Voyages of Discovery
As our young community continues to grow and forge a pioneering path in Asia, for the world, we want to share this year’s ‘Voyages of Discovery’ where we set sail to shape lives, cultivate minds and forge change. Stories range from intellectual findings and innovative new programmes and partnerships, to fresh approaches that expand the scope and boundaries of learning and the residential experience. Our students, staff and faculty also explored ways to give back and make a difference in local and global communities. Thank you for joining us on this journey!
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.

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.

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.

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

- 900 students
- 53 student organisations
- 3 residential colleges
- 14 majors
- 65 nationalities
- 1,001 student rooms
- 7 science laboratories
- 63,000 square metres
2018 was a year to be celebrated for many reasons. Our second batch of students graduated along with inaugural cohorts from the Double Degree Programme with the National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law, Concurrent Degree Programme with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, and Concurrent Degree Programme with Yale School of Public Health.

Already, many of them have started pursuing graduate degrees, including Sherice Ngaserin Ng and Tan Weiliang, two Singaporeans who are the recipients of the first Yale-NUS Overseas Graduate Scholarship. Both are working on PhDs at top-ranked international graduate programmes.

Others have secured jobs in a variety of fields – consulting, education, science and engineering, finance, technology and start-ups, consumer and lifestyle, and communications. We’re very proud of their outstanding academic achievements and can’t wait to see how the next step of their journey plays out as they take their passion and ideals into the world.

We welcomed the Class of 2022, a cohort of 250 students comprising 45 nationalities. The group includes six students selected to be part of the new Yale-NUS & Duke-NUS Liberal Arts and Medicine Pathway, which was established in 2018 to help shape future clinicians who appreciate the interconnectedness of the sciences, social sciences and humanities in medical practice.

A new Yale-NUS Student Government was also officially sworn in. Made up of the Student Council and a brand-new Senate and Judiciary, the 25 members have worked hard to bring about structural reforms and expanded the government’s scope to include both new and existing priorities in areas like student life, alumni affairs, diversity and sustainability to better meet the student body’s needs.

The Class of 2017, meanwhile, has been highly sought after in the job market, according to the 2017 Joint Graduate Employment Survey. Their careers span industries such as business and management consultancy, information and communications, and education.

Gratifyingly, alumni continue to be active in our community, supporting efforts led by the Development office and the Centre for International & Professional Experience. Many have come back for events.
organised by the Admissions & Financial Aid office to share their career paths with potential and current students to show the value of a Yale-NUS education in the world.

We drove excellence and innovation both on and off campus. We achieved re-certification of our Green Mark Platinum award, the highest honour for ‘green’ buildings bestowed by Singapore’s Building and Construction Authority. Our community’s commitment to being green and sustainable was evident in initiatives spanning energy and water efficiency, food waste management, urban farming, and reduction of paper usage. We’ve found a terrific partner in the newly-formed Student Committee for Sustainability, which has spearheaded many of those efforts.

The Centre for International & Professional Experience introduced five new programmes, expanding regional and international learning opportunities for our students. The programmes include academic partnerships with Yale University’s Sherwin B. Nuland Summer Institute in Bioethics and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (the Global Citizenship Program in Urban Environment Sustainability), and summer research programmes with Harvard University and Yale. We also launched the Yale-NUS Summer Institute in Global Strategy and Leadership, an introduction to major global issues impacting our world today. Its second run will take place in 2019.

Some fruitful partnership opportunities with NUS and Yale during the year included workshops, panels, classes and conferences focused on a range of areas, from public health to transnational migration and climate change to foreign languages. We also stepped up efforts to host Yale students interested in studying abroad to create a more robust culture of student exchanges that will help further strengthen ties.

Our engagement with the public was particularly rewarding, thanks to the new ‘Innovations in Public Health’ series, which started with an exploration of the future of public health in light of increasingly complex global health challenges; and the Yale-NUS Lecture on Global Affairs, a series of annual talks sponsored by Professor Saw Swee Hock. In the spirit of convening opportunities to share knowledge, we also co-hosted the first MENASA NASPA conference in Singapore, where participants from 20 international and local institutes of higher learning gathered to exchange best practices in student affairs, services and support.

Giving back continues to be part of our DNA. We launched the Yale-NUS College Day of Service, in which staff and faculty members spent the day in a soup kitchen preparing meals for Singapore’s underprivileged and marginalised. Students got a chance to volunteer during orientation as part of a new Residential College community building activity. They also initiated their own efforts to contribute to grassroots community projects involving disaster relief, children with special needs and migrant workers.

Finally, I’d like to thank the students, staff, faculty, corporations, foundations and friends who have supported the College with their generous gifts. You make it possible for us to continue this journey of living and learning together as we reinvent a liberal arts and science education for an interconnected world.

Professor Tan Tai Yong
President
Yale-NUS College
Our second cohort of students graduated in 2018 and embarked on a journey to discover the world outside of Yale-NUS. On campus, new and current students continued their quest for academic excellence, personal growth, and rewarding extracurricular and student life activities.
On 28 May 2018, Yale-NUS College celebrated the graduation of its second graduating cohort. More than 1,000 guests attended the event, including members from the Yale-NUS Governing Board, National University of Singapore (NUS) Board of Trustees as well as faculty, students, parents, donors and industry partners.

The graduation speaker was Professor Kishore Mahbubani, Senior Advisor (University & Global Relations) and Professor in the Practice of Public Policy at NUS, while Associate Professor Sarah Weiss represented the College faculty as the faculty speaker. Ms Cheryl Nazik Cosslett was the Class of 2018’s nominated student speaker.

In his speech, Professor Mahbubani said, “Which college in the world has been among the first to teach its students both Eastern and
Western philosophy? It is Yale-NUS College. You have all studied Confucius and Plato, Buddha and Aristotle. You understand the different mental universes of Chinese and American minds. Therefore, the world will look to you to take on the wild and impossible mission of building bridges of understanding.

Student speaker Ms Cosset, talked about her class being the second batch to graduate from Yale-NUS and the importance of humility. She said, “What I would like for us to remember is that continuing a legacy is as worthy as starting one, and that self-sacrifice and community have defined us as Yale-NUS students and should continue to define us as Yale-NUS graduates.”

The graduating cohort comprised 150 students, including seven from the pioneer batch of the Double Degree Programme (DDP) in Law and Liberal Arts and three from the Concurrent Degree Programme with the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy. Among the DDP students, three of our students, Mr Christopher Khew, Mr Ong Chee Yeow and Ms Kinnari Sahita, were recognised at the NUS Law Dean’s List & Awards Ceremony 2018 for their outstanding academic achievements.

Many from this batch have gone on to pursue careers in diverse industries in both the private and public sectors or graduate studies in universities across the world. Those heading into the workforce received job offers from a variety of industries, such as education, science and engineering, finance, technology and start-ups, communications as well as consumer and lifestyle. Those who have chosen to pursue graduate studies have been accepted into programmes at universities such as Cornell University, Duke University, Duke-NUS Medical School, the University of Cambridge and the University of Michigan.

The year also witnessed the graduation of the first two students who pursued the five-year Concurrent Degree Programme with the Yale School of Public Health. Ms Victoria Long and Ms Jocelyn Lim each graduated with a Bachelor’s degree from Yale-NUS College and a Master of Public Health from the Yale School of Public Health.
Inaugural recipients of the Yale-NUS Overseas Graduate Scholarship

In 2018, the Yale-NUS Overseas Graduate Scholarship was awarded for the first time. The recipients were Ms Sherice Ngaserin Ng and Mr Tan Weiliang. The scholarship is offered to Singaporean Yale-NUS graduates pursuing a PhD at top-ranked international graduate programmes.

Ms Ngaserin is pursuing a PhD in Philosophy at the University of Michigan while Mr Tan is reading a PhD in Applied Economics & Management at the Dyson School in Cornell University.

Upon completion of their programme, scholars may be appointed as postdoctoral fellows at Yale-NUS.

“Being around peers who are equally committed to making the most of their college years, faculty who are genuinely invested in my academic improvement and personal growth, and dedicated staff at the Centre for International & Professional Experience and the Centre for Teaching & Learning who went out of their way to make my unique pursuits possible made all the difference in my education at Yale-NUS. I am not ready to leave the community that made this possible, and staying connected to the College as a scholar is my way of continuing to be an active part of this community even while I am halfway across the world.”

“I’m really grateful for this opportunity to keep in close contact with Yale-NUS. Staying connected with professors from different disciplines at Yale-NUS will inspire and motivate me to pursue my multidisciplinary research interests during my PhD no matter how difficult such work may be. The scholarship also gives me an opportunity to contribute to Yale-NUS, in terms of potential talks, lectures and academic projects in the later years of my PhD. I’ve benefited so much from the all-rounded education at Yale-NUS and would love to give back to the community as best as I can.”
The pioneer batch one year on

More than a year after graduating in May 2017, Yale-NUS’ inaugural graduates have embarked on various pathways in life. Some have chosen to pursue post-graduate education, while others have started on their first jobs.

After graduating, Ms Chan Li Ting decided to pursue a Master of Science in Medical Physics at Duke Kunshan University, in China. Ms Chan took coursework in basic medical physics in Kunshan, but also participated in field trips to hospitals in Suzhou to put her class lessons into context. In addition, she went on a seven-month-long study abroad programme at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, where she conducted research for her Master’s thesis on imaging oxygen concentration in tumours using nanoparticles, which allowed her to collaborate with the scientific community there.

Mr Chia Teck Yuke started working at Bain & Company, a management consulting firm, upon graduation. In his role as an associate consultant, he developed analytical frameworks to tackle problems, researched and gathered data to validate hypotheses, communicated the insights gleaned from the analyses to the company’s clients, and collaborated with them to bring their plans to fruition. He was part of a case that won the Bain Results Challenge in 2018, awarded annually to the case which delivered the most impact to clients.

Inaugural graduates highly sought after in the workplace

According to the Joint Graduate Employment Survey 2017, conducted by the National University of Singapore (NUS) and the other Autonomous Universities in Singapore, fresh graduates from Yale-NUS College’s inaugural class recorded an employment rate of 93.3% and a median starting salary of S$3,500. The median starting salary of Yale-NUS graduates with Bachelor of Science with Honours degrees was S$4,083, while that for graduates with Bachelor of Arts with Honours degrees was S$3,500. Yale-NUS graduates went into diverse industries in the public and private sectors. The top six industries were: business and management consultancy; financial and insurance; information and communication; education; public administration and defence; and arts, entertainment and recreation.
KEI FRANKLIN
Bachelor of Arts with Honours in Environmental Studies
Class of 2017, USA
Outreach Manager and Course Architect at Skillseed, Singapore

Ms Kei Franklin works as an outreach manager and course architect at Skillseed, a social enterprise that designs global experiential service learning journeys for social impact. After graduating, she worked as a science writer for eight months before discovering her passion for educating and empowering youths through experiential learning. On a day-to-day basis, her work involves designing curricula for training sessions, brainstorming for upcoming experiential learning programmes, or running workshops and courses. Ms Franklin credits Yale-NUS for helping her develop intellectual confidence, which has allowed her to learn quickly on the job, and contribute ideas and feedback to her colleagues and supervisors.

PARAG BHATNAGAR
Bachelor of Science with Honours in Mathematical, Computational, and Statistical Sciences
Class of 2017, India
Technology Development Executive at Singapore Airlines Digital Innovation Lab, Singapore

Mr Parag Bhatnagar joined the Singapore Airlines (SIA) Digital Innovation Lab in 2018, having previously worked with a number of startups. His role involves exploring how technology can be used to improve operations and customer experience, as well as to implement proof-of-concept for promising solutions. In this capacity, he regularly meets with start-ups working with cutting edge technology to test new prototypes. He also collaborates with various business units across SIA to understand processes that may be improved using new technology.

REGINA HONG
Bachelor of Arts with Honours in History
Class of 2017, Singapore
Coordinator for International Relations at Takikawa City Hall, Japan

Over the past year, Ms Regina Hong lived in Takikawa City in Hokkaido, Japan, where she worked as a Coordinator for International Relations at City Hall, the municipal government. Her main role was to create opportunities for understanding other cultures, which could take the form of language classes, study tours or radio shows. In October 2018, she led a group of high-school students to Singapore to learn more about multicultural living, a hot topic in Japan given the influx of foreign labour required to offset the country’s ageing population. She brought her students to visit Yale-NUS, where they had the opportunity to interact with Yale-NUS students and learn about our students’ study abroad experiences.
The Class of 2022 was officially welcomed by the Yale-NUS College community at the annual First Year Assembly on 10 August 2018. Comprising 250 students across 45 nationalities, the class is Yale-NUS’ sixth cohort.

Singaporeans continued to make up the largest pool of students in this year’s intake. 28 schools in Singapore are represented, with 11 students hailing from the local polytechnics. The largest international cohorts came from the United States, China and India. For the first time, the College welcomed students from Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Ireland, Romania, Switzerland and Ukraine.

In his address, President of Yale-NUS College Professor Tan Tai Yong expressed his hope that the Class of 2022 would be able to develop their passions further at Yale-NUS. “We want you to find your space and to flourish as a person. I hope that you will be able to find your interest, do the best in what you are good at and passionate in, and have confidence in your ability to make a difference,” he said.

Professor Jane Nardin, Yale-NUS Visiting Senior Fellow of Humanities (English Literature), who was the nominated faculty speaker, introduced the students to the unique Yale-NUS Common Curriculum, noting that it “introduces students to the many ways in which people, through the ages, in many different cultures, have tried to understand the world around them and what it means to be human” through the disciplines of science, social science, the arts, history, philosophy, and religion.

New liberal arts and medicine pathway

Six students from the Class of 2022 were selected to embark on the Yale-NUS & Duke-NUS Liberal Arts and Medicine Pathway. All six students received a conditional offer of admission to the medical school.

These students will pursue the Doctor of Medicine graduate programme at Duke-NUS Medical School (Duke-NUS) after completing their broad-based liberal arts education at the College. The pathway will allow students to have access to resources and experiences, both academic and extracurricular, which will prepare them for a medical education and career while pursuing their liberal arts degree.
A community of excellence: Student achievements

DDP student admitted to the Schwarzman Scholars programme

Daniel Ng (Class of 2019) from the Double Degree Programme in Liberal Arts and Law (DDP) was admitted to the Schwarzman Scholars programme in December 2018, and will start the programme in August 2019. The highly selective leadership programme based at China’s Tsinghua University is designed to prepare future global leaders to meet the geopolitical challenges of the 21st century. Through a one-year Master’s degree at Tsinghua University, Daniel will experience a curriculum that bridges the academic and professional worlds to educate students about leadership and China’s expanding role in the world.

Daniel, who reads Liberal Arts at Yale-NUS College and Law at the National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law, is the first Singaporean student from a Singapore university to be accepted into this programme. At Yale-NUS, Daniel majors in Philosophy, Politics & Economics (PPE), and is a recipient of the Yale-NUS Faculty Scholarship. An active contributor to community work, Daniel received the Emerging Young Leader Award from Yale-NUS College in 2018 in recognition of his outstanding contributions towards addressing a local challenge to enhance the quality of life in the community. Since entering college, Daniel has been actively involved in pro bono projects, contributing to 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. In 2017, he received the Special Recognition Award from NUS Faculty of Law. He also launched Youth-in-Form, a platform that aims to link alumni with Singaporean schools that do not have a well-established or well-structured alumni association.

Undergraduate publishing as first author

Three Yale-NUS undergraduates – Jerrick Wee, Nilotpal Chakraborty and Wang Jiayun (all from the Class of 2019) – published a paper in Astrophysical Journal titled ‘Optical and Infrared Photometry of the nearby SN 2017cbv’. Jerrick Wee (in photo on right) is the first author of the paper, which deals with the explosion in the sky, also known as a supernova, or “SN”, that was detected in March 2017.
Creative achievements

Jay Ong (Class of 2021) debuted two of his original saxophone compositions at the 18th World Saxophone Congress, held in Zagreb, Croatia from 10 to 14 July 2018. His original compositions are titled ‘Sketches 2’ and ‘Sketches 3’ and inspired by the concept of travel and transit.

Scott Lee Chua (Class of 2020) published a graphic novel, titled The Doorkeeper, about Philippine’s history and myth. The book was published by Summit Books and first launched in November 2017 at Komikon, a comic convention in Manila, Philippines. The Yale-NUS Writers’ Centre also organised a book launch at the Black Box Theatre at Yale-NUS College on 17 January 2018.

Faculty-student research collaborations

Assistant Professor of Science (Mathematical and Computational Science) Michael T Gastner, Pratyush More (Class of 2018) and a collaborator from Kyoto University wrote a paper which was published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS) titled ‘A fast flow-based algorithm for creating density-equalising map projections’. The research focused on cartograms, which are maps that rescale geographic regions such that their areas are proportional to quantitative demographic data.

Assistant Professor of Science (Life Sciences) Nicholas Tolwinski, Helen Jingshu Jin and Jay Lusk (both from the Class of 2018) were part of a research team that wrote the paper titled ‘An embryonic system to assess direct and indirect Wnt transcriptional targets’. The research, which was published in Scientific Reports, sought to explain the disparity in size of embryos from two different loss of Wnt signalling conditions. As Wnt is a major cancer pathway, figuring out why some cells proliferate while others do not is of interest.
Sweeping awards at competitions

On 9 February 2018, Aditya Karkera (Class of 2020) was named the 2018 Champion of the Credit Suisse HOLT Valuation Challenge. The HOLT Valuation Challenge required students to submit an investment pitch video using the HOLT Lens, a proprietary tool by Credit Suisse used for financial evaluation.

On 5 March 2018, a team of Yale-NUS students emerged as champions in the regional finals of Shell’s Imagine the Future Scenarios competition. The team, comprising students from the Class of 2019 and Class of 2020, impressed the judges with their rich references to history and comprehensive exploration of how technology, politics, society and individual choices will shape the future.

Elizabeth Teoh (in photo below) from the Double Degree Programme in Law and Liberal Arts (DDP) emerged as champion with her team from the National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law at the 2018 Asia Cup International Law Moot Court Competition. Organised by the Japanese Society of International Law and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, this is the second consecutive year that a Yale-NUS student has represented NUS to win overall Champion at the competition. She was also named first runner-up at the Gowling WLG IP Moot 2018 competition. The moot is Singapore’s only intellectual property moot and is organised by the NUS Law Mooting & Debating Club, sponsored by Gowling WLG (UK) and JurisAsia LLC and supported by the Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS).
New student organisations focus on novel interests

While there are already over 50 student organisations at Yale-NUS, students are still able to form new groups after gaining recognition from the Dean of Students Office.

The Yale-NUS Drone Club was formed in 2018 by students who first developed a passion for drones when they took part in the Week 7 Learning Across Boundaries (LAB) project called ‘Drones, Biodrones and Information’ as first-year students.

Another group of students has started a new publication called The Cosmoscience. The student-run publication aims to provide novel perspectives of the world which integrates scientific knowledge with the arts and social sciences.

Strengthening our ties with the student community at the National University of Singapore (NUS), the Community for Advocacy and Political Education (CAPE) was founded by students from Yale-NUS College and NUS with the aim to increase political literacy among peers and encourage greater social engagement.
On 17 March 2018, the Yale-NUS Data Science student organisation, with support from Data-Driven Yale (an interdisciplinary and international group of researchers, scientists, programmers and visual designers based at Yale University’s School of Forestry and Environmental Studies and Yale-NUS College) and DBS Bank, organised a hackathon, ‘Yale-NUS Data 2.0’. Participants used data science to devise sustainable solutions for real-world challenges in Singapore’s environmental future.

On 24 March 2018, the Yale-NUS Society for Academic Research (YNSAR) convened the inaugural ‘Development in Asia Research Conference’. The only regional research conference for undergraduate students in Asia, the event brought together student researchers, industry leaders and academic luminaries to discuss the developmental challenges of Asia.
Yale-NUS welcomes prospective students at Open Day 2018

On 10 March 2018, Yale-NUS College welcomed prospective students to experience what studying and living at Yale-NUS is like. A range of activities was offered on campus for visitors to experience the vibrant community of learning through campus tours, sample lectures, performances, and sharing by students and alumni. This year, the programme featured, for the first time, graduates from the inaugural Class of 2017 who shared with prospective students what life has been like after Yale-NUS, what they have been doing, and how their education at the College has contributed to their journey.

On 18 April 2018, the Yale-NUS Southeast Asian Society organised the first ‘Southeast Asian Cooking Night’. The community gathered in the Cendana Rector’s Commons, rolled up their sleeves and worked together to whip up Southeast Asian delicacies such as Thai noodle dish pad thai and the spicy vegetable dish sambal kangkong.

In September 2018, distinguished leaders from various fields across the globe visited Yale-NUS College to share their personal journeys of self-identity and the work that they do. Their talks were part of the inaugural ‘Insights Into Identity’ Speaker Series hosted by the Yale-NUS Social Emotional Leadership (SEL) Club.

“Food is the main star of the ‘Southeast Asian Cooking Night’ because it best encapsulates the diversity that we have in Yale-NUS. Through the event, we hope to provide a platform for students and professors to share their culinary skills with their friends.”

Calvin Yeo
President of the Yale-NUS Southeast Asian Society

“Insights Into Identity Speaker Series” featuring Mr Tong Yee, co-founder of The Thought Collective. Image by Regina Vanda.
Sports at Yale-NUS

A diverse range of sports and activities is offered to every Yale-NUS student. Despite being a small college, Yale-NUS is home to 16 sports teams and clubs.

New fitness initiatives

- SELF-DEFENCE FOR WOMEN
- FITNESS PROGRAMMES AND GYM WORKSHOPS
- TAI-CHI
- ROPE-SKIPPING
- ZUMBA

New sports teams

- SWIMMING
- FOOTBALL (Women)

Medals won at NUS Inter-Faculty Games (IFG) and Inter-College Games (ICG)

- GOLD: 6
- SILVER: 3
- BRONZE: 2
Arts at Yale-NUS

The arts scene continued to flourish at the College with Yale-NUS students putting up numerous performances and events that spanned the visual and performing arts in 2018.

‘Bread and Jam’ was an inaugural concert that featured bands from Yale-NUS. Some bands even included faculty members, an example of how faculty and student interactions extend beyond the classroom. Held on 8 November at the Black Box Theatre, the set list featured popular songs that people could sing along to, as well as songs that showcased the diverse musical palette of the Yale-NUS community.

Another collaborative musical performance was ‘On Another Note’, by the Yale-NUS Chamber Music Collective and Yale-NUS Singer’s Guild. These musical talents performed a variety of tunes, including ‘A Christmas Festival’ at the combined gala concert, which took place on 9 November at the Performance Hall.

Bozy Lu (Class of 2019) and Shaun Lim (Class of 2018) directed ‘Mergers and Accusations’, a play by Singaporean playwright and law professor Eleanor Wong. The play, which was performed at the Black Box Theatre on 28 and 31 March, explored the societal and personal significance of romantic relationships and gender roles through the eyes of a high-flying, sharp-talking, closeted lesbian lawyer.

Myle Yan Tay (Class of 2019) wrote and directed a play titled ‘Master Race’, which explored the themes of racial identity in Singapore. The play, which was staged at the Black Box Theatre from 26-28 October, played to full houses, and was supported by the Tolani Performing Arts Fund.

The Yale-NUS Visual Arts Society hosted a series of arts events titled ‘Artober’ which included an artists’ roundtable, drawing and painting workshops, film screening and installations of artwork around campus in October. Students from classes such as ‘Introduction to Oil Painting’ and ‘Photojournalism’ also had the opportunity to share the works they produced as part of an end-of-semester showcase, which ran from 30 November to 5 December.
New student life initiatives to foster community-building

On 27 April 2018, the Dean of Students’ Office held the inaugural ‘Kingfisher Awards’ to recognise the outstanding contributions of student leaders, student organisations and staff to the College community and the surrounding community. A total of 14 awards were presented at the event.

In March 2018, the new ‘Becoming Sing-Fishers’ programme took 43 first-year students to three locations around Singapore — Bukit Brown Cemetery, Geylang, and Emerald Hill — to learn more about Singapore’s history and culture. This programme is part of the larger Becoming Kingfishers initiative – a series of programmes aimed at helping first-year students adjust to college life.

In the first week of April, the Yale-NUS community came together to celebrate ‘Diversity Week 2018’. Events ranged from conversations about queerness, mental health and sexual wellness to panel discussions on the Singaporean identity and social justice, amongst many others. In addition to these dialogues, there were art and sign language workshops, documentary screenings and a cultural bazaar and show.

Students have also been organising ‘Language Tables’...
On 1 July 2018, Associate Professor of Humanities (Philosophy) Amber Carpenter took office as Rector of Elm College while Associate Professor of Science (Life Sciences) Khoo Hoon Eng took over as the Rector of Saga College, as former Rectors Professor Brian McAdoo and Associate Professor Sarah Weiss completed their terms.

Since taking office, Rector Khoo initiated the ‘First Gen – First Sem’ programme to support first-generation first-year students in transitioning into college life.

Rector Carpenter started the ‘Elm Rector’s Research Series’, which gave students the opportunity to hear and learn about areas of mutual research interest from Elm College residential fellows and affiliated faculty members.

At each residential college, a first-year advisory programme called ‘Big Sib Little Sib’ takes place throughout the year to encourage relationship building between first-year students and their seniors. At Saga College, some students initiated a mailbox service titled ‘Owl Post’. The mailbox contains notes of support and gratitude written by and for the students. One of the popular community events at Cendana College is ‘Chilldana’, a weekly pancake night that serves as a midweek breather for students in between their co-curricular activities and studies.

New Rectors, New residential life initiatives

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Our pursuit of knowledge means that we are constantly charting and exploring new terrain through research, new learning experiences and the daily exchange of ideas and perspectives. The cultivation of minds forms the foundation of our community of learning.
Yale-NUS faculty continues to demonstrate excellence in academia

The faculty at Yale-NUS is organised into three interdisciplinary divisions – Humanities, Science and Social Sciences – which helps to promote interactions among faculty members of different disciplines. This encourages the unique multidisciplinary approach to teaching and curriculum design that Yale-NUS champions.

The College’s location in Singapore provides opportunities for faculty members to expand and deepen their research throughout the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region in issues ranging from security to healthcare and environment. Their collaborations and solutions are making an impact and helping to shape the future of societies, particularly those in ASEAN.

In Academic Year 2017/2018, faculty members received external grant funding from organisations such as Singapore’s Ministry of Education, DSO National Laboratories and the Ministry of Social and Family Development, as well as the Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society, Germany.

Yale-NUS faculty members also work closely with students to generate quality research, enabling our students to be exposed to graduate-level research at an early stage of their tertiary education.

New books by faculty

Director of the Division of Humanities and Professor of Humanities (Literature in English) Rajeev Patke’s book *Poetry and Islands: Materiality and the Creative Imagination* (Rowman & Littlefield, 2018) explores the interaction between island experiences and the literary genre of poetry.

The book examines how islands become repositories of human longings and desires, and a locus for some of our deepest fears and fantasies. It balances historical and geographical reference with a selective approach to poems and poets in English, and poetry translated into English.
Associate Professor of Humanities (Philosophy) Matthew Walker’s book *Aristotle on the Uses of Contemplation* (Cambridge University Press, 2018) examines Aristotle’s views on the happiest life for human beings from the perspective of Aristotle’s psychology and biology.

His book focuses on resolving the puzzle of why human beings, as living organisms, should have capacities for contemplation, if philosophical contemplation is as useless as Aristotle suggested. Assoc Prof Walker did his research for the book at the Bodleian Libraries at Oxford University on a Yale-NUS Visiting Fellowship.

Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Political Science) Chin-Hao Huang’s upcoming book *Power, Restraint, and China’s Rise* challenges the conventional wisdom that rising powers tend to disrupt international peace and security, as was the case with Germany and Japan in recent history. Rather than assuming that China’s rise would follow the same trajectory, he examines why and how China’s foreign policy might reflect restraint even as its economic and military capabilities increase at unprecedented rates. In doing so, the book advances the argument that a rising power’s aspirations for acceptance — or legitimacy — by other states provide an important, yet understudied, rationale for restraint.
Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Anthropology) Zachary Howlett’s book in progress, *Fateful Rite of Passage: The National College Entrance Examination and the Myth of Meritocracy in Post-Mao China*, is based on two years of anthropological field work conducted in China’s Fujian province. Dr Howlett employs the method of participant observation, teaching in underprivileged rural and urban high schools and interacting closely with students, parents, teachers, administrators, and officials.

The book analyses why people in China widely regard the College Entrance Examination as China’s only relatively fair competition and a cornerstone of meritocracy – despite wide disparities in exam scores between different regions and socio-economic groups.

Senior Lecturer of Social Sciences (Political Science) Nancy Gleason published *Higher Education in the Era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution* (Palgrave Press, 2018), a book which examines how higher education responds to the demands of the automation economy and the fourth industrial revolution. The book looks at new programmes and technological advances that are changing how and why we teach and learn.

Currently the Director of Yale-NUS Centre for Teaching & Learning, Dr Gleason became part of the National University of Singapore (NUS) Teaching Academy Fellows programme in 2018.

Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Anthropology) Malcolm Keating’s book *Language, Meaning, and Use in Indian Philosophy* focuses on the fundamental question of how human communication works, with a philosophical introduction to an early 10th century text. In the forthcoming book, Dr Keating translates the work of an ancient Indian philosopher, Mukula Bhatta, from the classical Sanskrit language, which greatly influenced many modern South Asian and Southeast Asian languages, to English. He analyses the ideas of Mukula Bhatta, who explains how people understand a wide range of meanings from speech, such as how speakers can go beyond the ordinary meanings of words to communicate with metaphors, irony, and other phenomena.
A team of researchers led by Assistant Professor of Science (Biochemistry) Jan Gruber has discovered a combination of pharmaceutical drugs that not only increases healthy lifespan in the microscopic worm *Caenorhabditis elegans*, but also delays the rate of ageing in them, a finding that could someday mean longer, healthier lives for humans.

Carried out by Dr Gruber’s research team in collaboration with researchers from the Singapore Lipidomics Incubator at the Life Sciences Institute of the National University of Singapore (NUS), the study, published in *Developmental Cell*, lays crucial groundwork for further research into designing drug combinations that produce the same effect in mammals.

Laboratory results showed that two drug pairs in particular extended the mean lifespan of the worms more than each of the drugs individually, and in combination with a third compound, almost doubled mean lifespans. This effect is larger than any lifespan extension that has previously been reported for any drug intervention in adult animals.

The researchers also discovered that across all ages, the treated worms were healthier and spent a larger percentage of their already extended lifespan in good health. This is an important point for potential future human ageing interventions as increased health span, not just increased lifespan, would have significant medical and economic benefits.

Dr Gruber’s laboratory also collaborated with Associate Professor of Science (Life Sciences) Nicholas Tolwinski and found that a species of fruit flies (*Drosophila melanogaster*) treated with a similar drug cocktail also experienced significant lifespan extension. The finding that two such evolutionarily-distinct organisms experience similar lifespan extensions suggests that the biological mechanisms that regulate these drug interactions on ageing are ancient, making it more likely that similar interactions between ageing pathways could be targeted in humans.
TWEAKING BUTTERFLY WING COLOURS

Associate Professor of Science (Biology) Antónia Monteiro, together with her postdoctoral fellow Yuji Matsuoka, published her research on modifying the colour and morphology (physical characteristics) of a butterfly’s wing scales in Cell Reports. The researchers used CRISPR/Cas9 gene editing technology to tweak wing colours of the squinting bush brown butterfly of East Africa Bicyclus anynana and found that it resulted in changes to the scales’ surface structure and rigidity, as well as colour, showing how pigmentation genes have dual roles in the formation of wing scales.

NEW COLOUR-GENERATION MECHANISM DISCOVERED IN ‘RAINBOW’ WEEVL

Researchers from Yale-NUS College and the University of Fribourg in Switzerland discovered a novel colour-generation mechanism in nature, which if harnessed, has the potential to create cosmetics and paints with purer and more vivid hues, screen displays that project the same true image when viewed from any angle, and even reduce the signal loss in optical fibres. Assistant Professor of Science (Evolutionary Photonics and Ornithology) Vinodkumar Saranathan led the study with Dr Bodo D Wilts from the Adolphe Merkle Institute at the University of Fribourg. Dr Saranathan examined the rainbow-coloured patterns in the eylko (wing casings) of a snout weevil from the Philippines, Pachyrhynchus congestus pavonius, using high-energy X-rays, while Dr Wilts performed detailed scanning electron microscopy and optical modelling. They discovered that to produce the rainbow palette of colours, the ‘rainbow’ weevil utilised a colour-generation mechanism that is so far found only in squid, cuttlefish, and octopuses, which are renowned for their colour-shifting camouflage. The study was published in the academic journal Small.

Dr Saranathan is also part of a research team led by Yale-NUS College Associate Professor of Science (Biology) Antónia Monteiro, which was awarded a Competitive Research Programme grant by Singapore’s National Research Foundation to examine the genetic basis of the colour-generation mechanism in butterflies.

On the possible applications of her research, Assoc Prof Monteiro said that understanding the developmental genetics of colour might allow biotech companies of the future to generate vivid, brilliant colours via bioengineering, based on butterfly scales, rather than having to nano-manufacture them using metals, which is currently extremely difficult to do. “These chitin-based colours would be lasting, biodegradable, and environmentally friendly,” said Assoc Prof Monteiro.

CULTIVATING MINDS
“FIND YOUR PASSION” MAY NOT BE THE BEST ADVICE AFTER ALL

A study by Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Psychology) Paul A O’Keefe and colleagues has found that those who endorse a ‘fixed theory’ about interest tend to think of it as something already there that simply needs to be found. Therefore, they are unlikely to stray beyond the interests they already have. By contrast, those with a ‘growth theory’ tend to believe that interests can be developed and cultivated. The common advice to ‘find your passion’ supports a fixed theory and may eventually be limiting. Instead of finding your passion, the researchers suggest that people should develop their passion.

The finding that a growth theory can make people more open to new interests and help sustain their interest despite difficulties, has important implications. Dr O’Keefe highlighted that in an increasingly complex and interconnected world, viewing interests as developable is important for encouraging innovation as new and interdisciplinary solutions are needed. Believing one’s interests are fixed might hinder exploration into other areas.

Dr O’Keefe collaborated with Stanford University Professor Carol S Dweck and Associate Professor Gregory M Walton on the research. While fixed and growth theories about intelligence — beliefs about the malleability of intellectual abilities — have been heavily researched, applying this idea to people’s interests is a new area of investigation. The team’s research was published in Psychological Science.

HELPING CROP PLANTS GROW IN HOT AND DRY REGIONS

Assistant Professor of Science (Life Sciences) Maurice Cheung published a paper in Nature Plants on his work in computational modelling of Crassulacean Acid Metabolism (CAM) plants. Such plants survive in hotter and drier regions by opening their stomata only at night, to prevent water loss during photosynthesis. Examples of CAM plants include cacti and pineapple.

Dr Cheung performed a computational analysis on the productivity of CAM plants, and showed that engineering CAM photosynthesis into crop plants such as rice and wheat, would not substantially affect yield. In an age of climate change, where many areas on Earth are becoming hot and dry, making it hard for crops to grow, the research points towards the possibility of using CAM engineering as a solution to growing crops in hot and dry regions.
Associate Professor of Science (Physics) Shaffique Adam published an article in the academic journal *Science* that describes a model for electron interaction in Dirac materials, a class of materials that includes graphene and topological insulators, solving a 65-year-old open theoretical problem in the process. Titled ‘The role of electron-electron interactions in two-dimensional Dirac fermions’, the article provides an improved understanding of the evolution of the electron velocity during the phase transition, which paves the way to help scientists develop low heat dissipation devices for electronics.

According to Assoc Prof Adam, the higher the electron velocity, the faster transistors can be switched on and off. However, this faster processor performance comes at the price of increased power leakage, which produces extra heat, and this heat will counteract the performance increase granted by the faster switching. Hence, the findings on electron velocity behaviour will help scientists engineer devices that are capable of faster switching but with lower power leakage.

The team comprised researchers from the Centre for Advanced 2D Materials (CA2DM) and the Department of Physics at the National University of Singapore, at which Assoc Prof Adam also holds joint appointments, as well as researchers from Nanyang Technological University in Singapore, Simon Fraser University in Canada and Universität Würzburg in Germany.
Yale-NUS faculty recognised for excellence

In 2018, Dean of Faculty and Professor of Social Sciences (Public Health) Yanyun Chen (in photo on right) won the People’s Choice Award at the President’s Young Talents 2018, which recognises promising Singaporean artists aged 35 and below, whose practices chart new dimensions in contemporary art. Her artwork, ‘The scars that write us’, adopts the keloid scar as its reference and offers a narrative on wounds and scars, and those that bear them. Her commissioned artwork was exhibited at the Singapore Art Museum from 4 October 2018 to 27 January 2019.

Since she assumed the deanship on 1 July 2018, Professor Ickovics has spearheaded the ‘Innovations in Public Health: Science, Practice, Impact’ series, which featured events on the future of public health and a symposium on meaningful ageing and dying. She also moderated a panel on health technology at the fifth Milken Institute Asia Summit 2018.

Lecturer of Humanities (Visual Art) Yanyun Chen (in photo on right) won the People’s Choice Award at the President’s Young Talents 2018, which recognises promising Singaporean artists aged 35 and below, whose practices chart new dimensions in contemporary art.

Lecturer of Humanities (Writing) Lawrence Ypil (in photo above, far right) won The Gaudy Boy Poetry Book Prize for his forthcoming book, THERE. The annual prize is awarded to an unpublished manuscript of original Anglophone poetry by an author of Asian heritage residing anywhere in the world.

Associate Professor of Social Sciences (Sociology and Public Policy) Anju Mary Paul won two awards from the American Sociological Association for her book Multinational Maids: Stepwise Migration in a Global Labor Market. They are the 2018 Thomas and Znaniecki Best Book Award and the 2018 Max Weber Award for Distinguished Scholarship. The Thomas and Znaniecki Award is given annually for outstanding social science scholarship in the field of international migration to a book published within the previous two years while the Max Weber Book Award is granted for an outstanding contribution to scholarship on organisations, occupations, and/or work in a book published within the last three years.

and Psychology) Jeannette Ickovics was awarded the Strickland-Daniel Mentoring Award by the American Psychological Association. This award recognises her feminist mentoring in supporting women in psychology in their pursuit of their goals.
Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Environmental Policy) Angel Hsu co-authored a report urging national governments to step up cooperation with subnational entities to fight climate change. The report, titled ‘Global climate action of regions, states and businesses,’ was part of a collaborative series of reports by over 30 organisations released during the 2018 Global Climate Action Summit. Two other members of the Yale-NUS community – Xie Yihao (Class of 2017) and Yeo Zhi Yi (Class of 2020) – were part of the research team that worked on this report.

She was also awarded the National University of Singapore (NUS) Early Career Research Award to continue her climate action research in her project entitled ‘Next Generation Innovation in Tracking Non-State and Subnational Contributions to Global Climate Change Mitigation’.

Faculty take on prestigious fellowships

Yale-NUS President and Professor of Humanities (History) Tan Tai Yong (in photo above, left) was appointed by the Institute of Policy Studies (IPS) as the 6th S R Nathan Fellow for the Study of Singapore, where he delivered a series of IPS-Nathan Lectures at the National University of Singapore and will conduct research on public policy and governance in Singapore.

Professor of Humanities (Writing) Robin Hemley (in photo above, right) was accepted into the Rockefeller Foundation Bellagio Center Residency Programme for 2019 for his exclaves project. The Bellagio Arts and Literary Arts residency is for writers and artists who share the Foundation’s mission of promoting the well-being of humankind and whose work is inspired by or relates to global or social issues.
The Centre for Teaching & Learning (CTL) fosters, recognises, and promotes excellence and innovation in teaching and learning at Yale-NUS. Through its programmes, it aims to help faculty refine and achieve their own pedagogical goals and to promote intentionality in shared practices. In Academic Year 2017/2018, CTL conducted over 10 learning workshops and meetings, including training sessions on best practices in peer observation and letter writing for over 70 Yale-NUS faculty members as well as a workshop on education research for about 60 educators from local tertiary institutions.

Eight faculty members across the three divisions of Humanities, Science and Social Sciences, received the Teaching Innovation Grant (TIG) in 2018. Sponsored by the Yale-NUS Educational Resources & Technology (ERT) office, CTL and the President’s Office, the Grant supports faculty with up to $5,000 to develop new pedagogies, acquire educational technology, develop curriculum and collaborate with other educators around the world. In 2018, the first annual Teaching Recognition Dinner was held to showcase the projects by the TIG recipients.

A team of Yale-NUS faculty members received a Teaching Enhancement Grant (TEG) from the National University of Singapore’s Centre for Development of Teaching & Learning for their initiative titled the ‘Open Classroom Project’.

Led by Associate Professor of Humanities (Literature) Mira Seo (centre in photo on left), the project aimed to design and implement a smart phone application to facilitate formative teaching observations by faculty members of their peers’ classes.

Assistant Professor of Science (Environmental Studies) Eunice Tan (in photo below) was awarded the National Geographic Society research grant to study stick insects’ ecology and behaviour in the wilds of Singapore and Malaysia. This project will involve Postdoctoral Fellow of Science (Life Sciences) Dr Sebastian Pohl as well as Yale-NUS students interested in conducting ecological research.

CULTIVATING MINDS 35
Broadening minds beyond the Yale-NUS community

In 2018, Yale-NUS hosted various experts and thought leaders on campus to share their insights with the Yale-NUS community and beyond. Our faculty and staff also brought their expertise outside the campus through participation in events held externally.

The President’s Office organised the ‘In Conversation’ dialogue series, which brought prominent thought leaders to campus to share their passions and views on issues from public and foreign policy, to education and the environment. The speakers included Mr Han Fook Kwang, Editor-at-large at The Straits Times and Mr Pritam Singh (in photo on left), a member of Singapore’s parliament.

In September, Associate Professor of Social Sciences (Sociology and Public Policy) Anju Mary Paul co-organised a workshop that brought together scholars researching patterns of multinational migration across migrant categories and regions, with a focus on journeys that originate, terminate or pass through Asia. ‘Multinational Migrations: Onward Migration Patterns and Possibilities in Asia and Beyond’ was jointly organised by Yale-NUS College, the Asia Research Institute (ARI) at National University of Singapore (NUS) and the Yale Center for the Study of Race, Indigeneity, and Transnational Migration (RITM).

In March, several Yale-NUS staff and faculty participated in the 2018 Asia-Pacific Association for International Education Annual Conference (APAIE) and shared their expertise in higher education with the international community. Drawing on their insights from the Yale-NUS experience, they presented on diverse issues in higher education at various sessions during the international conference.

The Dean of Faculty Office hosted three speakers as part of its ‘Singapore in Focus’ series, where experts on Singapore society and politics were invited to share their insights with the Yale-NUS community. The speakers were filmmaker Mr Martyn See, Professor Emerita of Corporate Strategy and International Business Linda Lim from the University of Michigan and Director of Centennial Group International Mr Manu Bhaskaran.

In April, the College jointly hosted the first Middle East, North Africa and South Asia (MENASA) NASPA conference with the NASPA (Student Affairs Administrators in Higher Education) in Singapore. The annual conference serves as a platform for participants to network and exchange knowledge that will aid in the development of best practices in student affairs in their respective regions.
Yale-NUS College re-certified for BCA Green Mark Platinum Award

The Yale-NUS College campus has received re-certification for its Green Mark Platinum award, the highest honour for ‘green’ buildings given by Singapore’s Building and Construction Authority (BCA).

Re-certification, a rigorous multi-step process that the College began preparing for in 2016, recognises its sustained performance in the area of energy and water efficiency, operations and management, and indoor environment quality.

The BCA first certified the 63,000 square-metre College in 2013, as it was being built. The campus has lush courtyards, green roofs and sky gardens that not only provide shade and ventilation, but also reduce the urban heat gain effect.

Its design also includes mixed modes of ventilation and control to lessen the burden on the College’s cooling load requirements; a reliance on natural lighting; an integrated facilities booking system to control air-conditioning for classrooms; and a demand-controlled ventilation system for offices and lecture theatres.

Another green feature is the stormwater treatment system in which bioretention swales within the campus clean and convey surface runoff into a central biofiltration-pond, which then filters the water and holds it until it overflows into drains run by the PUB, Singapore’s national water agency.

### Yale-NUS Green Efforts in 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Campus initiatives</th>
<th>Staff and faculty initiatives</th>
<th>Student initiatives</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring bacteria and pollutant levels across the campus.</td>
<td>Using recycled or biodegradable tableware for catering events.</td>
<td>Supporting food waste management by ensuring that food waste is collected for composting for on-campus farm.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redesigning the air-conditioning in faculty offices to sense temperature more accurately, improve circulation and save energy.</td>
<td>Giving water bottles to staff and faculty to reduce the use of bottled water.</td>
<td>Raising awareness to minimise food waste.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rolling out an app that allows the College community to report system or equipment failures so they can operate at efficient energy levels.</td>
<td>Encouraging the College community to bring their own washable tableware to College events.</td>
<td>Implementing a checklist to ensure that events on campus are organised sustainably.</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Leading a sustainability advocacy group to share and discuss sustainability news and tips with the community.</td>
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CULTIVATING MINDS
Innovative ways of teaching and learning

Our innovation lies in the way that we apply the concept of interdisciplinary learning to create a holistic humanities, science and social sciences curriculum, which encourages students to approach and solve problems from many different angles.

Different courses cater to students’ diverse interests

As part of the Common Curriculum, students are required to take one Historical Immersion (HI) course. The HI series of courses focuses on a particular historical moment and allows students to dive deep into that moment in history.

One such course is Geometry and The Emergence of Perspective taught by Assistant Professor of Science (Mathematics) Matthew Stamps (in photo above). The course introduced students to perspective drawings and the mathematical geometrical validity of perspective drawing techniques. Through this, students learnt about the historical development of geometry from multiple perspectives: mathematics, philosophy, art, culture and anthropology.

Other HI courses included Woolf, Historiography and the Scene of the Modern taught by Assistant Professor of Humanities (Writing, Literature) Heidi Stalla. The course focused on the author Virginia Woolf from both a creative writing and historical lens. Another course taught was Kazimir Malevich and the Black Square, led by Assistant Professor of Humanities (Art History) Maria Taroutina. The course focused on the creation, exhibition and legacy of one of the world’s most famous masterpieces of modern art, Kazimir Malevich’s ‘Black Square’, looking at how broader historical conditions shaped the creation and reception of the work.
Courses spotlight

Foundations of Environmental Humanities is an interdisciplinary course introduced in 2018. Designed and taught by Assistant Professor of Social Sciences (Environmental Studies) Matthew Schneider-Mayerson, the course focuses on the role of the arts and humanities in understanding and responding to the socio-ecological challenges of the human age. Through the course, students sought to answer a critical question – how can the arts and humanities help respond to the environmental challenges of the Anthropocene (the current geological age in which human activity is the dominant influence on the environment).

Two foundational modules covered in the Life Sciences major are Genetics and Molecular Cell Biology, both taught by Associate Professor of Science (Life Sciences) Nicholas Tolwinski. While most courses on these topics are taught by reviewing key discoveries and information in textbooks, Assoc Prof Tolwinski adopted a different approach. In his classes, he would ask students to explore the current frontiers of scientific research in the field and introduce cutting-edge scholarship to engage the class on the most current scientific questions, such as cancer research. This enabled students to apply their knowledge to real-life situations, such as understanding how scientists came up with experiments and how the different tools and instruments work.

Assistant Professor of Humanities (Philosophy) Sandra Field taught two courses, Contemporary Egalitarianism and Democratic Theory. As part of these courses, students were required to write their final papers on real world issues. These papers were then posted on a website called ‘Equality & Democracy’ to showcase the students’ thoughts on the ideals of equality and democracy, and how they relate to practice, in Singapore and in the world at large.

Dr Field also received a Teaching Innovation Grant from the Centre for Teaching & Learning for a pedagogy project titled ‘Applying Political Philosophy to Real World Cases’.
Field trip to learn about bringing positive changes to the environment

Yale-NUS College is one of the partners of EnviroLab Asia, an environmental laboratory for cross-disciplinary research and experiential learning that links knowledge with practice. An initiative led by the Claremont Colleges in the United States, the programme aims to train students, faculty and staff to become active practitioners of change who develop sustainable and socially just policy-relevant solutions to environmental challenges in Asia, with a focus on East and Southeast Asia.

Over the next four years, EnviroLab Asia will feature four annual clinic trips to various destinations in Asia. The first one – to Thailand and Vietnam – took place in January 2018. The trip focused on infrastructure and power, trans-boundaries and governance, agency and built environment as well as performance art and resilience.

Professor of Science (Environmental Studies and Geophysics) Brian McAdoo who participated in the programme, explained, “In Vietnam, students explored organic farming from a policy perspective. In Thailand, they learned about the effectiveness of mangroves as an effluent filter from shrimp farms and also created a musical/theatre piece with colleagues from the Burapha University’s Music and Performing Arts department, the Burapha Marine Technology group and local workers of the shrimp farms.”

Yale faculty share their expertise in Special Seminars

In March 2018, five professors from Yale University taught short, intensive seminar classes at Yale-NUS College, bolstering the repertoire of classes that the College offers. The Yale Special Seminars draw on the resources from Yale-NUS’ founding parent universities and is part of the initiative where Yale faculty can visit their academic counterparts at Yale-NUS.

Professor of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations Shawkat Toorawa taught a seminar on 9th-10th Century Baghdad, where he examined how these works changed Islamic society, human knowledge, and how the Arab-Islamic society’s contributions subsequently changed the world. Associate Professor of Piano Melvin Chen from the Yale School of Music taught the class Chamber Music Performance.
Cutting-edge technology in learning and research

In April 2018, Yale-NUS College unveiled a new 7,000 square-feet research facility, called the Division of Science Research Laboratory @E6, which will support advanced research in molecular biology, neurobiology, developmental biology and ageing.

The new laboratory houses dedicated facilities for model organism studies, including a large *Caenorhabditis elegans* (microscopic worm) room, an arthropod containment facility, an advanced imaging facility, and procedure rooms for neurobiology and behaviour studies. Model organisms, including nematodes, fruit flies, and zebrafish are powerful tools of discovery in biology research.

The research at the Yale-NUS laboratory at E6 will focus on cutting edge pre-clinical and molecular ageing research using model organisms. The work is part of both national and international initiatives, aimed at targeting molecular mechanisms of ageing to develop future therapeutic interventions in humans.

The space is also configured to support hands-on student engagement in laboratory activities and classes, as well as in-depth research closely mentored by faculty members. The E6 laboratory, together with the seven teaching laboratories located on the main Yale-NUS campus, will enhance the overall science learning and research ecosystem at Yale-NUS.

Writers’ Centre recognises students’ literary achievements

The Yale-NUS Writers’ Centre Literary Awards is an annual award that recognises students for their outstanding work in creative writing. Awards are given across four categories of creative writing: Fiction, Non-fiction, Poetry and Playwriting.

Paul Jerusalem (Class of 2019) placed first in the Fiction and Non-fiction categories. His winning works, *Balikbayan Box* (Fiction) and *The Yerushalayim Blessing / My Parents’ Shadow* (Non-fiction), are both about Filipino experiences in Singapore and are greatly influenced by themes relating to diaspora and queerness.

Chrystal Ho Jia Min (Class of 2019) won the Poetry section with her poem *Postcards from Alyki* while Dynn Othman (Class of 2018), secured the top position in the Playwriting category with *Shadows NEVER Die!*. The Writers’ Centre also trains students to become writing peer tutors. In 2018, the peer tutor programme expanded to 15 students from six a year earlier. The students went through a training programme covering key academic writing skills and tutoring pedagogy before serving as tutors in different areas of writing, including academic writing, scientific writing and creative writing.
Our journey of living and learning together often takes us beyond our community. Students, faculty and staff are passionate about building connections and making a difference in the world beyond Yale-NUS.
Experiential learning across boundaries

The Yale-NUS Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE) creates global opportunities aimed at enhancing students’ academic learning, broadening their perspectives, and honing the skills and character they need to succeed as students today and leaders tomorrow.

Learning Across Boundaries

As part of the College’s flagship Week 7 Learning Across Boundaries (LAB) programme, first-year students, faculty and staff engage in learning projects of up to a week that explore themes of the Common Curriculum outside the confines of a traditional classroom. Week 7 LAB projects are faculty-generated initiatives that are organised in collaboration with CIPE.

From 26 September to 6 October 2018, 250 first-year students participated in 14 Week 7 LAB projects, from exploring Singapore’s urban wildlife and thinking more critically about local cuisine, to learning about the creation of knowledge in London and looking at marriage as an institution in Shanghai.

One of the new projects, themed ‘The Entanglement of Human and Environmental Dynamics: Bhopal, A City Explored Through the Lens of Environmental History and Systems’, took students into the heart of Bhopal, India, to explore the unique social-ecological system of the city, where forces of old and new are remarkably intertwined. Back in Singapore, another project titled ‘Urban Wildlife in Singapore’ brought students all across the island to explore issues of urban wildlife and animal diversity.
Learning on the road in China and Greece

Over the summer break in 2018, one group of Yale-NUS students went to China for a travel fellowship and another went to Greece for a writing fellowship with the goal of exploring a new horizon or academic pursuit.

The Travel Fellowship and Writing Fellowship programmes are both offered by CIPE to encourage students to craft their own learning journey.

In 2018, Ng Yi Ming, Yeo Rui Qi, Cheong Zi Gi and Joseph Han (all from the Class of 2021) were awarded the Travel Fellowship for ‘Lives Well Lived’, a project that examined spirituality in Western China, including Sichuan, Shaanxi and the Tibet Autonomous Region. Aided by insights from Common Curriculum modules such as philosophy, sociology, and literature, the quartet travelled for a month to discover what a life well lived meant in these contexts.

“My experience has strengthened my conviction that any deep investigation of life at the fundamental level must involve philosophy. The trip helped me better understand the relevance of philosophy to real life.”

Joseph Han (Class of 2021)
Professional development programmes to prepare for the working world

In 2018, CIPE launched two professional development programmes – the Professional Development Lunch Series and a series of internship workshops.

The Professional Development Lunch Series aims to equip students with soft skills such as time and task management, writing for the workplace, professional communications and etiquette, and developing and maintaining professional relationships.

One of the students who attended the lunch series was Aaron Pang (Class of 2018). He shared, “This programme taught me about the different aspects of the professional world. The course materials touched on things that I had not considered before and did not know how to even begin to approach. For students with zero or little professional experience, these were extremely helpful.”

Another programme that CIPE introduced was a series of workshops on internships, which supports students in the internship application process and prepares them for their internships.

“The Writing Fellowship is an incredible experience that I will hold dear for the rest of my life,” said Adeline Loh (Class of 2021). In Greece, Adeline participated in a daily workshop, which gave her a chance to try different writing styles. She felt the immersive experience has enabled her to grow as a writer and inspired her to keep developing her writing skills while at Yale-NUS College.

The other group of students travelled overseas to hone their writing skills at the Writing Workshops in Greece programme, offered under CIPE’s Writing Fellowship.

Adeline Loh and Wen Xianda, who both participated in the Writing Workshops in Greece programme. Image provided by Adeline Loh.
Museums always seemed like hallowed places to me, like libraries — quiet places of beauty and reflection. I now know that there are complicating factors to this view of museums, such as issues of access and the colonial history of museum collections, but this love of art and of sharing it with the public has always made me love museums.

Michelle Lee (Class of 2019)

Every summer, many Yale-NUS students across all years take on internships in various industries locally and overseas to explore their professional and academic interests.

Michelle Lee (Class of 2019) did an internship at the Peggy Guggenheim Collection in Venice, Italy. In Singapore, Kanako Sugawara (Class of 2020) and Keith Ang (Class of 2019) interned at the women’s magazine Marie France Asia and Barclays Investment Bank, respectively.

During her two-month internship in Venice, Michelle had the chance to progress from tasks such as cleaning sculptures to engaging with visitors by giving guided visitor tours. The insights, knowledge and passion of her fellow interns and museum staff also provided her a valuable perspective on her future career paths in the museum industry.

“I was previously only interested in curation but my exposure to other roles at the museum has made me start considering other areas like museum education and administration,” shared Michelle.

Back in Singapore, Kanako’s internship at Marie France Asia saw her writing close to 200 articles on topics ranging from food to beauty and lifestyle products. She also had the opportunity to attend launch events and parties as a media guest to take photos for the magazine’s Instagram account and collect information for potential follow-up articles.

For Keith, he has always been keen in a career in investing or financial services. His time interning at Barclays Investment Bank in Singapore provided him first-hand experience in and exposure to working in the banking sector. “Banking can demand a lot out of one’s life, and I have found that sustaining the needed commitment and focus demands a level of comfort with who I am, my valued relationships, and where I am headed in life,” he reflected.
In 2018, CIPE launched several new programmes to cater to students interested in scientific research, environmental sustainability, bioethics and international affairs.

The inaugural Yale-NUS Summer Institute in Global Strategy and Leadership brought 39 Yale-NUS students to Yale University in June 2018 for a five-week programme adapted from Yale’s Brady-Johnson Program in Grand Strategy.

Designed to provide students with an in-depth and rigorous introduction to history, politics and social change, the programme also allowed students to engage with various large-scale global challenges facing tomorrow’s leaders.

Dr Nicholas Alipui, former Director of Programmes at UNICEF, speaks to students about developments in international health.
Two new summer science research fellowships were offered in partnership with Yale University and Harvard University.

Wang Jiayun (Class of 2019) took on the Yale College Dean’s Research Fellowship, which allowed her to spend her summer at the Yale Quantum Institute in New Haven. At the Institute, she worked on quantum computation, focusing on theoretical aspects of quantum error correction.

Isaac Lee (Class of 2019) spent his summer in Boston at Harvard University’s Summer Honors Undergraduate Research Program (SHURP) where he worked at the F.M. Kirby Neurobiology Center. He focused on studying how a neuronal circuit keeps time.

Two new Summer Academic Partnership Programmes were also introduced: the Global Citizenship Program in Urban Environment Sustainability and the Yale University Sherwin B. Nuland Summer Institute in Bioethics.

The Global Citizenship Program in Urban Environment Sustainability, hosted by the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) in partnership with institutions around the world, aims to prepare students for future challenges in an increasingly urbanised world and promote global collaboration in sustainable development education.

Four students were selected to participate in the programme, which brought them to Hong Kong, Guangzhou and Taipei to explore these cities’ mitigation and adaptation strategies to climate change, as well as the sustainable development of their urban areas.

The Sherwin B. Nuland Summer Institute in Bioethics, hosted annually by Yale University’s Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics, is a two-month-long intensive summer programme for students looking to better understand how they can use bioethical arguments in their current studies, or to define their interests in bioethics. Two Yale-NUS students participated in the programme in 2018.
Outreach

Beyond academics and on-campus activities, many of our students, faculty and staff members are also passionate about engaging with and serving the larger community.

Yale-NUS Service Day

On 24 September 2018, some 40 staff and faculty members participated in the first Yale-NUS College Service Day at Willing Hearts, a soup kitchen that cooks and distributes 5,000 daily meals to over 40 locations around Singapore to help improve the lives of the underprivileged and marginalised.

The volunteers prepared meals and packed lunch boxes. The Service Day was initiated by FunOpenCulture, a staff and faculty social and welfare events committee.

New ‘Community Service Day’ programme in Orientation

This year’s orientation featured a new Residential College (RC) Community Building activity that took place on 6 August 2018. ‘Community Service Day’ was a chance to introduce different ways in Singapore to give back to society.

Students from Cendana, Elm and Saga Colleges volunteered with organisations such as Willing Hearts, Waterways Watch Society, an environmental volunteer group, and SUN-DAC, a daily care facility for people with intellectual disabilities.
Sharing music with the community

In February and March 2018, students shared their musical talents with the community. One group sang for patients at Alexandra Hospital as part of the ‘Music for Wellness’ programme. The other, members of the Yale-NUS College Chamber Choir, performed for migrant workers at HealthServe, a non-profit organisation dedicated to addressing migrant workers’ needs.

“The essence of well-being is the satisfaction and euphoria felt when you know that you have done good unto others,” said Dean’s Fellow Neil Chan, who organised both efforts.
Stories and dance with migrant workers

Community Impact (ComPact), a student organisation dedicated to increasing student community service, organised two events in September 2018 focused on migrant workers.

‘Open Borders: Stories Have No Boundaries’ featured prose and poetry readings by migrant writers and Yale-NUS students and faculty as a way to use storytelling to bridge migrant and Singaporean experiences. The second was a collaboration with the Yale-NUS Bhangra Dance Group and non-profit organisation Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2) to organise the inaugural Bhangra social event at the College. Students from the dance group delivered an entertaining performance for the migrant workers while teaching them a few Bhangra dance moves.

Helping Kerala flood victims

Sidharth Praveen and Siddharth Chatterjee (both from the Class of 2021) decided to crowdfund donations for the victims of the floods in Kerala, India, the worst in a century in the wake of abnormally high rainfall. The fundraiser, organised through YNDUS: Yale-NUS South Asian Society, featured live music and samosas, and raised a total of S$419 by the end of the one-night event. Another student, Al Lim (Class of 2019), an Urban Studies major, collaborated with faculty and staff at the National University of Singapore (NUS) on a mapping event in August 2018 to contribute geospatial data to help relief efforts.
Learning to make a difference to the world

In May 2018, a group of students from Yale-NUS College and Pomona College, the United States, gathered on the Yale-NUS campus for the Social Impact Bootcamp, a flagship programme by the Centre for International & Professional Experience (CIPE). Facilitated by corporate and non-profit experts, the programme is a multi-module sequence that aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to make a difference in Singapore and the world.

Besides being exposed to social impact work through engaging with leaders from various sectors, students also participated in a community outreach project with Transient Workers Count Too (TWC2) as part of the Bootcamp. The students initiated a ‘Pay-It-Forward’ donation drive on campus to increase awareness about migrant workers issues and collected items for the migrant workers.

The art of writing — and giving back

Jolene Lum (Class of 2019) and Rajeev Patke, Director of the Division of Humanities and Professor of Humanities (Literature in English), have been active participants of the Creative Arts Programme (CAP), an annual creative writing programme organised by Singapore’s Ministry of Education for secondary and junior college students.

As an alumna of CAP, Jolene has given back by mentoring younger participants in writing. As the programme’s Organising Committee chairperson, Professor Patke noted that the programme has a “long tradition in working towards encouraging young talents in junior colleges and secondary schools to explore and pursue their interests in creative writing”. He added, “I am happy to have been invited to serve in this capacity.”
Faculty & Staff Giving impacts the Yale-NUS community

In 2017, Yale-NUS faculty and staff came together to give back to the College by participating in the ‘Faculty & Staff Giving (FSG)’ campaign. FSG 2017 also saw the launch of the inaugural ‘Faculty & Staff Giving Month’, where efforts to encourage participation were concentrated in September. Led by Giving Ambassadors (in photo above) from departments across campus, the participation rate rose from 22 percent in 2016 to 38.5 percent in 2017.

“Giving helps us reach our goals faster and bring in deserving students who do not have the means to pay on their own,” said Assistant Professor Stanislav Presolski from the Division of Science, one of 15 faculty and staff members who signed up as Giving Ambassadors. “I spoke up at the full faculty and Science Division meetings to encourage my colleagues to give.”

Rector of Saga College and Associate Professor of Science Khoo Hoon Eng, who gives annually to Yale-NUS, said she is motivated to pay it forward because of support she received in the past. “My tertiary education was completely supported by financial aid made possible by generous donors,” she said.

For the second year running, the Admissions & Financial Aid office achieved the highest participation rate (93 percent) in the Team Giving Challenge.
Legacy: The gift that keeps giving

Having started many traditions at Yale-NUS College, including the Senior Class Gift in 2017, Yale-NUS’ inaugural group of alumni – the Class of 2017 – came together in February 2018 to begin yet another tradition: Alumni Giving.

Spearheaded by a group of 10 Giving Ambassadors, the inaugural campaign ‘Legacy, the Gift that Keeps Giving’ aimed to encourage alumni to reflect on their legacy through the act of giving back and fostering a strong culture of philanthropy at the College.

“In the past, I tended to overestimate the cost of giving while underestimating the benefits that the community received. After doing it for a while, I think the proportions are actually reversed. If the gift multiplies itself, then giving back becomes a no-brainer for me,” said Giving Ambassador Mr Christopher Tee, now an Admissions Counsellor at Yale-NUS.

College priorities that resonated with alumni included financial aid, scholarships, international opportunities and the College’s endowment fund.

“I decided to contribute to the Alumni Gift because my experience at Yale-NUS has taught me so much about how I would like to live life and to be a part of a caring and supportive community. As our alumni pool grows, I hope that we expand this sense of community in the groups that we come to work and live with,” said Ms Annette Wu, who joined the Centre for International & Professional Experience after graduation.

Parents partner with Yale-NUS through philanthropy

Yale-NUS College has benefitted over the years from the generous support of individuals, foundations and corporations. Parents are among those integral to our community because of their contributions, from volunteering at events, to attending parent-specific events and activities organised by the College, to their philanthropic support.

“By making a contribution, it is not only the recipient who benefits, but also those who give,” said Mr Johnny and Mrs Jovanka Burgos, who pledged their support to the Parents’ Fund out of gratitude to the Yale-NUS community for providing a home away from home for their daughter, alumna Ms Tamara Burgos (Class of 2018). “Giving produces a genuine feeling of happiness.”
As one of Yale-NUS College’s Founding Benefactors, Mr Wu Hsioh Kwang generously established the Wu Foundation Fund to support various scholarships and awards that enable students to pursue a Yale-NUS education without financial worries.

Shernice Soh (Class of 2020), a recipient of the four-year, merit-based Wu Hsioh Kwang Family Scholarship, is enrolled in the Double Degree Programme in Law and Liberal Arts jointly offered by Yale-NUS and the National University of Singapore (NUS) Faculty of Law. She appreciates the opportunities that the scholarship has offered for her to engage fully with both disciplines. Shernice is also active in the NUS Faculty of Law Pro Bono Group, a legal aid project with NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, and the Yale-NUS Netball Team.

Wang Xing Hao (Class of 2021), a recipient of the Wu Hsioh Kwang Family Study Award, is passionate about philosophy and intends to pursue it as his major. He serves as the communications director of the Yale-NUS Society for Academic Research, which publishes an annual journal focused on undergraduate research.

“I really appreciate how the Wu Hsioh Kwang Family Study Award has relieved some of my financial burden,” he said. “Having been the beneficiary of a number of scholarships and study awards throughout my life, I hope that I will be able to establish one in the future.”
Giving is not a zero-sum game

Mr Collin Ang, Managing Director of digital marketing consulting group Decision Science Agency, keeps a verse from the Tang dynasty poem by Li Bai close to his heart. Loosely translated, the verse suggests that each person is naturally endowed with certain talents and even if all fortunes are lost, the person will eventually be able to recover them by using these talents. Over the years, this verse has continued to anchor Mr Ang’s convictions about philanthropy. “Many people think giving is a zero-sum game – in reality, it is not,” he said. “The money you spend on philanthropy will benefit someone, and that someone will become more productive in the economy.”

In living out these beliefs, Mr Ang set up the need-based Decision Science Agency Study Award at Yale-NUS College. “I am trying to make sure that everybody has an equal chance at getting an education,” he said.

He chose to give to the College as he believes that although Singapore offers a world-class education in areas such as medicine, engineering and accountancy, a liberal arts education characterised by its unique curriculum and training in soft skills is still a relatively new concept, one that is worthy of support.

Founding Benefactors give in remembrance of parents

Following in their parents’ footsteps, the children of Mr Khoo Teck Quee and Mdm Tan Phek Wan have donated to Yale-NUS College to establish the Khoo Teck Quee & Tan Phek Wan Study Award for students with financial needs.

The family decided to support Yale-NUS because they were impressed by the unique opportunities “across many cultures and disciplines” that the College offered. In line with their shared values, the family hopes that students will remain grounded and actively serve the disadvantaged and less privileged, both locally and internationally.

The family has been recognised as Founding Benefactors of Yale-NUS for their generous contributions.
Yale-NUS College is grateful for the philanthropic support we have received from our donors. We warmly acknowledge and thank our founding benefactors, including those who have chosen to remain anonymous.

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