEDIUM OR LIT: THE STORY OF A HOT HIDEOUT

Did you know that campus mala spot A Hot Hideout was started by three NTU students? HEY! student writer Emmy Kwan gets the spicy details of how they cooked up a winning formula

With their legendary fluffy scrambled eggs, deep fried potato and lotus root slices, A Hot Hideout has become an iconic mala eatery at NTU, drawing long lines daily for their tasty soups and mala stir-fry.

Hall 12 buddies Lee Ray Sheng (Ray), Ye Anran and Zechary Hoe, then second-year undergrads, kicked off their foodie adventure in 2020 with a fried beehoon stall at the former Canteen 13. From there, they rolled out NTU's first supper truck.

Before the year was out, the trio dived into the competitive mala space. They set up A Hot Hideout's very first restaurant at NTU's North Hill halls.



The founders (from left): Anran, Zechary and Ray with a friend.

FIERY CHEMISTRY

The co-founders, who studied computer science, data science and computer engineering respectively, had fiery chemistry.

"We had zero business background and can't really cook, but we were resourceful and loved working together. We did plenty of R&D and looked into locals' likes and dislikes to create A Hot Hideout's Singapore-style mala, which is less 'numbing' compared to Sichuan-style mala," says Ray.

With his computer science skills, Ray even built a simple accounting app to track every transaction, complete with a dashboard to analyse anything from ingredient cost to customer preferences.

Since then, things have only heated up. From its humble debut in October 2020, A Hot Hideout's revenue has reached eight figures annually. With a shiny new central kitchen to standardise their flavours and quality, they've just fired up a fifth outlet at the National University of Singapore. More good news: Orchard, Simei and Punggol might be next.

STUDENTS, START COOKING NOW

If you're looking for a sign to launch a business, Ray's advice should whet your appetite. "I encourage you to start while in uni. You'll have time to explore and develop your vision as you go along. As a student, you can afford to take more risks, since you may have fewer family or financial commitments," he says.

Of course, that doesn't mean you should take your venture lightly. In fact, the team attributes their success to treating A Hot Hideout like a full-time job. They set revenue targets and timelines and discussed when to pull the plug if they didn't turn a profit.

Balancing school and business can be challenging, but help is always available. "I've found that many local industry veterans are open and willing to share their expertise," says Ray. "Join lots of networking events and go prepared. Be direct, specific and respectful when you approach them – state the advice you need, explain your business and outline your target audience," he adds.



The founders with the senior management team of A Hot Hideout.

SIMMERING WITH SUCCESS

Today, just two years after graduating, Ray and Anran lead over 80 employees at A Hot Hideout. As with any adventure, sacrifice is necessary. Ray left his role at McKinsey, and Anran turned down a high-paying consulting job offer to focus on the business full time.

Next on their plate? Expanding to seven outlets by March 2025. It's sure to be a sizzling ride ahead.



The fourth outlet at Junction 10 in Bukit Panjang, which opened in September.

HEY! AR

SCAN THIS VISUAL to win a $20 A Hot Hideout voucher for your next hearty meal with fam

Ray's spicy confessions

What's your recommended order?

"Our signature mala collagen soup, paired with deep-fried items perfect for dipping. Be sure to select 'separate deep-fried items' when ordering. My go-to ingredients are cheese tofu, cheese balls, marinated pork slices and vegetables like cabbage and broccoli to sweeten the soup. Don't forget to top it off with our scrambled eggs that make the broth extra creamy."

When is the best time to eat at A Hot Hideout?

"Between 2pm and 5pm – our off-peak hours. This applies to all our outlets. You can opt for delivery, but it is pricier and not the full experience."

Any spicy stories?

"Back when we were testing mala recipes, a friend always opted for 'chao ji da la', or 'extra big' spice level. When she tried our recipe, her whole face turned red. So, I don't recommend going for the extra spicy option. After all, mala is meant to be enjoyable. You should leave with a smile, not tears!"

HEY! STUDENT WRITER



Emmy loves coming up with stories to connect with readers. She also reads, paints and contemplates what life will be like as a soon-to-be working adult.

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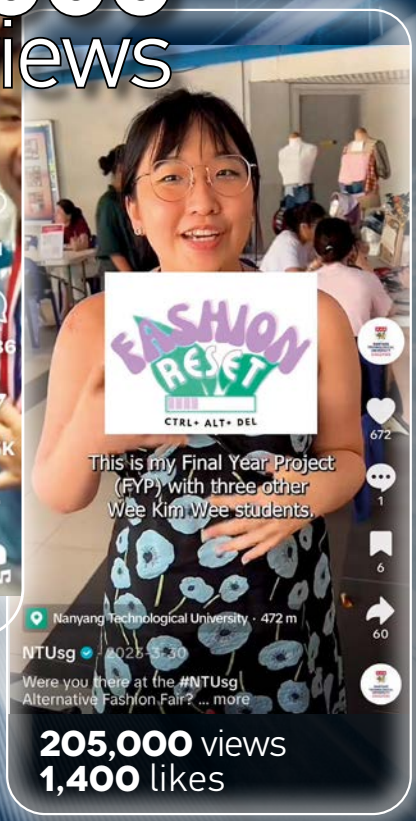
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