In the late afternoon sun of 17 April 2015, a large inflatable ‘gladiator battle’ platform was delivered to the grounds of Residential College 4 (RC4). In the Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH), members of the Yale-NUS community set up audiovisual equipment. Colourful, vibrant decorations were hung all around RC4, with signs that pointed one way for cricket, others for foosball, snacks and food, and arm wrestling.

At 10 minutes to 6 pm, a snaking queue of 500 construction workers formed along the walkway from the Yale-NUS permanent campus’ worksite to RC4.

The CAMPOS Carnival had come to RC4, and the guests-of-honour couldn’t wait for it to start.

The carnival, organised by the student organisation – the Committee for Appreciating and Meeting People On Site (CAMPOS) – was a huge success. The students of CAMPOS had 40 student volunteers helping out during the carnival, to run booths, games and to participate in activities with the workers and have a good time. The workers mostly hailed from China, India and Bangladesh.

“We wanted to bring people together in the most natural and universal of ways – having fun,” shared John Reid (Class of 2017), one of the founders of CAMPOS.

“The site fence is more than just a physical barrier, it is a segregation between the migrant workers and the rest of society. In our own small way, we wanted to reach across that fence and have genuine interaction in a way that wasn’t top-down or forced.”

Over the last two years, CAMPOS organised four major events to connect the Yale-NUS community and the workers building the permanent Yale-NUS campus. From setting up a photo booth on site and providing stamps and envelopes for workers to mail photos back home, to a Chinese New Year celebratory dinner, CAMPOS events have brought to life the organisation’s clearly defined mission of appreciating the hard work of migrant workers.

“We wanted to combine the best elements from our previous events – scale, appreciation, and quality of interaction… For this event [compared to past events], we massively increased the amount of time and interaction with each worker,” John explained.

Towards the end of the evening, the atmosphere in the MPH was bursting with energy, as workers, students, and staff sang and danced enthusiastically. One student band performed three songs in different languages, to cater to the variety of languages spoken amongst the workers: one in English, one in Mandarin, and one in Bengali.

“At Yale-NUS, we value learning about community wherever we come into contact with it,” said Tara Dear (Class of 2017), who was a central figure on the dancefloor.

“The carnival was an ideal way of showing our appreciation for the construction workers and creating a space where staff, students and workers could all interact with one another in a lighthearted and meaningful way.”

When the Yale-NUS permanent campus is completed, this group of workers will no longer be working at Yale-NUS, and CAMPOS will need to decide on a new direction to take in terms of their mission.

“Two possible directions we are thinking of expanding in are an advocacy or appreciation group for the larger migrant worker population in Singapore, or a service appreciation group for any future workers and staff on our new campus,” said John.

Whichever they decide, we’re sure we’ll hear of another event from them in the near future!
The College will warmly welcome Dr Patricia Craig as Dean of International & Professional Experience in the new academic year, beginning July 2015.

In addition to her deanship, Dr Craig will also be Resident Fellow in Elm College, one of the three residential colleges in Yale-NUS. As Resident Fellow, she will play a key role in the development of the residential college culture as she engages with students to help them reach their fullest potential, and enhances the intellectual atmosphere of residential college life.

A highly accomplished administrator and scholar, Dr Craig is currently the Executive Director of Wheelock College, Singapore. There she spent a very successful three years overseeing its undergraduate and graduate programmes as well as developing new partnerships in Asia for Wheelock, a college whose home campus is in Boston, and is a member of the Colleges of the Fenway.

“I am thrilled to be joining Yale-NUS,” shared Dr Craig. “I was attracted not only by the astounding quality of the students and faculty, but also by the idea of being able to contribute to the mission of creating a model of global education for citizens in an interdependent and highly complex world.”

At Yale-NUS, Dr Craig will helm the Centre for International and Professional Experience (CIPE), a team that manages a portfolio of global opportunities designed to enhance our students’ academic learning, broaden their perspectives and hone the skills and character they need to succeed as students today and leaders tomorrow. CIPE encompasses four pillars: International Programmes, Co-curricular Programmes, Career Services, and Leadership and Global Citizenship.

One of CIPE’s flagship programmes is Week 7: Learning Across Boundaries, where students can apply for overseas learning trips led by faculty members. Another unique initiative is Mystery Internships, where students are only told of their overseas internship destination just before embarking on their journey.

Through such programming, CIPE seeks to encourage Yale-NUS students to expand their boundaries and capabilities, and expose themselves to new challenges. Being well-situated in Singapore, students are exposed to both regional and global opportunities.

“That [Yale-NUS’] home is Singapore makes perfect sense for this kind of venture, as it is a country that truly sees itself at the forefront of the development of exciting ideas,” said Dr Craig.

She added: “And for me, the fact that part of the institution’s DNA is from Yale, my alma mater, made it irresistible.”

Dr Craig obtained a BA in Economics from Swarthmore College, a liberal arts institution, before furthering her studies with an MA and PhD in Sociology from Yale University.

Before making her mark on Wheelock, Dr Craig was based at Harvard University, first at the Harvard Institute for International Development, where she gained extensive experience in Asia on institutional and economic development, then as Executive Director at the Minda de Gunzberg Center for European Studies, where she founded and ran the centre’s Study Group on Higher Education in Europe. Dr Craig also created a successful series of breakfast talks, where undergraduates could meet with visiting global leaders, and grew the range of internships offered by the centre, widening its breadth to include sectors like the arts, government, finance and fashion.

A prolific scholar, Dr Craig regularly publishes her work in academic journals, co-authored the book The Quality of Life in Rural Asia, and periodically contributes insightful columns to local newspapers The Straits Times and TODAY. She also serves on several boards, including two nonprofit organisations, Writing Through, based in London and Siem Reap, Cambodia, and WorldBoston in Boston.
In early 2015, two Nobel Laureates visited Yale-NUS as part of the 5th ASEAN Bridges event.

This series of talks, organised by the International Peace Foundation (IPF), aim to create an independent platform for dialogue and humanitarian support to encourage better cooperation for the promotion of peace, freedom and security. Professor Brian Schmidt, 2011 Nobel Laureate for Physics at the Australian National University’s Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, and Dr Mohamed ElBaradei, 2005 Nobel Laureate for Peace, spoke at NUS and visited students at Yale-NUS during their time in Singapore.

Professor Schmidt and his team won the Nobel Prize for Physics for their discovery of an accelerating universe. On 21 January 2015 at the NUS Shaw Foundation Alumni House, he discussed the development and role of science in the modern world during his talk titled, 'Science: Humanity’s universal bridge’.

“Science could provide the means to prosperity,” Professor Schmidt said during the talk, “but only if humanity is willing to share the world, the technology, and the affluence that each person on Earth wants for their own.”

He added, “I’m not naive enough to say everything is going to work via science.”

Professor Charles Bailyn, Dean of Faculty at Yale-NUS College, joined Dr Schmidt for the question-and-answer segment, where they discussed international scientific collaborations, climate change and the biggest challenges facing the world in the 21st century.

On 11 February 2015, Dr Mohamed ElBaradei, the 2005 Nobel Laureate for Peace and former Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency from 1997 to 2009, gave a talk titled, ‘Global Equity and Security: Towards a Peaceful and Human World’. Speaking about the need for international security and a global understanding of humanity, he also discussed the global dangers that are no longer confined to borders, and issues including nuclear armament, poverty, and climate change.

He noted, “Equity, compassion, and above all, human solidarity, should be our compass... We need to think differently, and act differently.”

Dean’s Fellow Samson Berhane said, “He’s an advocate for humanity.”

Listening to Dr ElBaradei provided perspectives on the effects of poverty and religious extremism with reference to the threat of nuclear war. This was something I never considered before.”

At the end of the talk, both Dr ElBaradei and Professor Kishore Mahbubani, Dean of the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (NUS), took questions from the audience about nuclear proliferation and solutions to the issues at hand.

The first ASEAN Bridges programme took place in 2003 and has since featured 42 Nobel Laureates and 20 other keynote speakers and artists. Mr Uwe Morawetz, the founding chairman of the IPF said, “The aim of Bridges is to facilitate and strengthen dialogue and communication between the scientists in Southeast Asia with their multiple cultures and faith, as well as other people in other parts of the world, to promote understanding and trust.”

The Bridges programme concluded in March 2015 with a visit to Singapore by Professor Ada Yonath, the 2009 Nobel Laureate for Chemistry.
In March 2015, Yale-NUS students launched the Yale-NUS College Arts Fest 2015, a collaborative festival that celebrated the arts through a series of activities, including events, workshops and exhibitions.

The Arts Fest Planning Committee was formed by a group of students from both the freshman and sophomore years who have a likeminded passion and enthusiasm for the arts. With support and guidance from Professor Mark Joyce, Director of Art at Yale-NUS, and the Educational Resources & Technology (ERT) department’s Art and Media staff, the students held a month-long series of well-attended activities.

"It has always been clear that Yale-NUS houses amazing talent, and that the art scene here is bustling – we have always had enough content to fill a festival!" said Jevon Chandra (Class of 2017), the Director of the Planning Committee. "Organising a festival was thus the next natural step; an overarching event that will provide the arts scene in the College with a synergy it deserves."

With the impending move to the College’s permanent campus coming up, the festival was aptly themed ‘Before we leave’, and included commemorative artistic ventures for the community to enjoy.

Jevon explained that the Planning Committee wanted the theme to be relevant to the community, "something that's both universally relatable but time-specific to where we are as a College".

In line with the theme, some of the festival activities involved the Yale-NUS community interacting with its temporary home in Residential College 4 (RC4).

For instance, 'Stairwell to Heaven' was an experiential performance that aimed to commemorate the many steps taken for each project, interaction or initiative created while at the temporary campus. From musicians and singers to spoken word poets, the much-used stairwell was filled with a beautiful cacophony of sound that echoed into the hallways.

Other activities looked at the people in the community. 'Get Your Head Shot', was a photography project by Janel Ang (Class of 2017) that captured the faces of students from the pioneering batches of students. The black-and-white photographs document the vibrant identities that form the diverse student body, and were displayed in the Dining Hall throughout the Arts Fest.

Beyond the internal community, the Arts Fest also showcased Yale-NUS' strong ties with and care for the wider community. One such event was CANVAS, which aimed to bring art into the lives of foreign domestic workers through a series of art workshops. The students from The G Spot and the Visual Arts Society (VAS) invited foreign workers from the Humanitarian Organization for Migrant Economics (HOME) Women's Shelter to participate; HOME is a nonprofit organisation that provides free, temporary accommodation for female migrant workers in Singapore.

"The workers' portraits of each other and paintings of what 'home' means to them were complemented by displayed quotes from VAS instructors about their experiences interacting with the workers, and a screened video of the workshop process."

Sherice Ngaserin (Class of 2018), a G Spot member and another main organiser, said that her group was inspired to organise CANVAS after witnessing the National Library Board’s Migrant Worker Poetry Competition held last year.

"The Migrant Worker Poetry Competition was an astounding initiative that reminded us of art’s power to humanise and break down barriers," Sherice explained. "We knew from the beginning that the final product would hinge on [the workers'] experiences and aspirations, and we definitely wouldn't have undertaken this project if we hadn't been drawn to their powerful stories."

Students bring art to the community
Text by Clare Isabel Ee | Image by Bozy Lu
Jolovan Wham, executive director of HOME, commented that the foreign domestic workers enjoyed themselves thoroughly.

“The women liked it so I am positive about the programme. It was a good opportunity for them to learn, do something different and express themselves,” he said.

Sherice added: “Some of the foreign domestic workers who attended the CANVAS exhibition were already asking us to do the workshops again next year. While we haven’t made any concrete plans, there has been some discussion about exploring different artistic mediums and increasing the scale of the project to accommodate more participants.”

By the end of the month, the Arts Fest had hosted a few workshops, including a theatre workshop by Ms Sharda Harrison; a songwriting showcase; performances by various groups; and plays put up by the Yale-NUS drama group, The Fifth Wall.

The festival ended with a closing ceremony held at the Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH), with many from the Yale-NUS community in attendance.

As for future arts festivals, Jevon shared that they would like to see even more open concepts applied to such events, so that each individual in the community would be included.

“We tried as much as possible to make the festival something that is by everyone as it is for everyone, but I think more can be done in this aspect,” he said. “Also, given that we’re a liberal arts college, it is only logical that we try to integrate the traditional camps of arts, sciences, humanities, and so forth! I do think that this integration is a worthwhile endeavour, for I believe that the arts, in one form or another, do have the potential to be meaningful for everyone.”

“It has always been clear that Yale-NUS houses amazing talent, and that the art scene here is bustling – we have always had enough content to fill a festival!”
In the early hours on the morning of Sunday, 1 March 2015, 19 Yale-NUS students returned from their weeklong trip to Yale University, jet-lagged from their 30-hour travel, but filled with ideas and memories that they wanted to share with their fellow Yale-NUS students.

The trip to Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut, was organised by the Yale-NUS Dean of Students (DOS) office. These 19 students represented seven student groups across the student body, ranging from the College newspaper, The Octant, to residential life groups like the Yale-NUS buttery, fondly named The Shiok Shack.

At Yale, the students met with student organisations that were similar to their own, to build connections, share ideas and learn from one another’s experiences. The trip gave them the opportunity to explore areas of interest specific to each of them and their student groups. The DOS office also organised over 30 meetings with various Yale groups, including the Yale College Council, Yale’s Community Health Educators, the Yale Daily News and a number of college councils and butteries. Several meetings were also held with Yale and Yale-NUS leadership, and with Yale-NUS students currently spending a semester at Yale.

Kevin Low, Class of 2017, found it very useful to be able to observe Yale’s established student organisations. As the Improv Comedy Conglomerate’s student representative, and a pioneer member of the group, he observed the culture forged in Yale as a model that could and should be adapted by his own group in Yale-NUS.

“One of the biggest things I took away from meeting the Yale improv groups is how tightly-knitted their friendship was, even outside the troupe,” he explained. “They’re a social circle; they’re not just people who come together to do improv. I think that really improves their performance, because if they are comfortable enough to play off each other outside of improv, they’d be comfortable enough to riff off each other during a performance.”

He added: “We’re looking to see how we can cultivate this same kind of culture in our own Yale-NUS Improv Comedy Conglomerate.”

Despite the hectic schedule, time was carved out for students to attend morning lectures on various topics of interest, varying from Geology and Geophysics to the History of Food, and explore New Haven’s art galleries, coffee shops and libraries.

On Sunday, many students took the opportunity to visit friends, get orientated around New Haven, and see more of the Yale campus. The two representatives from the Improv Comedy Conglomerate used it as a chance to lead a day trip to New York to go sightseeing, as well as watching a live improv show and a Broadway musical, A Gentleman’s Guide to Love and Murder.

John Reid, Class of 2017, who represented P.S. We Care, a community welfare group, felt that the trip had been “a very good balance of structured programming and responsibility with free time, and the chance to explore and meet people”.

The trip was also a chance for students to experience residential life in some of Yale’s iconic residential colleges. For the last three nights of the trip, each student was assigned to a suite from the Jonathan Edwards, Berkeley, Morse or Ezra Stiles residential colleges. Yale students staying in those suites partnered a Yale-NUS student each and were tasked with showing them around the university. Breakfast meetings were held in the dining halls of different residential colleges each morning, which allowed the Yale-NUS group to experience the different social settings (and various breakfast options).

After the whirlwind of activity, the 19 students now face the challenge of bringing what they learnt back to the rest of the College community. In a post-trip survey conducted by The Octant, during which the students reflected on the learning points from their trip, they expressed the wish to build an effective forum that would enable more voices to be heard in the wide Yale-NUS community.

“We’re looking to see how we can cultivate this same kind of culture in our own Yale-NUS Improv Comedy Conglomerate.”
Community. Recurring themes from the survey results also included the need to build effective foundations within Yale-NUS, remain flexible and foster commitment within the individual student organisations.

For John and P.S. We Care, the group is looking to hold interactive sessions with the wider Yale-NUS student body, and feels that the students who went on the trip should “come up with their own proposals and concrete ideas for projects that they want to implement [on campus]”.

With all the experiences gained from the trip, there will be much to share and build over the next few years.

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**Portraits of Jerusalem**

Text by Melissa Wang | Image by Sarah Novak

Considered a holy site to three major religions – Judaism, Christianity and Islam, Jerusalem is one of the oldest cities in the world, and stands at the core of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Led by Professors Anne Kreps and Robin Hemley, 15 Yale-NUS students visited sacred spaces in Jerusalem from 20 to 28 February 2015, in a bid to understand why Jerusalem seems mired in so much conflict.

The students documented their experiences in the form of travel writing. By interviewing and speaking with a multitude of people who live in the complex city, they translated their experiences into written portraits. These will subsequently be collated in a college publication, which will showcase the diverse perspectives of sacred history in contemporary Israel.

While this Learning Across Boundaries (LAB) programme was not intended to be a religious heritage trip, the religious element held much appeal for some students.

Herman Lim bin Adam Lim, Class of 2018, noted that Jerusalem remains the volatile epicentre of the three great monotheistic religions that continues to shape even interpersonal relations today. Growing up in a Muslim household, he jumped at the opportunity to visit the city.

“It was hard to believe that my college was presenting me with the opportunity to visit an area of conflict that has been so close to my heart,” Herman shared.

Through the site visits and interviews, students had their perceptions of the conflict challenged. “This LAB really made me realise the true value of an open mind, and of tolerance,” said Sarah Novak, Class of 2018. “It was overwhelmingly sad to see how a physical space could cause so much tension.”

Herman echoed these sentiments and noted how the plethora of narratives they encountered deconstructed the notion of a clear oppressor and clear victim.

“Humanity is never black or white, and everyone’s experience is valid.”

Sarah added: “People are just people, and we are more similar than we might admit. This was something I could never have realised, had I not been there to see it with my own eyes.”

About LABs

LABs provide students with an opportunity for experiential learning in the global classroom. These LABs reinforce the importance and relevance of the curriculum by exploring intersecting themes in their broader contexts. Past LABs have included an intensive study of Japanese Buddhist philosophy, society and culture in Kyoto; a journey through Literary Burma exploring classic works from the colonial period through to contemporary works of non-fiction, poetry and film; and a trip studying biodiversity and conducting fieldwork in Somiedo National Park in northern Spain.

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“Humanity is never black or white, and everyone’s experience is valid.”
Industry internships at Yale-NUS
Text and image by Clare Isabel Ee

In today’s competitive job market, internships and work placements will enable new graduates to stand out amongst their peers.

At Yale-NUS, the Centre for International and Professional Experience (CIPE) Career Services team has been working hard to provide a range of opportunities for students to experience during their four years with the College. These opportunities fall mainly in three categories: the Student Associates Programme, summer research programmes, and internships. The programmes and internships are structured to enable students to gain the most knowledge and professional experience while maximising their contribution to the organisations they work with.

“These opportunities will allow students to build their self-awareness, identify their career beacons and help them seek meaningful and fulfilling life paths,” explained Linus Mok, Programme Manager with Career Services. “Many of our interns come back with new perspectives, renewed confidence, and a much better understanding of the industry after their summer stints.”

Most internships are eight to 10-week full-time positions during the long mid-year break, so that students get an immersive experience in the company they are attached to. Chua Wan Ping, Liam Rahman and Mariel Chee (Class of 2017) are three sophomores who have taken up internships with three very different local companies in 2014.

For Wan Ping, her eight-week long experience was with the newly formed corporate social responsibility department of Potato Productions, a media and technology company. She wanted to experience how start-ups work in real life, having had a small taste of it during a start-up competition she took part in.

“I remember going for the interview [at Potato Productions] and being surprised when there was a ‘no shoe policy’ in the office. The boss conducted the interview in a T-shirt and jeans and we spent a good hour discussing why doing good in businesses matter;” she shared. “I knew then that this was where I wanted to work.”

Her boss, she said, was very invested in her learning, and made her experience a very valuable one. Wan Ping’s duties involved meeting with non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and creating business proposals for them. She was also involved in hosting, photographing, and recording events co-hosted by NGOs and Potato Productions.

“Even though I was just an intern, we were brought along on business discussions,” she said. “CIPE wanted to push us out of our comfort zones and I think this internship definitely did. Having to hear that my proposal was mediocre was not easy, but it definitely humbled me and made me want to learn more.”

Her most memorable moment, she said, was when she completed her first video with a fellow intern.

“I have never done something like that before, and even though it had little to do with businesses, it gave me another skill that I could take away,” she explained. “By the time we finished it, I had listened to the soundtrack we used at least 200 times... finishing it was definitely a highlight.”

For Liam, the highlights of his 10-week internship at Green Marine Capital (GMC), a maritime technology investment partnership, was getting the opportunity to board a gas carrier vessel for a day, and the approval of a team’s investment in Corvus Energy, a lithium ion battery manufacturer.

“I am very interested in business, finance and entrepreneurship. Venture capital, therefore, was a perfect fit for me,” Liam said. “Interning with GMC also enabled me to gain an in-depth immersion into a specific sector – shipping.”

In particular, it helped him learn how to effectively assess investment opportunities using a range of qualitative and quantitative methods, a skill that would be an asset in his future career.

“While the work was demanding, I felt fully supported and I learnt a great deal about venture capital and the shipping industry,” he said. “I was given a great deal of responsibility to contribute to the team’s work in a meaningful way.”

Similarly, Mariel found that she was trusted with many responsibilities during her internship at the Keppel Centre for Art Education in National Gallery Singapore, and most importantly, she was warmly welcomed as part of the team.

“I got the sense that the
organisation cared deeply about the people and saw the value in maximising everyone's potential,” Mariel said. “As someone who intends to pilot her own arts education programme, I thought it was necessary to learn the ins and outs of a large corporate organisation. I also knew that the National Gallery was a huge project in the pipeline, and was excited that I could be somehow involved in it while it was still in its infancy.”

Besides her main duties of conducting research, cataloguing artwork and copyediting publicity materials, Mariel was given the invaluable chance to be involved in a board meeting, concerning the winning design proposal for an art connector.

“It was monumental, as directors from major art and cultural organisations sat alongside renowned artists. I saw, for the first time, the process by which important decisions were made,” she said of the unique experience. “That was pretty cool.”

Discovering Chinese culture in the arts
Text by Amelia Chew | Image provided by Petrus Liu

From 20 to 27 September 2014, a group of students in the Modern Chinese Literature and Film course led by Associate Professor of Humanities Petrus Liu headed to Beijing and Shanghai for a week to explore the way modern Chinese culture is represented in the arts.

The trip, organised by Adelle Lim and Ng Teng Kuan from the College’s Centre for International and Professional Experience (CIPE), was partially sponsored by the Tan Chin Tuan Foundation through the Tan Chin Tuan Programme in Culture & Civilisation. It brought to life the various texts and films which Yale-NUS students discussed in class, ranging from the 1986 novel Red Sorghum by Mo Yan to the 2007 film Lust, Caution directed by Ang Lee. The fund contributed by the foundation aims to promote greater understanding about China and Chinese culture.

As Professor Liu had designed the course based on the pedagogy of experiential learning, 20 percent of the course was allocated to students’ individual projects, which had to incorporate material collected from the trip. During the trip, the group participated in a roundtable discussion with faculty and students from the Beijing Film Academy to learn about Chinese film history, visited the Lu Xun Museum in Beijing and conducted interviews with Chinese filmmakers, among other activities. Students were challenged to compare the representations of social issues that they explored in class to their own first-hand experiences on the trip and translate their reflections into a creative medium.

The resultant projects spanned a diverse array of media, from film and screenplay to blackout poetry (where some words in an existing text are ‘blacked out’ to create a new meaning), and creative short stories, and were showcased in a symposium open to the Yale-NUS community.

For example, Chua Wan Ping, Class of 2017 and recipient of the Toh Chin Chye Study Award, wrote an adapted screenplay based on the novel The Golden Cangue by Eileen Chang and managed to stage a portion of it featuring fellow students in the course as actors. Meanwhile, Toh Hui Ran, Class of 2017, produced a short film that compared the representations of modern China in literature to the individual experiences of the Chinese people, using footage she had shot during the trip.

For many of the students, the opportunity to explore Beijing and Shanghai completed their experience in the course as they were intimately exposed to the recurring themes of Chinese identity, colonial modernity and nostalgia.

Reflecting on her experience, Wan Ping shared: “It was definitely a challenge to take that experience and translate it into creative expression, but that really maximised the learning I gained from the course.”

“It was definitely a challenge to take that experience and translate it into creative expression, but that really maximised the learning I gained from the course.”
Saza Faradilla, Class of 2018, is a recipient of the Global Leader Scholarship award that was established by a donor.

Since entering Yale-NUS, the energetic freshman has involved herself in many facets of academia and residential life – from joining various student organisations, to gamely participating in school sporting events and cultivating her strong personal interest in non-profit endeavours. She highlights some of her College experiences so far.

**Why did you choose to come to Yale-NUS?**
Apart from the abundance of opportunities Yale-NUS presents, I chose Yale-NUS because of the people I met during the Experience Yale-NUS Weekend. They were immensely talented in whatever arena they chose to cultivate their passions in, but what struck me most was the character and humility each person exuded. No one boasted about their achievements, because they didn’t feel the need to. I realised then that this is the sort of environment I would love to be in – one where I am constantly inspired by the accolades and initiative of the people around me, and where I strive to excel with grace and humility.

**How have you found the College experience so far?**
I feel extremely blessed to be able to live and study in an institution which is so diverse, and is helping to build the stairs for me to achieve my potential. I especially cherish the conversations through which I gain the opportunity to learn from my peers. Living a few doors or floors away from friends makes for very fun shared experiences, be it going for supper or celebrating birthdays.

**What activities and student organisations are you involved in?**
I’m currently involved in a couple of activities, including the Yale-NUS International Relations and Political Association (YIRPA), Netball and the G-spot. I was really excited to serve as Under-Secretary General for Delegate Liaisons at the Asia-Pacific Model United Nations (APMUN) that Yale-NUS hosted, especially because it was the largest MUN Conference in Singapore and possibly Asia! I just picked up netball in College, and it’s been a tonne of fun – playing, laughing and crying with the other girls!

A pet project that I’m pioneering is KidsAccomplish, an enrichment programme for upper primary school students that aims to develop holistic and curious youths who possess social and international awareness. With a three-tiered programme of the Global, Community and Individual, we hope to be able to develop youths with character who will thrive in an ever-changing 21st century.

**Describe Yale-NUS in three words.**
Brimming with innovation.

**Describe yourself in three words.**
Energy, optimism, vibrancy.

**What are your top three hopes for the college?**
I hope that Yale-NUS will continue to be a hotbed of ideas where diverse opinions and values are discussed freely. As Yale-NUS grows, I am expecting more community service projects, because we should be able to give back considering the amount of opportunities we are given. Finally, I hope that the spirit of Yale-NUS, where people treat one another kindly and respectfully, continues.

**How have you benefitted from the scholarship?**
During junior college, when I wasn’t a recipient of a scholarship or financial aid, I had to double up as a tuition teacher in the evenings and a student in the day. It was really tough juggling my schoolwork with extra-curricular commitments and, on top of that, giving tuition. This scholarship has really helped me enjoy actual schooling – taking part in College sports, dialogues, symposiums – as well as taking my learning out of the classroom without having to worry about finances.