

YALE-NUS IS HOME

YEAR
IN
REVIEW
2015





Vision

**A community of learning,
Founded by two great universities,
In Asia, for the world.**

Mission

**Yale-NUS College, a residential
college located in Singapore,
aims to redefine liberal arts and
science education for a complex,
interconnected world.**

A community of learning

We are a diverse group of students, faculty, staff, and supporters, dedicated to building a community in which living and learning are intertwined and habits of creativity, curiosity, and critical thinking are encouraged. Our innovative curriculum integrates knowledge from across the disciplines and around the world.

Founded by two great universities

An intimate liberal arts college, dedicated to undergraduate education, Yale-NUS draws on the resources and traditions of two great universities. We pursue excellence through innovative teaching and research, and we provide global opportunities for our students.

In Asia

Our location at the crossroads of Asia informs our pedagogy. Drawing on active modes of learning associated with American liberal arts education, we introduce our students to the diverse intellectual traditions and cultures of Asia and the world.

For the world

We educate citizens of the world and uphold the principles of free exchange of ideas, pluralism, and respect for diversity. Our extra-curricular and residential programmes support student learning and encourage an ethic of service. By our example, we seek to spur innovation in higher education across the globe.



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Message from the President



Five years ago, a new community of learning was born out of a partnership between two leading universities, the National University of Singapore (NUS), which is over 100 years old, and Yale University, which was founded over 300 years ago. In October, we inaugurated the beautiful new home of the young child of these two parents: Yale-NUS College. Yale-NUS has striven over the past few years to reimagine liberal education for this century. We draw on the traditions of liberal arts education from New England colleges since before the American Revolution, the strengths and diversity of Singaporean education as it has developed over the last century, and on the historic traditions of learning from both Asia and the West.

We are dedicated to the principles that underpin advanced learning; we cherish free inquiry, open discussion, respect for a diversity of views, and the constant quest for knowledge. Our student body is filled with outstanding students from Singapore and around the world regardless of circumstances, and we prize merit and excellence when it is found.

Our faculty are great scholars devoted to undergraduate education, and in creating our innovative curriculum seek to answer one question: What must a young person learn in order to lead a responsible life in this century? From the sciences to statistics and quantitative methods, to the techniques of modern scholarship, to the great works of our shared heritage – we

want our students to learn what is useful and inquire about what is just, but also to appreciate what is beautiful.

It is clear that all our staff, from those managing the grounds to those in academic affairs and administration, have great commitment to the mission of Yale-NUS in creating the best environment to enable our students to receive the highest quality of education possible.

Our new campus, designed by Forum Architects Pte Ltd and Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects, magnificently bridges East and West and provides a conducive setting for our educational programmes.

The College has not sprung from the ground without great effort. We had the opportunity in 2015 to celebrate the achievements of all those who have been involved in building the College from scratch. In October, the College hosted two events to mark the milestone of moving to our brand-new permanent home. At the Inauguration of the Yale-NUS College Campus, we welcomed as our guest-of-honour Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, who has led Singapore so ably for over a decade and who has shown an enduring commitment to expanding educational opportunities. We were also delighted to have faculty, trustees and other leaders of both Yale and NUS join us to mark this special occasion.

At our inaugural Symposium on International Liberal Education, we welcomed leaders from over 30 sister colleges and universities

around the world, who discussed the future of liberal education in an international context and celebrated with us the continuity of the endeavour for academic excellence. These included the leaders of historic universities like University of Oxford, Paris-Sorbonne University, and Shanghai Jiao Tong University, the Presidents of sister colleges in the United States such as Vassar College and Pomona College, and leaders from more recently established institutions such as Seoul National University, The Chinese University of Hong Kong and Chulalongkorn University.

“Let us continue to work together to build a community here in Asia that will educate citizens of the world for many generations to come.”

The new campus has given us the opportunity to expand our offerings in the arts and sciences, as well as our extracurricular programming. This annual report includes updates on many of these new undertakings. As our College grows, philanthropic gifts have continued to nurture possibilities at Yale-NUS. We are extremely grateful for the support we have received and recognise that every gift has made a difference to the College. Together, we have been able to provide impactful programmes, offered scholarships to talented

students, and made our Yale-NUS education accessible to students with financial needs through our study awards. We have also been able to attract stellar academics through our professorships and fellowships.

To those who have not yet become involved with Yale-NUS College, I invite you to visit our community of learning and allow us to welcome you to our new home. To the friends, students and colleagues who have helped us come this far, I give my heartfelt thanks – we have built a remarkable college and a beautiful campus. Let us continue to work together to build a community here in Asia that will educate citizens of the world for many generations to come.

Professor Pericles Lewis
*Founding President
Yale-NUS College*



OUR HOME

This year, we made ourselves at home in our brand new campus. Located at 16 College Avenue West in the National University of Singapore's (NUS) University Town, the beautiful campus is filled with state-of-the-art facilities and lush greenery, and gives us the room to truly grow our community of living and learning.

Inauguration of the Yale-NUS College Campus

Yale-NUS' permanent campus was officially inaugurated by Singapore's Prime Minister, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, on 12 October 2015. The ceremony was also graced by Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) & Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence, Mr Ong Ye Kung, and over 30 university leaders from around the globe, including Vice-Chancellor Andrew Hamilton, University of Oxford; Professor Richard Levin, President Emeritus, Yale University, and Chief Executive Officer, Coursera; President Zhang Jie, Shanghai Jiao Tong University; President Barthélemy Jobert, Paris-Sorbonne University; President David W Oxtoby, Pomona College; President and Vice-Chancellor Joseph JY Sung, The Chinese University of Hong Kong; and President Sung Nak-in, Seoul National University, who also attended the Symposium on International Liberal Education hosted by the College on 11 October.

“Yale-NUS College adds something different and valuable to Singapore’s educational ecosystem. It offers a unique experience for students, with its broad-based, liberal arts programme,” Prime Minister Lee said in his speech. “It will train students to think critically across disciplines and build up their communication and leadership skills.”



Prime Minister Lee addressing the College community

For many members of the Yale-NUS community who have seen this College grow since the beginning, it was an unforgettable day.

Students took the opportunity to remind the community of the construction workers who built the campus, with one group creating a video compilation of interviews with the workers, and another organising The Legacy Project, an exhibition that shows the different stages of building the campus.

In appreciation of Prime Minister Lee gracing the event, Yale-NUS College presented him with a 3D model sculpture of a three-sided helical pyramid, created by Parag Bhatnagar (Class of 2017).

The sculpture converges upwards in a tapering mathematical exponential function. Its three sides

represent the Trivium, the three disciplines of logic, rhetoric and grammar, which make up a traditional liberal arts and sciences education. They also embody the three residential colleges of Yale-NUS College at its base. The helical structure takes inspiration from the double-helix structure of DNA, symbolising our distinctive heritage and origins from the College’s parent institutions.

“Yale-NUS College adds something different and valuable to Singapore’s educational ecosystem.”

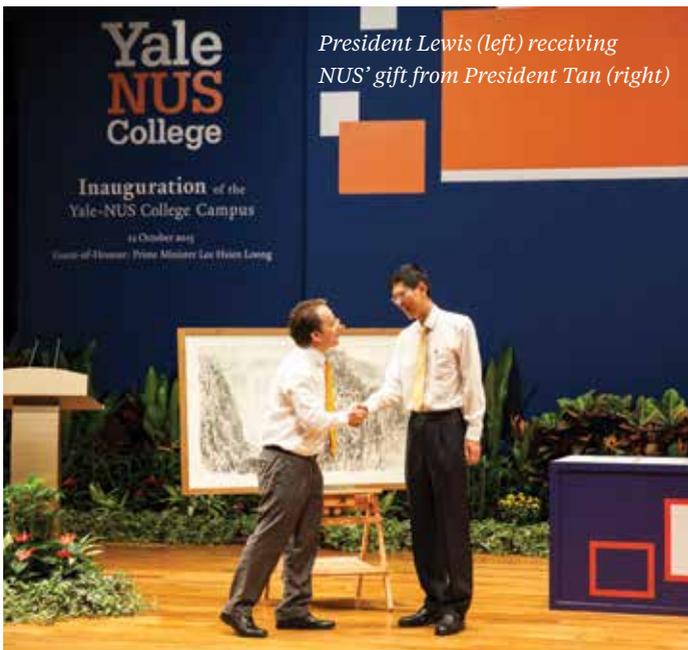
– Mr Lee Hsien Loong
Prime Minister of Singapore

Gifts from parent institutions

To commemorate the inauguration of the campus, Yale President Peter Salovey and National University of Singapore (NUS) President Tan Chorh Chuan each presented their institution's commemorative gift to Yale-NUS College.

Yale University presented a bronze statue of Nathan Hale, Yale College Class of 1773, a replica of an original statue of Hale that fronts Connecticut Hall, the oldest structure on Yale's campus. The gift from Yale, said President Salovey, represents the dedication from Yale to NUS and Yale-NUS College, and symbolises the devotion of the Yale-NUS community to learning and the service of their home countries and the world.

From NUS, the College was gifted with a specially-commissioned painting, created by President Tan. Entitled 'Spirit of the Explorer', the work was done in Chinese ink with colours on rice paper. The enchanting painting depicts a monumental landscape with different routes, some obvious and some subtly hidden, as a reminder that exploration comprises both external discovery of the world around us and self-discovery of the explorer's own personality. The 'Spirit of the Explorer', shared President Tan, represents the basis of NUS' and Yale's partnership in founding the unique and groundbreaking initiative that is Yale-NUS College, and the spirit that continues to drive the partnership between NUS and Yale-NUS.



President Lewis (left) receiving NUS' gift from President Tan (right)

Quotes from the community

"I came on board in 2010, so seeing the campus inaugurated is especially meaningful because for me, it started out as plans on paper. It's amazing because I've watched it being built while we were located in Residential College 4, and right now, being in the new campus also reminds me of how quickly the Yale-NUS community has grown into the vibrant, active institution it is today."

– Ms Alyson Rozells
Senior Manager, Public Affairs, and the first staff member to be hired at the College

"Although our students and staff had already brought the College to life, the campus adds much to our identity. Our ideals of learning in small classes, engaging in research, and conversing in a multitude of settings are reflected in and shaped by the thoughtful spaces."

– Dr Christopher Asplund
Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Psychology), and one of the inaugural faculty members

"Our team realised that the archives of photography, film, and interviews had much to offer not only in raising the technical understanding of our campus, but also in telling the stories of the people who had put so much into building the space we now call home... The curating team felt it was apt to pay a tribute during the campus inauguration weekend – while we celebrate our beautiful new school, let us remember what came before."

– Tan Heng Yeng
(Class of 2017), one of the four students who worked on The Legacy Project

Symposium on International Liberal Education

Over 30 university leaders from noted educational institutions across the globe attended the inaugural Symposium on International Liberal Education on 11 October 2015, where they discussed trends in higher education worldwide.

In his welcome remarks, Yale-NUS Founding President Pericles Lewis touched on the rich histories of liberal arts in Asia and the West, while Yale University President Peter Salovey presented the opening remarks on 'International Initiatives at Yale and the Strategic Importance of Yale-NUS'.

The first of two panel discussions highlighted the key moments in the founding of Yale-NUS College, with President Emeritus of Yale, Professor Richard Levin, and President of NUS, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, on the panel.

The second panel delved into 'The Future of International Liberal Education', and featured plenary presentations by Vice-Chancellor Andrew Hamilton, University of Oxford; President Zhang Jie, Shanghai Jiao Tong University; and President Catharine Bond Hill, Vassar College. Each spoke on the issues their universities



▲ President Lewis (left) seated with President Emeritus of Yale, Professor Levin (right)

are facing, and the trends they have noticed in higher education worldwide.

“Yale-NUS College already represents the best of both Asian and Western academic traditions; the creation of its new campus will reinforce its pioneering role,” commented Professor Hamilton.

He continued, “It’s an enormous pleasure, as a representative of one of the very oldest academic institutions in the world, to participate in the inauguration of one of the very newest. I am certain that Yale-NUS College will contribute enormously both to the free exchange of

ideas that characterises our shared academic endeavour and uphold the cherished ideals of academic freedom that are the bedrock of intellectual enquiry.”

The full day symposium was a key platform for building bridges and strengthening bonds between institutions from across the globe, and saw fruitful discussions throughout the day that centred around the future of liberal education.

Campus awards

Our campus was the first educational institute to be awarded the Landscape Excellence Assessment Framework (LEAF) certification given out by the National Parks Board (NParks). Since 2013, the LEAF certification has recognised efforts made to design and implement ecologically friendly landscapes.

Our Residential Colleges (RCs) have been deliberately designed to integrate green spaces, while a key feature of the campus is the Campus Green, a central space that was built with the theme of ‘Evolved Tropical Forest’ – different layers of plants cultivated to resemble a multi-layered, tropical forest. Six existing mature trees have also been conserved on site,

including a *Margaritaria indica*, a Heritage Tree that is one of its kind in Singapore.

“As a custodian of the magnificent heritage tree on site and with the privilege of building a learning environment in a city committed to the sustainable garden, we are proud to be the first educational institution to be recognised for landscape excellence,” said Mr Mark Francis, Director of Design and Construction, from July 2013 to June 2015.

The LEAF certification awarded in August 2014 and the Green Mark Platinum Award in May 2013 could not have been possible without the exemplary efforts of Forum Architects Pte Ltd, and Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects,

the two architectural firms that designed the campus.

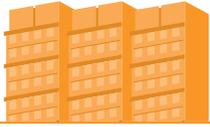
Forum Architects’ Mr Tan Kok Hiang was also named Designer of the Year at the President’s Design Award 2014. In its ninth year, the President’s Design Award is Singapore’s highest honour accorded to designers and designs from all design disciplines.

Having been awarded the most prestigious of Singapore’s design awards, Mr Tan commented: “I want to continue looking for openings and opportunities. Architecture is so much more than just space. It’s also about influencing people’s attitudes and lives, and always in relation to harmonious living.”



▲
The Yale-NUS Campus Green

The Yale-NUS College campus



3

residential colleges



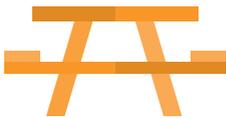
63,000

square metres



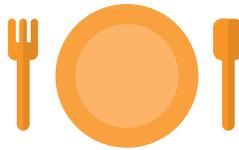
38

nationalities



3

courtyards



3

dining halls



1

black box theatre



25

classrooms



14

majors



7

science laboratories



1

heritage tree



1,022

student rooms



35

washers & dryers



Thank you for building our campus



▲ More than 500 workers enjoyed the CAMPOS Carnival

◀ Workers cheer on the gladiators

Since 2013, the Committee for Appreciating and Meeting People On Site (CAMPOS) student group has organised four major events to connect the Yale-NUS community with the workers who built 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 that allowed for workers to enjoy the warmth of a traditional Chinese ‘reunion dinner’, CAMPOS events have brought to life the organisation’s clearly defined mission of appreciating the hard work of migrant workers.

“We wanted to bring people together in the most natural

and universal of ways – having fun,” said 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,” he explained.

When the permanent campus was completed, CAMPOS threw a carnival to celebrate and show appreciation to all the workers who contributed their time and effort.

They enlisted 40 student volunteers to help out during

the carnival held on 17 April 2015, to provide food, 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.

Towards the end of the evening, the atmosphere at the carnival 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.

Workers in a gladiator battle at the CAMPOS Carnival.



“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.”

-Tara Dear
(Class of 2017), a founding member of CAMPOS



OUR COMMUN

The people of Yale-NUS create and drive the collegiate spirit that is getting stronger each day. From our innovative curriculum to the vibrant residential life activities, our community is a hub of ideas, discussions and initiatives.

A young man with dark hair, wearing a maroon polo shirt with white trim, is sitting at a wooden desk. He is smiling broadly, looking towards the left. He is holding a blue and yellow patterned pen in his right hand. On the desk in front of him is a stack of papers and a black pen. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

UNITY

New faces on campus

Executive Vice President of Administration

In August 2015, Yale-NUS College further strengthened its leadership team with the appointment of Ms Kristen Lynas as its Executive Vice President (Administration). Formerly the Director of Executive Programmes at INSEAD, Ms Lynas brings with her more than 14 years of experience within the higher

education industry. Ms Lynas manages Finance, Human Resources, Infrastructure, and Admissions & Financial Aid for Yale-NUS, succeeding Mrs Doris Sohmen-Pao, who moved on to her new role as Executive Vice President (Institutional Affairs) where she focuses on external relations for the College.

“Though I have spent many years working with several leading educational institutions across three continents, I was drawn strongly to Yale-NUS’ mission and vision as one of the pioneers of liberal arts pedagogy within Asia. I am thrilled to now be a part of its team and look forward to promoting such an innovative development in higher education.”

– Ms Kristen Lynas
Executive Vice President
(Administration)



Dean of International & Professional Experience

Dr Trisha Craig joined Yale-NUS as the Dean of International & Professional Experience in July 2015. She helms the Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE), a team that manages a portfolio of global opportunities encompassing four pillars: International Programmes, Co-curricular Programmes, Career Services, and Leadership and Global Citizenship.

A highly accomplished administrator and scholar, Dr Craig was previously the Executive Director of Wheelock College, Singapore. Before making her mark at Wheelock, Dr Craig was Executive Director at the Minda de Gunzberg Center for European Studies at Harvard University, where she also founded and ran the centre's Study Group on Higher Education in Europe.

“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.”

– Dr Trisha Craig
Dean of International & Professional Experience



Dean of Students

In January 2016, Yale-NUS College welcomed its new Dean of Students, Dr Christopher Bridges, who oversees student life and residential living. With extensive student affairs experience, Dr Bridges aims to create new experiences for students, and sees his role as the link between the administration and the student body. Previously the Vice President of Student Affairs and Enrollment Management at Mansfield

University of Pennsylvania, a public liberal arts university, he has had extensive student affairs experience overseeing enrollment, residential life, orientation and student activities, amongst many other portfolios.

Dr Bridges believes that the unique partnership between Yale and NUS will allow the College to “not only be a leader in Singapore, but in the entire region and the world”.

“When I fell in love with education, it was on a small liberal arts campus, where faculty, staff and students worked together to build a real community of learners. It might sound odd, but stepping into the role of Dean of Students at Yale-NUS is like coming home in some ways.”

– Dr Christopher Bridges
Dean of Students



Director, Division of Science

In July 2015, Professor Steven L Bernasek joined Yale-NUS College as the new Director of the Division of Science.

“Science in the modern world is an increasingly interdisciplinary endeavour, and these disciplines include the humanities and social sciences as well as the various categories of science,” the renowned chemist shared.

Professor Bernasek was previously Professor of Chemistry at Princeton

University and a Distinguished Visiting Professor in NUS’ Chemistry Department.

His other appointments include: Faculty Fellow at Rockefeller College, Princeton University; interim Division Director of the Chemistry Division of the National Science Foundation; fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science; and Research Fellow of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation.

“I’m convinced that the practice of science in the modern world relies on grounding across the broad areas of the liberal arts and sciences, and I’m excited to be involved in bringing that type of learning to Yale-NUS College.”

– Professor Steven L Bernasek
Director, Division of Science



Welcoming the Class of 2019



In August 2015, Yale-NUS College welcomed 190 students into our community with a two-week long orientation programme, otherwise more affectionately known as SingaOrientation. Jam-packed with activities, SingaOrientation is not just about fun, but also seeks to help new students integrate with the College, where they will live and learn for the next four years.

Aside from creating a common experience across our diverse student body, the SingaOrientation programme also helps to

develop the identities of the residential colleges, which is the hub of student life at Yale-NUS College.

The Class of 2019 bonded over the hallmarks of SingaOrientation – an Amazing Race into the nooks and crannies of Singapore, and overseas RCX trips. These two programmes are designed to let students explore both Singapore and Southeast Asia respectively, while pushing the students to thrive and unite in diverse environments.

SingaOrientation culminated with the First Year Assembly

on 6 August 2015, where the Class of 2019 was officially welcomed to Yale-NUS College.

The significant event, which marked the first official College event to take place at the new Yale-NUS campus, was attended by members of the Yale-NUS governing board, senior leadership, faculty, staff, student government representatives and family members of the incoming class.

On behalf of existing Yale-NUS students, sophomore Yonatan Gazit welcomed the Class



Over
8,500
applications

5%
acceptance
rate

26
nationalities

of 2019 to the family with some heartfelt reflections of his initial year in College. Sharing his own experiences, Yonatan spoke fondly of the opportunities that each new student will have to shape the College as it moves into the future.

For the Class of 2019, SingapOrientation marks the beginning of their exciting four years at Yale-NUS College, where they will receive a unique liberal arts and science education, with friends who will become family, in a campus they will eventually call home.

“I think it is a beautiful thing to matriculate to a school still in its infancy, and to leave it standing on firmer footing.”

– Yonatan Gazit
(Class of 2018)

Our faculty and staff



Yale-NUS faculty and staff

In Academic Year (AY) 2015/2016, Yale-NUS College welcomed over 30 new faculty members, who brought with them diverse experiences and knowledge in their various fields of expertise.

Unlike other higher education institutions, Yale-NUS does not organise its faculty into traditional academic departments, so as to facilitate a coherent interdisciplinary way of learning and thinking. At Yale-NUS, we recruit, hire and develop our faculty based in three broad divisions: Social Sciences, Science, and Humanities. This promotes interaction between professors of different disciplines, encouraging a multidisciplinary approach to teaching, especially in the Common Curriculum, where classes are taught by teams of scholars with different expertise.

2015 was a busy year for Yale-NUS faculty members as they continued to embark on research in their fields, a comprehensive review of the Common Curriculum and finalised the capstone projects for the inaugural Class of 2017.

Our faculty have received more than S\$7 million in external grant funding from organisations including the Global Asia Institute, National Research Foundation (Singapore), and the John Templeton Foundation. In the review period, our faculty members have authored and/or co-authored close to 145 peer-reviewed publications in reputable academic journals like *Nano Letters (Physics)* and publishers like Oxford University Press.

Professorships

Professor Gavin Flood

Yap Kim Hao Professor of Comparative Religious Studies



Professor Gavin Flood, an internationally acclaimed scholar of comparative religion, has been named the inaugural Yap Kim Hao Professor of Comparative Religious Studies. Professor Flood is an elected Fellow of the British Academy, an honour conferred to those who have attained distinction

in the study of the humanities and social sciences in the United Kingdom. Prior to joining the College, Professor Flood was a Professor of Comparative Religion and Hindu Studies at the Theology Faculty, University of Oxford.

As part of the College's faculty, Professor Flood will enhance Yale-NUS' teaching and research capacity in comparative religion, which is a crucial component of the College's global curriculum. Professor Flood's work on Hinduism is particularly relevant to Singapore and the Southeast Asian region, which have substantial Hindu communities.

The professorship is named after Reverend Doctor Yap Kim Hao, former Vice-

President of the Inter-Religious Organisation (Singapore), who has been actively promoting inter-faith dialogue and understanding in Singapore since 1949. The Yap Kim Hao Professorship in Comparative Religious Studies is aimed at enhancing the academic study of religions at the College. Focusing on multiple religious beliefs, practices and experiences in today's world, the study of comparative religious studies is an integral component of the College's broad-based learning approach, where faculty and students are encouraged to conduct scholarship and research on a wide range of topics. A spirit of open inquiry and respectful sharing, learning and exchange of ideas are an important part of the education at Yale-NUS.

Professor Nicole Constable

J Y Pillay Professor



Renowned anthropologist Professor Nicole Constable was named the J Y Pillay Professor in October 2015. Prior to joining the College, Professor Constable held the positions of Professor at the Department of Anthropology, Research Professor at the University Center for International Studies and Director of the Asian Studies Center, University of Pittsburgh. Professor Constable has done extensive research on gender and migration,

transnationalism and global intimacies, focusing on East and Southeast Asia.

The J Y Pillay Professorship was established in 2012 and is awarded to leading academics engaged in cutting-edge research at the College. Professor Constable is the first full-time faculty member to hold this professorship. She also holds a tenure appointment as Professor, Division of Social Sciences.

Books

Charles Bailyn's *What Does a Black Hole Look Like?*

Dean of Faculty and Professor of Science Charles Bailyn wrote a book *What Does a Black Hole Look Like?* (Princeton University Press, 2014) which detailed how astronomers observe black holes and develop an understanding of how they function. The book, targeted at individuals with A-level or college-level physics backgrounds and undergraduate physics majors, aims to provide an introduction to the study of black holes from an observational point of view, rather than a theoretical perspective as most books do.



The book has won praise from fellow astronomers Professors M Coleman Miller and W Niel Brandt from the University

of Maryland, College Park, and Pennsylvania State University respectively.

Steven J Green's *Disclosure and Discretion in Roman Astrology: Manilius and his Augustan Contemporaries*

Senior Lecturer in Humanities, Dr Steven J Green specialises in Roman literature and culture in the first centuries BC and AD, with particular attention to the reigns of the Emperors Augustus and Nero. His major publications have so far focused around the love poet Ovid, the astrological poet Manilius, Roman didactic poetry, the interaction between Roman literature and religious experience, and the reception of the classical world in 21st century Hollywood films. His latest monograph, *Disclosure and Discretion in Roman Astrology* (Oxford University Press, 2014) focuses on the key



astrological poem of Manilius and provided a new conceptual framework to appreciate

the complex treatments of astrology during the period of Octavian/Augustus.

Petrus Liu's *Queer Marxism in Two Chinas*

Associate Professor of Humanities Petrus Liu's book *Queer Marxism in Two Chinas* (Duke University Press, 2015) looks at the relationship between Marxism and queer cultures in mainland China and Taiwan. The book challenges the persistence of Cold War formulations of Marxism that position it as intellectually incompatible with queer theory, and presents how queer Marxism offers a non-liberal alternative to Western models of queer emancipation. The work of queer Chinese artists and intellectuals also demonstrates how geopolitical tensions give rise to different conceptions of and attitudes toward queerness



in China and Taiwan. Professor Liu's research focuses on modern Chinese and comparative literature; critical theory and cultural studies;

transnational queer studies; theories and history of the novel; and the aesthetics of Cold War cultures.

Matthew Schneider-Mayerson's *Peak Oil*

Assistant Professor of Social Sciences, Dr Matthew Schneider-Mayerson launched his first book *Peak Oil: Apocalyptic Environmentalism and Libertarian Political Culture* (The University of Chicago Press) in late 2015. The book discusses the concept of 'peak oil', or the moment when global oil production peaks and starts to decline, which would inadvertently cause economic, social and political chaos, since oil is a scarce commodity that the world depends largely on in daily living. The book studies the subculture of people who subscribe to the phenomenon of peak oil, and



how their hopes and fears about 'peak oil' cause them to prepare for the foreseeable social breakdown.

On 29 November 2015, Elm College organised a book launch for Dr Schneider-Mayerson.

Research

Graphene and its properties

A team of researchers from Yale-NUS College, the Centre for Advanced 2D Materials and Department of Physics at NUS, and the University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin, USA), have established a theoretical framework to understand the elastic and electronic properties of graphene. Graphene, a single-atom-thick sheet of carbon atoms arranged in a honeycomb-like lattice, has been hailed by

scientists as an extremely good conductor of electrons due to its strength and light weight. Yale-NUS Assistant Professor of Science, Dr Shaffique Adam, and the team of researchers concluded that it is necessary to use a theoretical framework that treats electronic and mechanical properties equally in order to make reliable predictions for these new hybrid materials. The findings were published in the

February 2015 issue of *Nature Communications*, a prestigious academic research journal. The team will continue to theoretically explore the optimal parameters to create larger bandgaps that can be used for a wide range of technologies.

Reducing the spread of influenza

Assistant Professor of Science, Dr Alex Cook was part of the team that published a paper in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* in July

2015 on advances in how to distinguish which methods would reduce the spread of influenza in households. Dr Cook's modelling laboratory

continues to conduct a study to assess the cost-effectiveness of different control measures.

Altering a butterfly's wing colours

Associate Professor of Science Antónia Monteiro's team successfully altered the colour of butterflies' wings by changing the thickness of the wing scales, specifically the thin lamina that makes up the underside of the scale. This is the first time scientists performed artificial selection to change the structural colour of butterflies' wings. The discovery by Professor Monteiro and her team has paved the way for physicists and engineers to use evolutionary principles in the design of materials and devices. Their research was documented in the highly cited peer-reviewed



Bicyclus anynana

journal, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. Professor Monteiro and her interdisciplinary team comprising physicists and evolutionary biologists took less than a year and 'six generations of selection', to change the colour of the

Bicyclus anynana's wings. Professor Monteiro is keen to use the tools developed in this project to look at other aspects of scale morphology in the same species, especially the morphology of scales covering pheromone scent glands on the wing.

Winning the British Academy Brian Barry Prize

Dr Parashar Kulkarni, Assistant Professor of Social Sciences at Yale-NUS College, was awarded the prestigious British Academy Brian Barry Prize in Political Science 2015, for his work on the cultural prerequisites behind effective property rights. He explored this topic by drawing on evidence from the inheritance rights of widows in colonial India and concluded, through careful use of theory and empirics, that property rights can backfire and make the rights holders worse off. This occurs when elite members of society who have opposing interests control alternative institutions that may be used to counteract the effects of the property rights.

The Brian Barry Prize is awarded annually for excellence in political

Dr Kulkarni giving his acceptance speech at the Brian Barry Academy



science, as displayed in an unpublished essay. The award is made in partnership with Cambridge University Press and the *British Journal of Political Science* in honour of

Brian Barry, a distinguished Fellow of the Academy and founding editor of the *Journal*. Dr Kulkarni's paper will be published in the *British Journal of Political Science*.

Colour-producing nanostructures

Dr Vinod Saranathan, a former Yale graduate student who joined the Science Division as Assistant Professor in July 2015, was the lead author

in a research paper which found that colour-producing nanostructures in butterflies and bees may be used to improve solar cells, fibre-optic

cables, and even cosmetics and paints. The paper was published in the May 2015 issue of *Nano Letters*, a leading nanotechnology journal.

NUS Quality Service Award

In the early 2000s, Mr Prasanna Mohan came to Singapore to work as a construction worker. As the sole breadwinner of his family back home in Chennai, India, he was ready to work hard and persevere through whatever tough times that could come his way. More than a decade on, he retains that work ethos as a specialist associate at Yale-NUS who looks after the maintenance of the campus.

At the NUS Excellence Day 2015, Mr Prasanna was recognised for his hard work and dedication with the NUS Quality Service Award – Service Advocate, an annual award that affirms an individual’s outstanding service attitude and unqualified commitment to service excellence.

“Every day, I do my tasks and whatever else comes my way. I don’t want to be the kind of person who says ‘this is not my job’ and then misses the opportunity to contribute. I want to work hard and do things well.”

– Mr Prasanna Mohan
Specialist Associate,
Infrastructure



Staff appreciation



Rector Derek Heng (far right) and Cendana staff members enjoying the music

In October 2015, groups of students visited each administrative department's office, serenading staff members with songs and gifting them with goodie bags filled with treats and a handwritten note, part of the student-initiated staff appreciation project.

Tong Xueyin (Class of 2018) first came up with the idea to have a staff appreciation day

and posted it on a Yale-NUS student group on Facebook.

"I remembered how a staff member said that they were always receiving complaints from the students, so I felt that something needed to be done to affirm staff members for their hard work," explained Xueyin.

The team of students who carried out the project went

around interviewing staff members about their jobs and taking photographs of them at work. These were exhibited in the Saga Dining Hall for a few days in October, and aimed to highlight the various roles administrative staff members play in the College.

"It was such a treat to have students visit our offices and surprise us with thoughtful notes, bags of treats and beautiful music! It's community efforts like these that make Yale-NUS so great."

– Mrs Doris Sohmen-Pao
Executive Vice President (Institutional Affairs)

New programmes

The College offers a double degree programme with NUS Law and, in 2015, launched two new concurrent degree programmes. Our programmes allow our students to utilise the skills and knowledge gained from their liberal arts and science foundation in a depth-focused programme that suits their interests.

Concurrent degree with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy

Yale-NUS College has partnered the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKY School) at NUS to launch a new concurrent degree programme in Public Policy.

The five-year programme will start in August 2016

and is designed for students interested in applying their broad academic and intellectual background from the liberal arts and sciences curriculum to thinking and acting in the global dimension of public affairs and international policies.

Students will graduate with two degrees – the Yale-NUS Bachelor of Arts (Honours) or Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree and the LKY School Master in Public Policy.



Concurrent degree with Yale School of Public Health

Yale-NUS has also partnered the Yale School of Public Health (YSPH) to launch a new concurrent degree programme in Public Health.

The five-year programme will start in August 2016 and is designed for students interested in applying their broad academic and intellectual background from the liberal arts and

sciences curriculum to address public health challenges facing national and global communities.

The Master in Public Health Programme at YSPH is designed to provide the students with rigorous education and training in public health. A unique sequencing of courses, community-based practice

activities, and field or laboratory research provides students with multiple opportunities to tailor their academic programmes to their specific career interests. Students will graduate with two degrees – the Yale-NUS Bachelor of Arts (Honours) or Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree and the YSPH Master in Public Health.



New experiences

At Yale-NUS, we encourage our students to search beyond the classroom to expand their world view and whet their appetite for knowledge.



Yale-NUS students rehearsing in the Dance Studio

Summer Arts Scholarship

For the first time in the summer of 2015, CIPE offered the Summer Arts Scholarship to support students interested in pursuing a rigorous arts programme of their choice in a more applied and technical setting, such as in studio and performing arts. Four students were the inaugural recipients of the S\$5,000 that this scholarship provided, and chose to pursue programmes in professional theatre, dance and art schools across New York, USA. These were the CAP 21 Summer Professional Musical Theater School, New

York Studio School of Drawing, Painting, and Sculpture, Broadway Dance Center Training Program, and the Stella Adler Dance and Acting Studio.

“I really love the training here because the teachers are very nurturing,” said Shanice Stanislaus (Class of 2017), who trained at the Stella Adler Studio. “It has also been an eye-opening experience working for an actual show here because it will be my first time doing a show in New York City.”



“Personally, I have become more motivated than I ever was before. This has carried over to my schoolwork this semester. Academically, I am seriously thinking about making art my major. Professionally, I have been exposed to realistic possibilities for an artistic career.”

– Anisha Charan
(Class of 2018), inaugural recipient
of the Summer Arts Scholarship

▼
Students from *The Fifth Wall*,
a Yale-NUS drama group



Career Conversations

CIPE has been ramping up efforts to continue exposing students to different career pathways by hosting Career Conversations with professionals from different industries. These Career Conversations see industry

leaders, such as senior management from the Boston Consulting Group, the World Wide Fund for Nature, and the Blackstone group visiting Yale-NUS to share about careers in marketing and communications, consulting

and financial services, and many others. This provides an intimate environment for students to talk to and learn from professionals, ask questions, and expand their networks.

In the classroom

Classes at Yale-NUS are buzzing with discussions that carry on into the dining halls and courtyards, and sometimes even in the butterfly over a late-night snack. In various nooks and crannies across campus, vibrant conversations that take place well after classroom hours exemplify the learning community that we are building.

Poetry class with Alvin Pang

In Semester 2 AY 2014/2015, 14 Yale-NUS students took a class on Introduction to Writing Poetry by part-time lecturer and well-known Singaporean poet, Mr Alvin Pang.

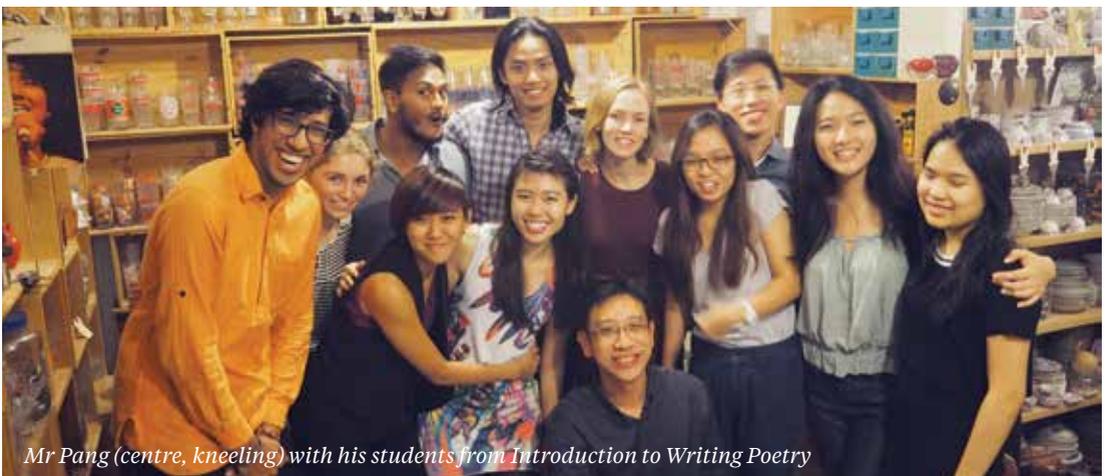
Apart from building their craft, Mr Pang introduced the students to the world of poetry, established poets and literary events around town. He also encouraged them to take part in the Singapore Poetry

Writing Month (SingPoWriMo), during which individuals pen one poem per day for the month of April.

Rohan Naidu (Class of 2017) gamely took up the challenge of participating in the competition, armed with the new skills gained during the semester. "I've always been interested in writing poetry, but I've never had any formal tutoring, guidance or

anything of that sort," Rohan said. "Thanks to the class, I have a better sense of how I can grow in terms of my writing."

The class showcased their work at a public poetry reading held at local bookstore BooksActually, which was organised by Mr Pang at the end of the semester.



Mr Pang (centre, kneeling) with his students from Introduction to Writing Poetry

Quantitative Reasoning and an internship at Channel NewsAsia

In AY 2014/2015, students taking Quantitative Reasoning (QR) were tasked by Assistant Professor of Social Sciences Dr Jean Liu to use content from certain episodes of Channel NewsAsia (CNA)'s *It Figures* programme in their final assignment.

Each episode of *It Figures* delves into the numbers behind issues that affect Singapore and the world, such as air pollution, ageing and crime, and analyses and explains them for the layman.

For their assignment, students worked in teams 'hired' by CNA to evaluate the success of *It Figures* in its mission of statistical analysis and explanations. They also had the opportunity to meet with the *It Figures* production team and CNA Vice President of Corporate Services, Ms Han Chuan Quee.

QR is part of the Yale-NUS Common Curriculum, and teaches students to analyse numerical data and use the information to demonstrate

the truth or plausibility of a proposition.

At the end of the semester, Harini V (Class of 2018) signed up for an internship with CNA. Sharing on her experience, she said, "Doing an internship with CNA showed me a broader problem of why statistics are often misrepresented even in the more reliable sources; the difficulty in bridging the gap between the experts and organisations, and the general public."



Dr Liu teaching at Yale-NUS

On our campus

With over 50 active student organisations on campus, not to mention other independent initiatives, our College is always buzzing with activity and excitement.

SEA-LATAM Conference 2015



Sheryl (Class of 2017), founder of ALC, addressing the conference

Executives from small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) together with undergraduates from local universities in Singapore gathered on 14 September 2015 at the Singapore Exchange Centre for the inaugural Southeast Asia – Latin America Conference (SEA-LATAM) 2015. This was the first platform of its kind in Singapore designed to enable businesses to explore expansion and collaborative opportunities in the world's fastest growing emerging markets of Southeast Asia and Latin America.

Themed 'Bridging Emerging Markets', it was organised by the Asia-LatAm Connection

(ALC) in partnership with the Latin American Chamber of Commerce, and the INSEAD Emerging Markets Institute as the official knowledge partner. ALC was founded by two Yale-NUS students, Sheryl Foo and Shermin Chan (Class of 2017).

The day's programme featured prolific speakers and panellists from companies and organisations including DHL, Proctor & Gamble (P&G), Kensteel Group, ProMéxico, the Asian Trade Center, and Ernst & Young.

The second edition of the conference will be held in Mexico City in early-2016.

“This conference establishes our first foray into bringing together business leaders, government and trade representatives and thought leaders.”

– Sheryl Foo
(Class of 2017), Founder of the Asia-LatAm Connection (ALC)

ASEAN-China Case Competition 2015

The winning team with Guest-of-Honour Mr Lee (third from left)



On 17 October 2015, more than 100 undergraduates and faculty filled the Performance Hall to attend the Grand Finals of the inaugural ASEAN-China Case Competition (ACCC).

Organised by the Yale-NUS Global China Connection (GCC), the competition was graced by Guest-of-Honour Mr Lee Yi Shyan, Member of Parliament for East Coast GRC, and focused on how environmental sustainability can be developed in China.

About 420 tertiary students participated in ACCC 2015, forming 89 teams from over 60 universities across 18 countries. A team from Yale-NUS College clinched the first prize, while second prize was awarded to a team from the University of Hong Kong, and third prize to a team from NUS.

“Sustainability and eco-concepts are industries of the future. By engaging with these interests early on while still undergraduates, we hope to get participants thinking about how they can be involved in these industries of the future.”

– Colette Chiaranussati
(Class of 2018), Vice-Chairman of the ACCC 2015 committee



▲
Two members of the Yale-NUS Improv Comedy Conglomerate acting out a skit

Bringing art to the community

In March 2015, Yale-NUS students launched the Yale-NUS College Arts Fest 2015, a month-long 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 the Classes of 2017 and 2018 who shared a like-minded passion and enthusiasm for the arts, with support and guidance from Professor Mark Joyce, Professor in the Practice of

Art and Director of Art at Yale-NUS, and the Educational Resources & Technology (ERT) department's Arts and Media staff.

Held just before the impending move to the College's permanent campus, the festival was aptly themed 'Before we leave', and included commemorative artistic ventures around the temporary campus for the community to enjoy.

By the end of the month, the Arts Fest had hosted a few workshops, including a

theatre workshop by accomplished stage actress 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.





canVAS

The Yale-NUS Arts Fest was a collaborative festival that celebrated the arts through a series of activities, including events, workshops and exhibitions. Enabling the students to engage with the wider community, canVAS was an Arts Fest event that aimed to bring art into the lives of foreign domestic workers through a series of art workshops over four weeks.

Students from The G Spot and the Visual Arts Society (VAS) invited migrant workers from the Humanitarian Organization for Migrant Economics (HOME) Women's Shelter to participate; HOME is a non-profit organisation that provides free, temporary accommodation for female migrant workers in Singapore. The G Spot is a Yale-NUS student organisation that promotes inclusivity and diversity, especially regarding issues on gender equality.



canVAS exhibition booklets

Launch of Yale-NUS Asia Pacific Model United Nations and Model ASEAN

The Yale-NUS International Relations and Political Association (YIRPA) has kept themselves busy, with the launch of the first Yale-NUS Asia Pacific Model United Nations (AP MUN) in January and the second edition of the Yale-NUS Model ASEAN (YMA) conference in August. Guests-of-Honour included then-Minister for Law and Foreign

Affairs, Mr K Shanmugam, and High Commissioner of Malaysia to Singapore, Dato' Husni Zai Bin Yaacob.

YIRPA, a student organisation that was formed in July 2013, has actively attended Model UN conferences all over the globe, and its student leaders aim to inspire youth from Singapore and

its neighbouring countries to address the issues of our regional political landscape.

They have received support from NUS' Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS), Singapore Airlines and REACH (Reaching Everyone for Active Citizenry @ Home), among others.



Photo credit: Yale-NUS International Relations and Political Association (YIRPA)

Coffeehouse Conversations

For the Yale-NUS community, YIRPA has also created Coffeehouse Conversations, a speaker series. Typically held in a casual setting to inspire spontaneous, thought-provoking conversations, the Coffeehouse series engages the Yale-NUS community

with politics and global issues. Speakers to date include former political candidate, Ms Nicole Seah; Singaporean playwright, Mr Alfian Sa'at; and historian and Coordinator of Project Southeast Asia, Mr Thum Ping Tjin.



▲ Minister Shanmugam speaking at the Yale-NUS Asia Pacific Model United Nations conference

▲ Chairs and Vice-Chairs of the conference

Duende

Four students explored *duende* – the spirit of flamenco – in a short film set in Geylang, Singapore, which featured Singaporean flamenco dancer, Ms Daphne Huang. The filmmakers, Shanice Stanislaus, Reuben Su, Stacey Yuen and Timothy Chua (Class of 2017), delved into the passion

behind the Spanish dance and Ms Huang’s colourful life story.

Duende won the European Union Centre Short Documentary Competition 2015 (Singapore) and was screened at the Guam International Film Festival 2015.

“Capturing the lives of these women was one of the best parts of filming [...] it’s always beautiful to see them so connected to this dance form.”

– Shanice Stanislaus
(Class of 2017), Director of *Duende*

Celebrating the extraordinary at the SEA Games 2015

In June 2015, Singapore hosted the 28th SEA Games, after a 22-year long hiatus. The country was gripped by an intense sporting fever – video footage and photographs from the Games flooded mainstream and social media, and stadiums and sports halls were packed.

For some Yale-NUS students, their SEA Games experience was in the heart of the action.

Willie Khoo (Class of 2017), Kalya Kee (Class of 2018) and Nicholas Siew (Class of 2018) represented Singapore in Fencing, Waterskiing and Rowing respectively. Willie won a silver medal in

the men’s epee, while Kalya clinched a bronze in the overall women’s event (slalom, jump and trick).

One student was even involved outside the sporting arena – Rakesh P (Class of 2017) was close to the action as an announcer for cue sports events.



Waterskiier Kalya Kee (Class of 2018) did Yale-NUS proud with a bronze at the 28th SEA Games

Award for student initiative

On 7 November 2015, The G Spot was awarded the Student Initiative Award from AWARE, Singapore's leading gender equality advocacy group. The award recognised The G Spot's efforts to bring conversations about gender awareness and equality to campus.

Since 2013, The G Spot has embarked on various initiatives to deepen the Yale-NUS community's understanding of health

and wellness issues, gender awareness and equality. Recent projects included 'Doing It Right', a series of events and workshops that focused on raising awareness on health and wellness issues, including matters of sexual health, as well as Ally Week, which explored how organisations could balance respect for different members within the community with their organisational values of diversity and inclusion.

"Today, I am reminded once again that no effort is ever too meaningless, and no change is ever too small. Thank you, AWARE, for recognising the efforts of young people like us, for giving us the space to explore the issues that we care about, and for reminding us why we do what we do."

– Sherlyn Goh
(Class of 2017),
co-founder of The G Spot

▶ Sherlyn giving the acceptance speech

Photo credit: Invertigo Studios

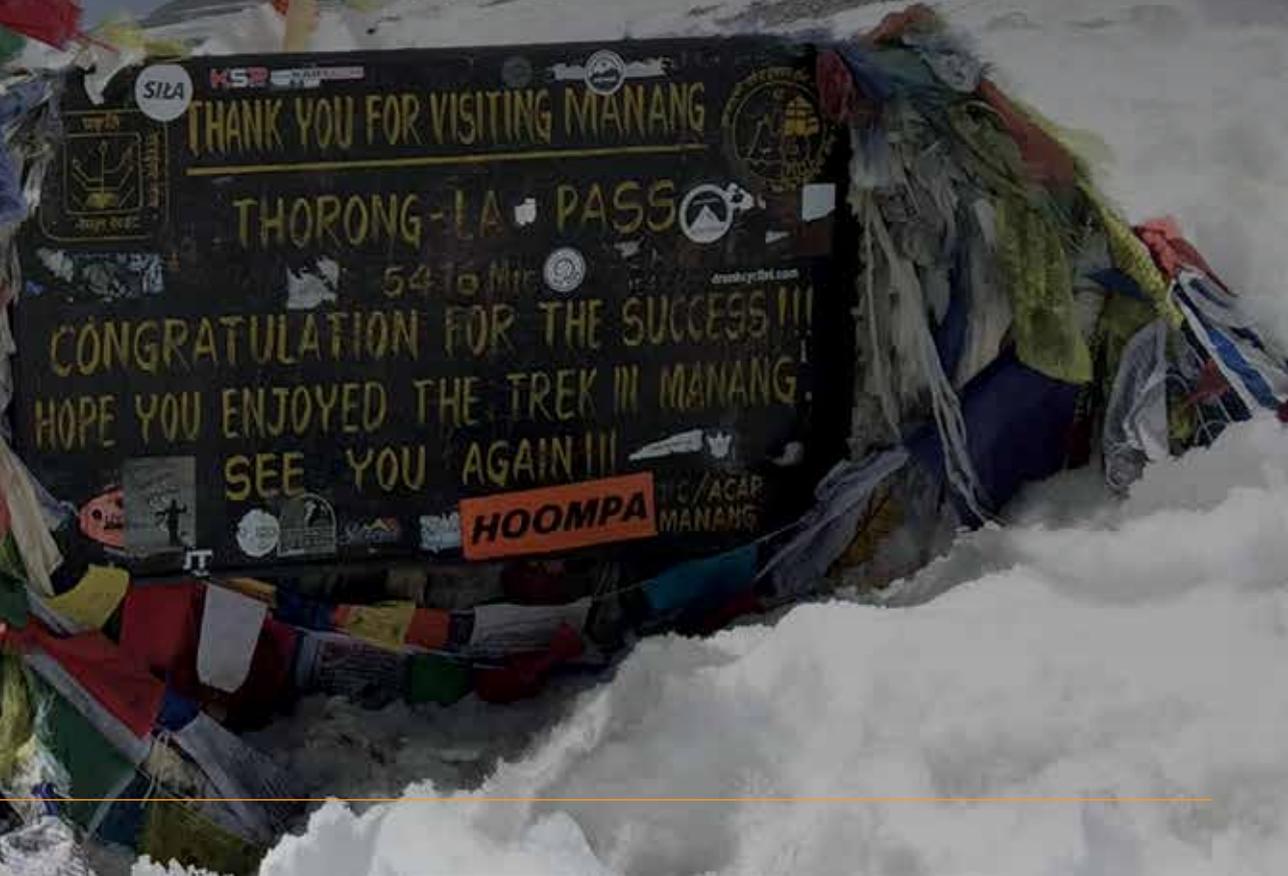




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ip us by keepin' the space

OUR REACH

An important part of the College's mission is to create platforms for community outreach and discussions on a myriad of topics for an audience wider than our campus, to give back, be inspired and, in turn, inspire others.



Sharing our experiences

19 Yale-NUS students travelled to Yale University for one week in March 2015, and returned to campus filled with ideas and memories that they wanted to share with their fellow Yale-NUS students.

Organised by the Yale-NUS Dean of Students' office, the students represented

seven student groups across the student body, ranging from the College paper to residential life groups.

The trip allowed Yale-NUS students to meet with Yale groups that were similar to their own, build connections, share ideas and learn from one another's experiences.

Students also had the opportunity to meet with Yale residential college councils, butteries, and Yale-NUS students who were in Yale for their semester exchange.



◀ (From left) John Reid (Class of 2017) and Julianne Thomson (Class of 2018) at Yale University, New Haven



◀ President Lewis (third from right) with Yale-NUS students in Yale University, New Haven

President's Speaker Series

Launched in 2013, the Yale-NUS President's Speaker Series features accomplished and talented luminaries from around the world. Lectures are designed for a broad audience and are open to the public, enabling audiences to learn from and engage with some of the brightest academics and practitioners from a diverse range of disciplines on today's world issues.

Dialogue Between Presidents



(From left to right) President Lewis and President Oxtoby with moderator Professor Bryan Penprase

On 7 November 2014, as part of the President's Speaker Series, Yale-NUS President Pericles Lewis and Pomona College President David Oxtoby discussed the future of liberal arts education in North America and Asia.

Speaking to an audience of about 100 Yale-NUS students, faculty and staff at the Ngee Ann Kongsi Auditorium in University Town, the two presidents explored a range of topics, from common curricula

to student life experiences at their respective colleges.

"I think what we're experiencing is a real renaissance in focus on creativity, crossing all these boundaries," commented President Oxtoby on the growing importance of interdisciplinary learning and its significance for liberal arts students.

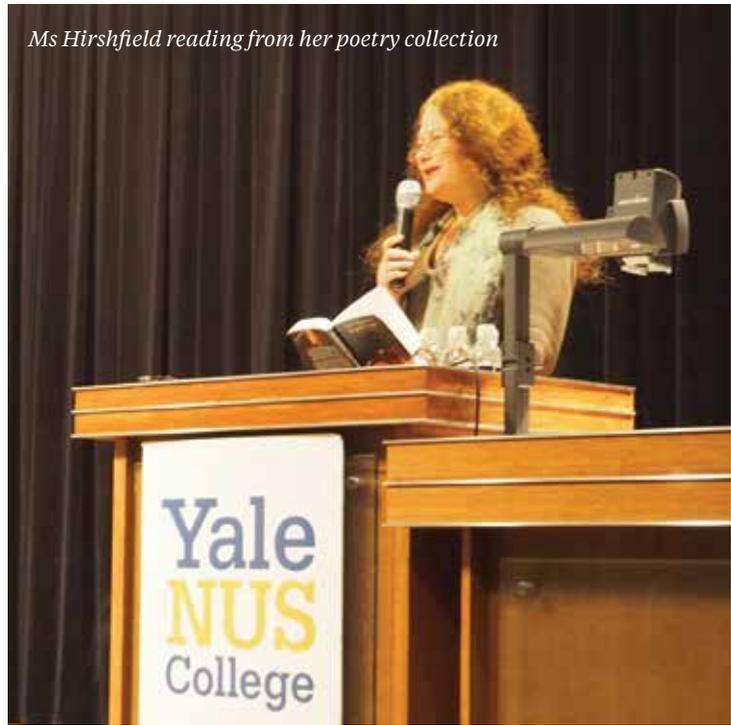
For the younger Yale-NUS College, President Lewis

remarked that starting out from scratch is beneficial.

"One of the great things about being a very new college is that we can make our plans on a blank sheet of paper, a blank screen," he said. "Now, it's true that not 100 percent of the things you try will work out, and that's part of it, but if 70 percent work out and we then fix the other 30 percent, then we're doing pretty well."

Jane Hirshfield

On 4 February 2015, Yale-NUS College hosted acclaimed poet Ms Jane Hirshfield who shared glimpses into her creative process and briefly spoke about her time in the San Francisco Zen Center, one of the largest Buddhist *sanghas* outside Asia. She read poems from her seven collections of poetry that touched on a variety of subjects, including nature, science, music, sadness and the rituals of habit. Her visit at Yale-NUS also included a poetry-writing workshop where students had the opportunity to share their work and hone their creative writing skills.



Ms Hirshfield reading from her poetry collection

Olivia Lum

On 16 September 2015, Ms Olivia Lum, Executive Chairman and Group CEO of Hyflux Ltd, gave a lecture on her personal journey, one that spoke of determination, resilience and tenacity. Ms Lum candidly recalled the motivations, challenges and tough times that she went through to bring Hyflux to where it is today, at times illustrating it with cartoons she personally drew. Founded in 1989, the global environmental solutions company started with three staff and S\$20,000 in capital, and has grown its operations to include landmark water projects in Singapore, Southeast Asia, China, and the Middle East and North African (MENA) region.

She cautioned that it was hard work, and at times downright discouraging, but urged that

one needed to dream big and take challenges head-on in order to succeed.



Ms Lum (left) during the question and answer segment with President Lewis (right)

Two Nobel Laureates visit Yale-NUS

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), aims to create an independent platform for dialogue and humanitarian support to encourage better cooperation for the promotion of peace, freedom and security.

On 21 January 2015, Professor Brian Schmidt, 2011 Nobel

Laureate for Physics at the Australian National University's Research School of Astronomy and Astrophysics, discussed the development and role of science in the modern world during his talk titled, 'Science: Humanity's universal bridge'.

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.



◀ *Dr ElBaradei meeting with Yale-NUS students*

Photo credit: Werkz Photography



◀ *Professor Schmidt speaking to Yale-NUS students*

Photo credit: Werkz Photography

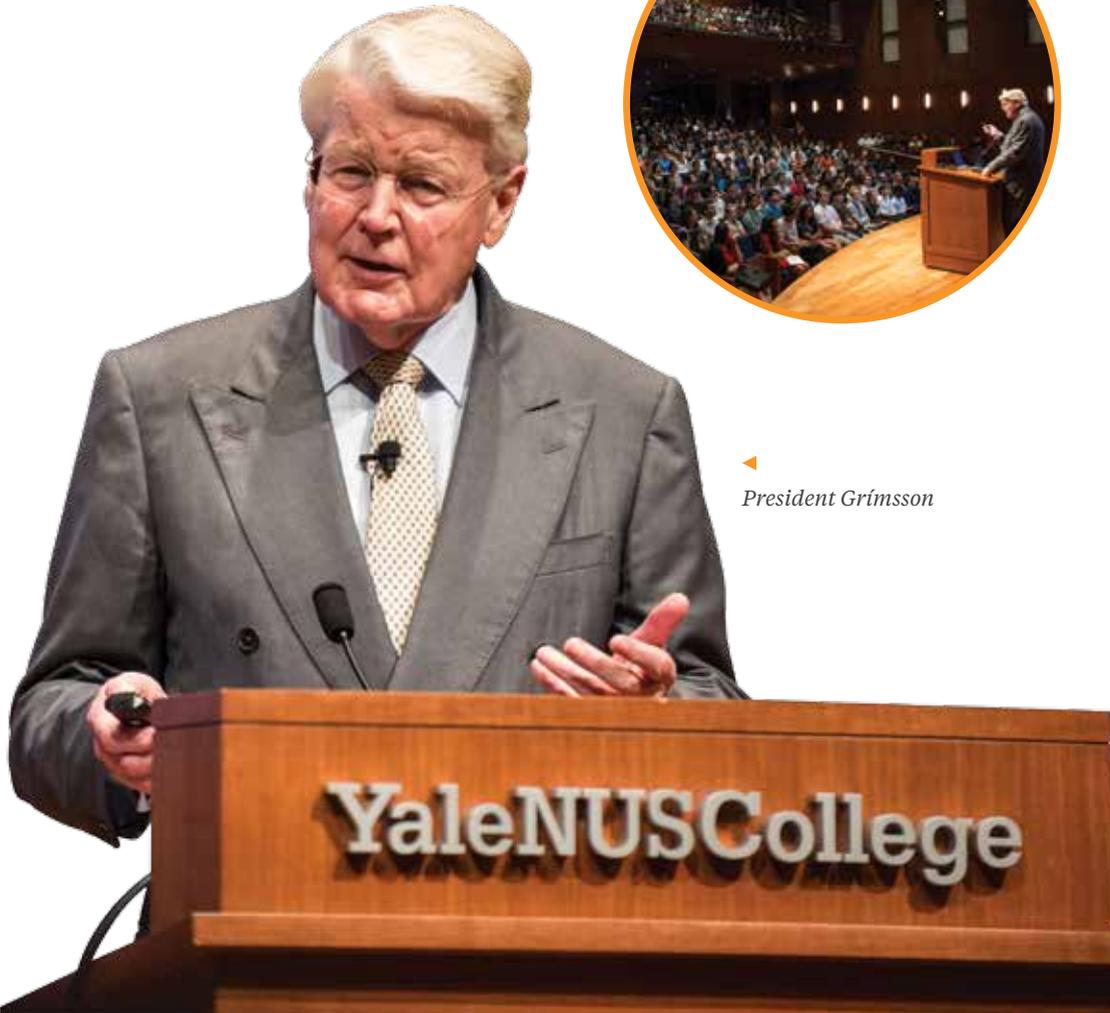
His Excellency Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, President of Iceland

On 13 November 2015, Yale-NUS hosted its first head of state, President of Iceland, His Excellency Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, who delivered a public lecture to a full house as part of the President's Speaker Series. The lecture, titled 'Clean Energy, Climate and the Arctic' was the finale to President Grímsson's three-day state visit to Singapore. President Grímsson shared

Iceland's success story in harnessing geothermal energy and their move towards lowering carbon dioxide emissions. He also urged the audience to raise their awareness about climate change and the steps that can be taken to collectively fight climate change, so that Iceland's story would not be a unique one, but a trend for the future.



◀
President Grímsson



Visiting speakers

11 February 2015

Yap Kim Hao

Former Vice President of the Inter-Religious Organisation, Singapore

17 February 2015

Kirk Wagar

United States Ambassador to the Republic of Singapore

4 March 2015

SuChen Christine Lim

Recipient of the 2012 Southeast Asia Write Award and a Fellow of the International Writers' Programme

Mark West

Professor of English and the chair of the Department of English at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte

3 July 2015

Fareed Zakaria

Editor-at-Large of TIME Magazine and host of CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS

16 April 2015

John Wood

Founder of Room to Read

17 March 2015

Hao Huang

Bessie and Cecil Frankel Endowed Chair in Music and Professor of Music at Scripps College

19 August 2015

Chee Soon Juan

Secretary-General of the Singapore Democratic Party

4 September 2015

Policies Not Platitudes

Student-organised policy forum that hosted six speakers from various political parties in Singapore

19 September 2015

Student-organised panel discussion by Ambassadors and consular representatives

Rogelio Granguillhome

Ambassador of Mexico

James Sinclair

Ambassador of Chile

Mauricio Baquero Pardo

Chargé d'Affaires for Colombia

David Li

Minister Counsellor and Consul General for Costa Rica

12 November 2015

Daniel Fung

Chairman, Medical Board, Institute of Mental Health

1 October 2015

Qasim Aslam

2014 Laureate Global Fellow and Co-Founder & Managing Director of The History Project

American Writers Festival 2015

*Professor Johnson (right) with host Mr Adrian Pang (left) at the opening event
Photo credit: US Embassy Singapore*



The American Writers Festival (AWF) 2015 was the second edition of the annual event co-hosted by Yale-NUS College and the Wee Kim Wee Centre of Singapore Management University (SMU). The event had the generous support of the US Embassy Singapore and the Singapore American School.

“I was gratified to see so many enthusiastic members of the audience at each event,” said Professor Robin Hemley, Professor of Humanities and

Director of the Yale-NUS Writing Programme. “Such events are a work-in-progress and we learn from them one year to the next.”

At Yale-NUS, Professor Hemley and his team at the Yale-NUS Writers’ Centre were one of the key organisers of this festival. Professor Hemley also shared that they may look into partnering with other established literary festivals in Singapore for future events.

AWF 2015 welcomed Pulitzer Prize winner Professor Adam Johnson, who gave the opening reading on 14 September 2015 at the National Library. Other speakers included two poets, Ms Tina Chang and Ms Lisa Wells, two playwrights, Mr Rajiv Joseph and Ms Eleanor Wong, two nonfiction writers, Mr Michael Meyer and Mr Nisid Hajari, novelist Mr Jon Fasman, and writer Mr Desmond Kon.

Young Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative

In the summer break of 2015, two Yale-NUS students had the privilege of meeting US President, Mr Barack Obama, during the Youth Southeast Asian Leaders Initiative (YSEALI). Of the 200-strong contingent from the ASEAN region, Sheryl Foo (Class of 2017) and Jeffrey Tong (Class of 2018) were the only two Singaporean academic fellows selected for the five-week YSEALI programme. Held on college campuses in Hawaii, Colorado and Washington DC, the programme included academic residency, leadership development and opportunities to engage with American peers, policymakers, governmental representatives and businesses.

The programme was administered by the East West Centre, which follows

the guiding principles of collaboration, expertise and leadership. These skills were imparted to Sheryl and Jeffrey through the course of the programme, where they collaborated with other ASEAN youth leaders during workshops and through projects. It was also a good opportunity for networking – as a result of the exposure, mentorship, connections and the experience in development work Sheryl gained during her stint in the US, she went on to organise the SEA-LATAM conference, which is the first platform of its kind in Singapore designed to enable businesses to explore expansion and collaborative opportunities in the world's fastest growing emerging markets of Southeast Asia and Latin America.

“I am inspired by ideas that change the way we live and the way we see the world, and this conference is a first step towards charting new paths in cross-regional dialogue, and strategic work for the future.”

– Sheryl Foo
(Class of 2017), YSEALI fellow



(From left) Jeffrey Tong (Class of 2018) and Sheryl Foo (Class of 2017), 2015 YSEALI fellows

The Living Wall Project



▲ (From left) Dr Paul with her husband, Vice Rector Eduardo Lage-Otero at The Living Wall

What would you do if you had one day left to live?

For a week in April 2015, the Yale-NUS community faced this question in their Dining Hall every day. On chalkboards were the words 'If I had one more day to live, I would...', to which the community wrote their personal responses.

"Putting myself in a situation where I needed to think about my last day was not something I enjoyed doing, but it reminded me about what actually matters," commented Assistant Professor Anju Mary Paul.

The chalkboards were a part of The Living Wall project by Joyan Tan and Carissa Lim (Class of 2017) that aimed to raise awareness about paediatric palliative care and raise funds for patients at Rachel House in Jakarta, Indonesia, the first paediatric palliative care hospice in the country.

By the end of the project, Joyan and Carissa had raised S\$4,112.30 for Rachel House, which provides end-of-life care for children with life-threatening illnesses from poor communities in Jakarta.



▲ The first class of KidsAccomplish with Yale-NUS volunteers

'If we can't bring the children to a country, we'll bring the country to them.'

– KAE's unofficial motto

▼ Saza Faradilla (Class of 2018, far right) conducting a lesson



KidsAccomplish Enrichment

KidsAccomplish Enrichment (KAE) is a Yale-NUS student organisation that creates exciting non-academic enrichment classes for upper primary school students.

Modelled after Yale-NUS' liberal arts and sciences education, KAE aims to cultivate children's interest in the increasingly interconnected world by exposing them to diverse modes of thought in a fun and engaging manner.

With just a nominal course fee to cover the cost of materials, KAE tries to reach out to all within the community, including those from lower-income families who may not otherwise have the opportunity to provide such exposure to their children. The group is currently exploring partnerships with Family Service Centres in Singapore to better reach out to lower-income students in the coming year.

KAE taps on the global student body at Yale-NUS,

enlisting a volunteer from a different country each week to help form a lesson plan, including a suitable topic for discussion and a creative activity. For its first batch of 12 students, they covered 10 countries, including Bolivia, Sweden, Japan, Morocco and India.

To continue the enrichment at home, KAE encourages parents to have pre- and post-lesson discussions by sending them useful questions to kickstart the conversation.

"I believe KAE's success lies in the way it conveys lessons in a hands-on, experiential way which most children appreciate and learn better from," said Ms Vivien Kwek, whose 11-year-old daughter Celestine was particularly impacted by the lesson on bullying.

"Parents tell us the effects of KAE may not be seen immediately [after each lesson], but they can see their children's growth since they

embarked on the programme," said Saza Faradilla (Class of 2018), Founder and President of KAE.

Saza first conceptualised the programme after volunteering at Tampines Family Service Centre (FSC) and interning at Halogen Foundation, a leadership development organisation for youths and educators.

She soon realised the importance of experiential learning, and the gap that existed in school curricula that typically focus on grades and theoretical knowledge of English, mathematics, science and a second language.

The first edition of KAE classes ran over two semesters from February to October 2015 and were conducted weekly on the Yale-NUS campus.



Helping migrant workers learn English



Workers attending an English lesson in Cendana Dining Hall

In a typical school week, Yale-NUS College runs dozens of lectures and seminars. But after hours, we are also home to a different kind of lesson.

Since October 2014, Yale-NUS has been a venue supporter for Social Development Initiative (SDI) Academy's English classes for migrant workers.

Founded in 2013 by Sazzad Hossain, a student at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), with help from two Yale-NUS students, Valerie Pang and Manas Punhani (Class of 2017), SDI Academy began with the goal of creating affordable English classes taught in the workers' native language, which would enable them to better

manage and cope with their work responsibilities in Singapore.

Manas was inspired by his Week 7 project, Migrant Nation, where he first encountered the struggles migrant workers face on a daily basis, and the kinds of contributions made by the 'invisible workforce' of Singapore.

To date, SDI Academy has helped more than 300 migrant workers from the construction, shipping and manufacturing industries become more proficient at communicating in English.

As a youth-run social enterprise, SDI Academy

participated in the 2015 DBS-NUS Social Venture Challenge Asia (SVC Asia), and was one of two Singaporean businesses to win a S\$50,000 grant under the Youth Social Entrepreneurship Programme (YSEP) for Start-Ups.

They have also incorporated a social aspect – the Befrienders Programme. Introduced at the tail-end of the courses, the Befrienders Programme has volunteers from Singapore practise conversational English with the workers, and introduce Singaporean aspects of daily living.



▲
The results of a team bonding exercise

“We really want to work with the migrant workers and also with the employers on making work more productive and creating safer workplaces.”

– Manas Punhani
(Class of 2017)



Heading out

Yale-NUS provides students with plenty of opportunities to learn off campus, where a whole host of experiences await. In 2015, more than 40 students spent a semester abroad, while 70 percent of the classes of 2017 and 2018 embarked on summer programmes from May to July.

Mystery Internships

Mystery interns are not told where they will be going or what kind of work they will be doing. Instead, they are given a rough sense of the climate to pack for and the challenges they will face, and are urged to expect the unexpected. On or near the day of the departure, they are handed a plane ticket and told their destination by the Dean of CIPE.

“When I first signed up for the mystery internship, I was definitely a little apprehensive, as I had no idea where I was going to end up,” confessed Isa Ho (Class of 2017), who worked at the Princeton office of Princeton in Asia, a non-profit organisation located in New Jersey, USA, where she helped out with the strategic planning process as well as marketing and fundraising.

“On hindsight, I’m really glad I took the chance, as it’s been such a valuable learning and work experience!”

To date, 11 students have taken up the challenge of a mystery internship and found themselves in places such as the JUMP Foundation in Beijing, China, the Dhamma Moli Monastery in Yangon, Myanmar, and Chiang Mai Rock Climbing Adventures in Chiang Mai, Thailand.





From classroom learning to real life adventures

After taking a course in Philosophy and Political Thought, part of the Yale-NUS Common Curriculum, Ami Firdaus (Class of 2017) and Jake Goh Si Yuan (Class of 2018) decided to embark on a self-funded trip to Nepal during the summer break in 2015. The idea of a trip to Nepal was conceived after Jake found himself intrigued by the Buddhist and Hindu philosophies taught by Associate Professor Amber Carpenter, an expert on Indian Buddhist philosophy.

For 44 days, Ami and Jake, joined by their friend Woan Lin, travelled the famous Annapurna Circuit in Nepal. Starting from Bhulbule, the trio trekked to Marpha on foot, and then travelled to Pokhara by bus. Along the way, they met and befriended a number of Nepali people and fellow travellers, walked through villages, climbed mountains, and looked out at the breathtaking mountain ranges.

Both Ami and Jake agreed that the strongest learning point from their trip was the impact that experiences can have on learning. “One cannot even begin to imagine the sheer beauty of the Annapurnas without having been there,” said Ami, “and we surely cannot understand the things we try to learn in the classroom without actually experiencing them wherever they manifest themselves in this world.”

Learning Across Boundaries



(From left) Willie Khoo (Class of 2017) and Matthew Ware (Class of 2018) at the COP21 Paris climate conference.

Learning Across Boundaries (LABs) is a co-curricular programme developed by CIPE in collaboration with Yale-NUS faculty. Either faculty-led or jointly led by faculty and staff, LABs are programmes of short duration that allow faculty to share their scholarship with students outside the traditional classroom, encourage collaboration across disciplines and create an opportunity for students to explore themes of the curriculum in a broader context. With the world as its campus, LABs provide students with the opportunity of experiential learning in the global classroom.

In 2015, some 80 students went on seven LABs which brought them to places such as Paris for the United Nations climate negotiations (COP21), Spain for a biodiversity and culture immersion experience, Kyoto for an exposure to Japanese Mahāyāna Buddhism and art history, the Himalayas to explore the impact of climate change to extreme landscapes, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to develop creative writing skills in a desert.

Students at the Clinical Imaging Research C





*Students embarked on
Touching the Sky in Mongolia*



Week 7

In their first semester at Yale-NUS, all students experience a Week 7 LAB, which is one of the College's flagship offerings. Week 7 ties in with the Common Curriculum and is held during the mid-term break. Upon their return, students share their adventures through a symposium of presentations, photos, videos and poster displays.

The Class of 2019 went through a multitude of experiences – from dining in absolute darkness in Singapore, to witnessing a typhoon in Fujian, China, to seeing wild animals in the reserves of South Africa while learning about conservation and reintroductions. The

projects this year leveraged on the rich diversity in the region with three projects based in Singapore, and six others within Asia.

“The highlight of [my] trip was definitely the yurt stay in the Mongolian countryside where we did not have electricity or running water,” shared Rachel Tan (Class of 2019), who was a part of the project *Touching the Sky*, which explored Mongolia's universe of art and culture.

“During the week, I have enjoyed myself thoroughly being disconnected from civilisation and looking at the world from a whole new perspective.”

Giving

Philanthropic gifts have continued to nurture possibilities at Yale-NUS as our College grows. Every gift has made a difference at Yale-NUS, and we are extremely grateful for the support we have received. It is with this support that we are able to provide impactful and innovative programmes, offer scholarships to talented students, and make our Yale-NUS education accessible for students with financial needs, not to mention attract stellar academics through our professorships and fellowships.

Georgette Chen Study Award and Fellowship



Study awards

Even after her passing in 1993, Mrs Georgette Chen’s legacy in the Singapore art scene continues to burn strongly today. The Georgette Chen Trust, through its trustees, Dr Lee Seng Gee and Dr Della Suantio Lee, established the Georgette Chen Study Award at Yale-NUS.

One of the recipients of the Georgette Chen Study Award, Feroz Khan (Class of 2018), shared, “The study award allowed me to come to Yale-NUS College — that was a huge thing for me.”

“In my life, I have had to struggle tooth and nail for

every opportunity that I got. Now, I can finally focus on making the best of the opportunities and not worry about the finances involved. I can concentrate on giving my best to what I’m committed to,” Feroz added.

Dr Taroutina at the NUS Museum



Fellowship grants

At the College, aside from study awards, the Georgette Chen Trust also supports fellowship grants for which Dr Maria Taroutina, Assistant Professor of Humanities, was the first recipient.

Dr Taroutina is immensely thankful for the fellowship, which has been helpful in advancing her research. She said, “Our immediate priority

is to build up our library of visual arts resources, so I’m grateful to be able to contribute to these efforts through the Georgette Chen Fellowship.”

Dr Taroutina, who specialises in art history, stressed the importance of the grant in helping to build the visual arts department at the College. The grant allows her to purchase

more art history research materials to supplement the resources available in the library at Yale-NUS.

Global Leader Scholarship

Saza Faradilla (Class of 2018, centre)



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 sophomore 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.

Saza picked up netball in College and, as a member of the Yale-NUS International Relations and Political Association (YIRPA), she served as Under-Secretary General for Delegate Liaisons at the Asia-Pacific Model United Nations (AP MUN)

that Yale-NUS hosted, the largest MUN conference held in Singapore to date. Most notably, Saza founded KidsAccomplish, an enrichment programme for upper primary school students that aims to develop holistic and curious youths who possess social and international awareness.

In junior college, Saza had to juggle her schoolwork with extracurricular commitments and, on top of that, help fund her studies by giving tuition in the evenings, as she did not have a scholarship to support her financially. She is thankful not only for the abundance of opportunities Yale-NUS has provided her with, but also for the Global Leader

Scholarship, which allows her to make use of and enjoy these opportunities. As a result of the scholarship, she is now able to take advantage of different learning opportunities including those that allow her to take her learning out of the classroom and overseas without having to worry about finances.

Saza hopes that Yale-NUS will continue to thrive with ideas, and be a place where diverse opinions are discussed freely. She also hopes that the number of community service projects will grow as the College matures, so that students who are afforded this rich array of opportunities are able to give back.

“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.”

– Saza Faradilla
(Class of 2018), recipient of the Global Leader Scholarship

Kewalram Chanrai Scholarship



*(From left) Callysta Thony (Class of 2019),
Iwani Mawocha (Class of 2018) and
Alexia Davidson (Class of 2019)*

A unique scholarship that prioritises female students, the Kewalram Chanrai Scholarship was established with a generous gift from the Kewalram Chanrai Group. The priority was given in a bid to empower and inspire female undergraduates to be future leaders and entrepreneurs who will help to grow societies and economies of tomorrow.

Three Yale-NUS students, Iwani Mawocha (South Africa), Alexia Davidson (Jamaica) and Callysta Thony (Indonesia) were the inaugural recipients of this scholarship, which gave them access to tertiary education in Singapore. Each of them is passionate about doing more to give back to their communities, and to make a difference in the lives of others, particularly women who may not have had similar opportunities.

For Callysta (Class of 2019), the Kewalram Chanrai Scholarship meant access to an education

she was previously unable to afford, which in turn motivates her to do more with her time here. Callysta first started The Pathway Project in Indonesia in 2013, to help high school students attain corporate internships, and initiated a venture with the Global Issues Network organisation in high school that had her teaching English in villages near her hometown in Indonesia. She plans to return to Indonesia to expand on these efforts, armed with all that she has learnt here.

Coming from Jamaica, Alexia (Class of 2019) was presented with the opportunity to study, live and learn in Singapore through this scholarship. She continues to be at the forefront of what she does, as one of the pioneering female students in YNC Hacks, a student group that participates in hackathons. She is also involved in Arts Lab, an experimental theatre group, and hopes to present stories

of disadvantaged women and minorities in Singapore through theatre.

Iwani (Class of 2018), who intends to major in Computer Science, is working in collaboration with ConnectHer, a non-profit that helps with mentorship, connecting female students in Singapore to other women coders and professionals, and helping to facilitate coding courses throughout the semester. She is also the co-founder of Mustard Seed Africa, an organisation that focuses on female development, helping to provide opportunities for women mainly by focusing on income generating activities such as handicraft, agriculture and entrepreneurship to empower the female community.

Tan Chin Tuan Chinese Culture and Civilisation Programme

The Tan Chin Tuan Chinese Culture and Civilisation Programme aims to increase the understanding of China and Chinese culture amongst the students of Yale-NUS College. The Tan Chin Tuan Foundation has supported the Chinese Language Scholarship Programme and co-curricular activities that help deepen our students' knowledge of China and Chinese Studies.

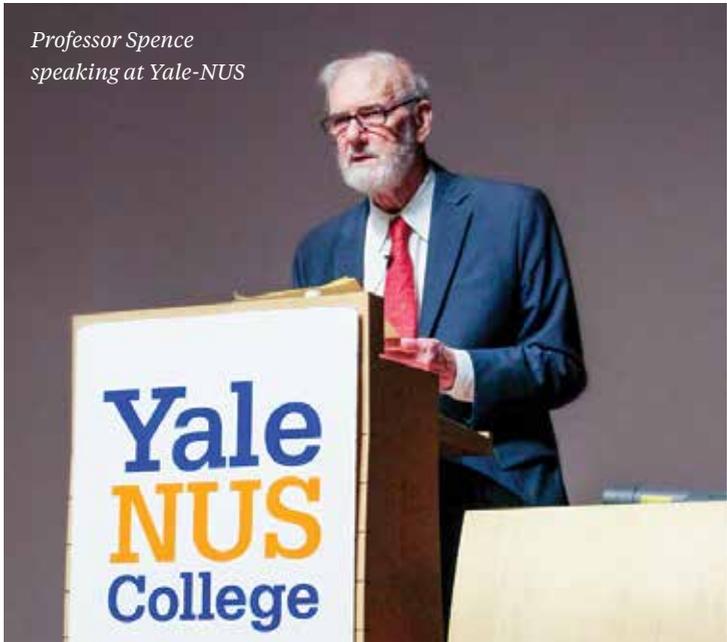
In addition, the Foundation established a professorship at Yale-NUS and in April 2013, Professor Scott Cook was named the inaugural Tan Chin Tuan Professor of Chinese Studies in recognition of teaching and research excellence.

Exploring China

The Foundation also supported student learning through immersive experiences in China.

In 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 CIPE, was partially supported through the Tan Chin Tuan Chinese Culture and Civilisation Programme.

During the summer of 2015, there were ten recipients of the Chinese Language Scholarship. Students had the opportunity to take up programmes in China as well as Taiwan. Martin Vasev (Class of 2018) from Bulgaria, took Intensive Chinese Language classes with CET Academic Programs, practising what he learnt with his Chinese roommate, while Mei-Mei Tan Heng Yee (Class of 2019) attended the International Chinese Language Program (ICLP) at Taiwan National University.



Professor Spence speaking at Yale-NUS

Speaker series

In 2015, Yale-NUS hosted two prominent professors who gave public lectures about Chinese culture under the auspices of the Tan Chin Tuan Chinese Culture and Civilisation Programme.

On 12 March, Professor Jonathan Spence, an internationally recognised leading scholar of Chinese History and Sterling Professor of History (Emeritus) at Yale University, discussed the

experiences in his academic career, during a public lecture titled 'A Historian's Life'.

The College also hosted Professor Michael Puett, Walter C. Klein Professor of Chinese History in the Department of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at Harvard University on 25 November, who delivered a lecture on Chinese traditions, particularly rituals and sincerity.

Tan Ean Kiam Study Award



Clin Lai (Class of 2018)

Clin Lai (Class of 2018) was awarded the Tan Ean Kiam Study Award when she joined the College in August 2014, and attributes it as the “sole reason” she was able to pursue her studies at Yale-NUS.

The myriad of opportunities at Yale-NUS allow her to develop and learn, while pursuing her extracurricular interests. Her family is thankful for the award, as it allows Clin to attend a college of her preference, without having to worry about financial factors.

The study award was founded by the Tan Ean Kiam Foundation, a philanthropic organisation that has

contributed greatly to NUS, and now, the study award at Yale-NUS.

The Foundation’s namesake, the late Mr Tan Ean Kiam, was a rubber magnate and businessman who immigrated to Singapore from China in 1899. In his lifetime, Mr Tan made many significant contributions to Singapore and social causes. After his death, the foundation was set up in his name to continue his contributions to society.

“The Tan Ean Kiam Study Foundation is pleased to be able to support deserving students at Singapore’s first liberal arts college,” said

Mr Tan Keng Soon, Chairman of the Tan Ean Kiam Foundation and grandson of the founder. “My grandfather was passionate about helping the needy, and we continue to honour his legacy by supporting youths to become leaders of tomorrow.”

Clin intends to support other youths to become leaders of tomorrow when she graduates. A kindergarten teacher for two years before coming to Yale-NUS, she fell in love with teaching, and has it in mind as a possible career to delve into upon graduation.

“The study award allowed me to attend such a great college that offers a myriad of opportunities for its students. There is no other college that I would rather be at than Yale-NUS College.”

– Clin Lai
(Class of 2018), recipient of the Tan Ean Kiam Study Award

Founding Benefactors

As we lay the foundations for Singapore's first liberal arts college, we are profoundly grateful to individuals, corporations and foundations who have made gifts to Yale-NUS College. We would like to take this opportunity to recognise and thank our founding benefactors, including those who have chosen to remain anonymous.

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