

Yale
NUS
College



Halcyon Takes
FLIGHT

Yale-NUS College Year in Review 2017

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SPREADING WINGS

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.

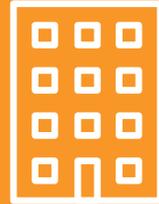
Yale-NUS College at a glance



800
students



55
student
organisations



3
residential
colleges



14
majors



1,022
student rooms



65
nationalities



7
science
laboratories



63,000
square metres

President's message

In 2017, the Yale-NUS mascot, a kingfisher named Halcyon, was officially launched. Much like many of our key milestones on campus, the creation of the mascot was a community effort, with students, staff and faculty working collaboratively to design and develop it. Halcyon embodies the community ideals of Yale-NUS – Creativity, Curiosity and an Adventurous Spirit; and shortly after its launch on campus, our first batch of Halcyons took flight, metaphorically speaking, as they graduated from Yale-NUS College.

The graduates hailing from the Class of 2017 are a special group. Representing some 20 nationalities, the students are diverse in terms of backgrounds and remarkable in terms of achievements. They hold multifarious viewpoints, but have one thing in common – a pioneering spirit and a desire to make a difference. Within a few months of graduation, over 90 percent of our inaugural cohort secured jobs, fellowships or university places to pursue graduate studies. The graduates who received job offers moved into a variety of sectors, such as the public service, consulting, science



and research, education, finance, and technology and startups. From this class, we also had our first Rhodes Scholar Nicholas Carverhill and Schwarzman Scholar Mollie Saltskog. I am proud of the achievements of our pioneer batch and hope this will spur the current and future batches of Yale-NUS students on.

As our first batch of students left the nest, we welcomed our fifth class in 2017. With 250 students hailing from 45 countries, the Class of 2021 is our largest intake to date. Singaporeans continued to make up the largest pool of students. For the first time, students from Uzbekistan, Cambodia and Paraguay were also represented, amongst others. With the

Class of 2021, we continue to expand the diverse and global nature of our student body, which now stands at over 800 students.

The process of renewal applies not just to our students, but also to the College leadership as we seek to redefine liberal arts and science education for this century. In 2017, we bade a fond farewell to our founding president, Professor Pericles Lewis, who returned to Yale University after completing his five-year term. Professor Lewis had been instrumental in leading the College to a remarkable number of milestones since his appointment in 2012. I am grateful to him for laying such strong foundations for the College. As I take up the

mantle to lead Yale-NUS in its next phase of development and growth, a key theme of my presidency is to nurture an ethos of service in our students. Our College must be a place that prepares its graduates for active roles in civic life. It is also an institution where curricula and courses challenge their imagination and develop their civic competencies, while co-curricular activities offer opportunities to engage in public work. This remains a key part of our mission. From the many outreach activities that students, staff and faculty organise and participate in annually, I am confident that this ethos of service will find a permanent place in the Yale-NUS DNA.

We must also build into our belief system a commitment to innovation and the spirit to find new ways of doing things better. This must permeate all aspects of life at Yale-NUS, including the curriculum, research and student experience. Embodying how our campus lives up to its mission as a community of learning, we have partnered with Surbana Jurong (SJ) to prototype a new generation of smart city technologies at the Yale-NUS College campus. This partnership is an exciting one that reflects

our vision to be a community of learning. Students and faculty will give feedback to SJ on its smart facilities management solutions, and faculty will contribute their research expertise to translate research findings into real world technology solutions for meaningful outcomes. In the year ahead, we will also continue to evolve our curriculum through partnerships with Duke-NUS Medical School and the National University of Singapore (NUS) School of Computing to meet the needs of our students and build connections between the study of science, social sciences and humanities, with training in professional fields.

Looking back on the year just past, I am particularly grateful to our friends and stakeholders who have supported us over the years. On behalf of the College, I thank all our donors and friends of the College, as well as staff and faculty for their generous gifts. In 2017, 91 percent of students from the Class of 2017 participated in their Senior Class Gift campaign. This is a high benchmark which I hope all succeeding classes will try to achieve and even outdo. The generosity of our well-wishers and the College

community will enable future generations of needy Yale-NUS students to fully benefit from their time spent at the College, without having to worry about financial obligations.

As the College grows, we will see more batches of Yale-NUS graduates spread their wings as they embark on challenges in various fields, in different corners of the world. Their time as Yale-NUS undergraduates might have ended but we are confident the connection with the College will not. In the year ahead, we will continue to strengthen our connections with our alumni – via networking events, career and graduate school advising, and continued access to campus facilities and resources – so our graduates know that Yale-NUS is a place they can always call home.

As we continue to press on, we look forward to your support in helping us take Yale-NUS to greater heights.

Professor Tan Tai Yong

President
Yale-NUS College

TAKING OFF



2017 was a milestone year for Yale-NUS. We celebrated the graduation of the College's inaugural class of students in May, as they spread their wings and took off on exciting new journeys. The year also marked several achievements by students and faculty, ranging from sports awards to groundbreaking research, as well as the unveiling of the College's ceremonial mace.





Yale-NUS' inaugural class graduates



Minister Ong Ye Kung (right), speaking at the Yale-NUS College Graduation Ceremony 2017.

Graduation marks not only an end, but also a beginning. Among the inaugural class of Yale-NUS College students, many embarked on careers in the private sector or in public service. Some also took up prestigious fellowships, while others chose to further their education in graduate schools globally. The journey of our pioneer cohort was celebrated at Yale-NUS' inaugural Graduation Ceremony on 29 May 2017.

In total, 119 graduates were presented to Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, then-President of the Republic of Singapore and Chancellor of the National University of Singapore (NUS) at the ceremony.

The graduation speaker was Professor Richard C Levin, Chief Executive Officer of Coursera and President Emeritus of Yale University, who played a key role in the

founding of the College. Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills)

and Second Minister for Defence, graced the event and gave a speech to the graduating cohort.

“Your graduation marks the coming of age of the College, as it does the turning of a chapter in your lives. Keep your sense of adventure, fearlessness and perhaps even some of that youthful foolishness. Live life passionately, and be ready to make a difference. Leave that distinct Yale-NUS mark wherever you might venture.”

- Mr Ong Ye Kung, Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) and Second Minister for Defence

At the ceremony, Founding President of Yale-NUS College, Professor Pericles Lewis addressed the class and shared, "As the pioneer cohort of Yale-NUS College, the intrepid students of the Class of 2017 have chosen to be the trailblazing participants in shaping our community of learning as we seek to redefine liberal arts and science education. I am confident that Yale-NUS graduates will be differentiated by their creativity, communication skills and problem-solving acumen, enabling them to navigate today's diverse and challenging work environment."

The graduates also took part in a Class Day celebration



with their families, staff and faculty on 28 May 2017, forging final memories on campus before they headed out to new pathways outside of college.

Graduates donned a graduation gown that included a sash designed by Natalie Tan (Class of 2017). The orange adornment featured a *batik*-inspired print of the College's mascot, the kingfisher. The elements and colours of the gown incorporated elements from NUS and Yale University in their hood and sash colours respectively. In addition, the use of the hood and sash reflected the gowning practices at both institutions.



The College mascot, Halcyon the Kingfisher, was officially launched in February 2017. The name Halcyon was derived from Greek mythology and is usually identified with a generic grouping of various kingfisher breeds. Chosen as a representation of the ideals of the Yale-NUS community – Youthfulness, Creativity, Curiosity and an Adventurous Spirit – these kingfishers can also be found nesting in Singapore, even though they are considered rare in Asia. Halcyon reflects Yale-NUS College's location and its commitment to develop a community of learning that is based in Asia, for the world.

Leaving the nest: the inaugural batch of Kingfishers and their next steps



Living the corporate life

Upon graduation, Chua Yao Hui (Class of 2017) joined local start-up Carousell, known for its popular mobile classifieds app, as a Software Engineer on its Core Marketplace team. Yao Hui, a Mathematical, Computational and Statistical Sciences (MCS) major, was attracted by the company's innovation, start-up culture, and social mission. He began putting his skills to use by supporting Carousell's company-wide effort to incorporate

machine learning and data science tools to streamline user experience.

May Tay (Class of 2017) entered the world of fashion through her employment at Swedish clothing retailer H&M's Business Trainee programme. Under this programme, she will rotate to different offices within the company, from the global buying office in Stockholm, Sweden, to a production office in Asia and then a sales office in Europe. An Environmental Studies major, May felt her college

experiences had prepared her for the modern corporate workforce, and broadened her perspectives for a career with a global focus.

Social impact careers

As a Psychology major, Daryl Tan (Class of 2017) hoped to understand the motivations behind volunteerism and philanthropy in order to encourage more of it in a meaningful way. A recipient of the Singapore Industry Scholarship (SgIS) with the National Council of Social Service (NCSS), he joined

social service organisation South Central Community (SCC) Family Service Centre as a research assistant. In his position, Daryl looks at how children from low-income families are coping with school, and studies how transformational outcomes like housing or education may influence a family's journey out of poverty.

Psychology major Ho Yan Lin (Class of 2017) entered the healthcare sector, joining the Institute of Mental Health (IMH) as a Management Associate. Yan Lin felt that her experience working for the Yale-NUS peer-counselling student organisation, P.S. We Care, provided her with valuable lessons on how to appreciate the joys of providing mental health support and resources to others.

Scholars in the public sector

Joyan Tan (Class of 2017), a scholar with the Ministry of Education, taught at Hua Yi Secondary School for a few months before continuing her studies at the National Institute of Education (NIE) for a Postgraduate Diploma in Education. A History

major, Joyan is slated to teach secondary-school History and Social Studies upon completion of her one-and-a-half-year stint at NIE. She said her Yale-NUS education helped her to learn to focus on doing what she enjoys, rather than just pursuing grades — something she hopes to impart to her students in the future.

Arts and Humanities major Hamid Roslan (Class of 2017) started serving his scholarship bond with the National Arts Council (NAC) upon graduation. He works

in a team that supports the professional development of the arts sector, contributing towards the formulation of policies and strategies and the implementation of programmes to strengthen the professionalism of the sector. As a member of the pioneer class, Hamid found that the painstaking process of creating a community at Yale-NUS College provided him with the skills necessary to negotiate between often conflicting visions, which will allow him to contribute towards creating a local arts community that is as inclusive as possible.



Joyan Tan (Class of 2017). Image provided by Joyan Tan.

Fellowships

Literature major Isa Ho (Class of 2017) was accepted into the New York University (NYU) Shanghai Writing and Speaking Fellowship programme. Working out of the NYU Shanghai Academic Resource Center, she conducts one-on-one writing consultations and delivers workshops that help students improve their academic skills in close reading, public speaking and time management. Over the span of the ten-month-long fellowship, Isa plans to work on her own novel and refine her personal long-term aspirations.

Tara Dear (Class of 2017) started a year-long work stint in Myanmar as a Fellow with

Princeton in Asia (PiA), a well-established organisation that offers fellowships and internships with Asian host organisations in areas such as education, public health, environmental sustainability, and economic development. Though based in Yangon, Tara will be travelling throughout Myanmar to provide professional development in English to rural-based staff of Proximity Designs, a social enterprise that offers affordable, innovative technology to improve rural farmers' agricultural practice.

Graduate schools and beyond

Psychology major Joan Ongchoco (Class of 2017) began pursuing a PhD

in Cognitive Psychology and Neuroscience at Yale University after graduation. Joan started conducting research as early as her first year in Yale-NUS – a rare opportunity for students in many undergraduate institutions – which prepared her for the research-heavy demands of a PhD. She also discovered her passion for teaching through conducting ballroom dancing classes for her classmates at Yale-NUS College.

For Rohan Naidu (Class of 2017), his decision to pursue a PhD in Astronomy could be traced to a class taken at Yale-NUS College. A Physical Sciences major, Rohan was inspired by Professor Charles Bailyn, the College's inaugural Dean of Faculty, after attending his seminar on black holes. Rohan started his PhD programme at Harvard University after graduation, and was credited as first author in a paper published in *The Astrophysical Journal* in September 2017.

Clarissa Leong (Class of 2017) is pursuing a Master degree in Public Administration at Columbia University in New York. An Urban Studies major and a recipient of the Singapore Government Scholarship



Tara Dear (Class of 2017). Image provided by Tara Dear.

(Open) from the Public Service Commission, Clarissa expressed interest in enacting positive change in Singapore through policymaking. She chose to pursue a graduate degree in public policy with the aim of developing a more specialised set of skills to be better equipped to enter Singapore's civil service.

Global talents, local residents

Mathematical, Computational and Statistical Sciences major Sean Saito (Class of 2017) was one of many international alumni who have based themselves in Singapore after graduation. Employed as a Machine Learning

Developer at SAP Software Solutions Asia, Sean is involved in researching and developing machine learning software. He also founded Code Gakko, a start-up that provides affordable computer programming education to students in Singapore and Manila.

Upon graduation, Manas Punhani (Class of 2017) joined leading global management consulting firm Oliver Wyman as a consultant in its Singapore office. Manas, who majored in Economics, applies his analytical skills to interview clients and experts, gather and analyse data, and conduct relevant research for the firm. Manas credited

his Yale-NUS education for building his ability to be adaptable and flexible, and preparing him to work and assimilate into diverse and dynamic environments.

After interning with leading financial services company Credit Suisse in her last summer in College, Economics major Erika Terrones-Shibuya (Class of 2017) was offered a full-time position as an Equities Sales Analyst in the Investment Banking Global Markets division, covering regional Asia while being based in Singapore. Erika felt that the College's Common Curriculum honed her ability to examine issues from a multidisciplinary perspective.



Sean Saito (Class of 2017). Image provided by Sean Saito.

Voices of the Class of 2017



“Yale-NUS College has exposed me to people who do not only offer criticisms, but try to suggest changes and build the solutions.”

- Ho Yan Lin



“Being part of the first class of Yale-NUS brought out the do-er in me, as I had the opportunity to found clubs, pioneer initiatives and actively support the ongoing project of Yale-NUS. My life really transformed as a result, and I continue to seek challenges and ways to reinvent myself for the better.”

- May Tay



“When I was thinking about what role I could play in the social services with a degree in Psychology from a liberal arts college, my main interest was to do research in the behavioural sciences to understand how to develop and improve policies that encourage volunteerism and philanthropy in a meaningful way.”

- Daryl Tan

Research opportunities for pioneer graduates

A unique aspect of the Yale-NUS curriculum is the capstone project, a year-long, self-directed project within their major, which all students undertake with the guidance of Yale-NUS faculty and other subject matter experts in their final year of study. Through working on their capstones, students hone the disciplinary and intellectual skills necessary to dive deep into a specific area of interest and engage with research in their discipline. The pioneer batch of Yale-NUS students, who graduated in May 2017, undertook many unique capstone projects.

An Arts and Humanities major, Aleithia Low (Class of 2017) decided to use her capstone project to reflect on her international

experiences that began in summer of her first year when she was awarded a Social Impact Fellowship by the Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE) to teach photography at a children's home in Hanoi, Vietnam.

"There were many questions I had left unresolved upon leaving Hanoi, after teaching photography there for two months. How does memory work? How do I remember a place? Do I have a right to claim some sort of belonging, as a foreigner, to a city I feel an affinity with? I also constantly wonder what had become of the children I worked with – if they have learnt enough to move beyond the village and lead a self-sufficient life," Aleithia reflected.

Mathematical, Computational and Statistical Sciences major Dylan Ho (Class of 2017) decided to embark on a unique and creative project for his capstone. Called 'Yale-NUS GO', Dylan's project drew inspiration from the augmented reality game Pokemon GO.

"My capstone was a little ambitious, and quite different from others. While many seniors wrote papers or did research and investigations, I created a new augmented reality game for Yale-NUS students to play within the Yale-NUS campus... One thing I wanted Yale-NUS GO to be able to do was for students to go on adventures with friends to foster a greater sense of community on campus."



Aleithia Low (Class of 2017). Image provided by Aleithia Low.

Anthropology major Maggie Schumann (Class of 2017) studied the implementation of Singapore's 2012 regulation of rest days for migrant domestic workers for her capstone. According to Maggie's research, previous quantitative research that examined over

20,000 pieces of bio-data found that many domestic workers, particularly first-timers from Indonesia and Myanmar, did not utilise the weekly rest days.

"Through a total of 40 qualitative interviews with domestic workers,

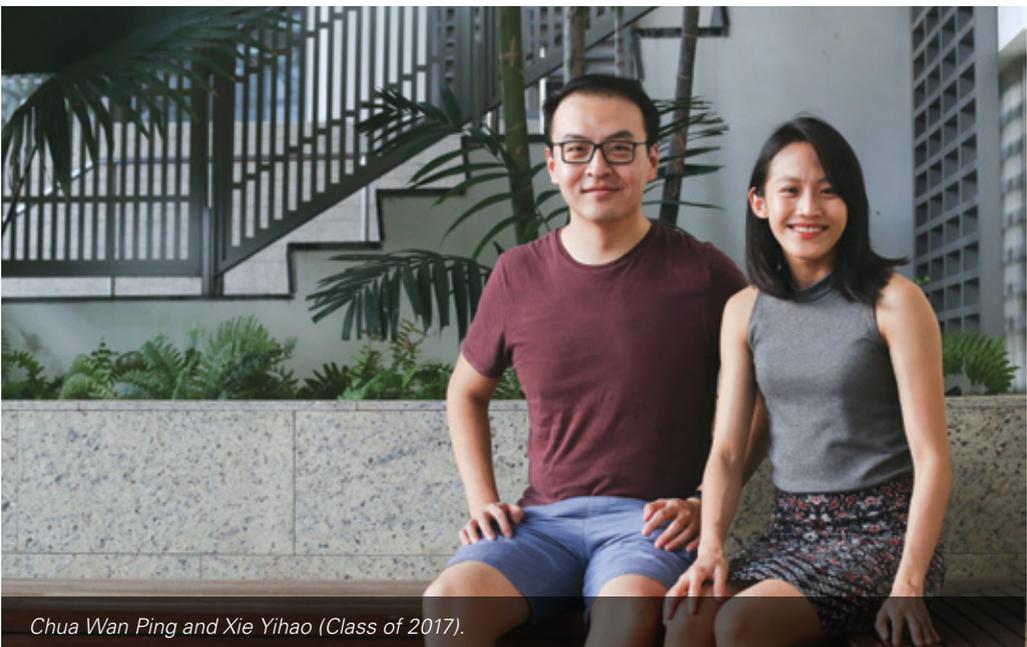
employers, and agents, my capstone explains why many domestic workers do not request or obtain a weekly day off and concludes by suggesting changes to the regulation so that all domestic workers have meaningful access to a weekly day off."

Concurrent degree programmes

On top of their capstone projects, some students continued their independent research goals by pursuing concurrent degree

programmes at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, and Yale School

of Public Health. These five-year programmes are designed for students who wish to pursue careers in public policy, environmental



Chua Wan Ping and Xie Yihao (Class of 2017).

studies or public health, and each programme provides students with accelerated graduate training in these fields of academic and professional interest.

Environmental Studies major Chua Wan Ping (Class of 2017) was selected as one of the first two students to attend the Concurrent Degree Programme (CDP) with Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (Yale F&ES).

“As my career goals started becoming more solidified, it seemed like the CDP would fit well in giving me the skills that are relevant to my career plans. It would also give me an international perspective on sustainability issues through my connections with professors and classmates there.”

Environmental Studies major Xie Yihao (Class of 2017) is also attending the Yale F&ES CDP. “Introduction to Environmental Studies was one of the best courses I have taken and was what really drew me into the major. The subsequent courses that I took from

different professors were all inspiring and exposed to me how multifaceted environmental issues are.”

Benjamin Leong, who majored in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, was one of the students in the inaugural class for the Concurrent Degree Programme with Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy (LKY School).

“I was interested in a career in the civil service and had taken up an internship at a government ministry. Policymaking was also an area of personal interest for me...One benefit from this course is a better understanding of government operations and what possibilities there are for individuals and for future change,” Benjamin explained.

Another student in the CDP with LKY School was Li Nanlan, who majored in History. “My training in history prompted me to think more about how one policy decision may impact individual lives in many different ways. While policy analysis tends to

look at data, my background in qualitative research highlighted to me the significance of looking at the data in different contexts.”

Institutional milestones

The year marked several institutional firsts for Yale-NUS as we unveiled the College mace, welcomed our new president and senior faculty, and bade a fond farewell to our founding president.

The Yale-NUS College ceremonial mace

The Yale-NUS College ceremonial mace was unveiled in November 2017. Like Yale-NUS' distinctive melding of the best of East and West, the mace incorporates both Western and Asian elements. Designed in Singapore by art consultancy Asian Palette Pte Ltd, the woodwork was carried out by Al Ik Kan Designs, a woodcrafting business in Georgia, USA.

The Yale-NUS College mace drew its inspiration from the Yale-NUS mascot, Halcyon the Kingfisher, and the three wood species representing the Yale-NUS residential colleges – Cendana, Elm and Saga. The residential colleges bear the names of trees significant to Asia and the United States. Saga and Cendana are native to Asia, while New Haven is popularly known as the 'Elm City'.

Born out of a partnership between Yale University and the National University of Singapore, Yale-NUS brings together established liberal arts traditions of the West and the intellectual and cultural traditions of Asia, to form a unique model of liberal arts and science education. Like the distinctive Yale-NUS curriculum, the mace incorporates both Western and Asian elements, combining facets of each to form a connected and unified whole.

1. *Halcyon the Kingfisher represented in abstract bronze sculpture.*
2. *Metalwork inspired by batik floral motifs and the intricate wood carvings of Asia.*
3. *Saga.*
4. *Cendana.*
5. *Elm.*



New President for Yale-NUS College fosters senior leadership renewal

On 1 July 2017, Professor Tan Tai Yong took office as Yale-NUS College's new President, following an extensive global search. Prior to the appointment, Professor Tan served as the College's Executive Vice President (Academic Affairs) since 2014, overseeing the academic and co-curricular aspects of the Yale-NUS liberal arts experience. Under his leadership, the Yale-NUS faculty has nearly doubled in size, comprising outstanding teachers who are also respected researchers in their fields.

Professor Tan took over from Founding President Professor Pericles Lewis, who completed his five-year presidency term and returned to Yale University to serve as Vice President for Global Strategy and Deputy Provost for International Affairs.

Deeply involved in Yale-NUS College since its founding days, Professor Tan served as the co-chair of the joint Yale University and National University of Singapore (NUS) committee that hired the inaugural faculty members in the humanities and helped shape the common curriculum in 2011.



“I have long held the conviction that the best way to prepare students for a rapidly changing workplace and an increasingly complex world is to develop in them the capacity for reason, reflection and independent critical thinking. And, in an interconnected world, the ability to appreciate differences through greater understanding of diversity is a particularly critical attribute.”

- Professor Tan Tai Yong, President

After earning a First Class Honours degree from the NUS and a PhD in History from Cambridge University, Professor Tan has made important contributions to research and scholarship. Over his two decades of administrative service at NUS, he served in leadership roles such as the Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Social Sciences and Vice

Provost (Student Life). During those years, he was one of the key architects of academic and student life programmes at University Town. A noted historian of South and Southeast Asian history, Professor Tan was the founding Director of the NUS Institute of South Asian Studies and served as a Nominated Member of Parliament in 2014.

Thank you Founding President

Founding President Professor Pericles Lewis took office at Yale-NUS in 2012 and began realising the College's vision of building a community of learning. During his term of office, the College recruited over 100 faculty from leading global colleges and universities; designed an international curriculum that has received widespread attention and interest; and enrolled four classes of students. In June 2017,

“Our faculty and staff have been instrumental in establishing a broad range of subjects and high quality international learning programmes... Coupled with the residential programme, I am also proud that this led to a mindset of continuous learning beyond the classroom walls. This model has established a good reputation worldwide and garnered much attention from prospective employers.”

- Professor Pericles Lewis, Founding President

Professor Lewis returned to Yale University in New Haven, USA, to serve as

Vice President for Global Strategy and Deputy Provost for International Affairs.



New faculty take the helm leading Yale-NUS' development

The process of leadership renewal has continued, with talented senior faculty joining the College to

take it to new heights, bringing with them fresh perspectives from their diverse expertise.



Professor Steven Bernasek, Executive Vice President (Academic Affairs).



Professor Joanne Roberts, Dean of Faculty.

A new Dean of Faculty was appointed on 1 June 2017. Professor of Social Sciences (Economics) Joanne Roberts took over from renowned chemist and Professor of Science, Steven Bernasek, who went on to take a larger role within the College as Executive Vice President (Academic Affairs). Since joining Yale-NUS in July 2015, Professor Bernasek has been involved in the planning and annual review of the Science Division and the review of the Common Curriculum.

An esteemed public economist, Professor Roberts was previously Associate Dean of Faculty (Faculty Development) at Yale-NUS before moving on to her new role. Before joining Yale-NUS College, she taught at the University of Toronto and the University of Calgary. Professor Roberts has served as a member of the executive of the Canadian Economic Association, President of the Canadian Economics Women's Network, and a co-editor of the Canadian Journal of Economics.



From left: Professor Stephen Pointing, Director of Science Division; Professor John Driffill, Director of Social Sciences Division.

Following the promotion of Executive Vice President Bernasek and Dean Roberts, two professors were appointed Directors for the Science and Social Sciences Divisions.

Professor Stephen Pointing, an environmental scientist, was appointed as the Divisional Director of Science, while Visiting Professor John Driffill took up the baton from Professor Jane M Jacobs to helm the Social Sciences Division.

Prior to joining Yale-NUS in 2016, Professor Driffill was the Head of Department of Economics, Mathematics and Statistics at Birkbeck College, University of London. He has

also been Specialist Advisor to the House of Lords Select Committee on the European Union, Subcommittee A on Economic Affairs, for inquiries into the Euro and the Stability and Growth Pact.

Professor Pointing specialises in the application of microbiology to environmental issues, and served as Director of the Institute for Applied Ecology at the Auckland University of Technology. He was the winner of a Teaching Excellence Award and an Outstanding Service Award from the University of Hong Kong, where he was previously an associate professor in the School of Biological Sciences.

Professor Pointing shared that the strong heritage of the College's founding universities, Singapore's strong commitment to science and technology, and its vibrant multicultural society were compelling factors for his move to Singapore and Yale-NUS.

Both Divisional Directors work closely with each other and Professor Rajeev Patke, Director of Humanities Division. The interdisciplinary nature of the Yale-NUS curriculum provides multiple opportunities for the three divisions to work in synergy.

Welcoming the Class of 2021



On 11 August 2017, the Yale-NUS College community welcomed 250 new students into the Class of 2021, marking the College's largest intake to date. Representing 45 nationalities, including students from our usual mainstays like India and the United States, and for the first time, countries like Uzbekistan and Paraguay, the Class of 2021 was the College's largest and most diverse intake to date.

The students were formally welcomed to campus at the annual First Year Assembly, the culmination of a two-week orientation programme designed to allow first-year students to explore Singapore



“Your views will take shape and they will be tested, as they should be, in the cut and thrust of seminar debates, over the course of reading and studying, during conversations with your lecturers, your peers and friends.”

- Professor Tan Tai Yong, President

and learn more about the College and its close-knit community. This year's orientation programme was themed 'Take Flight', representing the College's readiness to soar to greater heights after marking the milestone of its first graduating class.

Then-President of the National University of Singapore (NUS) Professor Tan Chorh Chuan graced

the event as the Guest-of-Honour. The Assembly was also attended by the College's administration and faculty, as well as family and friends of the incoming students.

The Class of 2021 was treated to the warm speeches of Yale-NUS College President Tan Tai Yong, then-Director of Admissions & Financial Aid Laura Severin, President of the Student Government

(Academic Year 2016/2017) Saza Faradilla (Class of 2018), nominated faculty speaker Associate Professor Andrew M Bailey, and Dean of Students Christopher Bridges.

In his concluding remarks Dean Bridges had these warm words of assurance for the first-years, "Remember that although it is your journey, all of us in this room are with you. I look forward to sharing your good company along the way."

CLASS OF 2021 SIBLINGS ON CAMPUS

For some students, their peers are not their only family on campus; their siblings are too. Hailing from the Class of 2021, Boden Franklin is the brother of Anne Caroline (Kei) Franklin (Class of 2017). Boden and his family lived in Senegal, West Africa for many years, an experience which inculcated in him the strong value of cross-cultural experiences to widen one's horizons. Motivated by Kei's experiences at the College, Boden enrolled at Yale-NUS so that he could move out of his cultural and social comfort zones, experience non-western and non-American-centric perspectives, and



Boden Franklin (Class of 2021, left) with his sister Kei (Class of 2017, right). Image provided by Robbie Short.

participate in experiential learning that engages with alternative world views.

Nyang Bing Pei (Class of 2021), the sister of Nyang Bing Lin (Class of 2018), was also influenced by her older sister's positive experience at the College. An avid follower of world affairs, Bing Pei found that the College's interdisciplinary

liberal arts curriculum was the most relevant to her passion and curiosity in pursuing a deeper and broader understanding of international relations. She was drawn to the open conversations and discussion-based learning that Yale-NUS encourages, as well as the exposure to diverse backgrounds.

Celebrating achievements

Yale-NUS College students have been making waves with their various achievements – from winning prestigious scholarships and participating in challenging competitions around the world, to presenting at international conferences.

Yale-NUS' first Rhodes Scholar

In November 2017, Nicholas Carverhill (Class of 2017) was named a 2018 Rhodes Scholar. The Rhodes Scholarship is a postgraduate award given to exceptional students from around the world to study at the University of Oxford, with the aim of nurturing public-spirited leaders of the future. An Urban Studies major, Nicholas managed an undergraduate global affairs online publication, and was the

founding President of the Yale-NUS College Debate Society, which allowed him to spend considerable time supporting and working with debate initiatives and programmes in about a dozen countries.

On receiving the Rhodes Scholarship, Nicholas said, "I am immensely grateful for the opportunity to further my studies in a programme dedicated to service-

oriented education. I am proud to represent Yale-NUS College, and the many other communities that have made it possible to receive this scholarship – it is the investment that others have made in me that truly made it possible."

He intends to pursue a Master of Philosophy in Development Studies at Oxford, which he feels will give him the methodological and theoretical dexterity to work in collaboration with different communities.

Nicholas was also a fellow in the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) programme, a programme that encourages stakeholders in education to explore and share ideas, and contribute towards creative action in education today. In September 2017, Nicholas, together with Sebastian Cortes (Class of 2018) and Charlotte Evans, Programme Manager, Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE), received places in the prestigious programme.



Image provided by Nicholas Carverhill.

"After my fieldwork experiences from courses taken at Yale-NUS, I feel called to work with vulnerable communities on issues related to urban politics."

- Nicholas Carverhill (Class of 2017)

APRU – NYT Asia-Pacific Case Competition 2017

Over the summer of 2017, five Yale-NUS students clinched honours in the inaugural Association of Pacific Rim Universities – New York Times (APRU-NYT) Asia-Pacific Case Competition 2017. Students from 12 nations and territories, and 31 universities participated in the competition, which was judged by senior university leaders from member universities of APRU and staff from The New York Times.

Stephanie Chee (Class of 2019) clinched the first runner-up position in the solo category, while the group consisting of Feroz Khan, Kaushik Swaminathan, Peter Lewis (all from Class of 2018) and Guadalupe Lazaro (Class of 2020) clinched a top 10 position in the group segment. Participants were tasked to assume the role of a policy advisor to a respected political leader, and submit a brief policy on the complexities of climate change, focusing on the future of the Pacific Ocean.

Stephanie addressed her policy to Australia’s Minister for the Environment and Energy, and highlighted the impact of climate change on its coral reefs and the prospect of climate refugees fleeing from other island nations into Australia. Feroz, Kaushik, Peter and Guadalupe’s essay discussed the impact of Singapore’s food system on the climate and the oceans, as well as Singapore’s vulnerability to future climate-induced shocks to its food system.



From left: Peter Lewis, Kaushik Swaminathan, Stephanie Chee, President Tan Tai Yong, Guadalupe Lazaro and Feroz Khan.

Google Techmaker Scholarship awarded to Yale-NUS student

In July 2017, Chandler Beyer (Class of 2020) was selected as one of 90 students from the Asia-Pacific region to be conferred the Google Women Techmakers Scholarship. A group of female undergraduate and graduate students were chosen from a strong pool of applicants. The scholarships were awarded based on the strength of each candidate's impact on diversity, their leadership abilities and academic background.



Chandler Beyer (Class of 2020) at the Google Women Techmakers retreat. Image provided by Google.

As part of the scholarship, Chandler attended a week-long retreat in Seoul, Korea

where she connected with fellow scholars, networked with Google employees

and participated in a number of social events and workshops.

Yale-NUS student wins bronze and gold medals at SEA Games debut

Benedict Chan (Class of 2021) won the bronze and gold medals in the Doubles and Men's Team events respectively at the 29th Southeast Asian (SEA) Games in Kuala Lumpur, which was held from 19 to 30 August 2017. This was Benedict's debut in squash for Team Singapore. He picked up the sport when he was just 13.



Benedict Chan (Class of 2021) competing at the 29th SEA Games. Image provided by Benedict Chan.

On 29 August 2017, he and his teammates managed to

overcome their Filipino rivals in a closely fought encounter to win a historic gold medal

in squash for Singapore – the first in 22 years.

Yale-NUS students recognised for contributions to pro bono projects



Students in the Double Degree Programme (DDP) in Law and Liberal Arts read law at the Faculty of Law at NUS and liberal arts at Yale-NUS College at the same time. This programme provides an interdisciplinary legal education in a residential, liberal arts setting, and students graduate with both a Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) degree from Yale-NUS College and a

Bachelor of Laws (with Honours) degree from the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore (NUS).

In 2017, Daniel Ng (Class of 2018) and Amelia Chew (Class of 2017) received awards from the NUS Faculty of Law for their work in pro bono projects. To recognise their commitment and passion towards providing quality

pro bono legal services, Daniel was given the Special Recognition Award while Amelia received the Pro Bono Leadership Award.

Upon matriculation at university, Daniel joined the Military Justice Project, an initiative at the NUS Faculty of Law that aims to provide accessible legal assistance to servicemen in the Singapore Armed Forces. He also started the Military Justice

Project – National Police Cadet Corps (NPCC) Basic Criminal Law Programme to educate secondary school NPCC cadets on military law in an engaging manner.

Amelia, who served as Publicity Co-Head of the NUS Pro Bono Group, worked with the team to organise

legal education workshops called ‘Law & You’ for foreign domestic workers. The aim was to empower them with an understanding of their rights and of the law in Singapore.

Besides community service, some students also looked into improving the

accessibility of law-related resources. Cephass Tan (Class of 2018), worked with Koh Wei Jie (Class of 2017) to develop Uppercase, an innovative platform which increased the accessibility of parliamentary debates and speeches.



Melody Lau (Class of 2018, right) at the 2017 Asia Cup International Moot Court Competition. Image provided by NUS Law Mooting and Debating Club.

In August 2017, DDP student Melody Lau (Class of 2018) and her team emerged champions of the 2017 Asia Cup International Moot Court Competition held in Tokyo, Japan. Melody and her teammate Joel Sherard from NUS Law were named joint Best Oralists for the competition.

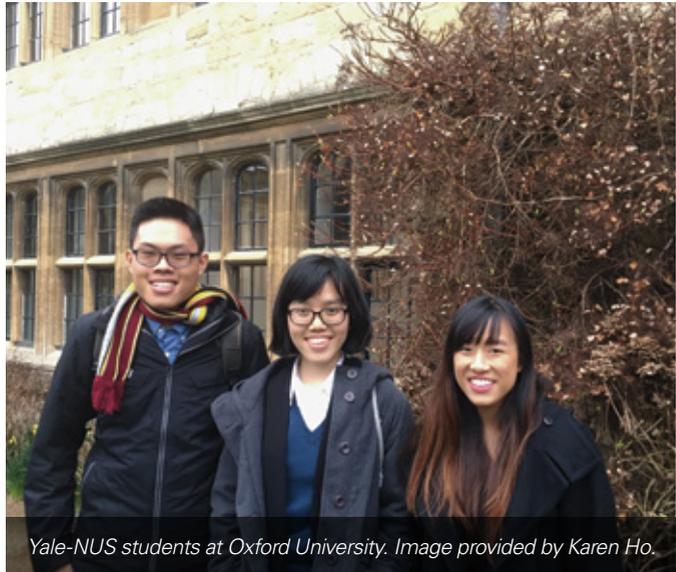
The competition was organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan as well as the Japanese Society of International Law.

Presentations at international conferences

Yale-NUS students have had the opportunity to work closely with professors and peers on important research projects, and make academic contributions in areas as varied as Singapore history to safety and digital security technology. The students presented their own research in international academic arenas, which broadened their perspectives in their field of interest. This exposure also provided hands-on experience in presenting research arguments to an academic audience and connected them with like-minded peers in academia.

Three Yale-NUS students – Karen Ho (Class of 2017), Min Lim (Class of 2018) and Ng Qi Siang (Class of 2019) – presented their research on Singapore history at a symposium organised by Trinity College at Oxford University in February 2017. 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



Yale-NUS students at Oxford University. Image provided by Karen Ho.

project titled ‘Another Singaporean Song: *Xinyao* and National Identity in Singapore’. It looked at how the music movement dialogued with the government’s attempts to impose a national narrative, and how *Xinyao* (a genre of songs that is unique to Singapore), in response, influenced and articulated the people’s conception of national identity.

Min’s presentation focused on the defensive structures of 14th century Temasik, which is the earliest-recorded name for Singapore. She said that the

symposium was a great way to deepen her understanding on various histories and debates in Singapore.

Qi Siang presented on the de-emphasis of colonial violence in Singapore’s history textbooks, a topic that he first developed an interest in during his Modern Social Thought class, which is part of the Common Curriculum.

Yale-NUS faculty

In 2017, Yale-NUS faculty continued to reach new heights not only in research and teaching, but also in their contributions to the College's innovative curriculum, co-curricular programmes and residential life.

The faculty at Yale-NUS, unlike at many higher educational institutions, is not organised into traditional academic departments. To promote interaction between faculty members of different disciplines and to encourage a multidisciplinary approach to teaching, faculty work in three interdisciplinary divisions, namely, Humanities, Science and Social Sciences.

Pursuing excellence in research and scholarship

Research is one of the key pillars of Yale-NUS College. Yale-NUS faculty members actively contribute to the academic advancements in their fields through publishing to share their knowledge and research with the world, in line with the College's mission of reinventing liberal arts and science education for a complex, interconnected world. The books by the Yale-NUS faculty members also demonstrated the multidisciplinary research that they engaged in.

In Academic Year 2016/2017, faculty members received external grant funding from organisations such as Singapore's Ministry of Education, Ministry of Defence, Singapore Institute



for Neurotechnology (SINAPSE) and the US Air Force Research Laboratories.

They have published in top journals, and as well as books with top academic presses such as *Columbia University Press*, *Palgrave Macmillan*,

Yale University Press and *Princeton University Press*, among others.

Faculty members also work closely with students to generate quality research, giving our undergraduates a head start in graduate-level research.

Our students, with guidance from faculty, published and presented their work in the area of species succession in secondary forests at the 54th Annual Meeting of the Association of Tropical Biology and Conservation in Yucatan, Mexico, in July 2017 and in the area of ‘innovation mindset’ at the Singapore Conference on Applied Psychology in June 2017. Papers co-written by faculty and students were published in peer-reviewed journals such as the *Journal of Developmental Biology* and *Physical Review B*.

Professor of Social Sciences (Urban Studies) Chua Beng Huat’s book *Liberalism Disavowed: Communitarianism and State Capitalism in Singapore* (NUS Press, 2017) examined the rejection of Western-style liberalism in Singapore and the way the People’s Action Party forged an independent non-Western ideology.

Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple Professor Bryan Van Norden’s book *Taking Back Philosophy: A Multicultural Manifesto* (Columbia University Press, 2017) argued that Western philosophy departments are indefensibly narrow

for ignoring philosophy in the East Asian, South Asian, African, Islamic and Indigenous American traditions, and called for educational institutions to live up to their cosmopolitan ideals.

Associate Professor of Social Sciences (Sociology and Public Policy) Anju Mary Paul published *Multinational Maids: Stepwise Migration in a Global Labour Market* (Cambridge University Press, 2017), based on her rigorous study of more than 1,200 subjects’ migration trajectories to reveal how these migrants worked in a series of overseas countries to improve their lives. Assoc Prof Paul also published an edited volume of essays written by her students on spaces of globalisation in Singapore entitled *Local Encounters in a Global City* (Ethos Books, 2017).

Lecturer in Social Sciences (Political Science) Benjamin Schupmann published *Carl Schmitt’s State and Constitutional Theory: A Critical Analysis* (Oxford University Press, 2017), in which he explored Carl Schmitt’s response to the Weimar crisis and showed how Schmitt’s findings are

relevant to the challenges faced by liberal democratic states today.

Two literature professors published their first books in 2017: Associate Professor of Humanities Geoffrey Baker published *The Aesthetics of Clarity and Confusion: Literature and Engagement since Nietzsche and the Naturalists* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2017) while Assistant Professor of Humanities Andrew Hui published *The Poetics of Ruins in Renaissance Literature* (Fordham University Press, 2017). Assoc Prof Baker’s book traced the ongoing debate between literary realism and experimentalism from the 19th century through the 20th century, while Dr Hui’s book argued that the Renaissance was more appropriately a “Ruinnaissance” – the birth of the ruin as a category of cultural discourse.

Research Highlights

Alarm response found in medaka fish

Assistant Professor of Science (Life Sciences) Ajay Mathuru discovered that the medaka fish, a popular model animal for laboratory research, has an 'alarm response' to a type of semiochemical (message-bearing chemicals that carry information from one animal to another) released when a fish of the same kind sustains a physical injury. Considered an anti-predator mechanism, this semiochemical –

Schreckstoff – triggers fear in fish by warning it of a nearby danger. Dr Mathuru found that while the medaka fish also has an 'alarm response', it reacts in a different way from the zebrafish – by playing dead. Since both species of fish are laboratory-friendly to raise and possess characteristics such as a translucent skin and skull when young, researchers are able to study the activity of neurons in their brains by non-invasive methods of imaging and compare their neural responses. Prior to this

discovery, scientists were unable to use non-invasive methods to study fishes outside of the superorder Ostariophysi that exhibited an alarm response.

The discovery also has implications for improving the understanding of fear and panic in other animals, including humans, since the organisation of fear circuitry could be similar. Dr Mathuru's research was published in late 2016 in *Scientific Reports*, an online, open-access scientific journal.



Deep-learning technology removes rain streaks

Assistant Professor of Science (Computer Science) Robby Tan and his team of researchers employed a deep-learning method to develop an algorithm that detects and removes rain streaks from video footage. Using more than 10,000 images to 'train' the computer system, Dr Tan's algorithm allows cameras used in technologies such as driverless cars and surveillance cameras to deliver clear images even during bad weather conditions. Dr Tan previously used various methods to



remove the impediments caused by rain and other bad weather conditions such as haze and fog, and found that the results through deep-learning were the most effective.

In July 2017, Dr Tan presented his findings at the IEEE Conference on Computer Vision and Pattern Recognition (CVPR), a leading conference for cutting-edge research in computer vision.

Building social communication skills in shy children helps with peer likeability

A study by Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Psychology) Cheung Hoi Shan discovered that shy children with low English vocabulary skills could still be popular among their peers, if they have high-functioning social communication skills that enable them to engage and interact well with their peers in social settings, serving as

an effective buffer against the presumed language disadvantage. This suggests that parents should consider placing more emphasis on developing a shy child's social communication skills, instead of only looking to expand their vocabulary.

The study involved 164 preschoolers between 52 and 79 months old in Singapore. Dr Cheung also found that the more shy a child was, the more pronounced the effect of social communications skills. The implications of

the research are particularly relevant to families who live in Singapore's multilingual environment, as the study included local bilingual or trilingual preschoolers.

Her paper was co-authored with Associate Professor John Elliott from the Department of Psychology at the National University of Singapore's Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences. It was published in the *British Journal of Developmental Psychology*.

Beetles' bright colours used for camouflage instead of warning off predators



A study by Postdoctoral Fellow Eunice Tan discovered that the bright colour patterns of beetles were not a warning signal to predators as previously believed, but actually a form of camouflage, turning an old assumption on its head. After taking into account

the evolutionary relationship between the different beetle species, Dr Tan discovered that different species of beetles had colour patterns similar to those of their host plants.

Dr Tan was the first ecologist to examine the

colour patterns of live leaf beetles in relation to their host plants, and spent 17 months photographing 51 species of live beetles in 32 locations across four Australian states, in order to contextualise the colour patterns of beetles to their natural habitats. Her study concluded that there was a complex suite of factors driving natural selection, which affect the evolution of colouration in leaf beetles.

Dr Tan collaborated with four other researchers and the study was published as an open-access article in the peer-reviewed journal *Frontiers in Ecology and Evolution*.

Assistant Professor Nozomi Naoi receives Takehisa Yumeji Award

On 4 March 2017, Assistant Professor of Humanities (Art History) and Georgette Chen Fellow Nozomi Naoi was recognised by the Takehisa Yumeji Studies Association (*Takehisa Yumeji Gakkai*) in Japan

for her contributions to Yumeji studies in English language scholarship. She received the award with her co-author, Sabine Schenk, for curating an exhibition 'Takehisa Yumeji: Artist of Romance and Nostalgia' held in Amsterdam in 2015.

The exhibition showcased the Yumeji collection of Nihon no Hanga museum in Amsterdam owned by Elise Wessels. The accompanying exhibition catalogue marked the first English-language scholarship dedicated to Yumeji and his body of works.

Faculty spotlight

Love and food as psychology research

Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Psychology) Jean Liu's research interest revolves around two things she feels make people happy: love and food. In particular, some of her recent studies focused on how the use of social media influenced people's behaviours when it came to these two topics.



At Yale-NUS College, Dr Liu runs the Social Neuroendocrinology Research Group, also known as the Synergy Lab. She works with students to conduct research on social neuroscience and its implications for models of health.

One such study was on 'phubbing', or phone snubbing, a phenomenon where people now rather text than engage in social interactions with people around them. Dr Liu was interested in examining the effects of 'phubbing' from

a psychological perspective and found that texting in the presence of another person produces the same neurobiological response in the other person they would have if they were being ostracised.

Performing arts faculty collaborate across disciplines

Interdisciplinary collaboration between faculty members has fostered a vibrant performing arts scene at Yale-NUS College, not only in student life but also amongst faculty.



Assistant Professor of Practice Lee Chee Keng (Theatre) and Postdoctoral Fellow Jingyin He, co-taught the course

Performative Elements Across Space and Medium. This course examined the

spatial representation of sound and movement used in performances.

Performing arts faculty also play an active role in the co-curricular programmes at the College.

Assistant Professor of Practice (Music) Nirmali Fenn led a project in Poland during Week 7, a flagship Learning Across Boundaries (LAB) programme

for first-year students, along with singer and Lecturer in Voice Jassy Husk. Students explored the psychology of memorial silence, through visits to the Auschwitz concentration camps of the Holocaust and the Bochnia Salt Mine, one of the oldest salt mines in the world.



Spirit mediumship and anthropology

Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Anthropology) Stuart E Strange is an anthropologist who studies the rituals of spirit mediumship as a way to understand cultures and social relations. He has conducted fieldwork in Suriname, Sri Lanka, Ghana and Haiti, and is conversant in six languages. In Suriname, Dr Strange's comparative research on spirit mediumship focused on the

observation and analysis of the rituals and the techniques used by spirit mediums to produce knowledge. This fieldwork spawned journal articles, book chapters in edited volumes, and a book project.

At Yale-NUS, Dr Strange's fieldwork and research provided a rich background for his class in ethnography. He also taps on guest lecturers to introduce various traditions and techniques of anthropology to students.



World religious poetry

Assistant Professor of Humanities (Literature) Andrew Hui and Yap Kim Hao Professor of Comparative Religious Studies Gavin Flood collaborated to create a new module titled World Religious Poetry. An interdisciplinary course, the two faculty members curated course readings from Christian, Hindu and Buddhist religious texts. These included the Book of Songs (*Shijing*) and the Book of Psalms, which students had already encountered in the Common Curriculum, in addition to Vedic Hymns and Buddhist poetry.

A campus of innovation and excellence



Yale-NUS College was the proud recipient of the National Parks Board's Landscape Excellence Assessment Framework (LEAF) certification in 2017, marking the second time that the College received this certification for its outstanding greenery in development projects.

Built on the grounds of the old Warren Country Club, the College campus conserved many of the golf club's large

trees and gently-sloping terrain. Each residential college is fitted with a garden courtyard, where a diverse selection of plants is cultivated for their botanic and cultural significance. The central biofiltration pond helps filter storm water before it enters the drainage network, and its surrounding vegetation acts as a green lung for the campus.

In November 2017, Yale-NUS College and

Surbana Jurong Pte Ltd signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), signifying the start of the collaboration in test-bedding the next generation of smart city solutions within the College campus. Among the initiatives announced were plans to explore the use of artificial intelligence in the College's upcoming mobile application which allows users to conveniently submit feedback or report defects, as well as the deployment



of a predictive lift monitoring system to enhance the residential living facilities and shorten the waiting time for lifts. The two parties also planned to explore partnership channels for Yale-NUS students to learn more about smart city solutions through internships, job attachments, or lectures.

“Yale-NUS College is excited to partner Surbana Jurong by providing our fully-residential campus as a site for test-bedding their ideas, as well as contributing our research expertise. Our students are curious and have inquisitive minds that enable them to challenge the status quo and innovate. They are well-equipped to delve deep into these smart city initiatives and contribute to its further development to better improve the way we live. Our faculty members are also well placed to contribute their research expertise to the smart city research projects. We are excited by the opportunity to translate research findings into real world technology solutions for meaningful outcomes.”

-Professor Tan Tai Yong, President





FLYING HIGH



Any visitor to the College will notice that it is fluttering with activity, both inside and outside the classroom. Gliding effortlessly from interactive, in-depth seminars to exciting residential life activities, students live and learn on one campus.

Sharing Knowledge

In 2017, Yale-NUS College played host to many accomplished and talented luminaries from Singapore and around the world who shared their insights on diverse topics, with Yale-NUS and the community at large.

President's Speaker Series

On 6 March 2017, primatologist Professor Frans de Waal, best known for his work on the behaviour and social intelligence of primates, launched the first President's Speaker Series (PSS) of the year. In his talk, he discussed how research findings increasingly support the idea that animals are capable of types of intelligence previously deemed unique to humans. In an engaging presentation with videos of elephants displaying mirror self-recognition and capuchin monkeys protesting against unfairness, Professor de Waal recounted at least 25 claims of cognition reputedly unique to humans that have since been called into question by mounting scientific research.

On 28 April 2017, Nobel laureate and renowned educator Professor Carl Wieman hosted a lecture where he discussed new approaches for teaching and learning for a more robust and relevant approach to science education in the 21st century. He explained that while



From left: Dr Fareed Zakaria, Dean Trisha Craig and Professor Tommy Koh.

science has advanced rapidly due to new experimental practices and data, science education has remained largely outdated and inefficient. To combat this, Professor Wieman advocated for a data-driven approach that would incorporate major advances of the past two decades in fields such as cognitive psychology, neuroscience, and education studies, to improve how science is taught to students.

On 10 August 2017, esteemed Shakespeare scholar Professor Stephen Greenblatt presented a lecture entitled 'Age is Unnecessary: Shakespeare and the War between Old and

Young'. Professor Greenblatt said that the study of old works of literature and art remained relevant, and that the value of studying the humanities could be personal as well as scholarly. His lecture focused on a reading of William Shakespeare's *King Lear*, connecting it to evolutionary principles about the end of reproduction and senescence.

The final PSS of the year took place on 31 October 2017, featuring Professor Tommy Koh, Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Dr Fareed Zakaria, host of CNN's flagship international affairs

programme *Fareed Zakaria GPS*, who spoke on the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. The speakers also discussed how global leaders need to navigate emerging geo-political challenges, while individuals must prepare themselves for the uncertainties wrought by

technological, economic and political transformations.

The Yale-NUS President's Speaker Series is designed to enable the community to engage with some of the brightest academics and thought leaders from across a diverse range of disciplines

and contemporary issues in our world today. The series is open to the public, and past speakers include Ólafur Ragnar Grímsson, then-President of Iceland; Ms Olivia Lum, Founder of Hyflux Ltd, and Dr Mohamed ElBaradei, joint recipient of the 2005 Nobel Peace Prize.

Experts share insights with students

In Semester 1 of Academic Year 2017/2018, Yale-NUS hosted two prominent Singaporean leaders in a new dialogue series titled 'In Conversation'. Leading public intellectuals engaged with Yale-NUS students on pressing issues and current affairs in an open dialogue facilitated by a student moderator.

semester. Prominent experts whose works focussed on Singapore were invited to share their insights with the Yale-NUS community.

The first speaker to kick off the series was Professor of Social Sciences Chua Beng Huat who is also the Head of Studies for Urban Studies. His

lecture was titled 'Disavowing Liberalism: Political Development in Singapore since the 1980s'. The second speaker was Ambassador-at-large Chan Heng Chee, a Yale-NUS Governing Board member. She shared about the challenges in international relations facing a small island-nation like Singapore.

On 23 August 2017, former Nominated Member of Parliament Mr Viswa Sadasivan inaugurated the first dialogue of the series. The second dialogue, which featured Senior Minister of State at the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Communications and Information Dr Janil Puthucheary (*right*), took place on 26 October 2017.

A new lecture series titled 'Singapore in Focus' was also launched in the same



Inaugural symposiums on citizen science and student support



Participants at one of the workshops of the Citizen Science Symposium.

Sharing knowledge through symposiums allows Yale-NUS College to exchange ideas, build bridges and strengthen bonds between institutions in Singapore and across the globe. In 2017, the College hosted two new symposiums, which touched on citizen science and student support.

On 3 and 4 March 2017, Yale-NUS hosted students, faculty and members of the public interested in the growing field of citizen science at the College's inaugural Citizen Science Symposium. Featuring a range of talks and workshops, the event aimed to promote an understanding of citizen

science both locally and internationally with a focus on its application in Southeast Asia.

Organised by the Citizen Science Research Cluster (CSRC) at Yale-NUS College, the keynote speaker for the symposium was Dr Caren Cooper, Associate Professor in the Department of Forestry and Environmental Resources in the College of Natural Resources, and Assistant Head of the Biodiversity Research Lab at the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences.

On 7 April 2017, the College hosted the Best Practices for Student

Support Symposium. Approximately 100 student support practitioners from Singapore's Institutes of Higher Learning, such as the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University, and all five polytechnics shared their experiences in communicating, connecting and providing support for students at this one-day event. Organised by the Yale-NUS Dean of Students Office, the symposium aimed to develop partnerships across Institutes of Higher Learning as well as share resources and skills in the field of student support.

Engaging a broader community

Beyond teaching classes and conducting research, Yale-NUS College professors also actively engage the broader community and share their expertise.

In January 2017, Social Sciences (Global Affairs) Lecturer Catherine Sanger was invited to speak at a panel organised by the Singapore National Youth Council. The panel was part of a programme called 'What's Going On Out There?', aimed at

encouraging conversations on current affairs issues around the world and their relevance to Singapore and Singaporeans. Dr Sanger shared her thoughts as an American living in Singapore, and commented on the 2016 United States elections.

Many other Yale-NUS faculty were also involved in external speaking engagements. Divisional Director and Professor of Humanities (English Literature) Rajeev Patke

took part in the National University of Singapore Arts Festival in February 2017, where he discussed the basic ideas of Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World* and how it applies to modern times. In January 2017, Assistant Professor of Practice (Music) Nirmali Fenn collaborated with the Curriculum Planning and Development Division of Singapore's Ministry of Education, in a symposium on knowledge and inquiry for secondary school teachers.



Dr Catherine Sanger (second from right). Image provided by the National Youth Council.

Writers' Centre encourages writing across curriculum



"Authors in the Open Air, A Reading", the opening event of the "A Community of Writers" Symposium.

In 2017, the Writers' Centre foregrounded the study and celebration of interdisciplinary writing. The Centre held its inaugural Literary Awards in April 2017, recognising exceptional work of individual students and the accomplishments of the creative writing community at Yale-NUS. The first round of selection was done by internal Yale-NUS

judges and the winners were eventually chosen by external judges, who included bestselling authors like T Geronimo Johnson and Lisa Zeidner, and Director of Creative Writing at Yale University, Richard Deming. The four winners were recognised for their original work in fiction, non-fiction, poetry and playwriting. The winning pieces were inspired by

diverse topics across the curriculum, including Greek mythology, military history, and environmental conservation.

Between 8 to 10 November 2017, the Centre hosted a symposium titled, 'A Community of Writers: Collaborations across the Liberal Arts'. Writers, scholars and educators from across the globe

gathered at Yale-NUS to discuss the many ways in which writing is taught at the undergraduate level. The symposium comprised eight panels, readings, workshops, and lectures tackling diverse topics such as science writing, creative writing, academic writing,

and the responsibility of a liberal arts college to teach writing.

Professor of Humanities, Director of Writing Programme and Writer-in-Residence Robin Hemley commented that the purpose of the symposium

was to “explore connections between various writing discourses – creative, academic, science and experiential learning – and what kinds of intersections there are between these kinds of writing and the learning process”.

Preparing students for the workforce

In 2017, the Yale-NUS Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE) conducted several workshops to equip students with skills to navigate today’s working environment. These included workshops such as ‘Writing for the Workplace’, which was conducted by CIPE professionals, and workshops on job-seeking conducted by prominent industry players. Brian O’Dwyer, an experienced corporate finance professional and former banker, was invited to campus to give students tips on networking, as well

as how to prepare for the corporate interview process.

CIPE also organised meet-and-greet sessions to connect students with industry partners relevant to their career interests. Aspiring graphic designers had the chance to meet award-winning local graphic designer Theseus Chan of WORK Pte Ltd, to listen to his insights on the local creative industry. Budding entrepreneurs interested in start-ups, technology developments, or emerging markets had the opportunity to interact with John Kaaiohelo, Special Advisor to

the Chief Investment Officer of Norwegian telecom Telenor’s venture capital arm. In other sessions held during the year, students met representatives from Swedish strategy consulting company BTS, global risk consultancy Control Risks, Singapore’s National Arts Council, National Gallery Singapore, software solutions company Palantir Technologies, Singapore’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, ride-hailing and logistics company Grab, British pharmaceutical company GlaxoSmithKline, and many more.

Open Day 2017

On 11 March 2017, Yale-NUS College welcomed throngs of visitors at the National University of Singapore's Open Day. Prospective students and their families got a glimpse into the four-year, fully residential undergraduate education programme at Yale-NUS.

Led by the Admissions & Financial Aid team, an activity-filled programme was put together for prospective students to learn more about the College's community of learning. Sample classes, college tours and various talks highlighted the many opportunities that Yale-NUS

students could have during their time with the College. Visitors also encountered the diverse student population first-hand, through various student performances

and interaction sessions. Exhibitions of original research work carried out by Yale-NUS students for their capstone projects were also on display.

First student-led hackathon

On 18 March 2017, more than 50 participants from Yale-NUS took part in the first student-led hackathon held at Yale-NUS College. Swarnima Sircar and Ross Rauber (both from the Class of 2019) were the key drivers of this event, which aimed to improve data literacy and create a platform where

students could develop visualisations and tools in a collaborative, empowering environment. The students investigated various topics that ranged from the implications of choices of college majors to the kinds of damage caused by different forms of natural disasters.

Roadshow on Safety, Security and Environment

On 11 January 2017, the Yale-NUS Infrastructure, Safety & Security Office held a roadshow on Safety, Security and Environment. The event was attended by over 250 guests, including representatives from the Singapore Police Force, the Central Narcotics Bureau, and the Yale-NUS Safety Committee.

The roadshow exhibited the latest campus initiatives from the Infrastructure, Safety & Security Office to improve

residential living for the College community.

Guest speakers from the Singapore Police Force

shared on crime prevention and safety. It also helped to increase the awareness of the College's health and safety guidelines on campus.



Innovative curriculum

Many Yale-NUS course offerings lie at the intersection of multiple disciplines, even spanning the arts and sciences. Students are also encouraged to engage in independent reading and research in an area of interest with the close guidance of a faculty member.

Independent study programmes

At Yale-NUS College, students not only have the opportunity to attend a diverse range of classes, they can also initiate their own independent reading and research programmes to delve into a particular area of interest under the close supervision of a faculty member who specialises in that field.

Sherice Ngaserin (Class of 2018) took two continuous independent language modules on Sanskrit with Assistant Professor of Humanities (Philosophy) and J Y Pillay Fellow Malcolm Keating. As she intended to pursue the topic of Mahāyāna Buddhist philosophy in her capstone project, and subsequently graduate school, she was happy that Dr Keating could provide a rigorous mentorship in Sanskrit, while at the same time being flexible about tailoring the course to students' abilities and schedules.



Daniel Soo (Class of 2017) chose to pursue an independent research project with Writer-in-Residence Laurel Fantauzzo on Literary Journalism. As he was considering a career in journalism, Daniel found the course helpful in providing an insight into what it was like creating original, well-researched stories with a human interest focus.

To further her skills in dance, Nur Qistina binte

Abdul Wahid (Class of 2017, *in photo above*) initiated a course on dance choreography and styles with Elm College Vice Rector Chew Suyin, a dancer by training with a BFA from Purchase College Dance Conservatory in New York. The course focused on skills in choreography and the development of different dance styles, and culminated in a final project in which Qistina developed her own choreography.

Behavioural science meets policymaking in 'Better Policy Lab'



Mr Baey Yam Keng sharing his perspectives with students of the Better Policy Lab course. Image provided by Marcus Koe.

In Semester 2 of Academic Year 2016/2017, students had the chance to work with government agencies in Singapore such as the Land Transport Authority and National Environment Agency, combining behavioural science with policymaking in order to address public issues.

The course, titled Better Policy Lab, was taught by Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Psychology) Jean Liu, who wanted to show students that psychological theories had practical applications outside scientific experiments and

“This is a new approach by the government, where they actively seek to apply the best of the behavioural sciences to public policy, cutting across a variety of disciplines. This plays to the strengths of Yale-NUS because behavioural insights require a broad package of skills.”

– Dr Jean Liu, Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Psychology)

the treatment of mental health disorders. The course aimed to equip students with the skills to apply psychology to policymaking.

At the end of the semester, students had the opportunity to present their solutions to representatives from various

public agencies in Singapore such as the Tampines and Bishan-Toa Payoh Town Councils, Ministry of the Environment and Water Resources, as well as Parliamentary Secretary of Singapore’s Ministry of Culture, Community and Youth Mr Baey Yam Keng.

Long-distance language lessons



Martin Vasev (Class of 2018) taking Russian classes via teleconference.

At Yale-NUS College, students have the opportunity to learn diverse languages such as Italian, Portuguese, Russian, and Sanskrit through the Yale Center for Language Study. Conducted via teleconference, these language classes augmented the range of language classes that were already being offered at the College, in partnership with the National University of Singapore's (NUS) Centre for Language Studies.

Martin Vasev (Class of 2018), one of four students who took a beginner class in Russian, found the experience so enjoyable that he continued taking Russian classes for another

“Learning another language is an integral part of a liberal arts education. Many students study a language as part of their majors in Anthropology, Global Affairs or Literature for instance. Some have learnt a new language to conduct research for their capstone projects in History and Philosophy, while others study a language as part of their personal development and to complement their goals in their major.”

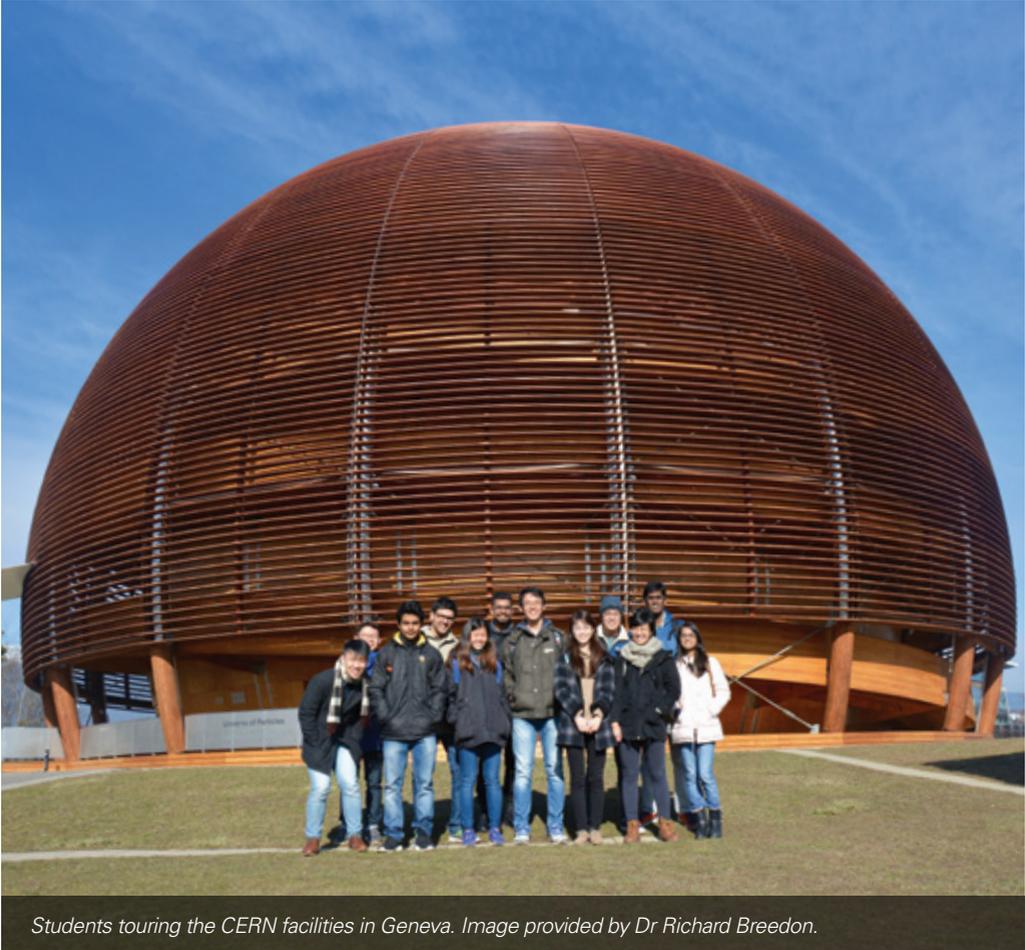
– Dr Eduardo Lage-Otero, Senior Lecturer of Spanish and Associate Director of Language Studies

semester. He and his classmates developed a brochure about Yale-NUS College in Russian for their final project, applying their newfound knowledge of Russian grammar for a practical outcome.

For Carmen Denia (Class of 2017), her stint living in

Rome during a Yale Summer Study programme sparked an interest in learning Italian. Her foray into the language contributed to her literature capstone on Dante's *Divine Comedy*. She hopes to be able to read the whole epic poem in its original language one day.

Observing high energy physics experiments at CERN



Students touring the CERN facilities in Geneva. Image provided by Dr Richard Breedon.

In February 2017, 12 Yale-NUS and NUS students visited several laboratories within the European Organization for Nuclear Research, more commonly known as CERN, in Geneva, Switzerland. The field trip was the culmination of a course on high energy

physics experiments led by Dr Richard Breedon from the Division of Science at Yale-NUS College.

Over the course of the trip, students met and discussed cutting-edge particle physics research with scientists from all over the globe. They

also had the opportunity to visit the control centre of the Large Hadron Collider (LHC), the largest and most powerful particle collider in the world.

Urban community development



Students finalise their projects for the course Community Development: In Search of the Kampung Spirit. Image provided by Sara M Watson.

What exactly defines a community? That was one of the questions students had to tackle in a course titled Community Development: In Search of the Kampung Spirit, taught by Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Urban Studies) Nick R Smith in Semester 2 of Academic Year 2016/2017.

In this course, students explored ideas of community and community development in Casa Clementi, a public housing estate located near the College's campus. Dr Smith adopted a practice-oriented approach to help equip students with a range of skills they might need for pursuing careers in urban

“The in-class discussions have focused a lot on making us aware of what we want to achieve through community development and recognise ourselves as stakeholders in the process.”

– Mehul Banka (Class of 2019)

planning, non-profit work, and other sectors.

For example, students developed and administered a survey to residents to better understand the neighbourhood. Dr Smith also tasked the students with developing proposals for community development projects that might be undertaken in the neighbourhood.

The students worked closely with Rotary Family Service Centre, a local community partner, to help build connections with the community. The students also shared their data with the organisation to help them in their work, strengthening the College's relationship with its nearby neighbours.

Inaugural CIPE Leadership Symposium

On 1 March 2017, the Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE) at Yale-NUS College held its inaugural Leadership Symposium, the culmination of a multi-year programme for developing leadership skills in students.

At the symposium, graduating students shared their leadership experiences at Yale-NUS. This was the final stage of CIPE's Leadership Certificate Programme, which enabled students to develop their leadership skills through

personal development, collaborative projects and community service during their time at Yale-NUS. Ultimately, the programme aims to equip students with the skills to enable positive change in their respective spheres of influence.

Orange ASEAN's sustainability workshop

In May 2017, Toh Hui Ran (Class of 2017) was one of 24 participants who took part in the 'Orange Factory', a three-week intensive sustainability workshop designed for young professionals, entrepreneurs and students from the Netherlands and Southeast Asia. The workshop was part of Orange ASEAN, a joint effort by the Dutch government, Dutch companies and non-governmental organisations to bring sustainability into Asian economies. An Environmental Studies major, Hui Ran had stumbled upon the workshop via Facebook, and saw it as a great opportunity to expand her knowledge on the business aspect of sustainability.

Over the course of three weeks, participants learnt about different consulting



Toh Hui Ran (Class of 2017) presenting at the 'Orange Factory'. Image provided by Orange ASEAN.

“As inhabitants of this world, we have to be conscious of how our choices of lifestyle, careers and politics affect the environment.”

– Toh Hui Ran (Class of 2017)

tools and business models, through talks by experienced professionals from various sustainability industries. They also worked in groups to present innovative solutions for regional sustainability challenges to

Dutch companies. Hui Ran's group came up with several ideas for Dutch multinational company AkzoNobel, including linking it with the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) as a potential client, in order to optimise its resources.

Yale-NUS College hosts renowned environmental photographer James Delano



Mr James Delano shared his photography expertise with students. Image provided by Tom White.

In March 2017, Yale-NUS College hosted renowned environmental photographer and curator Mr James Delano. During his visit, Mr Delano conducted a photojournalism masterclass, where he shared his experience and advice with a focus on environmental activism. Participants had a chance to work on a photo essay and received guidance and feedback on their projects, from the conception of ideas, to production and editing.

Based in Japan, Mr Delano is a world-renowned photographer and author of four photobooks, including *Empire: Impressions from China* and *Black Tsunami: Japan 2011*. Mr Delano is also the organiser of the popular Instagram account @EverydayClimateChange, which combines breathtaking photography and succinct narratives to bring the drama and urgency of climate change to a 21st century medium.

His documentary photography focuses on humanity's strained relationship with the environment as well as the ecological consequences of rapid development in East Asia, now spreading to equatorial Africa and the Amazon, including violations of indigenous land and human rights.

Life on campus

As a fully residential programme, Yale-NUS' students, staff and faculty learn together and from one another not just in the classrooms, but also in communal settings. The Yale-NUS education provides a strong sense of community and responsibility at a time in students' lives when they are discovering themselves and imagining their futures.



A unique aspect of the Yale-NUS College education is the close-knit residential community. Students stay on campus for all four years of their college life in one of three residential colleges: Elm College, Cendana College and Saga College. This residential model creates nested communities in the Yale-NUS tradition of supporting lifelong learning by combining academic, intellectual, social, cultural, athletic and artistic life.

The Rector and Vice Rector, who both live on

campus with their families, play a significant role in residential life, organising key aspects of the experience. Residential staff and Dean's Fellows share equally important responsibilities in supporting students.

In 2017, Yale-NUS College introduced the Residential College Advisor role, better known as RCA. Comprising a selection of third and fourth-year students, they provide mentorship, advice, and support to their assigned groups of about 12 to 15 first-year students.

The RCA role complements the existing support system for first-year students, previously the main responsibility of Dean's Fellows. Each residential college has a mix of RCAs and Dean's Fellows. While the RCAs focus on helping first-year students, the Dean's Fellows provide support to the rest of the student body as well as mentor the RCAs.

Student associate roles help students gain professional experience

At Yale-NUS College, students have the opportunity to gain real-world work experience through the Student Associate Programme (SAP), which offers employment in the form of work attachments with

faculty members and staff departments.

According to Programme Manager (Leadership and Global Citizenship) at Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE) Ms Zhana Sandeva,

the SAP aims to provide students with professional work exposure to help them further refine their interests. It also helps them develop soft skills such as time management, reliability and effective communication.

Exchange students add to diversity of Yale-NUS community



In 2017, over thirty exchange students, from universities located across seven countries, joined Yale-NUS College. The College's exchange programme provides opportunities for students from international universities to experience the unique multicultural curriculum and tight-knit

residential living and learning community at Yale-NUS.

Trishala Suresh, from Sciences Po in France, shared, "I am inspired by students, faculty and staff to make the most of my year here. Everyone is dedicated to cultivating community inside and outside the

classroom, and I am motivated to invest myself in the Yale-NUS community as well."

The inclusion of these exchange students to the diverse community at Yale-NUS has helped on-campus learning opportunities grow even further.

A community of learning through food and culinary exchange

Food is a large part of Singapore's culture and offers a unique way for cultural exchange and learning.

The Dean of Students Office launched the 'Food from Home' programme, which encourages members of the Yale-NUS community to share their culture on campus through food. The programme kicked off with Ms Nayoung Won, a Korean-American member of the Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE) team at the College, who shared her favourite mouth-watering Korean dishes such as *bulgogi*, *kimchi jun* and *kimbap*. She explained, "I wanted to share more about who I was as a person outside of my professional work. I have met a number of students who have shared their appreciation of Korean food, language, or culture, and thought this could be a great opportunity to bring people together."

To broaden the cultural perspectives of our community, the Yale-NUS African, African-American & Afro-Caribbean Society (YAAAS) was also established with the aim of



Ms Nayoung Won (left) cooks Korean dishes with students.

encouraging the Yale-NUS community to celebrate the diversity of their cultures. The group organised various food festivals to share African and Caribbean food, including a Jamaican Jerk Festival which featured tasty jerk chicken as well as reggae and dancehall tunes. The team also organised a fashion show featuring different outfits from the African continent and a panel discussion on traditional and contemporary African fashion. This was in collaboration with the Yale-NUS Fashion Society and Engaging Africa, a group of students from the National University of Singapore with a focus on the African region.

Members of the Yale-NUS community could also learn more about one another through the Lunch Tag initiative. Participants were randomly paired to meet over a meal and win points for each meeting over a fixed period of time. The residential college with the most points at the end of this period would win prizes. The Lunch Tag initiative, which originated in Yale University, was started at the College by four Dean's Fellows who studied there. Some 300 students and staff participated in Lunch Tag in 2017, which helped them build meaningful connections with other students, faculty and staff.

Living healthy on campus



Maintaining physical and mental well-being has been a focus of the College since its inception. Since January 2017, the three dining halls at Yale-NUS have started serving a special meatless meal once a week. The 'Green and Healthy' initiative was spearheaded by the Yale-NUS Association for the Protection of Animals from Cruelty (YAPAC) student organisation after receiving support from the Dean of Students Office. The group worked closely with the Yale-NUS Student Government and other student organisations to roll out this initiative to the dining halls. It was a successful and welcome addition to the

diverse range of experiences offered to students.

In March 2017, the third iteration of Health and Wellness Week was held. Activities ranged from rock-climbing lessons, Zumba and yoga sessions, and stress-relieving massages by members of the Singapore Association of the Visually Handicapped (SAVH). Ms Doris Yek, Health Coordinator from the Dean of Students Office, said the activities were designed to promote healthy living, alleviate stress among the students, and encourage less physically active students to learn something new. The activities received positive feedback and the students

even proposed new and exciting ideas, like a pet therapy session, for next year's edition.

The College also has a long tradition of faculty and student fitness activities. Assistant Professor of Humanities (History) Jessica Hanser has been co-teaching a Zumba class with Shanice Nicole Stanislaus (Class of 2017) since 2014, and Tan Chin Tuan Professor of Chinese Studies Scott Cook trains with the Yale-NUS Men's Basketball team about three times a week. These have helped to strengthen an already open and dynamic relationship between faculty and students.

Taking part in varsity sports

Despite being a small college, Yale-NUS is home to 12 sports teams. In 2017, the Yale-NUS sports teams had a good showing at the National University of Singapore (NUS) Inter-Faculty Games, and clinched two gold medals – won by the Road Relay and Women’s Basketball teams.

Yale-NUS students also have the option of joining varsity teams in NUS, which compete with teams from other tertiary institutions. Rachel Ong (Class of 2017) joined the NUS Women’s Tchoukball team after previously training with the mixed-gender Yale-NUS team and serving as one of its co-captains for two semesters. She enjoyed the four-hours-a-week training schedule, and brought her experiences back to her Yale-NUS teammates.

When Ang Yukai (Class of 2017) first joined Yale-NUS, the College did not have a rock climbing team. An avid competitive rock climber, Yukai joined the NUS team to be among a group of experienced climbers and increase his proficiency in the sport. He later co-



The Women’s Basketball Team placed first at the NUS Inter-Faculty Games 2017.

founded the Yale-NUS rock climbing club in his second year. In 2017, he was the chief route setter for Boulderactive, a NUS-hosted rock climbing competition with over 700 participants each year.

Some Yale-NUS students also received the NUS Sports Awards, presented annually to students who have attained outstanding sporting achievements. Louis Ngia’s (Class of 2019) Men’s Aquathlon team received the NUS President Sports Team Award, and

Megan Chua’s (Class of 2018) Women’s Aquathlon team won the Sports Team of the Year (Individual Sport) Award. Clarissa Leong (Class of 2017) received an Honorary Award for Women’s Floorball, and Sylvia Ang’s (Class of 2019) Cheerleading team won Breakthrough Team of the Year. Finally, Andrew Kwan (Class of 2020) received a Rookie of the Year Award (Tennis), and was also nominated for the Sportsman of the Year Award.

Diverse student organisations



The team behind Tones, a multilingual magazine celebrating cultural diversity on campus.

Yale-NUS students have the opportunity to set up and participate in a diverse range of student organisations. Every year, new organisations are established by our students to cater for growing interests and different needs.

Inspired by the diversity of cultures on campus, the College's first multilingual magazine called *Tones* was launched in January 2017. The student publication provides an avenue for the student community to express themselves in different languages and celebrates the cultural diversity and talent of writers at Yale-NUS. The theme of the first issue 'Makan' (to eat in Malay) featured 14 articles in 10 different languages



Panelists speak at the Women in Finance conference, hosted by Yale-NUS Women in Business.

centred around food. The second issue, which was published in April 2017, had 13 articles in 11 different languages and explored the experience of speaking a second language and the perspective it brings.

Another new student organisation is the Yale-NUS Women in Business group,

which is dedicated to helping women develop the skills and networks needed to succeed in the corporate world. They held three successful conferences in 2017, where corporate leaders came to share their thoughts on how women can succeed in the finance, business and technology sectors.

Putting the 'arts' in 'Liberal Arts and Sciences'

Yale-NUS College is no stranger to the pursuit of the creative arts. Facilities such as the Fabrication Studio and the Georgette Chen Art Studio give students spaces to design, construct, and create thought-provoking visual arts pieces. Students who are more inclined towards the performing arts can use the various practice rooms and the Black Box Theatre to hold rehearsals, create music or stage theatrical performances. Finally, many student organisations on campus regularly hold events to share their passion for creativity with the rest of the College community.

One Night Stand

In August 2017, the Yale-NUS Visual Arts Society (VAS) organised 'One Night Stand', in which participants had to respond to a theme, conceptualise, create and finally exhibit their works all in the short span of 24 hours.

For some students, like Isabel Perucho (Class of 2018), the event was a chance to explore one's identity. Isabel created a series of life drawings in charcoal of the event's participants and in the



process, made new friends and learnt more about friends she already knew. For others, like Kwok Jia Yang (Class of 2021), the event was an opportunity to reignite a passion for the visual arts. Having mostly worked in photography and installation art previously, Jia Yang was excited to try painting for the first time in six years.

24-Hour Play

The weekend following 'One Night Stand' saw the organisation of Green Room Theatre's annual '24-Hour Play'. This year marked its fourth iteration, and students wrote, casted, directed, and rehearsed their plays within 24 hours. These were then showcased to the rest of the College community.

Nicole Chen (Class of 2019) shared that the event was a way for people of all theatre backgrounds to try out different roles in theatre. It also allowed those who were new to theatre, to experience all that went into a theatre production, and provided an

opportunity for those who were more experienced to challenge themselves in new roles and to produce work in a shorter amount of time.

Some students, like Siddharth Chatterjee (Class of 2021), welcomed the

opportunity to take on an acting role without the long time commitment associated with most productions. Others, like Winnie Tan (Class of 2021), enjoyed going out of their comfort zones and learning some new acting techniques.

Student Sean Cham launches his first photobook

In April 2017, Sean Cham (Class of 2019) launched his first photobook *Yesteryears* at the Singapore Art Book Fair. Published by local publishing company BooksActually, the book featured photographs of places in Singapore that hold cultural or historical significance. At each location, he would construct a unique photograph using himself as a model to capture what he considered the stories of the places.

Sean shared that his many experiences at Yale-NUS helped him conceptualise his book. Sean's research on modern ruins in Singapore and why they were important to the country's urban landscape had sparked

the idea for the book. The resulting essay in his publication was written as part of an independent

research module with Professor of Social Sciences (Urban Studies) Jane M Jacobs.

"I was interested in capturing the stories and memories of all the abandoned and forgotten buildings that once held significance to Singaporeans."

– Sean Cham (Class of 2019)



An image from Yesteryears, a photobook by Sean Cham (Class of 2019). Image provided by Sean Cham.

SPREADING WINGS



While Yale-NUS is a tightly-knit flock, we are also engaged with the wider community. Whether it's broadening our horizons with experiential learning both locally and abroad, or taking social causes under our wings, members of the Yale-NUS community serve to inspire and give back to the world.

Image provided by Neo Xiaoyun.



Experiential learning opportunities abound

The Yale-NUS Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE) creates global opportunities for Yale-NUS students to explore different career paths, embark on independent research projects, and travel internationally with professors and classmates to learn experientially outside the classroom. Many of these students take what they learnt at internships back to their studies at Yale-NUS.



Image provided by Nicole Lim.

Summer is a time when many Yale-NUS students experience different career options in preparation for graduation, and develop their professional interests and skills.

Nicole Lim (Class of 2018) spent her summer with Channel NewsAsia (CNA), a Singapore-based television news channel, while Jerald

“I had the opportunity to propose my own story that featured the profiles of the youngest and oldest Singaporean athletes at the Southeast Asian (SEA) Games. I was entrusted with my own story to work on, and received a lot of support from my colleagues and editors along the way. I even went out to sea on a speedboat to take photos of the youngest athlete, a sailor, while she was in action. Thankfully, despite the rocky conditions during the shoot, my supervisors liked how my photos turned out!”

– Nicole Lim (Class of 2018)

“I help to manage the firm’s credit risk against sovereign, supranational and sub-sovereign counterparties. In a single day, I could be analysing the potential impact of the election of a new leader on government policies, thinking about what indicators might be best used to highlight the economic risks of doing business in a particular country, taking a late night call with a sector specialist colleague on the other side of the world, or presenting on key macroeconomic trends in an emerging market to the global team.”

– Ajinkya Chougule (Class of 2018)

Lim (Class of 2019) and Ajinkya Chougule (Class of 2018) worked at the Communicable Disease Centre at Tan Tock Seng Hospital and Goldman Sachs, respectively. Nicole became motivated to apply for her internship after a talk organised by the Centre for International & Professional Experience with some of CNA’s senior journalists who shared with the students their

passion for the job. During her nine-week internship, Nicole had the chance to try her hands at three different desks: International News, Singapore News and the Digital Desk.

At an internship with Telenor Digital Businesses, Pareen Chaudhari (Class of 2018) researched financial technology (FinTech) startups in the Southeast Asian region.

She reported on their strategies and services, and made recommendations for potential private equity investments.

Pareen’s liberal arts education had put her in good stead for her internship, something much appreciated by her company. “Pareen distinguished herself with her ability to quickly and intelligently digest large amounts of complicated information – both about deal structures, as well as technologies – a skill she undoubtedly honed in her liberal arts curriculum at Yale-NUS. In fact, her direct supervisors felt comfortable enough with Pareen’s professionalism to take her to meetings with senior investment bankers and startup CEOs almost from her first week,” shared Genevieve Godwin, Head of Human Resources, Telenor Digital Businesses.

“This opportunity enabled me to experience work in the field of public health, and decide whether I would enjoy it and whether I could contribute meaningfully to the sector. I also wanted to experience and understand the process for conducting empirical qualitative research, as I plan to employ such a method in my capstone project. This internship gave me a first-hand understanding of the process and allowed me to effectively design my own research in future.”

– Jerald Lim (Class of 2019)



Participants of the Cultural Heritage as Sustainable Development (CHASD) project with the Royal Thai Palace. Image provided by Maline Bungum.

NGO consulting at the Royal Thai Palace

Funded by the Henry Luce Foundation, a team of Yale-NUS students spent two months last summer in Hua Hin, Thailand, with two students from Yale University and Dean of International & Professional Experience Dr Trisha Craig, as part of their involvement in the Cultural Heritage as Sustainable Development (CHASD) project with the Royal Thai Palace. Their internship was designed and organised by Dr Craig and Professor of Humanities (History) Naoko Shimazu,

“I was intrigued by the Palace’s trifold conservation of its cultural, architectural and ecological heritage, and the promise of a multidisciplinary team was a big draw for me. As a History major, I was also excited by the chance to conduct ethnographic research on Mrigadayavan’s growth from a seaside summer palace to the tourist destination that it is today.”

– Maline Bungum (Class of 2019)

together with the Director of the Palace Museum Ms Klaomard Yipintsoi. The team had the opportunity to conduct research and develop proposals to assist the Royal Thai Palace in achieving its goals of the conservation of its cultural, architectural, and ecological heritage.

The team consisted of six Yale-NUS students across different classes and majors. History major Maline Bungum (Class of 2019) said she was interested in examining how the palace has changed over the years and the challenges in preserving its heritage.



The Week 7 project to Poland explored the lasting scars of World War Two on Poland. Image provided by Jacob Jarabejo.

Learning Across Boundaries

First-year students from Yale-NUS embarked on the College's flagship Week 7 Learning Across Boundaries (LAB) programme which took them on different experiential learning journeys across Singapore and overseas.

The Week 7 LAB is a faculty-generated initiative, facilitated by the Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE). These one-week projects take place half-way through the first semester of the first year, involving faculty collaboration across disciplines and exposing

first-year students to the research specialties of the faculty members. In 2017, there were 14 Week 7 LAB projects, with nine abroad and five in Singapore.

The projects spanned a wide range of disciplines and locations, like learning about the Singapore maritime industry, experimenting with new drone technology in Singapore, or visiting the World War Two Auschwitz memorial site in Poland.

Summer opportunities

Over the summer break in 2017, Anandita Sabherwal

(Class of 2019) worked with Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Psychology) Paul O'Keefe to examine the mindset of innovative thinking and presented the project at the Singapore Conference on Applied Psychology in June 2017. Ivan Soh (Class of 2019) did a project on Quantum Entanglement Generation under the guidance of Assistant Professor of Science (Physics) Ng Hui Khoon.

The projects by Ivan and Anandita were two of the many research projects supported under the

CIPE's Summer Research Programme. The programme provides opportunities for students to pursue full-time, appropriately structured research for eight to ten consecutive weeks, allowing them to explore a nascent interest in research and deepen their understanding of the day-to-day realities of a research career.

Yale-NUS strives to educate citizens who will thrive in a multicultural environment. The College has made international experience a key tenet of a Yale-NUS education. Students have the opportunities to go for semester or summer abroad programmes to broaden

“Working with Dr Ng on this research project has given me great exposure to the multiple kinds of research I may be interested in. I’ve learnt a lot about how to build on a literature review and execute an action, as well as modelling and data simulation.”

- Ivan Soh (Class of 2019)

their horizons and try new experiences.

In 2017, Crystal Yong (Class of 2019) went on the Juneau Icefield Research Program to study Earth science, learn mountaineering skills, and participate in scientific research in the US and Canada. Students learn from leading scientists in a wide range of disciplines, including glaciology, geology,

climatology and biology. Neo Xiaoyun (Class of 2019) did a summer programme on sustainability and development through the School for Field Studies in Bhutan. Subsequently, she embarked on the Pitt in the Himalayas programme, an interdisciplinary and deeply immersive study abroad in the foothills of the Himalayas in Mussoorie, India.



Neo Xiaoyun (Class of 2019) during her summer programme in Bhutan and the Himalayas. Image provided by Neo Xiaoyun.

Working together to create social impact

Yale-NUS College is educating citizens of the world who will become the next generation of leaders, change-makers and professionals impacting society. The Yale-NUS education cultivates an ethos of service in our students who actively give back to the community.



Image provided by Yale-NUS Association for the Protection of Animals Against Cruelty.

As part of their efforts to entrench community service as an integral part of the Yale-NUS College identity, ComPact, the Yale-NUS community service club, organised a series of community trails with other community-based student organisations in August 2017 to introduce students to different communities and service opportunities in Singapore. The G Spot, which focuses on gender diversity and inclusivity issues, organised a visit to The T Project, a shelter for homeless transgender people, to learn about and interact with the local

transgender community, while the Yale-NUS Association for the Protection of Animals Against Cruelty (YAPAC) organised a visit to the Animal Concerns Research and Education Society (ACRES), where they learnt about the state

of the illegal wildlife trade in Singapore. I'dECO, the Yale-NUS sustainability movement, organised a visit to learn about the unique organic farming methods in Singapore at Quan Fa Organic Farm and the Community in Bloom garden at Jurong Central Sky Garden.

Students were encouraged to attend all three visits within a day or pick and choose which best met their interest. For Yu Zihan (Class of 2021), this was an opportunity to learn about something that had only existed as a concept before. "I wanted to learn how urban farming was like in real-life and how it is sustained by Singaporean communities," she shared.

"By collaborating, we could cover a wider spectrum of service opportunities and enable more students to participate. We also wanted to debunk the notion that Singapore was the 'perfect' place to live in by highlighting social and ecological issues in the current space. Ultimately, we hope that this would translate to more interest in social issues and student-led initiatives subsequently on campus."

- Toh Wei Yang (Class of 2020), Vice-President (External) of ComPact

Yale-NUS gives back to society

Yale-NUS students often participate in different initiatives to give back to society.

In March 2017, three students were featured on an episode of a local Chinese language show called 'Hello Singapore' for their work with Skillseed, a social enterprise that nurtures youth volunteers and empowers community partners through impactful learning journeys.

The students were working with the Society for the Physically Disabled where they served as facilitators and mentors to physically disabled social entrepreneurs. Working with the disabled community enabled them to learn about accessibility issues they faced and enabled them to think about solutions to alleviate such issues.

The Singapore Association for the Deaf also ran a weekly introductory sign language class on campus, which exposed students to the vibrant deaf culture and challenges facing deaf people in Singapore.

Another group of students worked with students from



Sign language class conducted at Yale-NUS campus.



Yale-NUS participants at the 'Soap for Hope' event, organised as part of the annual NUS Day of Service.

the National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law to organise the second iteration of the Migrant Workers Awareness Week.

An annual week-long event, the project aimed to raise awareness about the various issues faced by different groups of migrant workers in

Singapore through a myriad of planned activities. This included field trips to some migrant workers dormitories at Mandai and Tuas as well as a lunch tag, an English lesson session, and legal lessons for migrant workers.

The Yale-NUS community also participated in the

annual NUS Day of Service in September 2017. Working alongside residential staff and students from the College of Alice and Peter

Tan, members of the Yale-NUS community worked together and learnt how to reconstitute used soap bars from hotels to

make new soaps which were later distributed to those in need.

EcoFriend Awards 2017

Tan Weiliang (Class of 2018) was one of the 10 eco-champions recognised for their outstanding contributions to the environment at the National Environment Agency (NEA)'s EcoFriend Awards 2017. The EcoFriend Awards recognise the efforts and achievements of environmentally-proactive people in Singapore who have made contributions to the environment.

As the President of I'dECO, Yale-NUS' first student organisation that champions sustainability, he has initiated environmental action and leadership workshops for junior colleges and polytechnic students, and conceptualised a

sustainability blueprint to recommend changes to different aspects of school policy in Yale-NUS College.

Weiliang also co-founded the Singapore Sustainable Solutions Network (SSN) in 2016. Through conferences and an online networking portal, the SSN seeks to provide a platform for greater collaboration across environmental stakeholders in Singapore, as well as promote greater public awareness on sustainability.

In 2017, Weiliang also received the Ministry of Education-Autonomous University (MOE-AU) Scholarship, which is part of



Image provided by National Environment Agency.

the Singapore Teaching and Academic Research Talent (START) Scheme to better support young Singaporeans who have an interest in an academic career.

Giving

Yale-NUS students are afforded a wide range of unique opportunities in their pursuit of knowledge. This is made possible through the generous support of donors and benefactors of the College.

Alan Chan Study Award creates opportunities for students



Growing up in the rural outskirts of Siem Reap, Cambodia, Alan Chan Study Award recipient So Kuon (Class of 2021) saw sheer hard work as the only way out of poverty. Her parents lived through the Khmer Rouge regime and she recalled that that her home had no chairs or tables in her early years.

Getting accepted to study at Yale-NUS College was a

major milestone for So Kuon, who said that her journey would not have been possible without the generous financial aid provided through the study award. With sheer grit, fortitude and determination, her desire to better herself and others, she hopes to give back to her community and contribute by developing it.

Although she hopes to major in Mathematical,

Computational and Statistical Sciences (MCS), So Kuon also expressed interest in exploring other fields of study like Environmental Science and Economics. Yale-NUS' interdisciplinary curriculum therefore appealed to her as she would be able to take classes from the Common Curriculum – spanning a wide variety of fields – in her first two years of college.

Broad Peak Global Engagement Internship Fund helps students realise their ambitions



Rahul Naidu (Class of 2020, left). Image provided by Rahul Naidu.

Over the past two years, nine students have embarked 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 (Broad Peak) and supported by the Yale-NUS College's Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE).

Rahul Naidu (Class of 2020), one of the recipients, worked with the Institute of Justice and Reconciliation (IJR) in Cape Town, South Africa, where he participated in post-apartheid reconciliation and peace-building efforts across the country, and was

involved with various IJR departments, including its gender and youth desks. Rahul also organised an event that brought together various stakeholders with the goal of alleviating gender-based violence in South Africa.

Another recipient, Pertina Seah (Class of 2020), took up a marketing and communications internship with women's leadership organisation Wedu in Bangkok, Thailand. During her time there, she contributed to branding and digital marketing strategies, including creating a social media calendar plan that set Wedu's record for social media engagement. This stint has further cemented her passion

for and belief in unlocking the leadership potential of women in Asia.

Broad Peak shared that they were glad to support students in pursuing their international experiences as the projects were excellent and would have significant impact on student experiences at Yale-NUS.

The grant supports students who embark on international internships or local internships that require international travel, in fields such as arts and culture, human rights, education and social enterprise. These internships have taken them to countries such as Cambodia, South Africa, Italy and the United States.

Honouring David Marshall's legacy through a five-year scholarship

In honour and memory of the late Mr David Marshall (1908-1995), a scholarship was launched this year in his name, to support Yale-NUS College students reading the five-year Double Degree Programme in Law and Liberal Arts, which is jointly offered by Yale-NUS and the Faculty of Law, National University of Singapore.

The inaugural recipient of the David Marshall Scholarship was Christal Lim (Class of 2021).

The David Marshall Scholarship was made possible with gifts from several individuals, corporations, foundations, and corporate legal firms honouring the legacy of the

late lawyer and politician. As Singapore's first Chief Minister, head of the Labour Front and founder of the Workers' Party, his life story was intertwined with Singapore's history. He was a diplomat, lawyer and politician whose life was characterised by passion, sincerity, courage and integrity.

Saw Swee Hock Study Award supports deserving students

The Saw Swee Hock Study Award at Yale-NUS College was established in 2016 through a gift from Professor Saw Swee Hock, the President's Honorary Professor of Statistics in the Department of Statistics and Applied Probability at the National University of Singapore and Professorial Fellow at ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute.

Three students from the Class of 2018 – Daniel Ng, Ilya Katrinnada binte Zubaidi, and Nur Diyanah binte Kamarudin – were the inaugural recipients of the need-based award, which allowed them to focus on pursuing their academic



Ilya Katrinnada binte Zubaidi (Class of 2018). Image provided by Ilya Katrinnada binte Zubaidi.

and personal interests while alleviating their financial burden.

Giving back is a common theme echoed by the study award recipients. One of

the recipients, Ilya, shared that she hoped to make education, the arts and sports more accessible to underprivileged children and youth.

Graduating students give back through Senior Class Gift



As Yale-NUS College prepared for the graduation of its first class in May, the Class of 2017 united for their parting gift to the College community in February during the College's inaugural Senior Class Gift (SCG) campaign.

Led by a committee of seven students from the Class of 2017, the SCG was an initiative that encouraged the graduating class to give towards a worthy cause and in doing so, leave a legacy behind by building a tradition

of giving in the Yale-NUS student community.

The Class of 2017 achieved 91 percent participation and raised over \$4,000 for financial aid, enabling future generations of needy Yale-NUS students to fully benefit from their time spent at the College without having to worry about financial obligations. To maximise the impact of the gift, the College's senior leadership team also matched the Senior Class Gift dollar for dollar. As the Class of

2017 achieved more than 90 percent participation for the campaign, Mrs Doris Sohmen-Pao, former Executive Vice President (Institutional Affairs) established a 'Class of 2017 Award'. Each year, the graduating class will nominate one of their peers to receive this award, which recognises the student for making a difference in and contributing towards the Yale-NUS community. The first recipient was Benjamin Leong Zhi Wei.

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