



Yale-NUS College receives architecture award

Text by Clare Isabel Ee | Image by Weave for Yale-NUS College

Yale-NUS College's campus has been awarded the prestigious International Architecture Award 2016, as recognised by The Chicago Athenaeum: Museum of Architecture and Design and The European Centre for Architecture Art Design and Urban Studies.

The campus, designed by Forum Architects Singapore and Pelli Clarke Pelli Architects (USA), was one of 370 projects shortlisted from hundreds of submissions



around the world. A jury of Italian architects and critics selected the final 130 awardees, with eight projects recognised from Singapore, including Yale-NUS College, the ArtScience Museum and Project Jewel at Changi Airport.

"The selected new buildings and urban planning projects in this year's edition of The International Architecture Awards demonstrate a new

and growing sensitivity to true human-based design and a sympathetic approach to sustainability and the environment," said Mr Christian Narkiewicz-Laine, Museum President of The Chicago Athenaeum.

The International Architecture Awards, one of the world's most extensive global architectural awards, recognise projects from all over the globe annually.

"We are delighted that our campus has been awarded

the International Architecture Award which recognises excellence in the design, construction, planning and sustainability of our campus," commented Yale-NUS' President Pericles Lewis.

"Our community watched in anticipation as our campus was built over the past few years. When it opened in 2015, there was collective amazement at its beauty and at the thoughtful details that

went into making it a space where living and learning are truly intertwined."

The campus that spans over 63,000 square-metres has many distinctive features: lush, green courtyards punctuated by tall residential towers, a close community of learning and social spaces, spacious five-foot walkways, and residential architecture that is integrated with green spaces.

"The award is just saying what I have always felt, that this project is an incredible accomplishment made possible by the joint efforts of many extremely hardworking, committed and very smart people from two seemingly different parts of the world," said Mr Tan Kok Hiang, Director, Forum Architects Pte Ltd.

For Mr Tan, the most iconic feature of the campus is the 30 sky gardens found in the three residential colleges, Saga, Elm and Cendana.

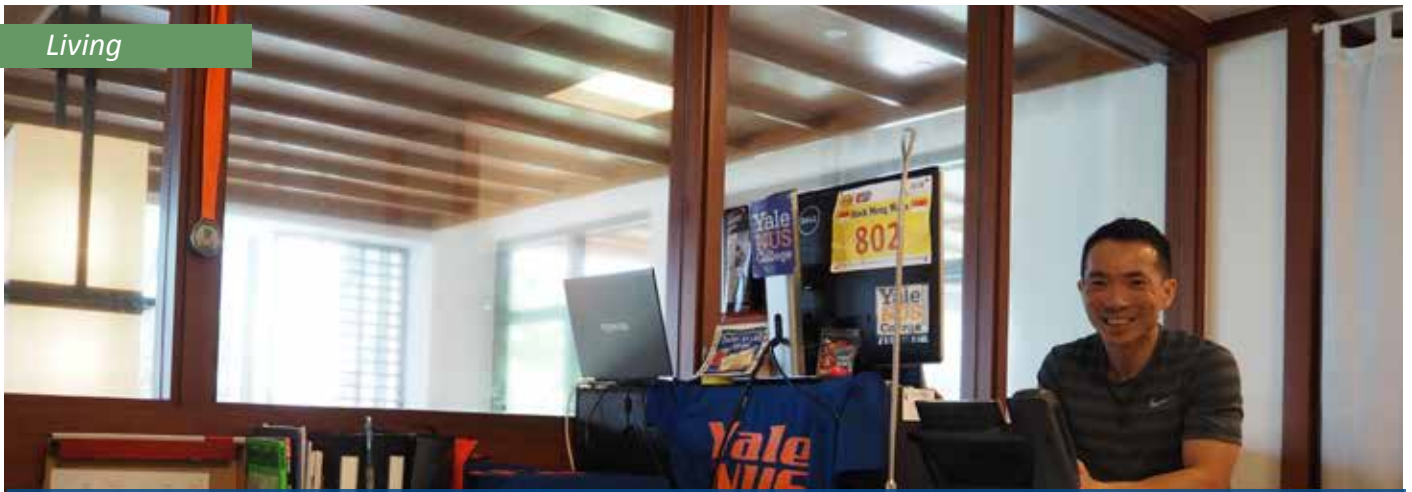
"Every three levels of residents form a neighbourhood and each of these neighbourhoods is served by a tropical sky garden with its own access stairs solely for the purpose of socialisation," he explained. "This for me is where Yale meets South East Asia."

The campus was first lauded for its green building designs while still under construction in 2013, when it received the Green Mark Platinum Award from the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) of Singapore.

The award recognised green features such as the eco-pond, stormwater treatment system, energy-efficient sensors and the maximisation of natural light all over the campus.

In 2014, Yale-NUS College was also the first educational institution to receive the Landscape Excellence Assessment Framework (LEAF) certification given out by the National Parks Board in recognition of its ecologically friendly landscapes.

The award-winning projects from the International Architecture Awards of 2016 will be featured in an exhibition that will premiere at the Istanbul Design Biennial at the UCTEA Chamber of Architects of Turkey Istanbul Metropolitan Branch from 2–30 September 2016, followed by a tour across Europe. The projects will also be published as a catalogue for Global Design + Urbanism XVI ('New International Architecture') edited by Mr Christian Narkiewicz-Laine from Metropolitan Arts Press.



Building a healthier and fitter College community

Text and Image by Melissa Wang

Typing away at his standing desk, it was hard to even think that he ran 23km to work in the morning.

But this is in fact a common ritual for Associate Director of Athletics & Fitness with the Dean of Students office, Mr Wainright Khoo, who is a firm believer that humans are made to move.

“Sitting is the new smoking, which is why I am an advocate for being active and I’m always standing when working,” shared Wainright, who also goes by Wain, still standing while being interviewed.

Out of the house by 6.15am to run at least every alternate day, Wain incorporates his training and workouts into his daily life – in this case, as a part of his commute.

He explained, “I think it is important to be flexible and creative with your training, so that it is less boring and this is also something I try to impress on students and my colleagues.”

Each of these runs are actually part of Wain’s training for the The CCC® race in Chamonix, France this August, a 101km ultra-trail marathon.

The CCC race will be the third and final qualifying race for Wain to secure enough points to ballot for a slot at next year’s Ultra-Trail du Mont-Blanc (UTMB), where he will take on the 100-mile (161km) race.

The UTMB is the pinnacle of ultra-marathons, and something Wain himself had thought impossible to accomplish.

He revealed that Dr Eduardo Lage-Otero, Vice Rector of the Saga College, was the person who planted the idea of taking on the UTMB in him.

“At that time, the idea seemed incredulous,” he conceded.

“You had to participate in enough races to even ballot for a slot!”

But in a little less than two years, Wain is now en route to qualifying for this fabled race.

He has since participated in two ultra-marathons in Hong Kong that contributed to his qualification.

One of these races, which reached sub-zero temperatures in the mountainous regions even saw his clothes frosting up – an experience Wain deemed to be his toughest race yet.

In spite of this, Wain revels in the beauty of trail running and the sport of ultra-marathons.

He appreciates that the races have lowered barriers of entry, where “any average Joe can take part, as long as you put in the time and effort”.

This spirit in ultra-marathoning goes hand in hand with Wain’s mantra for his work of promoting athletics and fitness at Yale-

NUS College.

“I hope to motivate the college community, colleagues and students alike, to understand that it does not take a big change in their life to become healthier and more active,” he stressed.

With this mindset, Wain has made multiple steps in the course of his work, to help students lead a more active lifestyle.

Having been with the College since 2013, he started with on-the-ground work, where he stationed himself at the climbing wall at Stephen Riady Centre every Wednesday, to assist any student who may be interested in rock climbing.

He also conducted speed interval sets for students at the track, especially in view of the Singaporean men who have to take the mandatory annual Individual Physical Proficiency Test (IPPT), in which a component is to run 2.4km.

At 43 years old, Wain is not letting age become an excuse, and definitely setting a role model.

He has clocked a timing of less than 9 minutes for the last ten years.

Wain reflected that a great deal has changed over the course of the last three years, from not knowing where student interests lie and having just one Multi Purpose

Hall, to having numerous facilities on the Yale-NUS campus, and established sports and wellness groups that students can join.

Feeling a sense of fulfilment from being entrusted with the responsibility to effect change in terms of athletics and fitness, Wain considers this as his drive to work.

This effect was also exhibited more recently, when Wain piloted the Fitbit Challenge, together with the Dean of Students Office to help active students know if they were getting enough rest, and to encourage sedentary students to move more.

“I have had students telling me that they were taking the stairs because of the Fitbit, which really motivates me,” Wain recounted. “It makes me feel that my work has an impact.”

When asked if he has any pearls of wisdom for the College community, he adds: “Inactivity kills, so keep moving!”



Engaging in dialogue is key for diversity

Text by Diyanah Kamarudin | Image by TEDx Pickering Street

On 28 May 2016, Daryl Yang (Class of 2018) shared his experiences as a student diversity activist to a live audience at TEDx Pickering Street.

The locally organised event invites speakers to present important ideas from all disciplines and how they connect and shape our world.

Daryl, a rising third-year student pursuing a double degree in Liberal Arts and Law, gave a speech titled 'Chasing the Rainbow'.

"[I wanted to] convey my thoughts on the idea of the rainbow as the symbol of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) movement both as a representation of hope and of diversity," he explained.

During his speech, Daryl touched on how his experiences as Coordinator of The G Spot, a gender and sexuality alliance on campus, have provided him insights on how Singapore's society can be more inclusive in its definition of diversity.

For example, he reflected on how his role in organising and participating in a closed-door dialogue with Ambassador-at-Large Chan Heng Chee helped him realise the importance of engaging with parties who hold different views.

Daryl also shared two other experiences organising a 'human library' session that 'loans' real people to readers with Ms June Chua, a transgender activist, to

allow people to know more about these issues through engagement, as well as a panel on gender identity held at the College this year.

He strongly believes that the local community would benefit from building bridges and forming connections in spite of opposing or contradicting views, and credits the meaningful and heartfelt conversations with his diverse peers at Yale-NUS for this belief.

"[Through those conversations], I realised

speaking on the actual day was still a nerve-racking experience as he was "changing [his] script up to the last hour".

Stage jitters aside, Daryl's speech clearly left a profound impact on the audience.

One audience member came up to him after the event and shared a personal story about how two friends of hers were no longer talking after one of them came out of the closet.

"I think it's stories like that that really remind me of

Singapore in the near future.

He also hopes to explore how different types of injustices intersect and how he can play a role in addressing them.

Ultimately, Daryl hopes that his speech helped convey his key message of the importance of engaging in patient dialogue with one another.

"People need to start listening to each other and understand different perspectives and experiences rather than being rooted and indignant in their

"Through those conversations, I realised that change comes not when you stand on your side of the fence shouting down at others with what you believe, but when you create a connection... in a common humanity despite your differences."

that change comes not when you stand on your side of the fence shouting down at others with what you believe, but when you create a connection...in a common humanity despite your differences," he asserted.

Although he had attended a few rehearsals for TEDx Pickering where he had to speak in front of a mock audience prior to the actual event, Daryl admitted that

the need for reconciliation through understanding and empathy," Daryl reflected.

"I was very touched when she shared that with me because it resonated very strongly with my personal experiences too."

Given his current academic training as a law student, Daryl is highly interested in researching the interactions between law and activism in

own beliefs and experiences," he concluded.

Find out more about TEDx Pickering Street at www.tedxpickeringstreet.com



Using the theatre for social engagement

Text by Daryl Yang | Image by The Pond Photography

While many of his classmates embarked on various summer programmes across the globe, Chng Yi Kai (Class of 2018) has remained in Singapore over the past few months as an independent artist working on *IgnorLAND Of Its Loss*, a site-specific community theatre production by Drama Box.

The production will take audiences around Dakota Crescent, where residents will share their stories about the impending destruction of one of Singapore's oldest housing estates slated for redevelopment by the end of the year.

For Yi Kai, the community engagement aspect was his main motivation that drew him to theatre.

"I am very interested in the use of applied theatre—such as community theatre, forum theatre and site-specific projects—to engage with people about issues that affect our communities and environment," he said.

Drama Box, a local theatre company formed in 1990, is a nonprofit contemporary theatre company known for staging powerfully thought-provoking and reflective productions.

Yi Kai has been involved with Drama Box's youth wing, ARTivate, over the past two years, during which he underwent a two-year training programme for young people who are interested in theatre as a tool for social

engagement.

"I was the project manager for our graduation production, titled *Kopitiam*," Yi Kai shared.

"Based on the script by 1989 Cultural Medallion recipient, Kuo Pao Kun, we wanted the audience to explore and rethink the social issues of development and land contestation with us."

Kopitiam received much positive feedback and was also featured on the Chinese newspaper, *Lianhe Zaobao*.

He explained that the issue of "heritage" is one that Drama Box has explored in many of its previous projects, "in challenging the hegemonic narrative of the need for progress in Singapore".

For instance, Drama Box had previously produced 2015's critically acclaimed *It Won't Be Too Long*, a series of shows that hinged on the debate surrounding the fate of Bukit Brown Cemetery.

As Drama Box and ARTivate are primarily Chinese-speaking theatre groups, Yi Kai grappled with the language barrier at first.

He had usually been involved in English productions and was not accustomed to using his mother tongue, Mandarin, as a primary language of communication in theatre.

"Though it was hard at first, I came to appreciate the diversity of language

in Kuo's work, which depicted the exchanges of different languages back in early Singapore and a multilingual culture that is fast disappearing today."

While working on *Kopitiam*, Yi Kai was struck by the general loss of the nuances of different Chinese dialects as spoken within the local Chinese community.

"For instance, to stay true to the script, we chose to use the Hainanese pronunciation of 'ah gong' (grandfather) which is pronounced differently in Hokkien and Teochew," he recalled.

"Many audience members came up to us thinking that our actor had pronounced it wrongly because of the prevalence of the Hokkien pronunciation compared to the Hainanese pronunciation which fewer people are familiar with."

Yi Kai, who is majoring in Anthropology, shared that his academic experiences have helped him in these theatre projects to better understand different perspectives and how one uncovers and understands these perspectives through fieldwork.

"When working on a community-based theatre or site-specific project, there is a lot of groundwork to be done and a significant part of it has to do with ethnographic research," he explained.

"For instance, while working

on the Dakota Crescent project, we started talking to residents for more than a year to engage and build rapport with them as well as to understand how they relate to the space and the issue of gentrification and redevelopment."

Outside of theatre work, Yi Kai's interests also include photography.

As co-founder of the Yale-NUS Photography Club, Yi Kai also hopes to minor in Arts & Humanities and has previously taken a class in documentary photography, from which he took away useful skills for his own documentary installation for *IgnorLAND Of Its Loss*.

"The skills I learnt in the class were very helpful in my artistic process as I was more mindful about how to make my subjects comfortable so as to foster the atmosphere and tone I needed for the frozen images I was going to take."

On his experiences at Yale-NUS College, Yi Kai shared that he is particularly excited about the intersections between his academic and non-academic experiences.

"I will be taking a class on Ethnography next semester and hope to learn more about ethics in fieldwork and how to balance between being sensitive to the needs and lived experiences of people I'm studying and what I need for my research and artistic endeavour," he said.



Yale-NUS Cycling Club gears up before sunrise

Text by Diyanah Kamarudin | Image by Nicolas Wong

Michael Moore Jones (Class of 2017) first stumbled into his love for cycling after purchasing a cheap, run-of-the-mill bicycle in Singapore.

“[I bought it] with the intention of getting around UTown (University Town) and maybe to Clementi,” he said.

“But I found myself going out on the bike every day, exploring new parts of Singapore and increasing the distances I was riding.”

The two students discovered their mutual love for cycling after bumping into each other on the road.

After racking up thousands of kilometres cycling together, including a cycling trip in Cameron Highlands, Malaysia, the pair decided to co-found the Yale-NUS Cycling Club in the fall semester of 2015.

The Cycling Club aims to nurture a passion for cycling in the College community, both as a means of transport

East Coast Park, the Kranji farmlands, as well as Sentosa Island.

The club, however, has also run into a few roadblocks.

As with many other young student groups, differing opinions have come up over how the student club should be run, Michael explained.

He stressed, however, that the co-founders “have tried to take all these visions into account and create an

Island in February 2016.

In addition, the club is hoping to rope in more ad-hoc members for recreational rides, as well as organise an international cycling trip in the future.

Michael and Peter are also actively finding ways to get more College faculty members involved in the club, and bring more NUS students into its activities in order to build closer ties with our neighbours.

Peter personally hopes to see more students taking advantage of the resources that the Cycling Club provides.

“We have a [selection of] road and mountain bikes that students can borrow... [meaning that] everyone can give it a go with no commitment and then see if [cycling] is something they enjoy,” he stated.

Another goal for the club is to get more students signing up for its weekly guided rides, which are open to students of all cycling abilities.

“Seeing a bunch of Yale-NUS students all out riding at sunrise is a fantastic sight,” Peter enthused, “and everyone is back in time for class.”

“Seeing a bunch of Yale-NUS students all out riding at sunrise is a fantastic sight ... and everyone is back in time for class.”

Peter Lewis (Class of 2018), on the other hand, found that the bonds of friendship formed after every ride personally inspired him.

“One of my favorite aspects of road cycling is that it is a cooperative sport, and a challenge that everyone meets together,” Peter elaborated.

“Riding hundreds of kilometres as a group requires that everyone support each other physically—by taking turns in the wind—as well as emotionally, through encouragement.”

and as a sport, as well as contribute to the local and regional burgeoning cycling communities.

Students from all levels of fitness are welcome to join.

Currently, the club has around 16 members, including College faculty as well as several National University of Singapore (NUS) students.

Training mostly takes place in the form of ad-hoc rides throughout the week, where members embark on scenic routes around Singapore, such as those in Marina Bay Sands,

informal environment where people can try cycling at little or no cost, and can then see a path to take it further if they find they love it.”

The club is now gearing up to participate in cycling competitions over the next academic year.

Several members have already participated in the club’s first team race, the Nongsa Challenge, in Indonesia earlier this year.

The Challenge, an international cycling race held annually, took place on Batam



Learning Sanskrit in Nepal

Text by Daryl Yang | Image by Derek Wolter

The language is ancient and not many people use it.

Despite its perceived obscurity, Josh Ragbir and Sherice Ngaserin (Class of 2018) enthusiastically said 'yes' to the offer to study Sanskrit in Nepal.

The rising juniors, who are both majoring in Philosophy, are currently attending a summer language programme at the Rangjung Yeshe Institute in the city of Kathmandu, Nepal.

The programme's costs are offset by the Summer Language Scholarship, of which the two students are recipients.

The scholarship, offered by the College's Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE), is worth up to \$5,000.

Josh and Sherice had different motivations for learning the language.

Sherice's curiosity about the Sanskrit language was piqued when she observed that the Common Curriculum texts that she had previously studied were all written in Sanskrit.

Knowing the language, therefore, could add to her understanding of the academic material.

Josh, on the other hand, lamented that he realised how "watered down" traditional Hindu education was in his home country of

Trinidad and Tobago after taking a philosophy course on Hinduism last semester.

"For seven years, I sang songs and said prayers written in Sanskrit," he reflected. "But no one attempted to learn the language, much less teach it to me."

Every weekday at 8 am, the two students attend a traditional Sanskrit class, where they learn spoken Sanskrit. This is then followed by a Sanskrit grammar lesson lasting one or two hours.

Due to the intense nature of the course, time after class is usually spent completing homework in local cafes.

Aside from the heavy academic workload, Sherice admitted that she experienced some minor culture shocks when she first arrived.

"I think the thing that surprised me most at first was that dinner is served pretty late in Nepal," she said.

"Back in Singapore, I often eat dinner at seven, so I was surprised that Nepali and Tibetan families tend to eat dinner at 9pm or later in the summer. My Ama-la (Tibetan for mother) explained that this is because people often start cooking after it turns dark."

Josh had an easier time adjusting to the local culture, having already spent a month living in Nepal in December 2015.

However, he shared that he continues to be caught off-guard by the "sheer politeness" of the Nepali people.

The two students have also been actively learning outside the classroom.

reconstruction in the coming weeks, as the building was badly damaged after the 2015 earthquakes.

Ultimately, both Josh and Sherice credit their professors at Yale-NUS for instilling their passion in the language.



Sherice at a Buddhist stupa in

During a class expedition, Sherice visited Durbar Marg, a street in Kathmandu, to attempt to decipher the Sanskrit inscriptions on the walls of the Buddhist temples and structures there.

Josh's love for walking has also led him to the Boudhanath Stupa, the holiest Buddhist stupa outside of Tibet.

The stupa, an important form of Buddhist architecture, is usually used for meditation.

He will be volunteering in its

Sherice pointed out, for example, that there are "many amazing professors" one can approach in the College to read a text in Sanskrit.

Josh concurred.

"We have three professors who actively study Sanskrit texts, another incoming professor who actively works with inscriptions and one interested in researching Indo-Roman trade routes," he said.

"For a school our size, that's unbelievable."



Conducting scientific research

Text by Daryl Yang | Images provided by Clarissa Leong and Tiffany Sin

Two Yale-NUS students were selected to participate in the research projects of Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) faculty members as part of the Singapore-MIT Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SMURF), which aims to expose undergraduate students to research experiences involving an internationally diverse group of investigators.

Clarissa Leong (main photo) and Tiffany Sin, both from the Class of 2017, are spending the summer from 1 June to 29 July at the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART) Centre, a research enterprise established by the MIT in partnership with the National Research Foundation of Singapore (NRF).

Established in 2007, the SMART Centre serves as an intellectual hub for research interactions between MIT and Singapore at the frontiers of science and technology. MIT's first research centre outside of the United States, is located conveniently next to Yale-NUS College in the Campus for Research Excellence and Technological Enterprise (CREATE) at University Town in the NUS.

Tiffany has been working under Professor Les Norford, Director of Building Technology Group at MIT's School of Architecture and Planning, on thermal comfort in urban environments after spending the past

semester since January 2016 working for the Center for Environmental Sensing and Modeling at MIT.

"Using numerical simulations and the physics of heat balances and flow patterns, we simulate wind, temperature, pressure, and other parameters of an urban canyon which are translated into a thermal comfort index. My role is in improving the efficiency of the simulation code and adapting it to study complex geometries, and also contributing to the writing of the research paper," she explained.

The project was a perfect fit for Tiffany who is majoring in Physical Sciences with a



minor in Urban Studies. "I've been interested in numerical simulations of urban areas since Integrated Science in my first year, when we were tasked to present on a topic that integrated two of the disciplines we studied and my group had presented on city ventilation."

For Clarissa, who was curious about the work done

to bridge the knowledge and attitude gap between institutions and researchers working on the climate change issue and the general public, her role has been in performing qualitative research on a mobile carbon sensing project.

"My team at the Future Urban Mobility research group is developing a mobile application which provides users with personalised information on how to reduce their carbon emissions by tracking their daily activity patterns. I organise interviews and focus group discussions with participants who have used a trial version of the app and show them various representations of their

personal carbon emissions from data gathered through the app. I then evaluate the most compelling approaches to motivate people to reduce their travel emissions."

The most memorable experience for Clarissa was having the opportunity to hear a spectrum of opinions about climate change from people highly knowledgeable about the issue to people

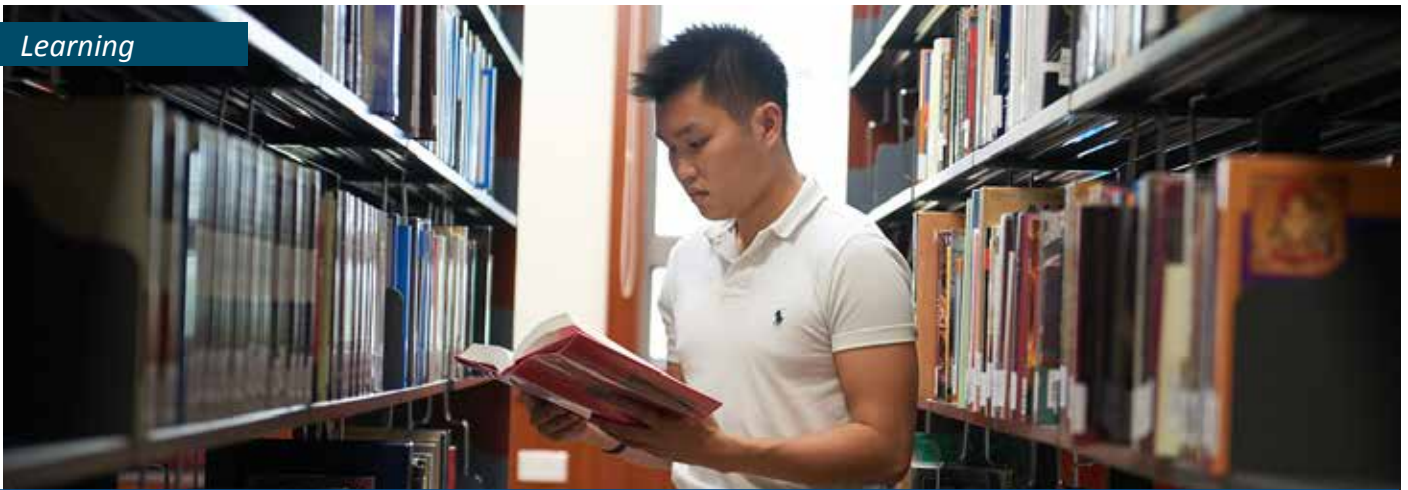
who are more hard pressed to deal with daily bread and butter issues, which helped her realise the challenges working on such complex environmental issues.

"Changing attitudes towards climate change is a very complicated issue to address especially when human beings find multiple ways to ignore the effects of climate change," she noted.

Tiffany shared that she has been learning many different skills on the job, such as coding and scientific writing but the greatest lesson she has learnt is that a large part of research is about answering the short but very complicated question of "Who cares?"

"SMART prioritises making a real impact in the research it conducts. Because of this, I've had some good discussions about the applicability and impact of our research. Which agencies care? What country other than Singapore would look to computational models before pursuing major developments? What's your standard of a "good" public space?"

On her plans after graduation in a year's time, Clarissa shared that she plans to pursue a master's degree after graduation. "I've always been interested in policy work and this fellowship has helped me understand the processes and challenges of research that inform policy decisions."



Double degree programme in law and liberal arts

Text by Daryl Yang | Image by Weave for Yale-NUS

On 6 May 2016, Amelia Chew (Class of 2017) argued against the introduction of affirmative action to ensure a minority race president before Singapore's Chief Justice Sundaresh Menon.

She was speaking before the Constitutional Commission formed to review the Elected Presidency system in Singapore, which included Mr Eddie Teo, Chairman of the Public Service Commission and Professor Chan Heng Chee, Chairman, Lee Kuan Yew Centre for Innovative Cities, Singapore University of Technology and Design.

Professor Chan is also a member of the Yale-NUS College Governing Board.

Amelia is part of a group of four law undergraduates at the National University of Singapore (NUS) invited to present their proposals on aspects of the Elected Presidency.

She is also in the pioneer batch of students in the Double Degree Programme (DDP) in Law and Liberal Arts.

Jointly offered by Yale-NUS College and the Faculty of Law at NUS, the double degree programme offers students a broad liberal arts education in addition to their professional training in the law.

Students take the Yale-NUS Common Curriculum, including Philosophy & Political Thought and

Comparative Social Inquiry, as well as core and elective law modules, such as Law & Society and Introduction to Legal Theory.

The intellectual breadth of the DDP was what appealed to Cephas Tan (Class of 2018) who is currently a legal intern in shipping law with Holman Fenwick Willan – Asialegal LLC.

"Studying certain modules related to philosophy and sociology at Yale-NUS have helped me understand

use of their legal knowledge to contribute to the larger community.

For instance, Bozy Lu (Class of 2018) has been involved in the Labour Court Research Project since January 2016.

The project is a collaborative effort involving other law students and faculty from NUS and the Singapore Management University as well as volunteers from TWC2, a non-governmental organisation that promotes

legal aspects of the issue and connect with other disciplines, in order to make the best use of the law as a form of protection, instead of punishment."

This summer, Melody Lau (Class of 2018) has also taken up a pro bono legal internship at a migrant workers non-governmental organisation, Humanitarian Organisation for Migration Economics (HOME).

She shared that the internship has helped her realise that the issues facing migrant

"With the analytical skills acquired from Yale-NUS and NUS Law classes, I have been researching on the role that the legal system plays in Singapore, and how this complexity influences employer-employee relationships in the workforce."

the study of jurisprudence better. I also have a deeper appreciation for the law and its many intersections in other fields," he shared.

Similarly, Amelia noted that her greatest takeaway from her experience presenting to the Constitutional Committee is "realising that constitutional law in practice takes place at the intersection of law, politics, and policy."

Many DDP students also make

equitable treatment for migrant workers in Singapore.

"With the analytical skills acquired from Yale-NUS and NUS Law classes, I have been researching on the role that the legal system plays in Singapore, and how this complexity influences employer-employee relationships in the workforce," explained Bozy.

"This project has challenged me to look beyond the

workers are 'extremely complex'.

"It is a political, social, economic and systemic problem on all fronts."

The DDP is a five-year honours programme and graduates are awarded a Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) degree from Yale-NUS College and a Bachelor of Laws (with Honours) degree from NUS Law.

Pursuing dream internships

Text by Cheo Baoyun | Image by Weave for Yale-NUS

This summer, a group of Yale-NUS students were able to pursue their ideal career experience through the Self-Directed Internship Funding programme, made possible by the Alice and Peter Tan Endowment at the College. The programme, run by the Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE) at Yale-NUS, allowed students the flexibility of specialising and creating their own internship experience.

“While CIPE-coordinated internships encompass a wide range of sectors, the Self-Directed Internship programme was created to support our students’ very diverse interests,” shared Mr Norvin Ng, Director of Career Services. “More importantly, such internships help them learn the art of ‘how to fish’ by actively pursuing their interests, an important life skill to acquire whilst still in college.”

The inaugural recipients included Yejin Park, Maggie Schumann and Keziah Quek, whose internships spanned a wide variety of industries and locales.

Yejin Park (Class of 2019), worked for Froosh as a Group Communications Assistant and Public Affairs Manager in Copenhagen, Denmark. Froosh is a fresh fruit smoothie company that takes pride in its unique and healthy recipes, and is a strong supporter of purchasing fruit from farms in

developing countries. Yejin’s role included researching trade barriers that hinder developing countries from exporting their products and, ultimately, supporting the company’s Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Yejin spoke about her experience working under the CSR department as seeing “theories and common sense intersect”.



Yejin holds 2 Froosh smoothies in her office in Copenhagen.

“Experiencing these moments have led me to believe that CSR can act as a bridge between businesses and society,” Yejin added.

Pursuing her passion in the art scene, Keziah Quek (Class of 2017), interned at Christie’s International (Singapore), in the Southeast Asian Art Specialist and Business department, assisting in auctions, market research and business operations.

Having embarked on every opportunity to work in the arts, Keziah has worked on projects at the Affordable Art Fair and the 56th Venice

Biennale, among others. Interning at Christie’s has been a great way for Keziah to gain a more well-rounded experience of the art world.

“I want to be an art dealer or curator in the future, and understanding the secondary market at arguably a top auction house is a great way to understand how it all works,” Keziah shared.

She explained that it was no easy feat to secure the internship: “I wasn’t sure if it was a pipe dream but I was determined to try. So I got in touch, and the right people decided I was worth recommending, and I got the internship of my dreams!”

Another recipient, Maggie Schumann (Class of 2017), committed her summer internship to working as a Legal Assistant for the CARA Pro Bono Project in Dilley, Texas. While there, her work directly impacted the lives of Central American women and child refugees.

“The vast majority of our

work is to prevent their deportation,” Maggie explained.

“Unfortunately this is a harried process, especially given that it takes place in a private prison. The immediacy of our work here is a real contrast to the observational and more removed dynamics of academia,” she noted.

Prior to this, Maggie participated in a study abroad programme in Tucson, Arizona, that focused on social justice issues in the US-Mexico borderlands. It was there she decided that she wanted to spend her summer doing work related to migration and her instructors referred her to CARA.

Every day, she met with women about her age who have undergone dangerous journeys with their children to escape extreme violence in their home countries.

As Maggie is considering attending law school, interning at CARA was a great way to know the profession on a more intimate level.

For these students, the Alice and Peter Tan Endowment has gone a long way to help these students achieve more. As Maggie puts it – “this is a tremendous gift”, one that will truly keep giving.

The writer, Cheo Baoyun is also a recipient of the Self-Directed Internship Funding Programme. She spent the summer interning at Studio Theatre in Washington, DC.