AN APPOINTMENT TO REMEMBER
The first full-time professor appointed under the NUSS Professorship speaks about his hopes for the Society
RESEARCH PROGRAMMES AT THE
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National University of Singapore

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We have an excellent Singaporean and foreign faculty who are not only prolific academics in their own right but are also well versed in the local context. FASS, NUS scores highly in terms of global ranking. My prior engagement with the faculty members in the Department of Sociology, and in particular my thesis supervisor, assured me that my graduate training would be nothing short of comprehensive and one that would include an appreciation of Singapore as a subject of sociological inquiry given that my research field is also located here. FASS, NUS offers a competitive stipend. There are also several opportunities for graduate students to come together to form reading groups, to organise workshops and seminars all of which provide an enriching learning experience.

Lavanya Balachandran
Graduated in 2017 with a PhD in Sociology
Dear fellow members

Come January 2018, Professor Tan Eng Chye will take over as NUS President from Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, and Professor Ho Teck Hua will become Senior Deputy President and Provost.

On behalf of the Society, I would like to congratulate Prof Tan and Prof Ho on their appointments. NUSS and NUS have always had a close and warm relationship and I look forward to taking this symbiotic partnership forward. Our heartfelt appreciation also goes to Professor Tan Chorh Chuan for his unwavering support of NUSS and we wish him all the best in his new appointment.

This year, the Society has made good progress despite the volatile economic environment. In April, we launched the members’ rights issue to grant each member the privilege to introduce a friend or family member to become an NUSS member at special rates and to enjoy the many membership privileges that NUSS has to offer. Some 600* members have since exercised this right, and we are delighted to welcome our new members to the NUSS family.

At this year’s Strategic Meeting in July 2017, the Management Committee and Senior Management put in place a three-pronged strategy to deepen our engagement with members and the wider graduate community.

1. **Creating a better membership experience.**
   A new Membership Experience Sub-Committee seeks to enhance membership experiences and foster a deeper sense of belonging to NUSS. Besides improving our facilities, the Sub-Committee has plans for a series of events, such as the Induction to Mini Guilds as part of our Lifecycle Management Programme, to promote a greater sense of camaraderie amongst members and create a second home for them at our Guild Houses.

2. **Establishing more value-added membership privileges.**
   The Society will continue to explore more potential tie-ups with third-party partners to offer members a broader and more engaging range of membership benefits and events.

3. **Developing a new Club Management System (CMS).**
   Having an efficient CMS that incorporates the latest technologies is key to the success of our strategic initiatives. Come 23 October 2017, a General Meeting will be convened to seek your approval for the new CMS. Please come and give your support. Besides ensuring more effective running of our operations, the CMS will also facilitate the revamp of the Graduate Network – a virtual platform to engage third-party partners and build a connected graduate community online.

I thank you for your continued support and welcome you to come and patronise our facilities often!

Yours sincerely

Eddie Lee
President

*Figure is accurate as of end of September 2017.*
TRAVEL IN Style WITH NUSS TODAY!

Enjoy our latest tie-up with Dnata! Our members now have complimentary access to two premium airport lounges in Terminals 1 & 3!

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*Each member is entitled to two complimentary passes, subject to availability. Additional passes can be purchased at a discounted price.

Terms and conditions apply.
HIS EXCELLENCY THOMAS KUFER, THE AMBASSADOR OF SWITZERLAND TO SINGAPORE, SHARED HIS TAKE ON THE DEFINITION OF A "SMALL STATE"
SMALL STATES
WITH BIG
ACHIEVEMENTS

What do Singapore and Switzerland have in common? More than just their size, said the Ambassador of Switzerland to Singapore in an address to NUSS members.

Going by geographical size, Switzerland and Singapore are classified as small states. The two countries are thousands of miles apart but have a lot in common, such as a strong regard for the rule of law.

Both “have big neighbours, successful economies and place high importance on good governance, higher education and free trade,” said His Excellency Thomas Kupfer, the Ambassador of Switzerland to Singapore.

Decades ago, Singapore aspired to achieve a Swiss standard of living. Today, “there are areas where Singapore has developed strongly and, with a top-down system, faster than us,” Mr Kupfer said. In other areas, Switzerland is more traditional in approach, he said. This explains the significant amount of information sharing between the two countries, he added.

Mr Kupfer was addressing members as part of NUSS’ Meet-The-Ambassador Series. He is the 14th foreign dignitary invited to speak to members since the series was introduced in 2009.

In a wide-ranging presentation on 10 July, he touched on Switzerland’s education system and its perspective on immigration and digitalisation, among others.

DID YOU KNOW?

1 Mr Kupfer has been the Ambassador of Switzerland to Singapore since September 2012.

2 He was Secretary General of the 28th International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent in Geneva from 2003 to 2004.

3 Mr Kupfer read law at the University of Zurich and was called to the Bar in Zurich in 1981. He joined the diplomatic service in 1983.

4 He has held different positions within the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs in Bern, Switzerland; and overseas, including the Embassy of Switzerland in Washington, Rome and Colombia.

NUSS President Eddie Lee said that the series “provide a forum for ambassadors to share their insights on foreign policies, and stimulate discussion on foreign relations and global developments.”

The evening started with a Q&A session, during which the audience wanted to know how Switzerland and Singapore could work together. In response, Mr Kupfer said that while distance made it difficult to collaborate on projects, pointers could still be exchanged between the two countries on topics like education and emerging technologies.

Mr Kupfer also had a fresh take on the definition of a “small state”. Singapore is home to 5.6 million people, while Switzerland has a population of close to 8.5 million, Mr Kupfer noted. However, besides land area and population, other factors should be taken into consideration, he said.

“We are not that small as we haven’t talked about economic power, science, education, universities, standard of living, quality of life,” he explained. “For instance, (Singapore) has a very strong army. It also has a very strong economy and in this sense, I would say Singapore places quite well in the international field.”

Attendees loved the fresh insights. Software engineer Ian Leow said: “I felt that the talk was very informative. It’s not every day that you get a foreign view on important issues.”

For Ms Leo Kwang Lin, a freelance trainer, the session was an eye-opener. “The whole idea of inviting the ambassadors is to broaden our perspectives and understand how outsiders look at Singapore,” she said. “From what they share, we can get a clearer idea of who we are – a small but powerful country.”

AN EVENING OF FUN AND BONDING

NUSS welcomes new members with entertaining performances and a delicious dinner spread.

New members of The National University of Singapore Society (NUSS) were treated to an evening of good food, performances and company at the Kent Ridge Guild House on 26 July. The New Members’ Night was an opportunity for new and current members to meet, mingle and network in a relaxed and casual setting.

“This event is a chance for new members to find out more about the Society first-hand and understand our mission and vision,” said Mr Eddie Lee, NUSS President. “It also fosters closer relationships and builds familiarity with the Management Committee, the various conveners and secretariat, and allows new members to meet one another.”

The conveners and chairpersons for the different sections and sub-committees welcomed the new members, bringing warmth and a sense of family to the occasion. “Perhaps our greatest strength is our people and the feeling of belonging that comes from being a member here,” Mr Lee added. In his welcome speech, Mr Lee highlighted the activities offered by NUSS, which cover intellectual pursuits, sports and recreation, and active ageing and lifelong learning. “Our activities cater to different interests and age groups, making NUSS an inclusive and a welcoming place to be.”

Mr Roy Higgs, the Society’s CEO, took to the stage to speak about the benefits offered to members, such as the various facilities at the two Guild Houses and complimentary access to premium lounges at Changi Airport’s Terminals 1 and 3. NUSS members also enjoy reciprocal privileges with graduate associations around the world.

This year, Mr Higgs said, the Society launched a new initiative as well – the Lifecycle Management Programme – to engage existing members and improve their experiences as members of NUSS. This is done through various initiatives such as a Members’ Anniversary Bash to celebrate long-term NUSS members, and Induction to Mini Guilds, where existing members introduce new members to NUSS’ Guild Houses. Besides the Lifecycle Management Programme, NUSS would continue to engage new members through both traditional and new media platforms.

For some members, the activities, services and offerings mentioned...
by Mr Lee and Mr Higgs are key factors for joining the Club. For others, it’s the opportunity to make new friends and network.

New member Mrs Rosita Chua chose NUSS not only because of the proximity of the Kent Ridge Guild House to her home, but also because of the services and courses offered there. “I’m particularly interested in the ‘Real Estate Wealth Management for Seniors’ course. I’d also like to take up the ‘Managing your Finances after Retirement’ course – hopefully, this will help me get the maximum value out of my assets,” Mrs Chua explained.

Ms Lindy Ooi, another new member, said bonding with her friends at the Club drew her to join NUSS. Another reason – the delicious food served at the Kent Ridge Guild House. “I love the Teochew porridge buffet here. There’s a wide selection of dishes to choose from – boiled, fried, steamed, braised, even pickled!” she added.

One thing both new members agreed on: What sets NUSS apart from other clubs is its strong support for its alma mater and its efforts in promoting the interests of members and the graduate community. In addition, the Society strives to contribute to Singapore’s political and intellectual development, and cultivate a more gracious social and cultural environment.

As dinner was served, NUSS DramaWorks presented an exuberant rendition of Katy Perry’s *Firework*. Towards the close of the evening, new members joined the NUSS Choir for a performance. Together, they presented a perfectly harmonised classic Chinese tune and a jaunty medley of English songs.

The evening rounded off with a delectable dessert buffet and lucky draw, both of which added to the occasion’s joyous mood and convivial atmosphere.
A WORTHY APPOINTMENT

LIM CHWEE TECK
Appointed NUSS Professor on 1 July, 2017

Professor,
Department of Biomedical Engineering, NUS

Principal Investigator,
Mechanobiology Institute, NUS

Faculty Fellow,
Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research & Technology

His passion
Professor Lim is an engineer, inventor and entrepreneur. He loves problem-solving – it is what drives him to innovate, create and commercialise new products.

Early achievements
In the early 2000s, Professor Lim and his team developed a device for “crash-testing” mobile phones and other portable electronic devices. He co-founded a start-up and worked with Nokia, Research In Motion and Motorola.
WHAT IS YOUR KEY ACHIEVEMENT IN THE AREA OF GLOBAL RESEARCH?
In 2009, I co-founded a company, Clearbridge Biomedics, to commercialise a biochip that allows us to isolate cancer cells from a patient’s blood – a process known as liquid biopsy. With this technology, healthcare professionals can capture and analyse circulating cancer cells with greater accuracy in a shorter time frame. This test can provide real-time feedback on the condition of a patient, allowing doctors to closely track the disease’s progression and provide immediate and personalised treatment. This invention won the President’s Technology Award in 2011 and the Wall Street Journal Asian Innovation Award in 2012. Today, our technology is used in more than 60 locations here and around the world, such as in the US, UK, Japan and China.

DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE FOR ASPIRING ENTREPRENEURS?
Create an innovative solution that solves a societal need. You also need to be passionate and have the perseverance to see it through.

YOU’VE BEEN AN NUSS MEMBER SINCE 1999. WHAT IS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE?
I once took up a business Mandarin course to improve my communication skills. Through this course, I had the opportunity to connect with fellow members who were also looking to hone their Mandarin speaking skills. It was nice to have so many like-minded people in the same room!

WHAT DO YOU HOPE TO SEE NUSS ACHIEVE IN THE FUTURE?
I would like to see NUSS become ‘the place’ for meaningful engagements between members and their alma mater.

“Awards & Credentials
• International Precision Medicine Conference Prize, 2017
• ASEAN Outstanding Engineering Achievement Award, 2016
• IES Prestigious Engineering Achievement Award, 2016
• Asian Scientist 100, 2016
• Elected Fellow, American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering, 2016 – Present
• Credit Suisse Technopreneur of the Year Award, 2012
• President’s Technology Award, 2011
REFLECTING ON THE PAST, LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

TAN CHORH CHUAN
Appointed President of NUS in 2008

Professor of Medicine, NUS

Chairman, Board of the National University Health System

Deputy Chairman, Singapore’s Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR)

Member, Board of Directors, Monetary Authority of Singapore

Member, Board of Directors, Mandai Park Holdings

His passion
Professor Tan enjoys Chinese landscape painting – some of his paintings can be found at the Kent Ridge Guild House. He also indulges in trekking, birdwatching and scuba-diving during his free time.

A t the end of this year, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan will step down as NUS President. He shares his experiences at and hopes for NUS and the Society.

CAN YOU SHARE A RECENT MEMORABLE EXPERIENCE AT NUS?
It was participating in the NUS Day of Service 2017. It was heart-warming and touching to see our staff, members and students volunteering their time for activities like taking underprivileged seniors grocery shopping, distributing food packs to needy families and cleaning up Tanah Merah beach.

WHAT WERE SOME CHALLENGES YOU FACED DURING YOUR PRESIDENCY?
A university is a talent organisation. Like all talent organisations, a continual challenge is recruiting, nurturing and retaining world-class faculty and staff to create an environment that’s vibrant and forward thinking and that continues making an impact in the community and at the global level. It’s about fostering a mindset of continually doing better. Another challenge is sustaining NUS’ pace of change and seizing the right opportunities to truly excel. These are still a work in progress and require commitment and constant reinforcement from the top.

NUS HAS COME A LONG WAY IN IMPROVING ITS RANKING INTERNATIONALLY (NUS WAS RECENTLY RANKED ASIA’S TOP UNIVERSITY). WHAT MORE CAN BE DONE TO BOOST NUS’ POSITIONING?
I’m confident that NUS will continue breaking new ground and sustain its steep trajectory as a leading university globally. But of course, more can be done. With 38,000 students and more than 10,000 staff members, it’s important to continue building a mindset and culture of wanting to do better across all parts of the university. This alignment and sense of purpose is critical if we want to stand out as a university distinct from all others.

NUS AND NUSS HAVE FORGED A CLOSE RELATIONSHIP OVER THE YEARS. HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THIS PARTNERSHIP AND HOW HAS IT HELPED NUS AND NUSS ACHIEVE THEIR MUTUAL GOALS?
It’s a warm and close relationship with shared vision and goals. For instance, in 2013, NUSS spearheaded a bursary programme through the Alumni Student Advancement Committee to enable bright but financially needy students to study at NUS, thus supporting our goal to provide such students with the opportunity to realise their potential and get a good university education. I must add that it’s always fun to work with the NUSS team; it’s like working with family. We also enjoy each other’s company during social events, which reflects our multi-level relationship.

YOU’RE ALSO AN HONORARY MEMBER OF NUSS – HOW HAS YOUR EXPERIENCE BEEN SO FAR?
I’m honoured to be bestowed this prestigious membership – it places me firmly as a member of the Society. It also allows me to meet and mingle with members at different
events like Lo Hei dinners and welcome nights (for new members and committees).

WHAT DO YOU HOPE FOR NUS AND NUSS TO ACHIEVE TOGETHER IN THE NEAR FUTURE?
I would say for NUSS to continue playing a critical and valuable role in the University community as the next NUS leadership team strives to deepen our engagement with our alumni and build on what has already been achieved. NUS looks forward to continuing our close relationship with NUSS.

CONGRATULATIONS!
NUSS congratulates Prof Tan on his new appointment as Singapore’s first Chief Health Scientist and Executive Director of the new Office for Healthcare Transformation at the Ministry of Health.

Key achievements
• Professor Tan played a key role in setting up the Duke-NUS Medical School and Yale-NUS College.
• He was also the first Chief Executive of the National University Health System, and brought the NUS Medical and Dental Schools and the National University Hospital under single governance.
NUSS REMEMBERS
DR MAURICE BAKER

The Society was deeply saddened by the passing of our well-loved and respected NUSS past president and honorary member, Dr Maurice Baker, on 11 July, 2017.

Dr Baker, who was 97 when he passed away, led a remarkable career as an esteemed diplomat with excellent college connections. Besides his dedication to serve the nation, he had a soft spot for the Society. He strongly believed in establishing a robust graduate community since graduates “being the elite and best educated people... could have a positive influence in Singapore”.

Driven by this belief, Dr Baker – and two other former Society Presidents, Paul Abisheganaden and Professor Kiang Ai Kim – worked with determination to secure a permanent ground for graduates to get together and network. In 1960, after the Society had been homeless for years, the trio successfully requested from Mr B R Sreenivasan, then Principal of the Singapore Division of the University of Malaya, to use the ground floor of 7 Cluny Road as the Society’s first home.

The Society subsequently went on to build its presence with the acquisition of its first Guild House at 5 Dalvey Estate. However, in 1971, the Society was asked to
vacate the premises and thereafter moved to a small, dilapidated house in Evans Road.

Afraid that the Society might be asked to move again, Dr Baker’s support was again sought. His strong negotiation skills – coupled with his firm belief in the Society’s role and ability to bring graduates together – convinced Dr Toh Chin Chye (then University of Singapore’s Vice-Chancellor) of the need for the Society to remain on campus.

Subsequently, Dr Baker stepped up to the role of Society President. Under his leadership, the Society turned its fortunes around and recorded a healthy credit balance. It also cemented its relationship with the University through collaborations and contributions such as a $3,000 donation to purchase a gold medal for the top English Honours student each year.

The Society is extremely grateful to Dr Baker for his contributions and support. His presence will be fondly missed by both members and staff.

“We will cherish fond memories of Dr Baker as a warm-hearted friend and an avid supporter of the Society. As a former President of NUSS, Dr Baker was instrumental in cementing the relationship between the Society and the University in the 1970s and he remained passionate about building a robust graduate community even after he stepped down... We will miss his sound advice and guidance,” said Mr Eddie Lee, President of NUSS.
19 OCT
Building Leadership Capacity in Non-Profit Organisations
Are you an expert in accountancy, marketing, fundraising or strategic planning? Do you also enjoy volunteering? Join this talk by the Centre for Non-Profit Leadership and Company of Good to learn more about their programmes.

20 & 21 OCT
DramaWorks Snapshots: A Tale of Four Stories
Watch NUSS Dramaworks members showcase their dramatic talents through their annual production, ‘Snapshots’! Be inspired as they perform one-act plays to share what makes life worth living. Catch ‘Snapshots: A Tale of Four Stories’ at the Drama Centre.
22 OCT
Annual Choir Concert: Love, Hope & Joy
Let NUSS Choir take you on an enthralling musical journey around the world through a series of songs presented in English, Chinese, Japanese and Latin! Join us as we celebrate love, hope and joy through our passion for singing!

22 OCT
DanceSport Day
Join NUSS DanceSport for a fun-filled day of fellowship and swaying on the dance floor.
**3 & 4 NOV**

**32nd NUSS-PAUM Games**
Battle it out in sports such as badminton, bowling, golf, table tennis, tennis, squash and soccer at the NUSS-Persatuan Alumni Universiti Malaya (PAUM) Games this year, hosted by NUSS!

**4 NOV**

**Singathon 2017**
Get ready for enchanting performances by choristers from primary and secondary schools as part of the NUSS Choir’s outreach programme. The event aims to nurture talents and expose choristers to the professional scene. Come and show them your support!

**8-12 NOV**

**Overseas Golf Trip to Chengdu**
Join NUSS Golf Section for a 5D4N golf trip to Chengdu, China. Enjoy refreshing golf games and sightseeing activities with your family and friends!
**18 NOV**

**Kids Combat Archery**
Get your kids moving and their adrenaline pumping in this fast-paced game, which combines elements of paintball, dodgeball and archery.

**25 NOV**

**Happy Bath Frizzies Workshop**
Spend quality family time together at this bath bomb-making workshop, designed for families with children. Learn to create safe, aromatic and colourful bath bombs that will make bath time a more enjoyable experience for your little ones.

**1 NOV–15 DEC**

**Comcare: Adopt-a-Wish 2017**
Spread some love and kindness with this meaningful initiative, which seeks to fulfil the wishes of the underprivileged. Bring joy to them by adopting a wish and contributing gifts, such as clothing and accessories.
2 DEC
Christmas Light-up 2017
Join us at one of our most anticipated events of the year, the NUSS Christmas Light-up, for a night of fun activities and Christmas carols. Don’t miss the chance to take photos with our very own Santa Claus!

9 DEC
Comcare: Children Christmas Bash 2017
Bring smiles to the faces of underprivileged children this Christmas. Join us as a volunteer at this heartwarming event organised by our Community Care Sub-Committee.

8 DEC
NUSS Golf AGM Tournament
A key highlight event in NUSS Golf Section’s calendar, this golf tournament at Keppel Country Club promises great camaraderie and a sumptuous dinner at KRGH!
9 DEC
DanceSport: Christmas D&D
Join our enthusiastic DanceSport members for a joyous night of dancing, good food and great company at this annual Christmas celebration.

31 DEC
NYE Countdown Party 2017
Party all night in Casino Royale style as we say goodbye to a fruitful 2017 and welcome the new year with fun, songs and dance!

12 DEC
ALL-Together Christmas Party
Come and join the ALL Sub-Committee for a sumptuous buffet, sing-along session and performances at their annual Christmas celebrations, specially for seniors!
TEAM TENNIS 2017  
17-18 JUNE 2017, TENNIS COURTS, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Friendly battle
Players of different skill levels duked it out at this annual event organised by the NUSS Tennis Section. The friendly competition saw section members battle for court supremacy in the Men’s Doubles, Ladies’ Doubles and Mixed Doubles categories. Despite several closely contested matches, participants – who were split into four teams and played a round-robin tournament on both days – put on a great show of sportsmanship while having fun socialising, exchanging skills and networking.

OVERSEAS GOLF TRIP TO PERTH  
22-26 JUNE 2017, THE LINKS KENNEDY BAY, ARALUEN GOLF RESORT & THE CUT GOLF COURSE

Golfing down south
A golf trip to Perth brought together 34 NUSS Golf Section members for an exciting adventure. The trip kicked off at the challenging Links Kennedy Bay golf course, where one member warned, “Don’t be fooled by its flat appearance!” Participants were also treated to beautiful sights at Araluen Golf Resort, where they enjoyed a game on the friendly fairways, before trooping off to a sumptuous lunch of baked salmon and chips. The final day was played at The Cut Golf Course, where views of the ocean provided an experience to remember. Members also took the opportunity to enjoy free bus rides around Perth, before heading home with renewed vigour and stronger friendships.
High spirits despite rain
Even the rain could not keep 142 Golf Section members, sponsors and guests away as they gathered for the 31st NUSS Golf Annual at Sentosa Golf Club. The event was eventually cancelled but the crowd remained enthusiastic as they adjourned to Kent Ridge Guild House to network over cocktails, a delicious feast and performances by K-Spin, which is made up of NUSS members. At the end of the night, 45 golfers walked away with lucky draw prizes. The grand winner, Carl Chan, won two Emirates airline tickets to either Dubai or Melbourne.
**Bonding and giving**
Emeritus Senior Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong and 140 golf enthusiasts celebrated the country’s 52nd birthday with NUSS at the National Day Golf Tournament.

The tournament was subsequently called off due to the weather, but that did not stop members from bonding over a lavish buffet lunch at Jumbo Restaurant and dinner at Suntec City Guild House. In between all the fun, members joined The Silverstones – the resident band of NUSS Music Section – to sing the national anthem, “Majulah Singapura” and National Day songs like “Home” and “Stand up for Singapore”.

Attendees also did their part for the underprivileged community by pledging over $20,000 for the TODAY Enable Fund, which supports people with disabilities.
Snooker tips

“Don’t take too long on your shot” and “stay focused even when you miss” – these were some of the tips shared by Singapore’s Open Champion Snooker player, Mr Alex Puan, during the three-hour session with members. Members listened and watched avidly as Mr Puan, a two-time champion and experienced snooker player, revealed his secrets to excellent billiard techniques with hands-on demonstrations.

SNOOKER INTRODUCTORY CLINIC
26 AUGUST 2017, SNOOKER ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

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Forging stronger inter-alumni ties

Tennis teams from the Alumni of Taiwan Universities & Colleges (ATUC), the Association of Nanyang University Graduates, NUSS, the Australian Alumni Singapore (AAS) and the Canadian Alumni Singapore (CAS) gathered at Kent Ridge Guild House to build inter-club relations through a series of exciting matches and a delicious lunch. CAS was crowned this year’s champion, with ATUC and NUSS coming in second and third respectively.

SENIOERS AND FRIENDS GOLF OUTING
14-15 SEPTEMBER 2017, THE ELS CLUB DESARU COAST & HORIZON HILLS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

Tee time
Fifty-seven golfers, including 20 seniors, came together to pit their skills against one another during a two-day trip to Desaru, Johor. Golfers were treated to great games and a splendid view of the coastline at The Els Club Desaru Coast on day one. On the second day, they maintained high spirits and enjoyed great fellowship over games at Horizon Hills Golf and Country Club. All in all, it was a short but memorable trip.
Appreciating mentorship
Mentors and mentees who took part in the NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme AY2016/2017 were treated to an appreciation dinner organised by NUSS and NUS Office of Student Affairs.

The evening was graced by Mr Eugene Tan, Chairperson of the Alumni Development & University Relations (ADUR) Sub-Committee, and Associate Professor Vivian Ng, Vice-Dean of Students, NUS Office of Student Affairs. “It’s nice to see many mentors who repeatedly volunteer their time for this programme,” said A/Prof Ng.

Mentee Ms Emmalene Ng praised the programme, saying: “My mentor gives me a different perspective on various life issues, which I may otherwise not be aware of. I also get to talk to adults who are not my parents or teachers.”

All 45 mentors and mentees, as well as members of the Management Committee and ADUR Sub-Committee, enjoyed interesting conversations over a delicious meal and an acoustic performance by NUS Amplified.
Getting down to business

More than 30 members and guests made new business contacts in Cambodia during this fully-booked trip to Phnom Penh. They met and networked with their counterparts from Maybank Cambodia, The Council for the Development Cambodia, Singapore Club of Cambodia, and various other agencies.

“We managed to get an audience with various groups in both the public and private spheres thanks to the strength of the NUSS platform,” said Lauren Ooi, a participant.

Participants also attended a talk by His Excellency Michael Tan – Singapore Ambassador to Cambodia – who spoke about business opportunities in the emerging market, and the long-standing economic relations and friendship between the two countries.

These first-hand engagements offered deep insights into Cambodia’s growth potential. “I went with zero expectations and came back with a wealth of appreciation about Cambodia,” said Ms Ooi.
Rugs to riches
The Community Care (ComCare) Sub-Committee and members raised close to $38,000 at this charity carpet auction, which was opened by ComCare Sub-Committee Chairperson, Mr Archie Ong.

The generous bidders included NUSS President, Mr Eddie Lee, and members Mr Chua Joo Bin, Dr James Boss, Mr Chua Hung Meng, Dr Kevin Chua and Mr Andrew Leo, who donated their carpet to NUSS.

The carpet has been placed in the seating area of the NUSS Gallery at Kent Ridge Guild House. The proceeds raised will subsequently be used to fund ComCare Sub-Committee’s various projects for the underprivileged, demonstrating and cementing the major role that NUSS plays in giving back to the community.

NUS Day of Service – Grocery Shopping with the Elderly
9 September 2017, Giant Hypermarket, Suntec City

Aisles of smiles
Volunteers from NUS and NUSS played their part in supporting the underprivileged community by taking 40 low-income families from Yong En Care Centre on a fun grocery shopping trip. Each senior received a $60 voucher to purchase groceries with the help of the volunteers. It was a morning filled with smiles, conversation and laughter, as both volunteers and seniors left with bags full of groceries. The event was jointly organised by the NUS Alumni Advisory Board and NUSS Community Care Sub-Committee.
New beginnings
The Society warmly welcomed freshly inducted members of the 2017/2018 Sub-Committee with a dinner hosted by the Management Committee and senior secretariat staff. Members enjoyed catching up with one another and making friends. NUSS President, Mr Eddie Lee, also took the opportunity to share the various Sub-Committees’ key initiatives from the past year while Mr Johnny Tan, a Management Committee Member, discussed strategic plans for the Society.
Congratulations

NUSS Member | Award
---|---
Chay Wai Chuen | The Public Service Star
Ho Thiam Teng | The Public Service Star
Tan Thiam Soon | The Public Administration Medal (Gold)
Fong Chun Wah | The Public Administration Medal (Silver) (Bar)
Kwan Liam | The Public Administration Medal (Silver)
Tan Teck Hock | The Public Administration Medal (Silver)
Thien Kwee Eng | The Public Administration Medal (Silver)
Fan Yuen Fun | The Public Administration Medal (Bronze)
Ng Chin Chin | The Public Administration Medal (Bronze)
Ang Kok Cheng | The Commendation Medal
Chee Yu Yih | The Commendation Medal
Tan Annie | The Commendation Medal
Tan Kek Ann | The Commendation Medal
Tan Lee Lian | The Commendation Medal
Tay Theng Hwee | The Commendation Medal
Toh Teck Wang | The Commendation Medal
Wei Suat Nee | The Commendation Medal
Ng Chee Kin | The Commendation Medal (Military)
Chan Kok Kong | The Public Service Medal
Goh Sor Imn | The Public Service Medal
Neo Keng Hoe | The Public Service Medal
Tung Siew Hoong | The Public Service Medal
Choo Hon Choong | The Efficiency Medal (Military)
Ang Johnny | The Long Service Medal
Chang Chiew-Chiea | The Long Service Medal
Chew Ling | The Long Service Medal
Chin Jing Jih | The Long Service Medal
Chong Suet Ling | The Long Service Medal
Hong Lai Fun | The Long Service Medal
Khoo Hwee Huang | The Long Service Medal
Kwek Tong Kiat | The Long Service Medal
Lee Lai Chan | The Long Service Medal
Lim Keng Jin | The Long Service Medal
Ng Kwek Wee | The Long Service Medal
Ng Lee Peng | The Long Service Medal
Tan Ai Ling | The Long Service Medal
Tan Annie | The Long Service Medal
Tan Boon Hock | The Long Service Medal
Tan Kay Chuan | The Long Service Medal
Tan Lay Hoon | The Long Service Medal
Wong Lee Yuen | The Long Service Medal
Chng Kim Chuan | The Long Service Medal (Military)
Ong Chun Teck | The Long Service Medal (Military)
OCEAN TO PLATE: COLDWATER SEAFOOD PAIRING DINNER
28 JUNE 2017, THE BISTRO, SUNTEC CITY GUILD HOUSE

Thirty NUSS members were treated to a sumptuous five-course seafood dinner prepared by Chef Markus Dybwad, a culinary consultant from Norwegian seafood company, Snorre Food, and chefs from the Suntec City Guild House. Each dish was paired with a different sparkling wine or champagne, giving members an indulgent and memorable experience.

THE GLENLIVET WHISKY TASTING EVENING
26 JULY 2017, FUNCTION ROOMS, SUNTEC CITY GUILD HOUSE

Are Scottish whiskies truly the king of drinks? That was what 50 members and guests were curious to find out at The Glenlivet Whisky Tasting Evening. Attendees savoured five different top-notch labels – all available at the Kent Ridge and Suntec City Guild Houses – and a variety of canapés, with beef wellington being a favourite. Rajan Menon, Pernod Ricard Singapore brand ambassador, also shared the tasting notes and profiles of each label, and the best way to drink them.
READING, UNDERSTANDING AND ANALYSING FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR SENIORS
3-7 JULY 2017, ACTIVITY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Twenty-two seniors learnt to make sense of financial statements in this workshop*. Mr Chua Joon Eng – formerly the Chairman of NUS’ Executive Development Programme and Vice-Dean of NUS’ Faculty of Business Administration – facilitated the course, which aimed to help participants make better financial decisions.

APPRECIATING AND WRITING SHORT STORIES
11 JULY–3 AUGUST 2017, ACTIVITY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Thirteen members learnt to craft stories in this course* facilitated by Mr Chua Joon Eng, formerly the Chairman of NUS’ Executive Development Programme and Vice-Dean of NUS’ Faculty of Business Administration. Members were taught crucial aspects of a story, such as creating the plot and characters, as well as different narrative techniques.

JOURNEY IN INK
8 JULY–26 AUGUST 2017, CLUNY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Members and guests learnt techniques of Chinese ink painting and calligraphy, such as dilution and composition, in this course* conducted by Ms Chi Pin Lay – an Associate Lecturer at Republic Polytechnic who has sold more than 100 paintings. The course included small-group discussions and combined theory and practice to keep participants engaged.

PGA VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT TALK: TOUCHING LIVES AND HONOURING OUR SENIORS
15 JUNE 2017, EVANS ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

More than 25 members attended this talk held to encourage members to volunteer as Pioneer Generation Ambassadors (PGAs). Members discovered the meaningful role that PGAs play, which includes reaching out to pioneers to explain the benefits of the Pioneer Generation Package and other support schemes.

*HELD IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL SILVER ACADEMY
HANYU PINYIN WORKSHOP
7 AUGUST–11 SEPTEMBER 2017, ACTIVITY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

More than 20 seniors picked up Hanyu Pinyin essentials like the correct vowel and consonant sounds, and four main tones of Mandarin in this workshop* organised by the Active-Ageing & Lifelong Learning Sub-Committee. The month-long course was conducted by Ms Ng Lee Eng, a certified Hanyu Pinyin teacher.

MONTESSORI APPROACH FOR PERSONS WITH DEMENTIA
19 SEPTEMBER–10 OCTOBER 2017, CLUNY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

How can we beat dementia? Conducted by Dr Fong Chiu Yan and Joseph Cheah – qualified trainers from the Montessori for Dementia Care – the course* helped seniors better understand the disease and its challenges, and covered the principles of Montessori-based dementia programming.

*HELD IN COLLABORATION WITH THE NATIONAL SILVER ACADEMY

INDUCTION TO MINI GUILDS

Are you someone who is naturally enthusiastic and loves meeting people? If you are...

We want YOU!

Join us as a Guild Leader to our new members and help them connect to NUSS!

For more information, please contact Azira at azira@nuss.org.sg.
**DIGITAL MARKETING DONE RIGHT**  
8 JULY 2017, ACTIVITY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Mr KC Tan – a Google Web Analytics Professional with experience in search engine optimisation and website conversions – taught members and guests how to increase traffic to their websites and create profitable email marketing campaigns. Other topics covered during the session included how to recover from a Google ban and preparing a website for traffic.

**HEARING LOSS: ITS CAUSES AND MANAGEMENT**  
25 JULY 2017, BELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

This session gave participants a better understanding of hearing loss. Senior Consultant Dr Loh Woei Shyang and Senior Audiologist Mr Perumal Balakuthalingam from National University Hospital’s Department of Otolaryngology stressed the importance of managing the condition instead of ignoring it.

**PYTHON FOR BUSY EXECUTIVES**  
1 JULY 2017, ACTIVITY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

How can programming be used to solve real-world problems, increase productivity and build fun projects? These were some topics that members learnt at this four-hour workshop conducted by Mr Eric Hong, an engineer and founder of integratedots.com, a consulting and training company. The course covered programming concepts such as data structures, loops and writing codes.
Members from the Alumni Development and University Relations (ADUR) Sub-Committee and Distinguished Universities Alumni League (DUAL) had a very different networking experience at this unique and structured session – which was guided by Shazaf Moonis, Founder and CEO of Linkked, a company that focuses on facilitating, connecting and building relationships in the professional sphere.

Members thoroughly enjoyed the session with Ms Moonis and the opportunities to mingle with one another. Sandra Kwok, a NUSS member, said, “It was more interactive than the usual networking events I attend and the speaker was good!”

What better way to stay in touch with your university friends than to join the alumni family? This year, NUSS was at both the gown collection and commencement ceremony to reach out to the graduating class of 2017. If you are part of this class, drop us an email at marketing@nuss.org.sg to find out how you can win a $300 ZALORA e-gift card and a 2D1N staycation at M Social Singapore (worth $250)!
CREATE YOUR OWN ESSENTIAL OIL BLENDS
5 AUGUST 2017, ACTIVITY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Essential oils can help relieve stress and improve well-being. In this workshop led by Ms Ruby Tan, a UK-certified aromatherapist and aroma artisan, members were taught to create their own blends of natural, safe and effective oils for emotional well-being. They also learnt the science behind blending and mixing oils, and how to identify the different aromas.

ART EXHIBITION & DIALOGUE WITH AWARD-WINNING ARTIST YOKO CHOI
28 JULY 2017, THE CHILL-LAB, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

For about eight weeks, the NUSS Gallery was transformed into a meditative space, featuring artworks by Yoko Choi, an award-winning artist known for her use of repetitive strokes. On 28 July, members also enjoyed a dialogue with Ms Choi, where she shared how mark-making techniques can enhance mindfulness.

DANCESPORT 5TH LINE DANCE JAM 2017
8 JULY 2017, DELLA & SENG GEE GUILD HALL, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

DanceSport held its fifth Line Dance Jam this year, with an afternoon of joyful music and dance. Members came dressed to the theme of ‘Blue Horizon: Where the Sea Meets the Sky’ and enjoyed mingling with fellow dance enthusiasts.
SRI LANKA TOUR
25 AUGUST–1 SEPTEMBER 2017

Members and guests experienced Sri Lanka’s rich cultural and architectural heritage, and savoured authentic Sinhalese cuisine while on a short tour to the island recently. The trip’s highlights included marvelling at ancient temples and museums, and visiting villages to get a feel of the local culture. Participants also journeyed through lush forests and watched dolphins in their natural habitat during this unforgettable trip, led by tour agency, Chan Brothers Travel. “My husband and I enjoyed the trip and made new friends,” said Ms Helen Yong, a NUSS member. “I especially enjoyed the safari and whale-chasing boat trip. The Sigiriya climb was a good experience too!”

Look out for our upcoming tours to more interesting places like Bhutan and Mongolia!

HUMOUROUS AND EVALUATION SPEECH CONTESTS 2017
24 AUGUST 2017, CLUNY, DALVEY & EVANS ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Organised by the NUSS Toastmasters Club, both contests returned this year and saw participants vying for the top spot with witty, clever and entertaining speeches. Look out for the International Speech and Table Topics Contest in February 2018 and join our toastmasters on their journey to becoming better speakers and leaders.
As a NUSS member, you can enjoy premium privileges from a variety of recreational activities, intellectual and networking events, as well as gastronomical delights!

For more information and enquiries, visit www.nuss.org.sg, call 6586 3704 or email marketing@nuss.org.sg!
PREPARING FOR THE NEXT 50 YEARS

Singapore is ready to face up to new challenges as it celebrates its 52nd birthday. By Suresh Nair.
Singapore celebrates its 52nd birthday this year. While the nation has much to rejoice for its exceptional progress over the years, the changing global climate has placed several challenges in its way. These include a rapidly ageing population and soaring healthcare costs, competition from other countries, and the rising threat of terrorism.

In his National Day Rally speech on August 20, Prime Minister Mr Lee Hsien Loong zoomed in on three specific issues that the nation needs to address – the quality of pre-school education, rising incidence of diabetes, and Singapore’s Smart Nation initiative.

“These are the things we must do now, work on now, to build our future so that Singaporeans can start right, stay healthy and live smart at every age,” PM Lee said in his opening remarks at the Institute of Technical Education College Central.

Health and the elderly
On the healthcare front, PM Lee declared a war on diabetes, which is especially rampant among the elderly here. In fact, three in 10 Singaporeans aged over 60 have diabetes.

In his speech, PM Lee was candid about what he called a serious problem and proposed four ways to fight it: regular medical check-ups, more exercise, a strict diet, and cutting down on soft drinks with high sugar content.

Nursing officer Judith Lee felt that bringing up diabetes as a key national issue was “like hitting the nail on the head”. Ms Lee added: “Most people, even when diagnosed, don’t pay attention to diabetes until they begin to experience complications that can lead to serious consequences such as the loss of a limb.”

Working smart
Beyond addressing healthcare issues, Singapore faces intense global competition and will increasingly need to maintain its competitive edge through various initiatives. Singapore is working towards becoming a Smart Nation that leverages technology to create new business opportunities and boost productivity.

PM Lee said: “The world is changing. Unless we change with it, we will fall behind. Singapore must always stay with the leaders to attract talent and business, to live up to our own expectations of what we ought to be and can be.”

Education will play a key part in ensuring that Singapore has the talent and skills to realise its Smart Nation vision.

Part of this will involve ensuring quality pre-school education to help level the playing field for all Singaporeans – a major focus of PM Lee’s speech.

To achieve this, the Government has increased its annual spending on pre-schools by more than double in the last five years – from $360 million in 2012 to $840 million this year. This will be further raised to $1.7 billion by 2022.

Former Senior Parliamentary Secretary (Education), Mr Maidin Packer, who is also Chairman of the Creative Malay Arts & Culture, gave the thumbs-up to improving the quality of early education in Singapore.

However, Mr Packer warned against kiasu behaviour. “It’s true that a weak education in our kids’ formative years can have long-term implications on their future but we should not overload them with too many things as it could backfire,” he said. “What’s important is that we nurture in our kids a love for reading, learning and exploring; to imbibe in them learning skills and inquisitiveness; and to make it their habit and culture. That should be our main concern.”

Keeping vigilant
On the national security front, Singapore faces rising terrorism threats from groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), which has listed Singapore
“What’s important is that we nurture in our kids a love for reading, learning and exploring; to imbibe in them learning skills and inquisitiveness; and to make it their habit and culture.”

Mr Maidin Packer, Former Senior Parliamentary Secretary (Education)

as one of the member countries in the anti-ISIS coalition.

In August 2016, individuals were arrested in Batam for plotting a rocket attack on Marina Bay. To counter this threat, the Government launched the SGSecure mobile app in 2016.

The app enables the police and the Singapore Civil Defence Force to send alerts to the public during emergencies. It also allows the public to report suspicious activities.

According to the SGSecure website, the initiative “is a national movement to sensitise, train and mobilise the community to play a part to prevent and deal with a terrorist attack.”

In PM Lee’s speech, it was clear that the Government is very serious about public safety and security. An example of this is the plan to form an integrated national sensor network by turning every lamp post into a smart lamp post. This means that lamp posts will be able to gather and transmit information from cameras and sensors islandwide. They can even be used to predict situations like rowdy crowds.

The Government is also working on using artificial intelligence to analyse data from various sources – such as the police and Land Transport Authority – to detect anomalies and pre-empt situations such as unruly crowds, in an effort to further boost public security.

PM Lee cited an example of when this can be useful: “If we have an incident like the Boston bombings, our Home Team can assess the situation quickly and respond promptly, or even pre-empt it from happening.”

The road ahead
Moving forward, lawyer Jayagopi Jayaram said that Singaporeans should focus on tackling important challenges like public health, Singapore’s ageing population and national security, instead of matters beyond our control like the state of the world economy.

“These issues are directly relevant to Singaporeans, especially the future generation, who will not only be driving the nation’s economic needs but also facing the challenges that come with an ageing population,” said Mr Jayaram, who is also a grassroots leader at Nee Soon East.

He also believed that PM Lee’s three-fold message is timely. “It reminds Singaporeans to make use of the available opportunities to achieve social mobility; to play a big part in taking care of their health; and to embrace technology for security. All in all, a clear message and loud call to action,” Mr Jayaram said.
KEY INITIATIVES
FROM THE NATIONAL DAY
RALLY 2017

**Education**
Additional 30% or 40,000 more pre-school places in the next five years

Early Years Centres for children aged two months to four years

50 MOE-run kindergartens in the next five years

A new National Institute of Early Childhood Development to train and raise the standards of pre-school teachers

**Health**
$5 health check-ups for Singaporeans aged 40 and above

**Smart Nation**
More CCTV cameras in public places, and combining different sources of data, such as social media videos, mobile phones and LTA cameras, to boost public safety and security

Smart lamp posts with sensors that can gather and transmit data from cameras and sensors islandwide, to detect anomalies and predict situations like unruly crowds

A new mobile app, Parking.sg, to replace physical parking coupons

“PM Lee’s three-fold message is timely. It reminds Singaporeans to make use of the available opportunities to achieve social mobility; to play a big part in taking care of their health; and to embrace technology for security.”

Mr Jayagopi Jayaram, Grassroots Leader, Nee Soon East
ALL ROADS LEAD TO CHINA

China’s Belt and Road Initiative offers Singapore a chance to unlock the opportunities of this vast region. By Sakinah Manaff-Green.
In May, China unveiled a bold and ambitious plan that is poised to go down in history as the largest organised cross-national development programme to improve global trade and economic integration.

Known as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), it seeks to revitalise an ancient trade route between China and Europe, unlocking the enormous potential in these largely untapped areas of Central Asia.

The BRI strategy uses free-trade agreements and infrastructure projects – including roads, power plants, seaports and railways – to develop a modern Silk Road spanning some 65 countries, representing 60 per cent of the world’s population and around a third of global gross domestic product (GDP). It encompasses an economic land “belt” through Eurasia, and a maritime “road” to connect coastal Chinese cities to Africa and the Mediterranean.

“Today, dozens of countries in Eurasia feel that infrastructure is the most important public good – and China is the leading provider of it,” wrote Mr Parag Khanna, a Senior Fellow at the NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, in a recent opinion piece published on the China Daily website.

As it stands, more than US$1 trillion has been pledged, mostly by China. In 2015, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) was established with US$100 billion in initial capital, while last December the Chinese government set up the US$40 billion Silk Road Fund for BRI projects.

Maximising strengths
As a key node in Southeast Asia, Singapore has a number of intrinsic strengths that it can utilise to enhance its value proposition for BRI projects.

“The city-state is a global financial hub, with as much as 60 per cent of ASEAN projects financed by Singapore-based banks. Its robust corporate governance, transparency and legal framework, and reputation as an honest and reliable broker can go far in making BRI investments and projects more palatable.

Singapore is also a global transportation hub with a deep ecosystem of logistics, project
development and service firms. It has a mature sustainable mindset, the technologies to design and optimise production and consumption chains, as well as the ability to create a green supply chain system. This can help BRI nations address their resource and environmental problems, reduce environmental costs, and find the best balance between utilising resources and protecting the environment.

The Republic is in no short supply of world-class local companies that can partner with Chinese companies. Singapore businesses have the added advantage over other firms because of the country’s long working experience with China, which can prove useful in driving joint collaboration around the region.

“The Singapore brand is widely recognised and trusted internationally, so we should take a positive approach towards BRI,” said Mr Tan Chee Yong, Director, DP Architects (China).

**Mining opportunities**

On the face of it, the industries that stand to benefit most are infrastructure, power, transportation and water. Then there are the sectors that offer critical behind-the-scenes skills and know-how that determine the success of a project.

According to Professor Tan Kong Yam, Co-Director, Asia Competitiveness Institute, NUS Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, “you should not be mistaken that if a railway is built in Indonesia, Singapore has no role to play.” He recently told delegates at the 12th China-Singapore Forum that “Singapore may not be building the railway, but the master planning, the financing, everything is done in Singapore.”

Singapore firms with an existing footprint in BRI countries are well-placed to capitalise on opportunities. DP Architects, for instance, has stayed a step ahead of the competition with One Global Studio – its international network of offices.

“One Global Studio harnesses DP Architects’ local market knowledge, extensive understanding of the local culture and expectations, and competitive pool of global talents across our 17 international offices and eight specialist services. This has allowed us to deliver rich, holistic and seamlessly integrated design solutions,” said Mr Tan.

Surbana Jurong, which has been instrumental in the development of Singapore’s townships and industrial estates in the last 50 years, is banking on its capabilities in niche areas such as urban and industrial planning, and ports and coastal engineering.

“These are areas that Singapore is renowned for. This is our competitive advantage which not many companies can boast of,” said Mr Wong Heang Fine, Group CEO, Surbana Jurong.
**Relationship with China**

The success of Singapore companies in BRI projects is underpinned by the Republic’s stable relationship with China, which dates back to the 1970s. There is a lot at stake – China is Singapore’s largest trading partner, contributing to more than 20 per cent of its GDP; Singapore is also China’s largest foreign investor.

More than 6,500 Chinese companies have set up shop in the city-state, reflecting their interest to go global through Singapore or via joint partnerships with Singapore companies.

At the same time, China remains the top expansion destination for Singapore companies. In this case, the development of government-to-government (G2G) projects like those in Chongqing and more recently, Guangxi, is pivotal in helping Singapore businesses gain access to the Chinese market.

“The Singapore brand is widely recognised and trusted internationally, so we should take a positive approach towards the Belt and Road Initiative.”

Mr Tan Chee Yong, Director, DP Architects (China)

Singapore is already benefiting from the opportunities offered by BRI, with China’s investments in Singapore alone making up about a third of its total investments in BRI countries, revealed Singapore’s Home Affairs and Law Minister K Shanmugam at the Asia Economic Forum at NUS in August.

Singapore’s investments in China accounted for 85 per cent of total inbound investments from BRI countries. As the BRI continues to grow, Singapore should continue to embrace incoming opportunities.

“BRI is a good platform for Singapore to conduct its economic diplomacy with China as it represents the Chinese leadership’s most important economic legacy, and an opportunity for the Republic to benefit economically from meaningful projects that can enhance regional connectivity,” Mr Tan concluded.
Mrs Innira Nair, 64, recalls the 1970s when she used typewriters and telex machines to do her job.

Today, she uses her iPhone and iPad for everything, from communicating with friends to making flight bookings and watching movies.

She particularly loves FaceTime, Viber and WhatsApp. “Previously, I spent quite a bit on calls to stay in touch with family and friends overseas. Now it’s much cheaper and easier with these apps.”

The lifestyle consultant is an example of a senior citizen who has embraced technology and all it has to offer. However, she admits that it is no easy feat.

“At first, even I had reservations about technology. I wasn’t sure if I could grasp all the things I needed to know,” Mrs Nair explained. “Eventually, through patience and practice, I got the hang of it.”
STAYING RELEVANT
At 58, Mr Dave Goh is nowhere close to retiring. The business consultant advises local golf course operators on how they can boost their services for members.

For instance, he suggested that golf courses offer their members ‘digital caddies’ in the form of iPads, which are installed with a customised software that uses GPS technology. “It gives golfers real-time information on the course, such as the distance of a ball from the hole played,” Mr Goh explained.

With a keen mind for technology, Mr Goh is confident he will be able to contribute to the workforce well into his 70s.

He also believes that technology offers a way for the older generation to stay relevant.

“Most of my friends are dreading retirement,” he said. “I tell them this: ‘If we want to remain in the workforce, we need to learn to speak the digital language.’”

STRONG SUPPORT
The good news is many seniors are stepping up to the challenges of the digital world. A 2014 survey by the Infocomm Media Development Authority (IMDA) found a 14% increase in computer use among seniors aged 50 to 59 and a 11% increase among those aged 60 and above. The survey also revealed that more than three quarters of those aged 50 to 59 and one-third of people aged 60 and above used a smartphone to access the Internet – which indicated that some of Singapore’s older generation was already plugged in. But what about the rest?

In 2007, IMDA launched the Silver Infocomm Initiative (SII) to help promote IT awareness and literacy among the elderly. So far, the SII has helped 150,000 seniors islandwide learn technology through classes, workshops, boot camps and learning hubs.

Then there is IMDA’s Silver IT Fest – a series of roadshows, seminars and IT classes aimed at teaching seniors how to use a computer and social media, check health information and book trips online.

At a recent Silver IT Fest roadshow at Toa Payoh HDB Hub Atrium, held from 22 to 24 September, many seniors were keen to attend the free Tutorials@ Learning Island to learn about lifestyle, entertainment and transport apps, such as Toggle, Facebook and Uber.

The People’s Association (PA) also has a Seniors for Smart Nation programme, which offers 25 classes across more than 30 community centres. The courses are categorised into four themes: I-Connect, I-Lifestyle, I-Inno and I-Office. Through these courses, seniors can learn to use social media and even set up their own online businesses – something that Mr Goh believes is useful for those who want to semi-retire. “You get to run an online business from home and earn some income,” he said. “E-commerce is also a big thing in the digital economy, so it’s one way to survive in the future of work.”

Those thinking about starting an online business after retirement can sign up for a range of tech workshops at the National University of Singapore Society (NUSS). For instance, seniors can pick up digital skills through courses like Automating Reports and Dashboards, which is offered at the Club.

TAKING THE FIRST STEP
All this support can only mean one thing – Singapore is well-prepared to lead its older generation into the future. However, in order to truly make this work, seniors themselves need to be open to learning and embracing technology.

“Having initiative and the right mindset can go a long way,” Mr Goh said. “We also need to be more confident in ourselves.”

For those who are still afraid of using technology, Mrs Nair had this to say: “It may be frustrating at first but you will eventually discover how it makes life easier and stress-free.”

Ready to start? Sign up for a course today!
IMDA: IMSilver.sg
PA: pa.gov.sg
NUSS: nuss.org.sg
Visiting religious sites during festivals is the best way to discover a city’s customs. These four are great places to start, says Lisa-Ann Lee and Kristin Cheang.

DIVINE WONDERS

TIGER’S NEST MONASTERY, BHUTAN
Legend has it that Guru Rinpoche, the founder of Tibetan Buddhism, was brought to a cliffside location in Paro Valley on the back of a flying tigress. There, he spent three years meditating in a cave before introducing the country to Buddhism. Nine centuries later, in the 1600s, a temple was built around the cave where Rinpoche meditated. Today, the complex – known as Taktsang or Tiger’s Nest Monastery – is regarded as the holiest site in Bhutan. From below, the monastery appears to be clinging to the side of a cliff. From the top – some 3,000 metres above sea level – visitors will feel as if they’re walking on clouds, with spectacular views of mountains and valleys.

Best time to visit: Paro Tshechu, an annual, five-day religious dance festival held in honour of Rinpoche. It is celebrated at Rinpung Dzong – a fortress just 15km away from the monastery. Visitors can expect to see festival-goers and monks in colourful costumes and masks dancing to the sounds of trumpets, drums and folk songs. After the festival, visitors can hike up to the monastery to pray and receive blessings.

When: 27-31 March, 2018
GOLDEN TEMPLE, INDIA
Located in Punjab, the Golden Temple is the Sikhs’ most sacred place. Built in 1577, the temple is surrounded by Sarovar, a rectangular shaped lake, and its dome is gilded in 750kg of real gold. As imposing as it may look, the temple is open to people of all religions, as symbolised by its four entrances. It is also home to the world’s largest communal kitchen, which is run by volunteers and feeds up to 100,000 people a day for free.

Best time to visit: Vaisakhi, the Sikh New Year, is celebrated on the grounds of the Golden Temple and usually marked by feasting, folk music, bhangra dancing and fairs.
When: 14 April, 2018

BATU CAVES, MALAYSIA
This 400-million-year-old complex was once just a limestone hill with caves. In the late 1800s, an Indian trader – fascinated by the vel (spear)-shaped entrance of the main cave – began promoting Batu Caves as a place to worship Lord Murugan, the Hindu god of war who is often depicted carrying a vel. Today, Batu Caves is fronted by a 43-metre-tall gold-plated statue of Lord Murugan. However, getting to the Temple Cave that houses a shrine dedicated to him is not for the weak-hearted: visitors will have to climb 272 steps to reach it.

Best time to visit: Thaipusam, a festival dedicated to Lord Murugan. On this day, visitors get to see devotees dance in a state of trance as they walk towards the temple, while others carry milk pots and kavadi – a wooden pole and arch with baskets of offerings attached on each end.
When: 31 January, 2018

CHURCH OF SAINT THOMAS OF VILLANOVA, THE PHILIPPINES
A UNESCO World Heritage Site, this church is a living legacy of the centuries-old culture and deep Catholic roots of Miagao, located in the province of Iloilo – which is known for its Spanish colonial churches. It was constructed in 1786 by Spanish Augustinian missionaries and boasts Baroque-Romanesque architecture fused with Chinese, Muslim and local elements. A popular background for photos is the relief sculpture of St Christopher carrying the child Jesus carved on the church’s façade.

Best time to visit: The Salakayan Festival, the highlight of which is a street-dance drama showcasing the lore and customs of the Miagao people. It is celebrated in Miagao town, close to the church.
When: 1-6 February, 2018
USE YOUR HANDS

Find out what crafting and other hands-on activities can do for your mind, body and soul, says Patricia Bazzard.

Calligraphy
There’s something meditative about the act of creating beautiful word forms on paper, either through Chinese brush strokes or a flat-nibbed pen. As patience, focus and discipline are needed, concentration is heightened, and breathing slows down.

Woodworking
Learning something manually complex and precise like woodworking is mentally stimulating and develops hand-eye coordination – bringing your mind and body into a state of equilibrium.

Painting, sculpting and pottery making
Immersing yourself in a craft provides not only a creative but an emotional outlet. It is a sort of therapy – soothing your mind while you use your hands. It also alters your perspective, training you to notice and appreciate aesthetics, and gives you a fresh eye for details.

Cooking and baking
In a foodie culture like ours, few things can be more satisfying than serving up something delicious and saying, “I made this!” Besides its social aspects, learning to cook and bake tunes us in with all our senses, providing food for the mind and soul.

Where to start?
NUSS offers regular hands-on courses and workshops ranging from calligraphy to sculpting and bento-making. Stay updated at www.nuss.org.sg

4 MIND-BODY BENEFITS

1 AUTONOMY Enjoy the freedom of being your own boss and set your own targets. You’re answerable to no one but yourself as to how well you do at a craft or activity.

2 A SENSE OF CALM Concentrating on an interesting task gets you “in the zone” – similar to a meditative state.

3 MENTAL AGILITY, PHYSICAL DEXTERITY Learning something new and unfamiliar will keep your mind and reflexes sharp. It stimulates neuroplasticity, or rewiring of the brain, which will stand you in good stead as the years go by.

4 SPIRITUAL UPLIFT According to Pablo Picasso, “Art washes from the soul the dust of everyday life.” The pleasure you derive from creative self-expression can help clear the cobwebs and chase the blues away.
Organise your year-end party at

Nuss
The Graduate Club

Kent Ridge
Agnes Phua at 6586 3771
agnesphua@nuss.org.sg

Guild House
Ong Wei Li at 6586 3772
welli@nuss.org.sg

Suntec City Guild House
Prabavathy at 6395 6626
prabavathy@nuss.org.sg

Visit us at www.nuss.org.sg
Jazz up your Sunday^ @ The Bar

3 September 2017
1 October 2017
5 November 2017
3 December 2017

12pm to 3pm (Last order at 2.30pm)

$25* per plate

Try our Chef's Sunday Lunch Plate as you enjoy a relaxing afternoon of light Jazz favourites performed 'LIVE' by Louis Soliano and friends!

Special Promotion!
Riondo Senso Prosecco @ $29

^Every first Sunday of the month.
*Lunch plate comes with a glass of wine / beer / fruit punch.

Image used is for illustration purpose only.

For enquiries, please call 6779 1811, email scghmro@nuss.org.sg or visit www.nuss.org.sg

Terms and conditions apply.
BBQ NIGHTS

Every last Thursday and Friday of the month
Café on the Ridge
6pm to 9.30pm

Choose your main dish from our delicious barbeque selection below:

$23 per set
- Australian Yield Grade Striploin (280gm)
- Baby Back Pork Ribs
- Cumin Lamb Chop with Brown Sauce
- Slipper Lobster and Cajun Chicken Leg

$19 per set
- Cajun Chicken Leg with Brown Sauce
- Salmon Steak with Lemon Butter Sauce
- Mixed Sausages (Smoked Beef Sausages and Chicken Harissa Sausages)

Free flow of salad and soup from the Salad Bar*

All mains are served with baked potatoes and corn on the cob.
*Only applicable for BBQ Night main orders. Sharing and transferring of food are not allowed.

For reservations, please call 6779 1811 or email krgh_cafe@nuss.org.sg

Terms and conditions apply.
SUNTEC CITY GUILD HOUSE

BE Rewarded FOR LATE DINING @ The Bistro!

Dine from 8.30pm and be rewarded with:

- $10 food voucher for return visit to The Bistro.
- 1 weekday Golden Village cinema ticket (valued at $8.50).
- $5 Comfort / Citicab gift voucher.

Spend at least $50 to receive one reward. Spend at least $100 to receive two rewards.

For reservations, please call 6779 1811, email scghmro@nuss.org.sg or visit www.nuss.org.sg

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THE SECRETARIAT MANAGEMENT TEAM
SECRETARIAT secretariat@nuss.org.sg
THE GRADUATE MAGAZINE thegraduate@nuss.org.sg
CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS communications@nuss.org.sg
FINANCE finance@nuss.org.sg
INFORMATION SYSTEMS is@nuss.org.sg
MEMBERSHIP membership@nuss.org.sg
SPORTS sports@nuss.org.sg
EVENTS events@nuss.org.sg
BANQUET SERVICES agnesphua@nuss.org.sg

REGULAR HAPPENINGS @ NUSS

BADMINTON
- Tuesdays @ KRGH: 7pm – 10pm
- Saturdays @ KRGH: 2pm – 4pm
- Sundays @ KRGH: 9am – 2pm
- Contact Gaby at gabyleepong@nuss.org.sg

BALUT
- Wednesdays @ KRGH: 5pm – 7pm
- Contact Santhi at santhithi@nuss.org.sg

BILLIARDS
- Mondays @ KRGH: 9am – 10pm
- Thursdays @ KRGH: 2pm – 4pm
- Contact Jaz at jazchua@nuss.org.sg

BOWLING
- Monthly competitions @ Superbowl SAFRA Mount Faber
- Contact Santhi at santhithi@nuss.org.sg

CYCLING
- Various venues
- Contact Kay Wei at keewei@nuss.org.sg

GOLF
- Monthly Medals @ various venues
- Contact Kelly at kellykoh@nuss.org.sg

RUNNING
- Wednesdays @ KRGH: 7pm
- Sundays @ various places: 6.30am
- Contact Kay Wei at keewei@nuss.org.sg

SOCCER
- Various venues
- Contact Santhi at santhithi@nuss.org.sg

SQUASH
- Mondays @ KRGH: 4pm – 6pm
- Thursdays @ KRGH: 6pm – 10pm
- Saturdays @ KRGH: 4pm – 6pm
- Contact Santhi at santhithi@nuss.org.sg

TABLE-TENNIS
- Tuesdays @ KRGH: 5pm – 7pm
- Saturdays @ KRGH: 6pm – 10pm
- Contact Santhi at santhithi@nuss.org.sg

TENNIS
- Wednesdays & Fridays @ KRGH: 5pm – 10pm
- Sundays @ KRGH: 2pm – 7pm
- Contact Kay Wei at keewei@nuss.org.sg

CHOIR
- Thursdays @ KRGH: 7.30pm – 10pm
- Contact Santhi at santhithi@nuss.org.sg

KIDS’ CLUB
- Regular activities @ various venues
- Contact Gaby at gabyleepong@nuss.org.sg

TUESDAY CONNECTIONS
- Tuesdays @ KRGH: 10am – 6pm
- Regular activities at various venues
- Contact Kelly at Kellykohn@nuss.org.sg

DANCESPORT
- Tuesdays @ KRGH: 7.30pm – 11pm
- Contact Kay Wei at keewei@nuss.org.sg

TOASTMASTERS CLUB
- Every 4th Thursday @ KRGH: 7pm – 10pm
- Contact Gaby at gabyleepong@nuss.org.sg

MUSIC
- Regular activities @ KRGH
- Contact Santhi at santhithi@nuss.org.sg

DRAMAWORKS
- Regular activities @ KRGH
- Contact Santhi at santhithi@nuss.org.sg

ARTS CONNECTIONS
- Regular activities @ KRGH
- Contact Kay Wei at keewei@nuss.org.sg

For more information and registration details, please contact the respective personnel.

OVERSEAS CONNECTIONS

NUSS members enjoy reciprocity with graduate associations around the world. For more information, please contact:
- Nor Azira at 6586 7056 or email azira@nuss.org.sg

Chulalongkorn University Alumni Association - Bangkok, Thailand
Hong Kong University Alumni Association - Hong Kong
Persatuan Alumni Universiti Malaya - Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia
The Graduate Union of the University of Melbourne - Melbourne, Australia
The Royal Northern and University Club - Aberdeen, United Kingdom
The University Club of Western Australia - Perth, Australia
The University Women’s Club - London, United Kingdom
The Yale Club of New York City - New York, United States of America
University Club of Denver - Colorado, United States of America
University Club of Montreal - Quebec, Canada
University House, Australian National University - Canberra, Australia
University of Saint Paul - Minnesota, United States of America
University of San Francisco - California, United States of America
MAKING MEMORIES

CONTEST
WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE EXPERIENCE AT NUSS?
If you enjoy our events, dining options and meeting new people, we want to hear from you! Share with us your favourite experiences at NUSS from any of the four options below and stand a chance to win a 2D1N staycation at Shangri-La Hotel, Singapore, worth up to $450!

Simply visit www.facebook.com/NUSSociety to take part in the contest.

IN THE GRADUATE (JUL – SEP 2017), WE ASKED YOU TO SHARE WITH US YOUR FAVOURITE LOCAL DISHES.
Congratulations to Tan Aik Ling, Quek Li Huan and Tan Sim Seng for your winning entries!

5 TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL NETWORKING EXPERIENCE
Positive goals and outlook are the ingredients for a fun and memorable networking session. Here are some tips on how to "nail it" at your next event.

BE PREPARED
Everyone has their own strengths and interests. Make sure you know which of yours you want to talk about to avoid awkward lulls in the conversation. It is also useful to read up on current topics, as these are often conversation starters.

FOCUS ON OTHERS
Networking is about forging long-term relationships. By learning about other people, rather than focusing only on your own goals, you are more likely to make meaningful connections.

KEEP AN OPEN MIND
Don't judge a book by its cover, and don't judge an event's quality by its ticket price. You never know the knowledge, connections and potential that the people attending might bring to the table.

BREAK THE ICE
Don't be afraid to start a conversation, share opinions or give advice. In fact, going out of your way to make suggestions or offer advice is a great way to make an impression and ensure people remember you.

FOLLOW UP
Relationships need nurturing. Keep in touch with your new connections, even if you don't have anything new to share. It only takes a minute to send a quick text or email.

Visit www.nuss.org.sg for our latest events and activities, where you can also network and meet new people!

WE WELCOME YOUR FEEDBACK
Give us your feedback and suggestions on The Graduate. Please include your full name and membership number and email your feedback to secretariat@nuss.org.sg
GROW YOUR KNOWLEDGE, GROW YOUR WEALTH
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Day 7

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5. Mortgages, stamp duty and taxes
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The Royal Northern and University Club

Chulalongkorn University Alumni Association

Persatuan Alumni Universiti Malaya

For more information, please contact Nor Azira at azira@nuss.org.sg or call +65-6586 7056