



## Yale-NUS Names Prof Tan Yai Yong as New College President

Yale-NUS College, Asia's leading liberal arts college, has named Professor Tan Tai Yong as its new President, following an extensive global search. Deeply involved in the College since its early planning days, Professor Tan has been serving as the College's Executive Vice President (Academic Affairs) since 2014 and oversees the academic and co-curricular aspects of the Yale-NUS liberal arts experience. Professor Tan will take office on 1 July 2017.

A strong believer in the value of a liberal arts and science education, Professor Tan has been active in shaping the academic programme of the College from the very beginning. He served as the co-chair of the joint Yale and NUS committee that hired the inaugural faculty members in the humanities and helped shape the common curriculum in 2011. In October 2014, Professor Tan took on the role of Executive Vice President (Academic Affairs) at Yale-NUS, where he worked closely with students, faculty, and staff to enrich the educational experience and enhance the academic programmes at the College. Under his leadership, the Yale-NUS faculty has nearly doubled in size, comprising outstanding teachers who are also respected researchers in their respective fields. Professor

Tan also worked with the academic team to strengthen the curriculum, enhance research at the College and improve laboratory and library facilities, and with the student affairs team to further integrate the academic and residential life at the College.

Madam Kay Kuok, Chair of the College's Governing Board, said, "Every member of the Governing Board is delighted by this appointment: Professor Tan is a seasoned and respected academic leader with almost two decades in senior administrative positions; he has been a major architect of Yale-NUS College since its earliest planning days; and he has been an indispensable contributor to building the culture and curriculum of the College in the two and a half years he has admirably served as the College's Executive Vice President. I look forward to his able leadership of the College in the years to come."

The Governing Board, meeting in Singapore today, unanimously elected Professor Tan after an extensive global search led by Presidential Search Committee co-chairs Professor Richard C Levin, President Emeritus of Yale University, and Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, President of the National University of Singapore (NUS). Other

members of the search committee included Yale-NUS Governing Board members Ms Linda Lorimer, former Vice President at Yale University, Ms Chong Siak Ching, Chief Executive Officer of the National Gallery Singapore and senior Yale-NUS College faculty Professor Terry Nardin and Associate Professor Khoo Hoon Eng.

Upon receiving the appointment, Professor Tan Tai Yong shared, "It is the greatest privilege to be appointed to lead this innovative institution that has been reinventing education in the liberal arts and sciences for this century. I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance the College in the coming years as we equip this generation of outstanding students for leadership in every sector of society. I am confident that our graduates will use the broader perspective and empathy they have developed at the College to serve their communities in Singapore and around the world."

Professor Pericles Lewis, Founding President of the College said, "I am overjoyed to be handing over stewardship of this remarkable college to my friend and colleague Tan Tai Yong. His wisdom, energy, and calm have improved Yale-NUS immeasurably since he joined

the College full-time two and a half years ago. A leader who understands the faculty, staff, and students well, Tai Yong is poised to take the College to further heights of excellence in the coming years. When I return to New Haven, I look forward to working with Tai Yong to ensure the continued success of Yale-NUS."

Professor Lewis will return to Yale University to assume the role of Vice President for Global Strategy and Deputy Provost for International Affairs.

Current Yale President Peter Salovey, a member of the Yale-NUS Governing Board, has been an enthusiastic supporter of the College since it was first envisioned. President Salovey said, "I am delighted that Tai Yong will become the College's next President. He is respected by the leadership of Yale and by many faculty colleagues with whom he has worked over the years. He and I are eager to build even stronger connections between Yale in New Haven and Yale-NUS."



## A Career in the Public Service Sector after Graduation

Text by Daryl Yang | Image provided by Tan Joyan

While many of the graduating Yale-NUS students are in the thick of exploring their post-graduation options, some have their immediate career paths mapped out as they will be fulfilling their bond requirements from government scholarships they received prior to entering Yale-NUS College.

Tan Joyan (Class of 2017) will head off to teach at a local secondary school, before continuing her studies at the National Institute of Education (NIE) in December for a Postgraduate Diploma in Education Programmes. As a scholar with the Ministry of Education, Joyan will be serving a four-year bond with the Ministry as a teacher after completing her postgraduate diploma at NIE.

“After a one and a half-year stint in NIE, I’ll be deployed to a local secondary school to teach. My two teaching subjects are History and Social Studies, in that order,” she shared. Joyan is majoring in History at Yale-NUS College.

Her college experience has been influential in shaping how Joyan sees her future role as a teacher.

“The best thing I think Yale-NUS has done for me is to expose me to a wide variety of experiences, and taught me to focus on doing what I enjoy as well as I can, rather than let myself be caught up in a rat race of grades—an attitude I hope I can bring to my school and students in

future,” she shared.

Another student who will also be serving his scholarship bond is Hamid Roslan (Class of 2017). A scholar with the National Arts Council, Hamid will contribute to nurturing the arts landscape in Singapore.

“I took the scholarship because I wanted to contribute to the arts scene in Singapore, and I felt that the best place I could affect change in a positive way was through working at the National Arts Council. The other reason is more practical: I needed a way to pay for my college education that wouldn’t involve student debt, and being bonded to the NAC seemed a more financially sound decision than to take out a student loan, since it guaranteed employment in a field that I was interested to work in,” he explained.

As part of his scholarship programme with the NAC, Hamid also went on an internship stint with its Strategic Planning department, where he conducted research on cultural policies.

“I think the most important thing I took away from my internship was another perspective on the challenges of developing the arts scene in Singapore. There are many moving parts to the arts ecosystem which comprises many stakeholders with equally compelling ideas of

what the arts in Singapore should look like and how it should proliferate,” Hamid reflected.

“This doesn’t only involve questions of taste, but also questions of money and sustainability, which are often neglected because of the misconception that art and art-making must necessarily avail themselves from caring about market forces. I think being aware of these complexities will serve me well in the Council,” he noted.

A crucial aspect of Hamid’s college experience has been the “painstaking process of trying to build a community”. As part of the pioneer class, Hamid was involved in co-founding The G Spot, the College’s gender and sexuality alliance.

“I think all of us genuinely believe in our ideas of what the Yale-NUS community looks like, but what we don’t realise is that these visions often compete. What happens, then, is that we have to negotiate with each other how best to create a community that can be as inclusive as possible, to the widest swath of people,” he reflected.

Rachel Ong (Class of 2017) is currently majoring in Global Affairs and a recipient of the Defence Merit Scholarship administered by Singapore’s Ministry of Defence.

Rachel had taken up the scholarship because she

“wanted to give back to Singapore for the privileges I’ve enjoyed as a citizen”.

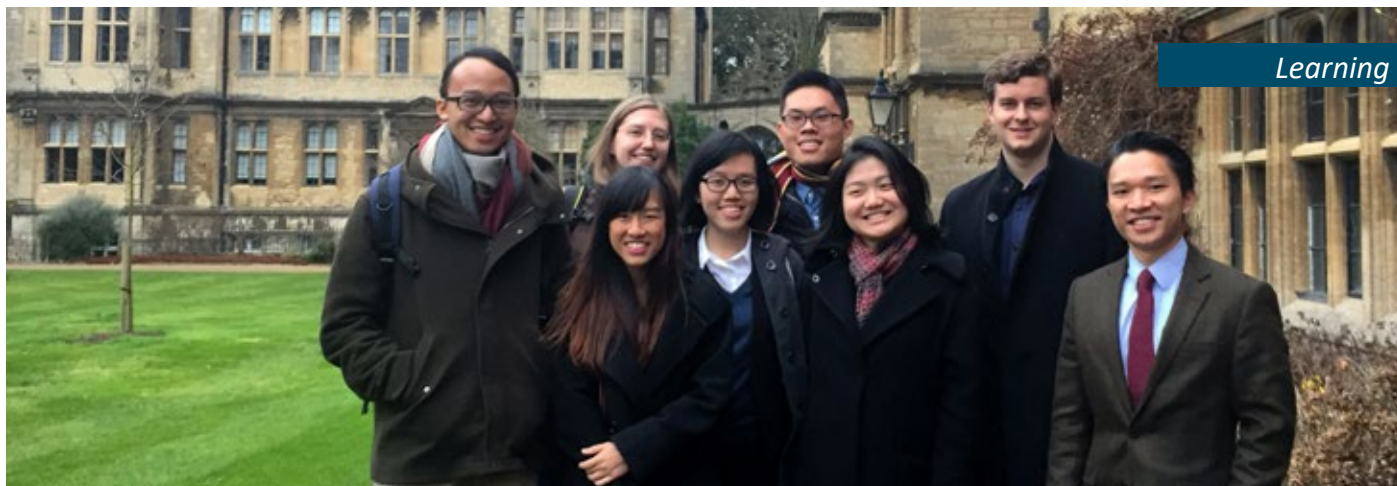
“Having grown up here, I have certainly received many benefits in my public education from primary school to junior college. As such, I felt compelled to serve my country for having given me the wonderful opportunities over the years.”

Rachel feels well-prepared for her career by her college experiences. Reflecting on her experiences, she shared: “As a Global Affairs major, I have enjoyed a wonderful selection of electives that has given me a keen perspective of world issues today.”

“What really sets Yale-NUS apart is the quality professors and students bring to each lecture and seminar. The community of learning here, with its bold curiosity and commitment to academic rigour, has helped me to gain and articulate perspectives that are far beyond my own reach and at the same time, hone my hard research skills.”

As for what she is looking forward to after graduation, Rachel is excited about working in policymaking in the defence arena.

“The work will be fast-paced and demanding, but I am excited for the challenge. Above all, being able to serve by protecting and improving my nation’s security drives me forward.”



## Yale-NUS Students Present at Oxford Symposium

Text by Daryl Yang | Image provided by Karen Ho

Three Yale-NUS students – Karen Ho (Class of 2017), Min Lim (Class of 2018) and Ng Qi Siang (Class of 2019) – presented their research at a symposium organised by Trinity College at Oxford University. Titled ‘Conversations in Singapore History’, the one-day symposium aimed to bring together different academic disciplines to present diverse perspectives on the history of the country.

Karen, a history major, presented on her capstone project titled ‘Another Singaporean Song: Xinyao and National Identity in Singapore’. Seniors at Yale-NUS College complete a capstone project that span their final year to fulfil their major requirements.

Karen’s capstone is focused on Xinyao, a Mandarin youth music movement in 1980s Singapore. “I’m looking at how the movement conversed with the government’s attempts to impose a national narrative, and how Xinyao, in response, influenced and articulated the people’s conception of national identity,” she explained.

Her interest in this topic was sparked after finding out about Xinyao a year before. “I was thrilled to realise that there was once a time in Singapore where the voices of young people stirred the nation. I was really excited to find a ground-up movement – started by students younger

than I am now – whose echoes have reverberated through the decades,” Karen reflected.

Each senior is attached to a faculty who serves as capstone advisor. For Karen, it was Executive Vice President of Academic Affairs and Professor of History Tan Tai Yong.

“I’m extremely fortunate to have Professor Tan as my advisor. He has provided



much insight into the way I approach my topic. He gave me many crucial areas for consideration as I went about my capstone and also linked me up with professors, librarians and others that have played a huge role in shaping my capstone,” Karen noted.

For Min, who is also a history major and had previously taken a class on 14th century Temasik, the symposium was “a great way to deepen my understanding on various histories and debates on Singapore”. Temasik is an

early recorded name of Singapore.

Min’s presentation focused on the defensive structures of 14th century Temasik. She explained, “This mainly focuses on the wall and moat – key structures at that time – and is coincidentally quite relevant given recent global issues and discussions: what is the significance of a wall? What purpose can it serve, apart from keeping people out?”

interested in post-colonial history, which ultimately inspired me to write this paper,” Qi Siang shared.

On what she was most excited about before the symposium, Min shared that she “looked forward to meeting fellow peers who are passionate and involved in research and experience the act of presenting at an academic symposium”. For Karen, this opportunity to share her research ideas at such a

Qi Siang presented on the de-emphasis of colonial violence in Singapore history textbooks, a topic he became interested in during his Modern Social Thought (MST) class, which is part of the Common Curriculum.

“This research was part of some independent research I conducted in December to kill time over the holidays. However, I built very heavily on the work I did in MST to produce this paper. I would also like to acknowledge my MST professor Dr Rochisha Narayan, for getting me

forum similarly excited her: “I never thought I’d get to present a paper of my own within the Oxford walls!”

Qi Siang shared that he felt nervous and excited about this opportunity to present at a symposium for the first time: “Oxford is an important centre for historical research and to get the opportunity to present there as a sophomore is a great honour.”



## Prof Joanne Roberts Appointed as New Assoc Dean of Faculty

Text by Melissa Wang | Image by Aleithia Low

Since its inception, Yale-NUS College has placed great emphasis on building up a strong team of faculty who are committed to both research and undergraduate teaching. To augment existing efforts to strengthen the tenure process and faculty development, the College has appointed a new Associate Dean of Faculty (Faculty Development), Professor Joanne Roberts.

Strengthening the tenure process and focusing on faculty promotion have been the key areas of concern for the senior members of Academic Affairs such as Executive Vice President (Academic Affairs) Tan Tai Yong and Dean of Faculty Steven Bernasek, who have both previously highlighted that this would be a key focus for the College in the coming years.

The appointment of Professor Roberts is testament to the efforts towards this direction. In this new role at the College, Professor Roberts will assist Professor Bernasek in overseeing the process of annual reviews, tenure, and promotion for Yale-NUS faculty.

As the College moves closer towards this six year mark, the focus on academic tenure will cater to the needs of many of the younger faculty members within the College who have come onboard in the last four to five years.

Formerly a visiting professor

at Yale-NUS College and Canada Research Chair in the Economics of Organizations at the University of Calgary, Professor Roberts shared that her focus in her role will be two-pronged:

“On the more institutional end, I will be working with the Dean of Faculty to coordinate and process promotion and tenure files, and ensure our process is clear and efficient with the highest levels of integrity and credibility,” Professor Roberts shared.

“On the more faculty-facing end, I look towards helping to demystify our process of tenure and promotion, and mentor faculty through their academic careers more broadly,” she added.

Barely months into her new role, Professor Roberts has already begun a process of consultation with faculty, focusing on faculty development, mentoring and progression through the ranks.

“I’m impressed with their [the faculty’s] energy, the innovative research, and the commitment to the College that my colleagues have, and I’m excited to work with them,” she revealed.

Professor Roberts herself is a noteworthy addition to the faculty of Yale-NUS College, helping to boost the standings of the College in the world of academia. The noted economist has served as a member of the executive

of the Canadian Economic Association, President of the Canadian Economics Women’s Network, and co-editor of the Canadian Journal of Economics. She is also a previous winner of the Polanyi research prize.

On the structure of the faculty working in one of three broad divisions at the College, as opposed to the traditional academic departments that Professor Roberts is used to, she shared that this is the first time she has been in a larger inter-disciplinary unit, and that it is “the most exciting and intellectually engaging environment” she has ever been in.

“Every day, I encounter research that is new to me, not only in terms of research questions, but also in terms of approach and method. It is hard to imagine that such a challenging and thought-provoking environment isn’t going to affect the way I approach my own work and the assumptions of my own discipline of economics,” she reflected.

In July this year, Professor Roberts will also be taking over the leadership of the Division of Social Science from Professor Jane Jacobs, who will be stepping down from the position.

“Jane has been a tireless advocate and really visionary leader for the Division. Hers will be very hard shoes to fill,” Professor Roberts said.

She added: “Under her leadership, the Division has grown to be large and popular with seven different majors and many students. I hope to continue what she has begun, building not only deep disciplinary strength in our research areas and academic programmes but also finding ways to facilitate engagement across those disciplinary lines, to take full advantage of the synergies that are available to us as a division instead of a department.”

Professor Roberts is joined by her husband, Associate Professor Eugene Choo, who himself is a widely-published economist.

She shared the process of making the joint decision to join Yale-NUS College:

“We spent a year here as visitors and loved the experience, interacting with such a dynamic, exciting, and very welcoming group of colleagues. We were amazed at the energy, diversity and engagement of the students, the thoughtfulness of the curriculum, and the breadth of research interests,” she noted.

“I think we both love the idea of being part of the Yale-NUS experience, being part of building a new, innovative community here. We also both love Singapore and Asia, and are excited to raise our family here.”



## Prof Robin Hemley Presents at Two International Conferences

Text by Wen Kin Lim | Image by Aleithia Low

In November 2016, Professor of Humanities and Director of the Writing Programme Robin Hemley, presented at two international writing conferences in Hong Kong and Guangzhou, China.

The first conference on 11-12 November in Hong Kong was a bilingual event that explored English and Chinese creative writing as an academic discipline. Prominent international and local writers and professors from countries including the United States, China and Japan attended the 'Creative Writing in the Academy' conference to examine creative writing programmes from different pedagogical perspectives.

Professor Hemley was a part of a panel on creative writing programmes in East Asia alongside two other speakers from Yonsei University, South Korea and Waseda University, Japan.

He spoke about the innovative Writers' Centre at Yale-NUS, where a hybridised approach of being both a literary centre and a centre for academic writing is taken. Traditionally, teaching in writers' centres and programmes in universities around the world tend to place creative and academic writing programmes into two separate domains. However, Yale-NUS College has taken a different approach which is in line with the interdisciplinary pedagogy emphasised here, where students and faculty

are encouraged to make connections between fields that are typically separate.

When explaining how the

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"In the past, the people you were writing about were not your audience. Now you have to assume a global audience and ask what is the responsibility to people outside your nationality?"

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Writer's Centre was able to take such a unique approach, Professor Hemley shared that it was the youth of the College that played a part in overcoming traditional barriers faced by older institutions.

"Our big advantage was that we were able to start from scratch, and we were able to create whatever we wanted so there were no lines drawn or walls built," he said.

This approach makes the Yale-NUS Writers' Centre popular for students and faculty. "It is a place that has a lot of reach in the community in many different ways" Professor Hemley reflected. He presented on the myriad of ways in which the Writers' Centre engages

the College community and how it all works symbiotically with writer's fellows situated within the residential

colleges, writing workshops and late night writes (intense and focused writing sessions at night facilitated by the Writer's Centre).

At his second conference in the same month, the Asia Pacific Writers and Translators (APWT) Conference in Guangzhou which ran from 25-28 November, Professor Hemley presented a keynote speech about travel writing in the 21st century.

He discussed how travel writing and literature has evolved substantially in the 21st century with technology increasing accessibility to literature not only from one's own country but also from around the world.

"In the past, the people you were writing about were

not your audience. Now you have to assume a global audience and ask what is the responsibility to people outside your nationality?" Professor Hemley said.

His keynote speech touched on themes of nationalism, patriotism and national identity. He added, "There has been an uptick in nationalism worldwide so I was talking about the travel writer's responsibility as a global citizen rather than someone who is just tethered to their particular nation".

Professor Hemley is also on the Board of the Asia Pacific Writers and Translators, which aims to create a supportive network of authors and literary translators within and beyond the Asia Pacific region.

He noted, "It is an exciting time for the region and to be a part of the writing scene here because there is a lot going on in terms of creative writing in Asia that wasn't happening ten years ago."

Professor Hemley has written 10 books of nonfiction and fiction and his work has been published in The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and New York Magazine.



## Yale-NUS Students in NUS Varsity Sports Teams Share Experiences

Text by Yasunari Watanabe | Images provided by Rachel Ong, Chua Wan Ping and Guo Hui Ping

Home to 12 sports teams, Yale-NUS College encourages an active athletic culture among students. The College's teams participate annually in the Inter-Faculty Games and Inter-College Games, which

from external tchoukball circuits who play for NUS," said Rachel, who decided to join the NUS team to develop her skills further. Last December, her team began preparing for the

I find that I have gained more insights into the game because of the experience I had when training with the NUS team," she said.

She plans to continue playing tchoukball after graduating this year. "I might join a club to play recreationally," she said. "I love the sport so much!"

Rock climbing is another sport that both institutions offer. When Yukai Ang (Class of 2017) entered Yale-NUS as a freshman, the school did not have a rock climbing team. As an avid competitive rock climber, Yukai joined the NUS team to be among a group of experienced climbers to increase his proficiency in the sport. Yukai also helped to organise Boulderactive, a NUS-hosted rock climbing competition with over 700 participants each year.

In Yukai's second year, he co-founded the Yale-NUS rock climbing team that focused on the non-competitive and social side of rock climbing. Having trained for competitions on the NUS team for the past few years, Yukai has been spending more time with the Yale-NUS team this semester.

Yukai joined the rock climbing team at Yale University during his semester abroad there. He found that the Yale team was similar in their focus on social climbing. "It was quite refreshing when I joined them for the whole semester, because I had been competing all my life, and

now I can just climb for fun," he said. Now, Yukai is bringing back what he learned when he trains with the Yale-NUS team.

Students can also pursue sports not offered at Yale-NUS.

Randy Yeo (Class of 2017) joined the NUS Canoe Polo team in his freshman year as the sport was not present in the College. "I have been playing since high school so it was a natural transition," said Randy. The team won the IVP in Randy's first and third years. On top of individual physical conditioning, the team heads to Pandan Reservoir on weekends to train.

Chua Wan Ping (Class of 2017) joined the cross country team at NUS. Elected as the captain of the women's team in her second year, she guided her teammates to second place at the IVP. "It was a close fight with Nanyang Technological University. We eventually won the gold the following year," she said.

She cites her teammates as an integral part of her experience. "To be honest, daily cross country training isn't too interesting because we basically just run alot! But what makes it special is that you really grow close to your teammates in the process," said Wan Ping.



Rachel (bottom row, 2nd from right) and her tchoukball team

are both tournaments within the NUS community. However, Yale-NUS students also have the option of joining varsity teams in the neighbouring National University of Singapore (NUS).

NUS varsity teams compete with other tertiary institutions. Players for NUS participate in the annual Institute-Varsity-Polytechnic (IVP) Games, held at various polytechnics, universities and the Institute of Technical Education (ITE).

Rachel Ong (Class of 2017) joined the NUS women's tchoukball team last semester. She trained with the mixed-gender Yale-NUS team for the last few years and served as co-captain for two semesters.

"I had a couple of friends

inaugural Collegiate Tchoukball Cup in January 2017 where they played against teams from other universities, polytechnics and junior colleges. Eventually, the NUS women's team emerged as runners-up in the tournament.

During this period, Rachel played for both Yale-NUS and NUS and dedicated five days of training a week. Each day, she would train for at least four hours. "Despite my busy schedule, I enjoyed the training very much. If you can manage your time well, it can be fun," said Rachel.

Wanting to pay it forward, Rachel shared her knowledge with her Yale-NUS teammates from her time with the NUS team. "I know how to approach the games better.



## Broad Peak Global Engagement Internship Grants

Text by Yip Jie Ying | Image provided by Martin Vasev and Tan Yan Ru

Over the summer of 2016, four students went on meaningful internship experiences around the world through the Broad Peak Global Engagement Internship Grant, established by Singapore-based investment firm Broad Peak Investment Advisers Pte Ltd and supported by the College's Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE). The grant supports

papers and policy briefings on various political and economic issues. Some of his assignments also brought him to other institutions, such as the United States Congress and the United States Institute of Peace.

The internship piqued Martin's interest in working for the Foreign Service in the future. "I could not be happier with the location

to intern with WACA as it has given me valuable experience about working intimately with policymakers and leading thinkers in the international affairs realm, where I hope to eventually pursue a career," Sarah reflected.

Tan Yan Ru, who is on the Double Degree programme in law and Liberal Arts, interned with Caring for Cambodia in the area of gender equity, allowing her to be based in Siem Reap for two months. "I chose this internship because I knew I would be doing corporate law internships for the next few years and I wanted to do something completely different whilst I could," she shared. "I specifically chose an NGO because I wanted to remind myself that there was a greater community that I could serve."

Yan Ru's stint in Cambodia has helped cement her passion for women's rights and motivated her to further this cause back home. Since her return from Siem Reap, she has helped found Soroptimist International of Singapore Orchid, an organisation that promotes women's rights in Singapore.

Jillane and other interns from the Peggy Guggenheim Collection pose for a group photo in Padua, Venice. Image by Jillane Buryin

Meanwhile, Jillane Buryin embarked on an internship at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, Italy. This programme immerses

interns in Venice's cultural life while providing practical experience in the area of museum operations as well as familiarity with an important modern art collection.

"I found an internship that both fitted my skill set and challenged me in a way that made me want to work as hard as possible," Jillane reflected. "This internship taught me that there are things that I can be good at, can work hard at, and that challenge me every step of the way, leaving me feeling full instead of empty."

For these students, the Broad Peak Global Engagement Internship Grant has gone a long way in supporting their dreams. Broad Peak Investment Advisers Pte Ltd was particularly keen in supporting students in the aspect of international travel, as the company felt that this would have significant impact on student experiences at Yale-NUS.

"It was very interesting to hear about the students' experiences when I met with them," said Mr Chandra Sinnathuray, Managing Director and Chief Operating Officer of Broad Peak Investment Advisers Pte Ltd. "The College and the students have come up with some excellent projects to apply the grant towards. I am pleased that Broad Peak is able to support the students in these pursuits."



Yan Ru (far right) and representatives from Caring for Cambodia.

students who embark on international internships or on local internships that require international travel in fields such as arts and culture, human rights, and urban planning.

The inaugural recipients of the Broad Peak Global Engagement Internship Grant were Martin Vasev, Sarah Novak, Jillane Buryin (all from the Class of 2018) and Tan Yan Ru (Class of 2019).

Martin committed three months to working at the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) in Washington DC, where he helped prepare research

of the internship – at the epicentre of international politics and economics," he shared.

Similarly, Sarah also spent her summer in Washington DC pursuing her interest in politics and international affairs. She spent two months working for the World Affairs Councils of America (WACA), an international think tank responsible for coordinating over 90 state-level councils that run a whole range of events related to politics and international relations, all over the United States.

"I am very fortunate to have been given the opportunity