

APR-JUN
2017

THE GRADUATE

THE MAGAZINE OF THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE SOCIETY SINCE 1962

NUSS
The Graduate Club



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

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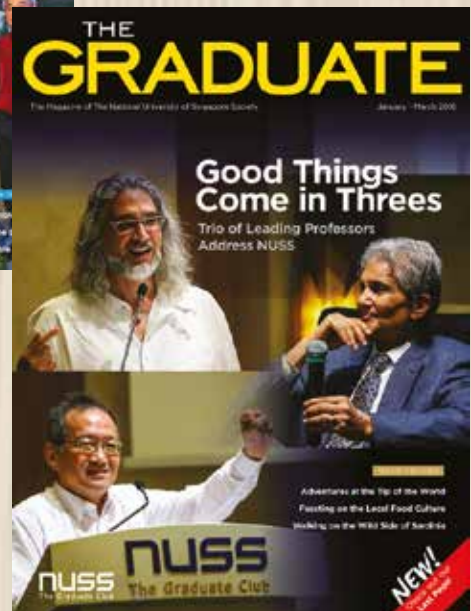
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NUSS
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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear fellow members

How time flies! As we move into the second quarter of 2017, we have so much to celebrate and honour within the NUSS community – a testament to the civic-minded spirit that drives the Society.

We congratulate Professor Leo Tan, who received the NUSS Distinguished Member Award and Associate Professor Victor Savage and Ms Juliana Lim, who each received the NUSS Outstanding Member Award at the Appreciation Dinner held on 29 March 2017. Their significant and lasting contributions to NUSS, NUS and the wider community are commendable. The Society would also like to express its heartfelt thanks to all the members who received the NUSS Long Service Awards for their selfless contributions to the Society over the past five to 10 years.

In the coming months, we plan to roll out several fresh initiatives aimed at further expanding membership benefits and privileges. Do look out for the Membership Lifecycle Management Program to be launched in phases in 2017. F&B vouchers will also be offered to graduates, aged 62 years and above, who join as new Term Members.

Change is inevitable, and it was with a sense of sadness and nostalgia that we bade farewell to the Bukit Timah Guild House which ceased operations on 28 February 2017. A sold out closing concert “Jazz at the Guild: The Curtain Falls” held on 17 February 2017, brought back poignant and lasting memories for the many members who attended the event. In the meantime, the Society will continue to explore opportunities for a new facility.

As part of our ongoing efforts to serve both NUS and the wider graduate community, NUSS continues to support causes close to our hearts. We presented a cheque of \$250,000 to NUS as our annual pledge to the NUS Alumni Bursary Fund at our Lunar New Year Lo Hei dinner with senior NUS management on 9 February 2017. This annual gathering is also an occasion to foster closer ties with our alma mater as well as provide an opportunity for our new and younger management committee members to get to know senior members of the NUS administration better.

The Society has gotten off to a positive first half of the year and I am grateful for the strong support from members and staff. I will continue to work with my colleagues to develop fresh initiatives and activities to enhance your membership.

Yours sincerely



*Eddie Lee
President*

“The Society has gotten off to a positive first half of the year and I am grateful for the strong support from members and staff. I will continue to work with my colleagues to develop fresh initiatives and activities to enhance your membership”



THE GRADUATE

THE GRADUATE IS THE
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A FOND FAREWELL

Saying goodbye to the historic Bukit Timah Guild House.

They came to meet old friends, enjoy a delectable dinner and relish smooth and sultry live jazz. Most of all, NUSS members came to bid farewell to the colonial building at Cluny Road that was home to the Bukit Timah Guild House (BTGH) for eight memorable years.

On 28 February 2017, BTGH ceased operations as NParks informed the Society that it would use the premises for its own purposes following the expiry of the lease.

As a final event before the closure, NUSS organised “Beyond the Score: Jazz At The Guild – The Curtain Falls” on 17 February 2017. The event was part of

the Beyond the Score series, an ongoing initiative between NUSS and the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music. Response was overwhelming — all 80 seats at \$38 each were snapped up.

Under a white marquee on the wooden-decked terrace amid lush greenery, members sat at elegantly-appointed dining tables.

For NUSS President Mr Eddie Lee and others who had studied at the former university campus at Bukit Timah, the air was palpable with shared history, camaraderie and nostalgia.

“I was here 40 years ago, doing my first-year law,” Mr Lee said in his welcome address.

“This place has brought back fond memories for many of us, especially for those who have made lifelong friends. And for some, life partners.”

Mr Lee expressed appreciation to past NUSS Presidents – Mr Lai Kim Seng, Mr Johnny Tan and Mr Chandra Mohan – for their work in securing the lease for BTGH,



“These eight good years have given us very fond memories... We hope to find a suitable replacement for this Guild House. A place which may be bigger and better. We will look forward to that”

MR EDDIE LEE, NUSS
PRESIDENT

DID YOU KNOW?

“Built in the late 1920s, this two-storey Art Deco bungalow, once used to house teaching staff of the former Raffles College, has been meticulously restored and transformed into a classy sanctuary, the Bukit Timah Guild House, that cultivates camaraderie.”
– Citation for the Heritage Architectural Award 2009 by URA



and for overseeing the restoration of the 1920s conservation building that went on to win the URA Heritage Architectural Award in 2009.

For NUSS members, BTGH was a popular sanctuary. Members have marked milestones at The Dunearn, caught up with friends over drinks at The Upper Quad or simply enjoyed quiet dinners away from the bustle of the city.

The excellent F&B options were a big draw for member Mr Kenneth Ong. “My wife and I have enjoyed eating here. The food is on par with all the fine dining restaurants in Singapore,” he said.

Coming to BTGH was a family affair for Mr Michael Ng, who would go swimming with his children at the nearby Ministry of Education pool, and adjourn to BTGH for dinner. “My children grew up here!” Mr Ng said.

While nostalgic about BTGH’s closure, member Professor Dr James Boss said, “This is part of life. Have to give way to progress. Hopefully we can create good memories in the new Guild House.”

Ms Bernice Tan, a 20-year veteran NUSS staffer, perhaps summed it up best: “I will feel sad... and I will miss this place.”

As the talented quintet featuring Associate Professor Dr Tony Makarome and his students from the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music filled the night with cool jazz, members sipped wine, reminisced and laughed — soaking in, for one final time, the historical ambience of their cherished Bukit Timah Guild House.

It was a classy farewell, to a classy old dame. Thank you for the memories. ■



“I remember President S R Nathan and then-future President Dr Tony Tan, who both studied at this campus, sitting next to each other at the official opening [in 2009]. That was quite special”

MR JOHNNY TAN, NUSS COMMITTEE MEMBER AND FORMER NUSS PRESIDENT



“I feel a tinge of sadness. We left this place years ago, and came back. So there is no telling that maybe one of these days we will return. Perhaps not in my lifetime, but I hope we return to our roots again one of these days. So never say never!”

MR LAI KIM SENG, NUSS COMMITTEE MEMBER AND FORMER NUSS PRESIDENT



ABOVE: MEMBERS SHARED AN EVENING OF NOSTALGIA AND CAMARADERIE OVER EXCELLENT FOOD AND WINE AT BTGH'S FAREWELL PARTY

OPPOSITE PAGE: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR DR TONY MAKAROME AND HIS STUDENTS FROM THE YONG SIEW TOH CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC PERFORMED COOL JAZZ TUNES

A NIGHT TO REMEMBER

NUSS welcomes new members into its family.

NUSS kicked off 2017 by hosting a welcome dinner for its new members. Held on 12 January 2017 at the Kent Ridge Guild House, the annual New Members' Night saw new and current members gather for a memorable evening of good food, exciting performances and wonderful networking opportunities.

"This evening brings back fond memories of my time with the Society. I have built and enjoyed everlasting friendships here, and I am delighted that many more will get to savour this wonderful experience as well," said NUSS President, Mr Eddie Lee, in his welcome speech.

Throughout the evening, different committee members took to the stage to share their roles within the Society. As guests enjoyed their four-course dinner, they were also treated to performances by different NUSS groups, including captivating renditions of classics by NUSS Choir, a hilarious five-minute skit by NUSS DramaWorks, and a fiery Latin dance performance by NUSS DanceSport.

"Tonight was put together by members of NUSS, and I appreciate that because I get a better understanding of the people here," said new member Ms Christina Ng, who graduated from the then University of Singapore in 1980. She was accompanied by her husband, Mr Stephen Lipp, who shared his excitement about the drama skit. "Theatre



CURRENT AND NEW NUSS MEMBERS GOT TO KNOW EACH OTHER — AND EVEN POSTED UPDATES ON SOCIAL MEDIA

"NUSS is so much more than just a society. It is a family of diverse individuals with a wide range of talents"

was something I did when I was younger, so I'm considering joining NUSS Dramaworks," he added.

The event also saw a number of new NUSS members. Mr Joel Tong, who graduated with a degree in computer engineering last year, was part of an Undergraduate Trial Membership Programme before coming onboard as a full-time member.

"My dad is a member, so we come here pretty often to eat at The Scholar Chinese Restaurant. Since I was still a student last year, I thought it would be good to become a member and enjoy facilities like the gym and pool," explained Mr Tong.

The sense of community and family was palpable throughout the evening, and a sentiment echoed especially by new members such as Dr Tommie Chen, who graduated from NUS with a PhD in English Language in 2015.

"NUSS is so much more than just a society. It is a family of diverse individuals with a wide range of talents — bound by a common love experienced within the hallways of NUS," he said. ■



NUSS MEMBERS ENJOYED AN EVENING OF CONNECTING AND NETWORKING



THE NUSS CHOIR ENTERTAINED WITH RENDITIONS OF CLASSICS

IN THE BALANCE

Marine biologist Professor Stephen Hawkins on climate change and the marine ecosystem.

The triple threats of climate fluctuations, acute pollution from oil spills and chronic pollution from chemicals have severely harmed many marine species. Perhaps surprisingly to some, first-generation industrial cleaning fluids were actually more toxic to marine life than crude oil.

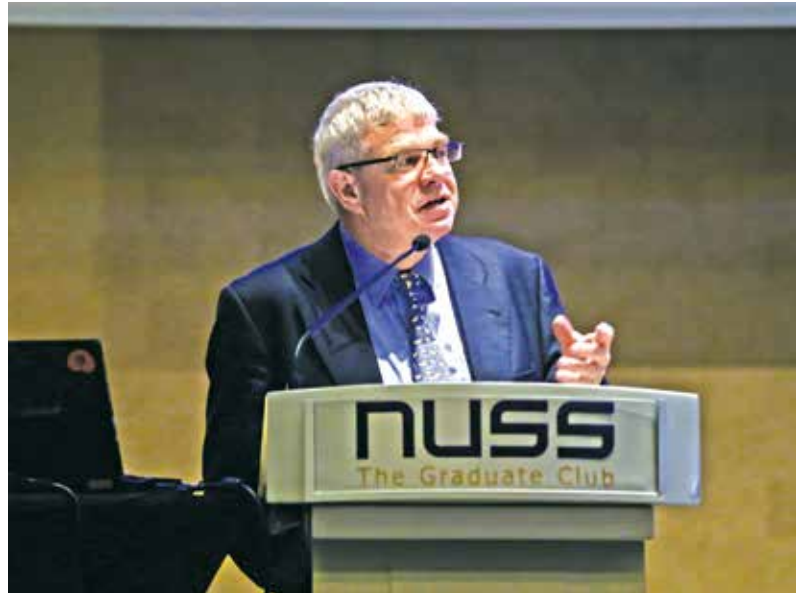
Professor Stephen Hawkins, former Dean of Natural and Environmental Sciences at the University of Southampton, shared these insights and more at the NUSS Professorship Lecture at the Kent Ridge Guild House on 24 January 2017.

In the next 25 to 50 years, Prof Hawkins said, the human race needs to better understand and manage the interactions of global environmental change with their impacts – like overfishing, coastal development and pollution – which we could more easily play a part in minimising.

The actions that we take today, he added, will increase resilience to climate change. The good news is that recovery can be aided by legislation and international agreements.

The question-and-answer session was lively with questions on overreactions to drastic ecological changes, the impact of oil spills on coral reefs, snow in the Sahara Desert and the interplay between science and politics.

A student from Temasek Junior College brought the topic close to



PROFESSOR STEPHEN HAWKINS SHARED HIS EXPERTISE ON CLIMATE CHANGE AND ITS IMPACT WITH NUSS MEMBERS

home when she asked about the long-term impact of Singapore's rapid coastal development on our marine ecosystem.

More than 200 members and guests attended the talk. One member, Mr Loh Kok Yew, attended out of a need to hear from an expert on how he could personally "contribute and make things better for the next generation".

Giving the opening speech that evening was NUSS President, Mr Eddie Lee, who extended a warm welcome to Prof Hawkins. "I believe it's crucial that we understand the impact of human actions and learn what can be done in order to sustain our seas," said Mr Lee. The NUSS Professorship Lecture series was established in 1996 with an endowment of \$1.5 million "to fund talks by visiting professors as part of NUSS' efforts to contribute to the development of meaningful partnerships with our alma mater through academic pursuits", Mr Lee added. ■

DID YOU KNOW?

Prof Hawkins has been mistaken for astrophysicist Stephen Hawking on numerous occasions.

A schoolgirl has asked him why the universe is expanding, while a woman in Vietnam wrote: "Dear Professor Hawkins, I've just seen a film about your life. I wonder if you could help me resolve the conflicts between religion and science?"

Prof Hawkins replied, "Dear Natalie, I'm afraid it's the wrong Professor Hawkins. I'm a marine biologist and I'm not qualified to tell you about the expanding universe. But next time you go on a seaside holiday, look at the fabulous universe of rock pools, look at all the marine life, all that hidden universe!"

LEADING *by example*

The NUSS Distinguished and Outstanding Member Awards recognise and honour members who have made significant and lasting contributions to NUSS, NUS and the wider community.

The 2016 winners of the Awards – luminaries Professor Leo Tan, Dr Victor R Savage and Juliana Lim – are living inspirations to those in their fields, and beyond.

Words by Michelle Bong Lejtenyi

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Helped establish the first Bachelor of Environmental Studies degree for NUS.
- Headed the restoration of the 160-year-old Raffles Museum Natural History Collection as Director (Special Projects), Faculty of Science, NUS.
- Led the building of the new natural history museum at NUS, which houses three of Singapore's largest dinosaur skeletons.



KING OF THE JUNGLE

DISTINGUISHED AWARD

RECIPIENT
*Professor
Leo Tan*

NATURAL PROGRESSION

*Prof Tan's
inherent love
for nature
has been a
catalyst for his
achievements*

“I grew up with nature. Snakes, frogs, birds, centipedes and insects were transient visitors as the jungle abutted our home,” says Professor Leo Tan. His formative years offer an insight into his passion for flora and fauna – and explains his 40-year-long fight to preserve Labrador Park.

“Labrador Beach was my playground; from an early age, I played along the shoreline. As an undergraduate, I studied its marine life. As a young lecturer, I watched half of it disappear... Only a 300m-long stretch was spared.

“It took a long time but persistence, persuasion and personal belief paid off with the establishment of the Labrador Nature Reserve in 2001.”

Prof Tan is one of Singapore’s most influential educators today, both in tertiary organisations like NUS where he is director of special projects, as well as in his work shaping iconic Singapore institutions like the Singapore Science Centre, Gardens by the Bay and the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum.

HOW DOES IT FEEL TO RECEIVE THE DISTINGUISHED MEMBER AWARD?

It is a humbling thought, as I never expected to be honoured. I am grateful to the selection panel and NUSS.

WHAT WERE YOUR BIGGEST CHALLENGES AS AN NUS EDUCATOR?

Helping students understand that learning is for life, not just to get good grades in exams. Mentoring students was a joy; some former students have become highly successful and as I’ve always emphasised, the student must graduate smarter than the teacher — or the latter has failed as an educator.

WHAT ARE THE UNIQUE CHALLENGES FACING TERTIARY EDUCATION TODAY?

With life-long learning becoming the norm, it’s no longer about providing four- to five-year courses for undergraduates, but allowing the workforce to return periodically to keep abreast of workplace and society’s needs. Employers and workers will decide on the skills and knowledge needed to stay relevant, and we have to respond accordingly.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT ESTABLISHING THE LEE KONG CHIAN NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM — SINGAPORE’S FIRST SUCH MUSEUM?

I’m happy we were able to resurrect a museum belonging to the people of Singapore and South-East Asia, and that it resides at NUS as an educational, research, public and school outreach centre.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING TO NUSS, NUS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY?

A simple belief that we’re stewards given the responsibility to use whatever talent, knowledge and skills we possess, to the best of our ability for the benefit of all. ■



FOR ART'S SAKE

OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARD RECIPIENT

Juliana Lim

PAINTING POSSIBILITIES

One of Singapore's earliest arts management pioneers, Lim's arts journey started when she was just a child

Exposed to theatre in a convent school and to choral music by her church conductor father, Juliana Lim went on to spearhead arts development projects in the Ministries of Culture/Community Development and the Singapore Art Centre Company, now known as The Esplanade Company.

An Arts Connections Convenor at NUSS and an arts volunteer for over 20 years, Juliana sits on the boards of Very Special Arts and OperaViva, and is President of the Richard Wagner Association Singapore.

WHAT DOES THE OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARD MEAN TO YOU?

I accept the award on behalf of our Arts Advisory Panel in recognition of the importance of the arts for everyone, and the meaningfulness of arts volunteerism.

WHAT ARE SOME OF YOUR MOST MEANINGFUL PROJECTS AS AN ARTS CONNECTIONS CONVENOR AT NUSS?

Transforming the Members' Lounge and a corridor of bathrooms into an art gallery, and creating the Legacy Wall at Level 2 of Kent Ridge building. The first project aims to expose our members to good art so they develop their

"I believe that the arts is an entitlement for everyone, as it defines a human being"

taste, acquire knowledge and support Singapore artists. The Legacy Wall acknowledges the contributions of past NUSS presidents while connecting NUSS to the arts community. Over four years, we commissioned 12 arts college students to paint 19 past NUSS presidents.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING TO NUSS, NUS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY?

I believe the arts is an entitlement for everyone. The ability to appreciate poetry and beauty is what defines a human being.

WHAT WERE YOUR MOST FULFILLING EXPERIENCES AS AN ARTS ENTHUSIAST?

"Goosebump moments" – such as hearing Juan Diego Florez singing *Una Furtiva Lagrima* in Donizetti's *L'Elisir D'Amore (The Elixir of Love)* at the Vienna State Opera House; and observing NUSS members double-back to revisit the art collection. ■

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Developed arts infrastructure like the Arts Housing Scheme and the Esplanade Theatres.
- Co-produced the first-ever Wagner opera in Singapore, *The Flying Dutchman*, in 2016.
- Project Director for NUSS' Paint-a-Portrait Project.

MAN OF THE WORLD

OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARD RECIPIENT

Associate Professor Victor R Savage

REACHING OUT

Dr Savage's varied interests have impacted his alumni relations work

As the editor of the NUSS publication, *Commentary* (volumes 22-24) — and with a lively curiosity in cultural, environmental, sustainable and urban development, and cross-cultural issues in Singapore and South-East Asia — Associate Professor Dr Victor R Savage is attuned to some of today's biggest local and global challenges.

Also the Chairman of Sembcorp Marine Ltd's Green Wave Advisory Board, he believes in the need to be water self-sufficient, invest in the ecosystem, slow down environmental and climate change — and foster cross-cultural relations, a driving force in his alumni relations work.

"We have such a diverse cultural alumni... These cross-cultural exchanges are areas we can tap on in work, creative endeavours and innovative thinking."

WHAT ARE YOUR THOUGHTS ON WINNING THE OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARD?

I am totally surprised... I did not ever dream I would receive an award. A wonderful and refreshing surprise.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING INVOLVED IN BUILDING ALUMNI RELATIONS AND WHAT DO YOU THINK IS THE FUTURE OF ALUMNI RELATIONS?

Having worked with the NUS' Office of Alumni Relations, I have managed over 260,000 alumni here and over 18 overseas chapters, working to reach out to all

"The future of alumni relationships has to come naturally; when they've arrived in life, they will feel a commitment to give back"

segments of the alumni community, and creating a sense of *esprit de corps*. The future of alumni relationships has to come naturally; when they've arrived in life, they will feel a commitment to give back.

WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR MOST HUMBLING EXPERIENCES AS AN NUS EDUCATOR?

As a mentor in my department for eight years, I dealt with students with financial, personal and relationship challenges. I [*once*] counselled a terminally ill student, who passed a month before his third-year final exams.

WHAT WERE YOUR CHALLENGES AS EDITOR OF THE NUSS PUBLICATION COMMENTARY (VOLUMES 22-24) ?

I wanted articles free from academic jargon so the public could understand them. And I wanted to hear from Singaporeans and outsiders looking in about the virtues and challenges of this city-state in the making.

WHAT MOTIVATES YOU TO CONTINUE CONTRIBUTING TO NUSS, NUS AND THE WIDER COMMUNITY?

When I am appointed to a position, I try to contribute as much as I can. That's why I am reserved about taking appointments... But once I am included, then I go out to get things done. ■

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- Helped to strengthen bonds between NUS and NUSS, and successfully launched the NUS Alumni Bursary Fund to benefit needy NUS students.
- Helmed *Commentary* (volumes 22-24), an independent journal covering social and political issues.
- Contributed to public service, including an ongoing stint as Chairman of Sembcorp Marine Ltd's Green Wave Advisory Board. He is also the Honorary Vice-President of the Commonwealth Geographical Bureau (CGB) from 2017 to 2020.



NUSS REMEMBERS MR WONG AH LONG



MR WONG WITH NUS PRESIDENT, MR EDDIE LEE, AND PAST PRESIDENTS

The Society was saddened by the passing of Mr Wong Ah Long on 17 August, 2016.

A long-standing NUSS member, Mr Wong was a staunch advocate of the close relationship between the alumni community and the university, as well as building a strong graduate body with a deep sense of belonging to the alma mater. He gave strong support to the NUSS-NUS partnership to build the Alumni Complex at Kent Ridge to provide NUS graduates a “home on campus”. The Society is also ever so grateful to Mr Wong who played a pivotal role in helping NUSS secure a space in the Suntec City Mall to set up our Suntec City Guild House in 2004.

Despite his busy schedule, he graciously accepted our invitation to serve on the Society’s Advisory Panel in 2008. A leader who believed in acknowledging excellent achievements, Mr Wong also served on the NUSS Distinguished and Outstanding Members Selection Panel to recognise outstanding members of the Society who have made significant contributions to NUSS, NUS and the wider community.



MR WONG AT THE ALUMNI COMPLEX GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY, OFFICIATED BY DR TONY TAN

Mr Wong's generosity goes beyond contributing his service, talent and time to support NUSS' mission. He was a generous sponsor of many of the Society's sports and charity events.

NUSS is privileged to have benefitted from Mr Wong's wise counsel and generosity.

"We will remember Ah Long for his devotion and many contributions to NUSS and the NUS alumni community," said Mr Eddie Lee, President of NUSS. Farewell, Mr Wong! You will be fondly missed... ■



MR WONG GRACING THE OPENING OF SUNTEC CITY GUILD HOUSE



MR WONG ON STAGE WITH THE RECIPIENTS OF THE NUSS DISTINGUISHED AND OUTSTANDING MEMBER AWARDS

NUSS
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04

EVENTS

A

P

R

**MORE EVENT
DETAILS AT
NUSS.ORG.SG**



05-09 APR

Overseas Golf Trip to Chiang Mai

Join the Golf Section in an upcoming 5D4N overseas trip to Chiang Mai, Thailand. Enjoy friendly rounds at the golf country clubs there, while non-golfers will get to visit Chiang Mai's places of interest.



08 APR

Automating Reports and Dashboards

Increase your productivity and reduce time on mundane work in this four-hour workshop. Learn to design and implement an interactive Excel application that transforms your data into information on snazzy reports and dashboards.

18 APR
*Ministerial
Dialogue with
Mr Ong Ye Kung*

The Minister for Education will share with you the future of education at this dialogue.

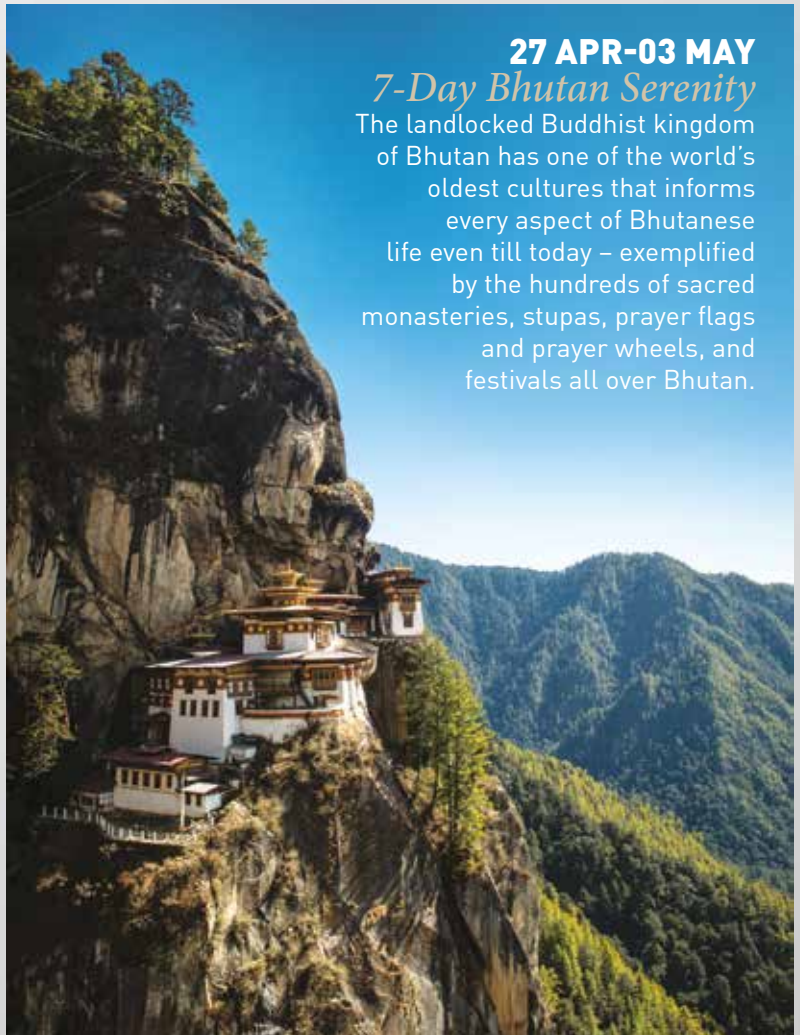


21 APR
*Python for Busy
Executives*

Learn the basics of programming and coding in Python, a powerful and versatile programming language used in fields such as data science, games and web applications.

27 APR-03 MAY
7-Day Bhutan Serenity

The landlocked Buddhist kingdom of Bhutan has one of the world's oldest cultures that informs every aspect of Bhutanese life even till today – exemplified by the hundreds of sacred monasteries, stupas, prayer flags and prayer wheels, and festivals all over Bhutan.



NUSS
The Graduate Club

05
EVENTS

M
A
Y

**MORE EVENT
DETAILS AT
NUSS.ORG.SG**

06 MAY
*Mother's Day Special:
Mini Handcraft
Bouquet*

Make your Mother's Day special with your own hand-made posy, using basic paper pleating techniques and GMund papers to create blooms, paired with selected dry flowers.



13 MAY
*DanceSport
Members' Night*

Enjoy dancing while meeting fellow enthusiasts at this dinner and dance event. Burn the floor in a gamut of dance styles, from progressive to line, ballroom and Latin dances.



27 MAY
*How to Set Up
a Profitable
Online
Business*

Learn how you can build a profitable business online using the right software to create powerful websites with strong business models and SEO (search engine optimisation).

06
EVENTS

J

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N

**MORE EVENT
DETAILS AT
NUSS.ORG.SG**

03 JUN
*Creative Bento
Art Bonding
Workshop*

Parents and their little ones will have fun creating kawaii bento meals at this workshop. Using Japanese rice and other ingredients, learn basic bento techniques to create cute Kyaraben bear characters.



10 JUN
*Father's Day Special:
The Mountain
and Valley Fold*

This workshop covers the fundamentals of paper pleating. Explore how folding, scoring and drawing can transform paper into personal customised accessories such as a bow tie.

**DONIZETTI'S L'ELISIR D'AMORE BY
SINGAPORE LYRIC OPERA**
19-22 MAY 2017 ESPLANADE THEATRE

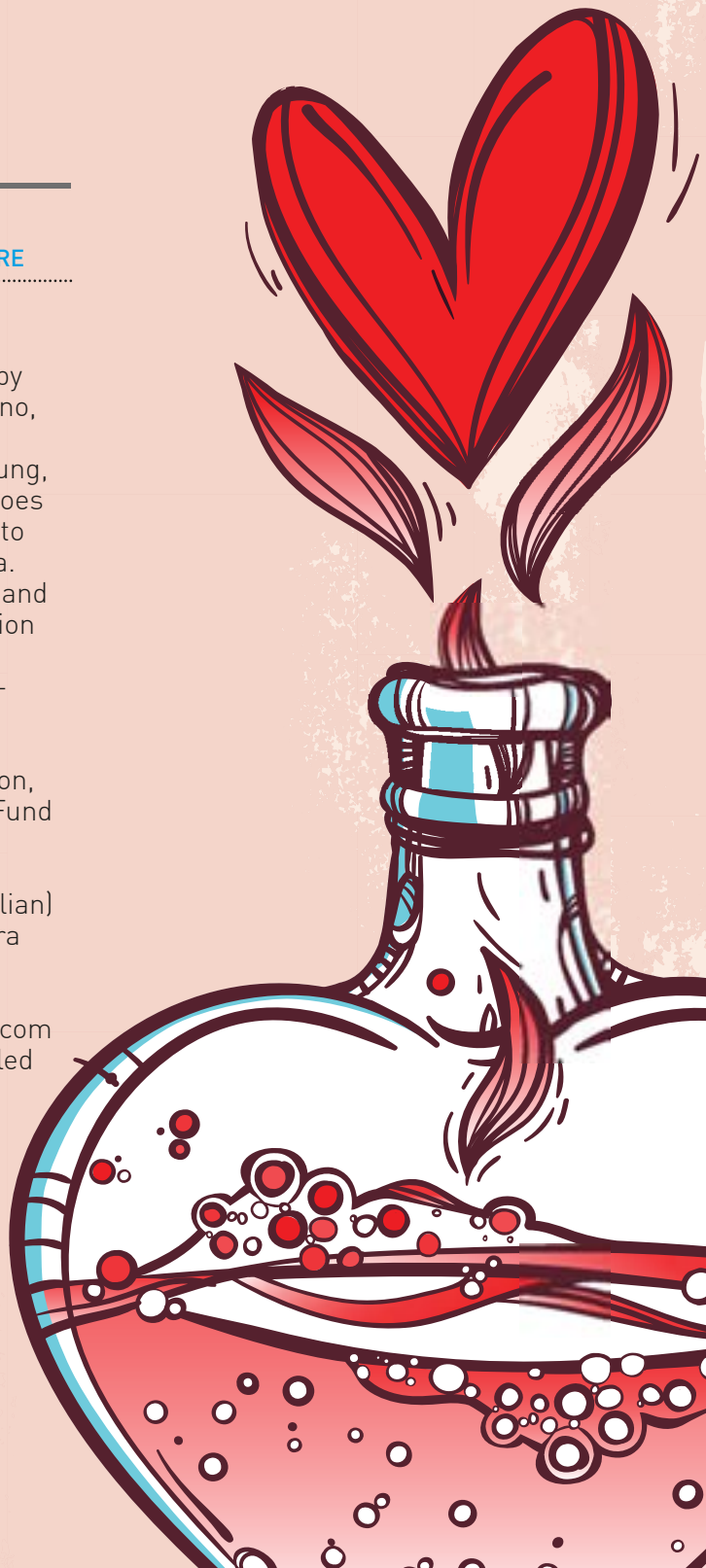
Elixir of love

Catch a magical performance by tenor, Kee Loi Seng, and soprano, Elena Xanthoudakis, as they enchant you in this tale of a young, poor villager, Nemorino, who goes on a quest for the elixir of love to win the heart of beautiful Adina.

Sung in Italian with English and Chinese subtitles, this production is the first for the 2017 season by the Singapore Lyric Opera — a recipient of the National Arts Council's Major Grant and is supported by the Lee Foundation, Hong Leong Foundation, Arts Fund and Tote Board.

Don't miss this comic opera (or "*melodrama giocoso*" in Italian) that is sure to please both opera aficionados and those new to the genre.

Get your tickets from Sistic.com now. NUSS members are entitled to a 15 per cent discount.



NEW CYCLING SECTION!
JULY 2017 KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE (START AND
FINISH POINTS)

Full speed ahead

Are you a cycling enthusiast and looking to meet new friends who share the same passion? Look out for the new NUSS Cycling Section that will be introduced in July this year. These regular cycling sessions will start and end at Kent Ridge Guild House. Keen to join? Find out more at www.nuss.org.sg or contact Khen Kee Wei at 6586 3739 or keewei@nuss.org.sg.



NUSS TENNIS SINGLES TOURNAMENT
4 FEBRUARY-1 MARCH 2017 TENNIS COURTS,
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Game, set, match

Some 32 NUSS tennis buffs came together at this annual friendly tournament. The Men's Open and Veteran's Open tournaments started on 4 February and concluded in a rousing final on 1 March with Elliot Fong and Hun Swee taking the Men's Open and Veteran's Open championship titles, respectively.





NUSS LO HEI DINNER 2017
9 FEBRUARY 2017 FUNCTION ROOMS AT SUNTEC CITY GUILD HOUSE

Lo hei for luck

Members celebrated the close working relationship between NUSS and NUS at the annual NUSS Lo Hei Dinner held at SCGH on 9 February.

NUSS President, Mr Eddie Lee, welcomed the guests of honour — NUS Board of Trustees Chairman, Mr Hsieh Fu Hua, NUS President, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, and distinguished attendees comprising NUS Pro-Chancellors, NUS Board of Trustees members, NUS Directors, and NUS Senior Management and Administrators.

On behalf of the Society, Mr Lee presented a cheque of \$250,000 to Professor Tan, in support of the NUS Alumni Bursary Fund (ABF). Since 2013, NUSS has generously raised more than \$4 million towards the ABF, with annual contributions made to grow the fund and reach out to more needy students.

Members were also treated to performances by Pipa Society and Friends, who played pieces such as “十面埋伏” (“House of Flying Daggers”) and “Rasa Sayang”. The performance also featured elegant Chinese dance moves by Parveen Kaur.

Guests enjoyed catching up with partners and old friends throughout the evening and went home with well wishes for the new year.





Sail into the Horizon

with your friends and family!



NUSS members can
rent a yacht
for as low as \$500!



Throw a BBQ party for
18 persons, with an
additional \$350!

Comes with
**complimentary
cooking service!**



Snorkeling, kayaking
and fishing gears
all included!

Terms and conditions apply.

Visit <http://www.nuss.org.sg/benefits.html> for more information.

For enquiries, please contact marketing@nuss.org.sg or 6777 6060.

For bookings, please contact White Sails at enquiry@whitesails.com.sg or 8180 8008.

In collaboration with





LION DANCE SPECTACULAR 2017
5 FEBRUARY 2017
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE LOBBY

A rousing welcome

At 11am on the ninth day of the Lunar New Year — also the Birthday of the Jade Emperor, King of Heaven, in the Chinese almanac — members gathered at Kent Ridge Guild House to witness the annual traditional lion dance blessing ceremony. Five thunderous drums kicked off the proceedings, followed by a spectacular pole performance, and finishing with a *cai qing* (採青 or "plucking the greens") ceremony. The troupe sent well wishes to guests with offerings of oranges for prosperity and success.

ANG POW GOLF CHALLENGE 2017
3 FEBRUARY 2017 KEPPEL CLUB & KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

To a tee

The NUSS Ang Pow Challenge 2017 teed off at the Keppel Golf Club on Friday, 3 Feb 2017, which was also the 7th day of Lunar New Year.

Over 110 club-wielding NUSS members dressed in red — including a new record of 28 ladies — pitted their skills against each other. Players were subject to a difficult test of golf at Keppel, with only nine golfers breaking a gross score of 90.

After this action-packed day on the green, guests toasted to renewing friendships and camaraderie with Asahi beer sponsored by Carlsberg. The day was capped with a celebratory *lo hei* dinner for all golfers, graced by former Chairman of NUS Board of Trustees, Mr Wong Ngit Liong and his wife, President of Alumni International Singapore, Mr Horace Tan, and President of Singapore Poly Graduate Guild, Mr Jimmy Lim. Each guest also received an "Ang Pow Toto" ticket sponsored by the Organising Chair, Mr Chor Chong Leen and Golf Convenor, Mr Joseph Ng.





NUSS BADMINTON CLOSE 2017
4 MARCH 2017 MULTI-PURPOSE
HALL, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Smash hits

Badminton buffs gathered to play their favourite sport and socialise at this annual event organised by the NUSS Badminton Section. Competitive players showed their mettle in several categories: Men's singles, men's doubles (categories A, B and C), women's doubles and mixed doubles. There was also a fun doubles category which offered family and friends the chance to compete with each other informally. Chew Jian Dee emerged the men's singles champion, while Boey Kee Fook and Goh Teik Lim won the men's doubles (category A). Ang Soo Cheng and Wong Cheng took the men's doubles (category B). Ang Soo Cheng and Teoh Soo Khean topped the mixed doubles, and Teoh Soo Khean and Tony Ang Ah Hok were the ladies/mixed doubles winners.



ADVERTISEMENT

Join us. Be a mentor.
NUSS-NUS
Mentorship Programme

SHARING
GIVING
NURTURING



Volunteer as a mentor and be a part of students' journey of self-discovery and learning. Share your life experiences and nurture students to become outstanding individuals.

This initiative is brought to you by NUSS Alumni Development and University Relations Sub-Committee, in collaboration with NUS.

Please visit www.nuss.org.sg to find out more about the Programme and to register.

PRESIDENT'S TROPHY CHALLENGE 2017
6 JANUARY 2017 RAFFLES
COUNTRY CLUB, LAKE COURSE
& KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Winners' night

For 134 NUSS golf enthusiasts, January got off to an exciting start with the annual President's Trophy Challenge at Raffles Country Club — where Mr Ho Kah Meng managed an impressive 162m on his seven-iron tee off.

Members then adjourned to Kent Ridge Guild House for an evening of good food and great company. After a warm welcome by Organising Chairman and Vice Captain, Mr Simon Er, a delicious buffet dinner was served while stand-up comedian, singer and acoustic guitarist, Alfred George, entertained.

New members were given commemorative golf balls and over 70 lucky draw prizes were also given out, including fantastic top prizes of a Kia K3 SX car, plane tickets to Europe on Turkish Airlines, and a term membership at Raffles Country Club.





MAKE FITNESS YOUR LIFESTYLE

NUSS' collaboration with True Fitness has been launched! Enjoy complimentary access to four True Fitness gym facilities and its various fitness classes, from Bodycombat and Circuit Training, to a variety of Yoga and Pilates classes such as Hatha Yoga, Hot Yoga and Pilates I/II.

In collaboration with



TRUE FITNESS

NUSS
The Graduate Club

For enquiries, please contact **6586 3704** or email mship@nuss.org.sg

**Each member is entitled to a maximum of two (2) full-day passes weekly.*

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www.facebook.com/NUSSociety



www.instagram.com/nussociety

ST PATRICK'S DAY SOCIAL NIGHT
15 MARCH 2017 THE BAR,
SUNTEC CITY GUILD HOUSE

Over 70 NUSS members came dressed for an evening of Irish-style fun at the recent St Patrick's Day social night. Taking the opportunity to catch up with old friends, members also feasted on Irish fare, washed down with Guinness and Jameson whisky, while being entertained with traditional Celtic music and indie rock by local Irish band, The Craic Horse.



VISIT TO REN CI NURSING HOME
26 FEBRUARY 2017 REN CI NURSING HOME

Volunteers visited the Ren Ci Nursing Home for the first time just before Chinese New Year to spend time and spread festive cheer among the less privileged elderly. Organised by the NUSS Community Care Sub-Committee, two groups of volunteers served snacks to appreciative residents of the home as the NUSS Music Section band, The Silverstones, entertained with classic songs.





CNY LUNCHEON WITH ELDERLY 2017
5 FEBRUARY 2017 GUILD HALL, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

A sumptuous lunch, *hong baos* and good music. These were just some of the things that made about 150 elderly people smile at this annual Chinese New Year gathering for the elderly, organised by the Community Care Sub-Committee. At the event, the group — from Lions Befrienders (Mei Ling and Ghim Moh), Nee Soon South Community Centre and West Coast Community Development Council — were entertained by the ACJC Chinese Orchestra and Dance Group, and NUSS Music Section band, The Silverstones. They were also presented with oranges and *hong baos* for good luck.



A DATE WITH SPRING
4 FEBRUARY 2017 GUILD HALL, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Members and guests, dressed in festive colours, came together on Day 8 of the Lunar New Year for NUSS DanceSport's Chinese New Year Dinner and Dance. A dragon dance and a rooster mascot livened up the evening — and added a touch of good luck!

NPARKS VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME
18 JANUARY 2017 KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

From conservation and gardening programmes to guided walks, outreach programmes and visitor services – over 40 NUSS members and guests found out more about volunteering opportunities with NParks at this informative session. Organised by the Active-Ageing and Lifelong Learning Sub-Committee together with NParks, members learned about the various methods of environmental conservation and were encouraged to join in the continuing efforts towards achieving Singapore’s City in a Garden vision.



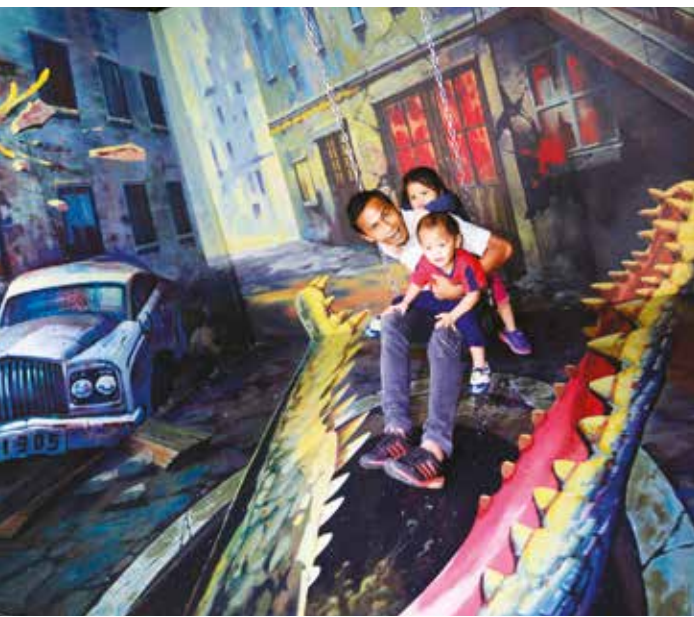
BASIC UKULELE COURSE FOR ADULTS
1 – 3 MAY 2017 ACTIVITY ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

With its distinctive sound, the ukulele is also one of the easiest string instruments to learn. NUSS members discovered the basics – basic notation, chords structure and simple strumming patterns from Miss Tham Siew Haw, a veteran teacher, in this fun course.



PAIN RELIEF WORKSHOP SERIES – MASSAGE FOR SHOULDER PAIN 23 MARCH & 30 MARCH 2017
AEROBICS ROOM, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

The popular Pain Relief Workshop, back for the third time, saw members learning about pain and relief techniques from Rachel Ong – a wellness practitioner certified in Pilates, personal training, rehabilitation and massage.



FAMILY OUTING TO ALIVE MUSEUM
18 MARCH 2017 ALIVE MUSEUM, SUNTEC CITY

Families from the Ang Mo Kio Family Social Centre enjoyed a fun Saturday morning with NUSS volunteers at this 3D illusion museum. Organised by the Community Care Sub-Committee, the museum visit helped strengthen family bonding among the participants and ended with a delicious brunch treat at Burger King.



ART OF TEA 4 MARCH 2017 LEVEL 2 ACTIVITY ROOM,
KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Over 60 NUSS members found a new appreciation for tea after a fascinating session with Mr Lee Chee Keong, founding Chairman of the Singapore Tea Culture Society. During the session, Mr Lee shared insights into the history of tea, the benefits of drinking tea and the correct way to brew tea.



FELLOWSHIP LUNCH: ENGAGING THE PERSON WITH DEMENTIA
14 MARCH 2017 KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Members gained valuable insights into dementia from NUSS member and director of Montessori for Dementia Care, Dr Fong Chiu Yan. A family physician and gerontologist, Dr Fong shared advice on dealing with dementia patients at this event organised by Active-Ageing & Lifelong Learning Sub-Committee.



PENGWINE WINE PAIRING EVENING 28 FEBRUARY 2017
FUNCTION ROOM, SUNTEC CITY GUILD HOUSE

PengWine Singapore, a boutique Chilean wine company, introduced members to five new wines over light bites. Members discovered the NUSS Wines of the Month (March to May 2017) – PengWine Gala 2013 and PengWine Pagos 2013 – both now available at Kent Ridge and Suntec City Guild Houses.



HEALTH APPRECIATION WORKSHOP

22 FEBRUARY 2017 KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

Health screening tests are a must, but it's also important to know which ones are essential. Sixteen members and guests gained insights into the treatment of common health problems from Dr Karen Cheong, Senior Resident Physician at the National University Hospital (NUH), and Ms Joy Yong, NUH Senior Clinical Pharmacist. One lucky guest even walked away with a Complete Health Package worth \$720!



OBESITY AND YOU

19 JANUARY 2017 KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

What is obesity and what impact does it have on your well-being? At this informative lunchtime session organised by the Active-Ageing & Lifelong Learning Sub-Committee, supported by the National University Hospital, 50 members received insights from speaker, Assistant Professor Asim Shabbir, a Senior Consultant with the Division of General Surgery (Upper Gastrointestinal Surgery), who talked about this rising epidemic and metabolic syndrome, and shared prevention tips.



CAFÉ HOPPING FOR SINGLES

11 FEBRUARY 2017 COO CAFE AND TWO BAKERS

Forget speed dating — hop on the Love Bus instead! That was what single NUSS members did, travelling around Singapore to the city's best cafes. Members had fun mingling with one another while enjoying lunch, desserts and two coffee breaks.



PREDICTIONS 2017

17 JANUARY 2017 KENT RIDGE GUILD HALL

Members got a peek into the future at this annual *fengshui* prediction session, presented by Master Lynn Yap. She offered insights into the fortunes of the 12 Chinese zodiac animal signs and the year's general outlook. She also shared a tip for good luck this year – carrying 888 uncooked rice grains in a red packet!



38TH NUSSU COUNCIL. POST EXAM PARTY
22 DECEMBER 2016, THE CHILL-LAB, KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

What better way to mark the end of the exam season than a post-exam party? Held at The Chill-Lab in KRGH, this annual event is hosted by NUSS to thank the NUSSU Council for their contributions to the student community. Mr Eugene Tan, Deputy Chairperson of Alumni Development and University Relations (ADUR) Sub-Committee, warmly welcomed newly-elected student leaders and their guests. Mr Tan Wee Bian, President of the 38th NUSSU Council also gave an address. It was an evening of camaraderie and fun as the student leaders mingled with members of the Management Committee and ADUR Sub-Committee



WINE OF THE MONTH PROMOTION: CASILLERO DEL DIABLO
JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2017, ALL NUSS GUILD HOUSES

One of the most famous Chilean wine brands in the world was a hit with NUSS members recently, and garnered NUSS the top spot among five clubs that took part in a Casillero Del Dablio promotion. The NUSS Wine of the Month in January and February was also the official wine of the HSBC Women's Open Golf Championship. Top buyers of the wine in NUSS each received a case of Casillero del Diablo Devil's collection and tickets to the HSBC Women's Golf Tournament, held at Sentosa from 3 March to 5 March. Top buyer, Mr Goh Ah Whatt, who bought 24 bottles, also received two VIP tickets to the tournament finals as well as signed merchandise.

How will Singapore's landscape look like in the next 20 years?

KC Soh takes a look at the shape of things to come for the Little Red Dot.

FUTURE NATION

Singapore's first urban planner was Sir Stamford Raffles. The man who founded Singapore in 1819 was the visionary behind the Raffles Town Plan, developed in the 1820s. But little could he have envisioned our dramatic transformation into today's carefully designed landscape of skyscrapers, HDB estates, parks and MRT lines.

With only 710 sq km to work with, our urban planners have delicately balanced the optimal use of limited land while minimising an oppressive built-up feel.

But urban planning is no longer just about land use. It is about lifestyle, and integrating a rapidly growing – and greying – population. It must suit the needs and aspirations of both young and old.

These trends are reshaping the way we live, work and play.

HOW WE LIVE

Modern city living comes to life in HDB estates, which are designed to be self-sufficient and house more than 80 per cent of Singapore's population.

With every new HDB town, however, planners want to ensure that older towns do not lag behind in terms of design and convenience.

Under the Remaking Our Heartland (ROH) initiative launched in 2007, the HDB aimed to rejuvenate mature estates and enhance outdoor facilities while preserving their heritage.

Three pilot estates – Punggol, Yishun and Dawson – now enjoy better environments, thanks to the ROH:



FEATURE

- Punggol is “A Waterfront Town of the 21st Century”;
- Yishun is turning into a vibrant northern hub; and
- A new generation of HDB flats has injected fresh life into the mature Dawson estate in Queenstown.

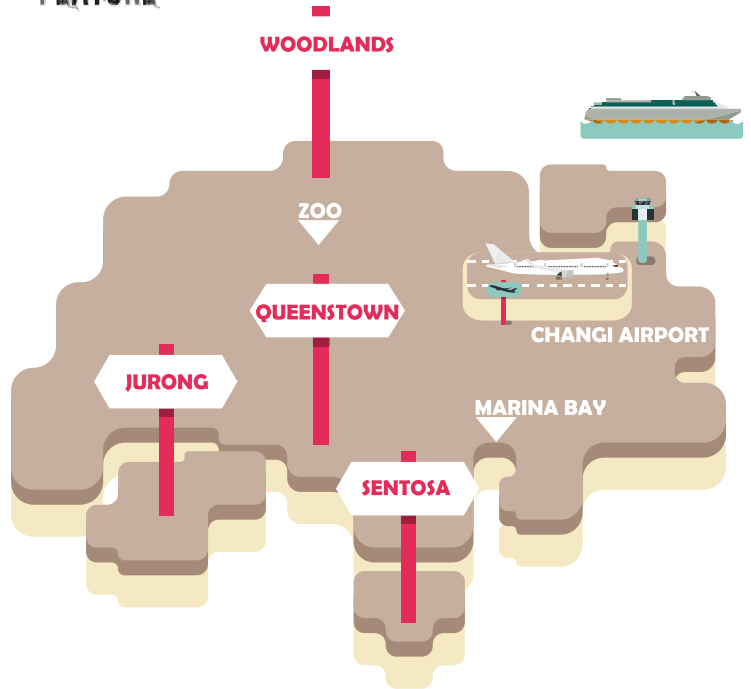
In the ROH’s second phase, Hougang, East Coast and the Jurong Lake area will be made over. Folks in the east will enjoy enhanced recreational hubs at East Coast Park and Bedok Reservoir. Over in the west, the Jurong Lake area will become a unique residential district with multiple leisure options.

And with our country being as small as it is, locals from other districts, and tourists too, will surely take advantage of these new additions in the east and west.

HOW WE WORK

The date 7 November 1987 was epochal in local history with the opening of the first Mass Rapid Transit (MRT) line.

Fast-forward 30 years, and our MRT network moves three million passengers daily. With a planning parameter of up to 6.9 million people in Singapore by 2030, the MRT plans to double Singapore’s rail network to 360km, and for eight in 10 households to be within a 10-minute walk of an MRT station.



“I imagine Singapore will have access to state-of-the-art renewable energy, waste minimisation, recycling, green transport, green building, and other technological innovations”

Dr Shawn Lum, President,
Nature Society Singapore



MRT PLAN

Singapore's rail network will double by 2030, with five new lines costing \$60 billion

8 in 10 households will be within a 10-minute walk of an MRT station

85% of all public transport journeys will take an hour or less

UPCOMING MRT LINES

Downtown Line
When completed in 2017, the 42km line will be the longest underground and automated train line

Thomson Line
This 30km underground system, to be completed by 2019, will cut through central Singapore from the north

Eastern Region Line
Scheduled to run from 2020, this is for inhabitants in the south-east of Singapore

Jurong Region Line
This line into the west will operate by 2025

NEW HUBS TO LIVE AND WORK IN

- 1 Complementing the MRT system, the Urban Redevelopment Authority's (URA) 1991 Concept Plan introduced regional and fringe centres.
- 2 The Novena area and Tampines have grown into self-contained hubs, with homes, offices, retail outlets and entertainment facilities.
- 3 The reduction of peak hour traffic in the CBD and the bringing of jobs closer to residents' homes did not happen by accident, but were among the goals in developing these regional districts.
- 4 New hubs will be created in Jurong Lake District, Kallang Riverside and Paya Lebar, each with a different identity and commercial focus.
- 5 Marina Bay and the Raffles Place/Shenton Way city centre will remain the nation's key financial district.



HOW WE PLAY

In Singapore, one is never far from nature – from parks within 400m of most homes to high-rise gardens in our high-rise buildings.

Outdoors lovers wend their way along roads and past picturesque, clean rivers on a large interlinking network of paths that connect green spaces. The Park Connector Network (PCN) is 300km long – impressive for a city-state that measures only 50km at its longest stretch, from east to west. “The Park Connector Network both maintains our treasured green spaces as well as creates an avenue for children and adults to walk, jog, cycle and form family and communal bonds,” says Associate Professor Cheah Kok Ming, NUS Department of Architecture.

Cyclists and park goers can also look forward to a new Round Island Route, a continuous 150km park connector that goes, well, around our island. The Route is part of the larger PCN and expected to benefit 3.5 million people. Construction work on the first 60km of the 150km Route started in 2016.

Another exciting project is the Rail Corridor along the old KTM railway, also known as the old Malaysian railway line. Plans are afoot for cycling paths, sheltered rest areas, event spaces and rainforest viewing platforms along this 24km corridor.

The historic Tanjong Pagar Railway Station will be the gateway into the Rail Corridor. The national monument, with its distinctive blend of art deco, neo-classical and local architectural styles, will also house the jewel in the crown of the completed Circle Line – with an MRT stop within the station.

HOW WE BRING THE OUTDOORS IN

What new, transformative frontier can we expect that will leave another indelible footprint on our urban landscape?

Bringing nature inside, of course. Combine this with a first-class experience of leisure, shopping and dining at an air hub – and what CNN has called “the most awesome airport in the world” is born.

Slated for completion in 2019, Jewel Changi Airport is located in the heart of the Changi air hub, connecting existing terminals and seamlessly integrating airport facilities with retail and leisure outlets.

“Our urban planners have been, for some time, embracing the formula of enlivening and increasing the value of our land by adding layers of different activities. Embedded in the planning parameters is a sense of inclusiveness that caters to the entire demographic spectrum from young to old”

Associate Professor Cheah Kok Ming, NUS Department of Architecture



The \$1.47 billion glass-and-steel complex will have five storeys above ground and five basement levels, covering a massive gross floor area of about 134,000 sq m. This new fourth terminal at the airport is expected to serve 85 million passengers, up from the 58.7 million passengers that pass through its three terminals annually.

Adding to Singapore’s “Garden City” reputation as well as bringing nature indoors, Jewel Changi Airport will showcase a 40m-high Rain Vortex, the world’s tallest indoor waterfall. Visitors will also be able to hike indoors up Forest Valley – a stunning five-storey garden with thousands of trees and verdant greenery. Hiking in a tropical country, but in air-conditioned comfort – uniquely Singapore!

Singapore is also possibly the only country in the world where locals visit the airport for shopping, eating and walking about, with no intention of boarding a plane or seeing anyone off. “Jewel Changi Airport does not merely enhance airport facilities; it is designed to be a new leisure destination for Singaporeans of all ages,” says Associate Professor Cheah. With these changes happening even as you read this, get ready to live, work and play your way very differently, as we hurtle into the 21st century. ■

AGELESS IN SINGAPORE

An illustration where the word 'AGELESS' is written in large, bold, black letters. Inside and around the letters are several small, colorful figures of people engaged in various physical activities: a woman in a green top is performing a leg extension on top of the 'S'; a man in a red tank top is lifting weights inside the 'E'; a woman in a yellow top is stretching inside the 'G'; and a man in a purple shirt is sitting on a bench with a dumbbell inside the 'S'.

How will Singapore's greying population affect the country's social and economic development for the next 50 years? KC Soh delves into the government's plan to promote successful ageing.

ON THE RED DOT

A Nation for All Ages. We want Singapore to be the best place for Singaporeans to grow old in, and a model for successful ageing." This was part of the mission statement of the Action Plan for Successful Ageing, published by the Ministry of Health in 2016.

The reality is that one in five people in Singapore will be 65 and older by 2030, compared to one in nine today. This, if left unaddressed, has ramifications for our economy, labour market and fiscal policies related to healthcare and social spending.

A potential time bomb is the strains on intergenerational ties because of a greater burden placed on the younger generation.

In Japan, more than 25 per cent of its population is already 65 or older, while 20 per cent of the population in Italy, Greece and Germany are 65 and older. All these countries are already challenged by issues, such as a decreasing working population, lower income tax receipts, increased healthcare and eldercare costs.

In Singapore, however, "instead of letting our society be taken over by a 'silver tsunami', we can translate longevity into a positive force for social and economic development", said Mr Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Health, at the SG50 Scientific Conference on Ageing on 19 March 2015.



HERE ARE THE GOVERNMENT'S KEY INITIATIVES AND TARGETS IN ITS ACTION PLAN FOR SUCCESSFUL AGEING

Lifelong Employability

- The re-employment age will be raised from 65 to 67 by 2017, to enable people to work longer if they are willing and able to, with the possibility of further increases in the future as our population ages.

Health and Wellness

- A National Seniors' Health Programme will reach over 400,000 older adults.
- A new workplace health programme will target 120,000 mature workers aged 40 and above.

Senior Learning

- A National Silver Academy will eventually provide some 30,000 learning places for seniors to pursue their interests.
- Some 100 schools and Voluntary Welfare Organisations/community organisations will join the Intergenerational Learning Programme.

Senior Volunteerism

- An additional 50,000 senior volunteers will be recruited.

Community Befriending

- Expand home visit programmes in at least 50 neighbourhoods to keep social isolation and poor health at bay among vulnerable seniors.

Inter-Generational Harmony

- Co-locate eldercare and childcare facilities in 10 new Housing & Development Board (HDB) housing developments.

Aged Care:

Between 2015 and 2020, the Ministry of Health will:

- More than double the number of community hospital beds.
- Increase nursing home capacity by more than 70 per cent.
- Increase home and community care places by 50 per cent and 100 per cent, respectively.

Active Ageing and Assisted Living

- MOH has planned another 40 day centres for seniors by 2020. About a quarter of these will be large Active Ageing Hubs in housing developments, providing active ageing and assisted living services.

Transport

The Land Transport Authority will:

- Implement 35 Silver Zones by 2020.
- Double the number of Green Man Plus traffic lights from the current 500 to 1,000 by end 2018.
- Install lifts at an additional 41 pedestrian overhead bridges by 2018.
- Replace all buses with wheelchair-accessible ones by 2020.

Research

- The National Research Foundation will allocate up to \$200 million for a National Innovation Challenge on Active and Confident Ageing to catalyse research on ageing.



SILVER ZONES

In 2014, the LTA announced the Silver Zone programme to implement road safety features in places frequented by seniors, including the following:

1 Raised Zebra Crossings with LED road studs that light up at night, to alert motorists to the crossing ahead.

2 Silver Zone road signs that warn motorists to slow down.

3 On wider roads, Courtesy Crossings with ramps and no barrier, with a central divider “safe zone” within for the elderly to stop and rest. This enables them to cross a wide road in two stages.

Silver Zones have been introduced in Marine Parade, Bukit Merah, Jurong West, Bedok North, Lengkok Bahru, Tampines, Woodlands and Yishun Ring Road.

Upcoming Silver Zone locations in 2017 include Hougang, Clementi, Toa Payoh, Telok Blangah and Commonwealth.

By 2023, LTA will have expanded the programme from an initial 35, to a total of 50 locations island-wide.



That Singaporeans live longer, while remaining healthy later into life, speaks volumes for our excellent healthcare system. But staying alive is not the same as living fully.

The government is putting in place policies and infrastructure for managing successful ageing, including helping people move from working life to retirement.

One key concern is managing the isolation which seniors may feel, by getting them to remain socially active in the community through lifelong learning, volunteerism or even remaining in the workforce if they choose to.

“As the cliché goes, age is just a number. But this can only be so if seniors remain actively engaged with their family, friends, neighbours, colleagues and the community at large,” says Dr Tan Ern Ser, National University of Singapore (NUS) Sociologist.

Supporting the Ministry of Health in its Action Plan is an umbrella body called The Council for Third Age, an agency set up in May 2007 that focuses on three areas: lifelong learning, senior volunteerism and positive ageing. C3A, as the Council is also known, aims to create a pro-age Singapore where seniors fully participate in society as integral members. The National Silver Academy, for example, is administered by C3A.

The Action Plan For Successful Ageing addresses key areas affected by ageing: Employment, learning, wellness, volunteerism, community, housing, daily living, healthcare, transport and research.

Ultimately, however, the government can only do so much. Seniors must be made aware of the programmes available, and given personal encouragement and support to pursue volunteerism, lifelong learning and interaction with the community.

“Being active will enhance the probability of one staying mentally, emotionally and socially healthy,” explains Dr Tan. “Social isolation can only reduce one’s quality of life.”

Dr Alexius Pereira, a former lecturer at the NUS Sociology Department (2001 to 2009), adds: “It’s not ideal if a senior were to sit in front of the TV to pass time. The brain

“Age is just a number. But this can only be so if seniors remain actively engaged... Being active will enhance the probability of one staying mentally, emotionally and socially healthy. Social isolation can only reduce one’s quality of life”

Dr Tan Ern Ser, NUS Sociologist



isn’t working; the body isn’t moving. The senior must be the main driver of his or her own active ageing. It’s a personal mindset. Even a non-physically active hobby like learning to play the piano or mahjong counts. Family and friends can be part of the active ageing journey by being encouraging and supportive.”

Which means that it also boils down to each of us to encourage the seniors around us – our grandparents, parents, elderly relatives and friends – to take advantage of the opportunities available.

If public and private institutions, individuals and the community all work together, there is well-placed hope for a successful transition to an older, yet happy and fulfilled, population. ■

GOING PLACES

TRAVEL

From art and fashion to amazing natural phenomena, make time for these unique experiences on your next vacation, says Sharon Lim.



NIIGATA, JAPAN

Fuji Rock 2017

28 to 30 July

One of Japan's largest outdoor music events turns 20, featuring 200 acts including Aphex Twin, Björk and Lorde. Choose from over 3,000 package tours departing from 27 cities around Japan by plane, train and bus, including admission tickets and lodging at the festival grounds. You can also camp at the designated "auto-campsite", Moon Caravan, or stay in a nearby hotel, minshuku (Japanese B&B) or ryokan (traditional Japanese inn).

FUJIROCK-ENG.COM

PARIS, FRANCE

David Hockney

21 June to 23 October

The English painter marks his 80th birthday this year with an exhibition at the Centre Pompidou. An important part of the 1960s Pop Art movement, Hockney is also a draughtsman, printmaker, stage designer and photographer – and this retrospective features his most famous works in painting, drawing, print, photography and video together for the first time.

CENTREPOMPIDOU.FR/EN/THE-CENTRE-POMPIDOU

PHOTOS: GETTY IMAGES



THIS PAGE, CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: REI KAWAKUBO ON THE RUNWAY; COSTUME INSTITUTE IN NEW YORK; ANGKOR WAT TEMPLE GROUNDS; AND NORTHERN LIGHTS IN ICELAND

FACING PAGE: DAVID HOCKNEY'S ART AT THE CENTRE POMPIDOU IN PARIS

SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

Angkor Empire Marathon

6 August

See one of the seven wonders of the world from a different perspective – while you’re running within the grounds of the Angkor Wat temple. The Angkor Empire Marathon is the first full marathon in Cambodia with a route on the grounds of the largest religious monument in the world. Breathtaking scenery aside, the route is also mostly flat, so you can expect to score a personal best time at this race.

ANGKOREMPIREMARATHON.ORG

REYKJAVIK, ICELAND

Northern Lights

September 2017 to mid-April 2018

Iceland is one of the best places to see this dazzling natural phenomenon. Plan to stay at least seven nights: The Northern Lights tend to be active for two to three nights, followed by four to five nights of low activity. Popular spots include Selfoss, an hour’s drive from Reykjavik. Or go further afield to the “Golden Circle” comprising Pingvellir National Park, the Gullfoss waterfall, and the Haukadalur geothermal area.

NORTHERNLIGHTSICELAND.COM

NEW YORK CITY, USA

Rei Kawakubo/Commes des Garçons: Art of the In-Between

4 May to 4 September

Japanese fashion designer Rei Kawakubo is the focus at this year’s Costume Institute annual fashion exhibit. On display are 120 womenswear outfits from her first Paris runway show in 1981 to her most recent collection. The exhibit aims to highlight Kawakubo’s explorations in what she calls “in-betweenness” or the space between boundaries.

METMUSEUM.ORG/EXHIBITIONS/LISTINGS/2017/REI-KAWAKUBO

Travelling for work? These gadgets and apps are the “secret weapons” of the regular business traveller, says Patricia Bazzard.

STAY IN TOUCH



Bluesmart Black Edition

This is the ultimate carry-on bag: A sturdy roll-along with a built-in 10,400 mAh battery (for charging your devices) and weighing scale (so your carry-on will never be overweight), as well as a 15" laptop compartment. You can also track its location and remotely lock it from anywhere in the world via your phone. At about \$850, it's a bit pricey but worth investing in.

intl.bluesmart.com/black

FEATURE



Mifi Hotspot

Also known as a mobile wifi device, a mifi can tether around eight to 10 devices – so you can stay connected using a data SIM card local to your destination, and not have to rely on your hotel's business facilities. Challenger stores in Singapore carry a range of mifis, with an average of six hours' battery life. The Huawei E5573 4G LTE Mobile Hotspot (\$139) is a good choice. Tip: You can pre-order foreign SIM cards and pick them up at Changi Airport before you fly.

changirecommends.com



Nordvpn App

A Virtual Private Network (VPN) gives you encrypted privacy; it hides your browsing, banking, business and other Internet activity from online snoopers. It also allows you access to geo-restricted content, so you can watch the latest episodes of *Sherlock* on BBC iPlayer, for instance, or access Facebook, Twitter and Skype in countries that have blocked them. The NordVPN app (about \$113 for a two-year subscription) is top-rated at the moment in *PC Mag* and *PC Advisor* online.

nordvpn.com



Navigation Apps

Popular navigation apps like Maps.Me, Google Maps and CityMaps2Go vary in their offline navigation content. CityMaps2Go has less detailed maps than Maps.Me, but offers Wikipedia content on nearby points of interest. Google Maps offers indoor maps of major buildings and alerts you to traffic gridlock in real time. Tip: Use GPS tracking to make sure taxi drivers are taking you to the right destination.

maps.me/en/home, ulmon.com/#get-the-app and google.co.uk/maps/about/



Moto Z With Moto Mods

A revolution in phone design arrived in Singapore in late 2016 in the form of the Moto Z, by Motorola. Not only is this the world's thinnest premium smartphone, it works with interchangeable snap on, snap off backs (known as Moto Mods) that turn the phone into a movie projector, a JBL sound speaker, a battery powerhouse, or even a 10x zoom Hasselblad camera. Choose from the Moto Z (\$899) or Moto Z Play (\$699). Mods (from \$139 to \$459) are sold separately.

qoo10.sg, lazada.sg and shopap.lenovo.com

YOUR KNOWLEDGE PORTAL

Are you realising your full potential as a working professional and a lifelong learner? Let SkillsFuture help you.
By Michelle Bong Lejtenyi.

There's been a healthy buzz about SkillsFuture (skillsfuture.sg), a national movement that was rolled out last year. Designed for all Singaporeans aged 25 and older, it advocates and promotes a mindset of continually pursuing greater excellence through knowledge, application and experience. Partnered by the Council for Skills, Innovation and Productivity (CSIP), Ministry of Education, Workforce Development Agency, and the People's Association, SkillsFuture offers hundreds of courses from baking to botany to banking.

ITS FOUR-PRONG APPROACH IS SIMPLE:

- Help individuals make well-informed choices in education, training and career development;
- Develop an integrated high-quality system of education and training for constantly evolving needs;
- Promote employer recognition and career development based on skills and mastery; and
- Foster a culture that supports lifelong learning.

As Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam told *The Straits Times*, "We must make it possible for every individual to decide on his or her own learning journey: When to go for fresh infusions of skills or knowledge, and whether it should be in specialised professional training, acquiring soft skills, or developing a new interest."

BEEN THERE, DONE THAT

To date, over 126,000 people have participated in the scheme and picked up new skills, including homemaker Charity Choo, 42, who wanted to learn a marketable skill.

"I've always been curious about how good espresso and coffee are made. So I used my SkillsFuture credits to attend a three-day barista course," she says. "It was good fun and eye-opening; I'm a lot more discerning now, and realise many establishments in Singapore don't serve very good coffee! Right after the course, my good friend bought an espresso machine, and we take turns to create all kinds of brews at house parties."

Meanwhile, financial planner Victor Phua, 33, is keen to sign up for a course on financial planning

applications. He explains, "With the increased emphasis on financial planning ethics today, it would be wise for me to take such a course. That way, I'll learn how to better handle my clients' needs in their best interests."



FEATURE

New graduate Lisa Thomas, 22, says taking up SkillsFuture courses can give her an edge over her peers. “I can improve soft skills like inter-personal communication or effective leadership to complement my tertiary learning. Today’s workforce demands more than just technical knowledge.”

START YOUR LEARNING JOURNEY

Over two million Singaporeans have been allotted \$500 worth of SkillsFuture credits to kickstart their learning journeys. These can be used on top of existing government course subsidies to claim for a wide range of approved courses at

skillsfuture.sg/credit. Simply type in key words to have your area of interest matched with a course, and find out details, such as the length of training period and course fees.

Once you have a course in mind, log in using your SingPass details and register for it with a training provider. You may submit your claim and make payment up to 30 days before the course, or no later than 90 days after its completion.

Whether you’re a fresh graduate, a homemaker looking to get back into the workforce or a retiree looking to keep active, be inspired by what SkillsFuture has to offer. Happy learning! ■

DID YOU KNOW?

- 1 SkillsFuture offers over 18,000 full- and part-time training courses.
- 2 Information and Communications Technology is the top training area among course applicants across the five age groups of 25-29, 30-39, 40-49, 50-59, and 60 and above.
- 3 The National University of Singapore is among the Top 10 SkillsFuture training providers, offering courses in areas such as digital solutions development and data storytelling.
- 4 Over 126,000 Singaporeans have used the SkillsFuture Credit, and 34 per cent have done so more than once.
- 5 The biggest percentage of SkillsFuture users (23 per cent) are those aged 60 and above.



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DIRECTORY

KENT RIDGE GUILD HOUSE

TEL: 6779 1811

Operating hours	Sun to Thurs (including PH) – 8am to 12am Fri, Sat & eve of PH – 8am to 2am
The Scholar Chinese Restaurant	Lunch: Mon to Fri & eve of PH – 12pm to 3pm Sat, Sun & PH – 11.30am to 3pm Dinner: Sun to Thurs & PH – 6pm to 10pm Fri to Sat & eve of PH – 6pm to 10.30pm
Café on the Ridge	Sun to Thurs & PH – 12pm to 10pm Fri, Sat & eve of PH – 12pm to 10.30pm Breakfast is available from 9am to 11am on weekends and public holidays Mon to Fri – Closed from 3pm to 6pm
The Ridge Bar	Sun to Thurs & PH – 11am to 12am Fri, Sat & eve of PH – 11am to 2am
The Chill-Lab	Daily (including eve of PH & PH) 4pm to 12am
The Right Note Karaoke Lounge	Mon to Thurs & PH - 1pm to 12am Fri & eve of PH - 1pm to 2am Sat - 12pm to 2am Sun - 12pm to 12am
Jackpot	Sun to Thurs & PH – 11am to 12am Fri, Sat & eve of PH – 11am to 2am
Swimming Pool	Daily – 7am to 10pm, except Wed 9am to 11am
Fitness Centre/ Aerobics Room	Daily – 7am to 10pm
Ridge Reading Room	Daily – 9am to 9pm
Children's Playground	Daily – 9am to 10pm

SUNTEC CITY GUILD HOUSE

TEL: 6779 1811

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The Bistro	Mon to Sun & PH: Lunch - 11.30am to 3pm Dinner - 6pm to 10pm
The Bar	Sun to Thurs & PH – 11.30am to 12am Fri, Sat & eve of PH – 11.30am to 2am
K Room	Mon to Thurs - 5pm to 12am Fri & eve of PH - 5pm to 2am Sat - 12pm to 2am Sun & PH - 12pm to 12am
Jackpot Room	Sun to Thurs & PH – 11am to 12am Fri, Sat & eve of PH – 11am to 2am

For full listing of facilities and operating hours, please visit www.nuss.org.sg

Stay connected with NUSS

Update your contact details via email: mship@nuss.org.sg
or members login on our website: www.nuss.org.sg

THE SECRETARIAT MANAGEMENT TEAM

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

REGULAR HAPPENINGS @ NUSS

BADMINTON	Tuesdays, Wednesdays @ KRGH: 7pm – 10pm Saturdays @ KRGH: 2pm – 4pm Sundays @ KRGH: 3pm – 6pm Contact Gaby at gabyeong@nuss.org.sg
BALUT	Every last Wednesday @ KRGH: 7pm – 11pm Contact Santhi at santhi@nuss.org.sg
BILLIARDS	Mondays @ KRGH: 6pm – 10pm Thursdays @ KRGH: 6pm – 10pm Contact Jaz at jazchua@nuss.org.sg
BOWLING	Monthly competitions @ Superbowl SAFRA Mount Faber Contact Santhi at santhi@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 Santhi at santhi@nuss.org.sg
SOCCER	Various venues Contact Santhi at santhi@nuss.org.sg
SQUASH	Mondays @ KRGH: 6pm – 10pm Thursdays @ KRGH: 6pm – 10pm Saturdays @ KRGH 4pm – 6pm Contact Santhi at santhi@nuss.org.sg
TABLE-TENNIS	Tuesdays @ KRGH: 7pm – 10pm Thursdays @ KRGH: 7pm – 10pm Saturdays @ KRGH: 2pm – 6pm Contact Kelly at kellykoh@nuss.org.sg
TENNIS	Wednesdays & Fridays @ KRGH: 5pm – 10pm Sundays @ KRGH: 2pm – 7pm Contact Kee Wei at keewei@nuss.org.sg
CHOIR	Thursdays @ KRGH: 7.30pm – 10pm Contact Santhi at santhi@nuss.org.sg
KIDS' CLUB	Regular activities @ various venues Contact Gaby at gabyeong@nuss.org.sg
TUESDAY CONNECTIONS	Tuesdays @ KRGH: 10.30am – 6pm Regular activities at various venues Contact Kelly at kellykoh@nuss.org.sg
DANCESPORT	Tuesdays @ KRGH: 7.30pm – 11pm Contact Jaz at jazchua@nuss.org.sg
TOASTMASTERS CLUB	Every 4th Thursday @ KRGH: 7pm – 10pm Contact Gaby at gabyeong@nuss.org.sg
MUSIC	Regular activities @ KRGH Contact Santhi at santhi@nuss.org.sg
DRAMAWORKS	Regular activities @ KRGH Contact Santhi at santhi@nuss.org.sg
ARTS CONNECTIONS	Regular activities @ KRGH Contact Jaz at jazchua@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 Priscilla Chong at 6586 3704 or email priscillachong@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

TELL US YOUR STORY

CONTEST

SHARE YOUR BEST MEMORIES OF MUM AND DAD

This Mother's and Father's Day, we want to hear what makes your parents amazing. Tell us and treat your parents to a romantic dining experience for two at The Bistro, Suntec City Guild House!

Simply:

1. Post a picture and share with us a special message to your parents. Remember to set your profile to public so we can see your post.
2. Include the hashtags #storiesoflove and #NUSSociety and state your membership number in your post.

The contest runs from 10 April to 19 June 2017 and ends at 11.59 pm on 19 June 2017. Terms and conditions apply. This contest is open to NUSS members only. The top three entries will be chosen and notified by email. Winners will win \$80 worth of dining vouchers each.



IN THE GRADUATE (JAN - MAR 2017), WE ASKED YOU TO SHARE WITH US YOUR MOST MEMORABLE FESTIVE MEAL AT AN NUSS GUILD HOUSE.

Congratulations to Qing You (YA481H), Priscilla Thong (TB917C) and Andrew Tan (TB917C-01) for your winning entries.

SONGS OF LOVE AND DEVOTION

From epic ballads to tender serenades, these enduring songs pay tribute to mothers and fathers – and the joys of parenthood.

"YOU RAISE ME UP"

Josh Groban (2003)

Originally by Irish-Norwegian band, Secret Garden, it was performed for the first time at a funeral — of the mother of the band's pianist, Rolf Lovland, in 2001. "There's something about the song people are embracing," Lovland recalled.

"MAMA"

Spice Girls (1996)

Inspired largely by Scary Spice Mel B's mother, each Spice Girl wrote a different verse in this ballad. "I was going through a bad phase with my mum," she said. "The sentiments are really that your mum's probably the best friend that you've got."

"SWEETEST DEVOTION"

Adele (2015)

This song on "25", Adele's third album, is inspired by her son, Angelo. "The song is all about my kid. Something much bigger has happened in my life," said the English singer. "I love that my life is now about someone else."

"BUTTERFLY KISSES"

Bob Carlise (1997)

Contemporary Christian singer Bob Carlise wrote this for his daughter, Brooke, for her 16th birthday. "It's more a song about gratitude and imperfection... [and] about appreciation of time well spent," Carlise explained.



Dedicate a special song to your parents and little ones this Mother's and Father's Day. Visit The Right Note (KRGH) and/or K Room (SCGH) with your family!

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



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is before us,
not behind us.*

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For more information, please email mship@nuss.org.sg.

** Term Membership is for a period of 10 years. Terms and conditions apply.*



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Director **Tom Hawkes** Conductor **Joshua Kangming Tan**

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