

THE GRADUATE

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Rejuvenating Times

With the lifting of pandemic restrictions, the Society is abuzz with events, activities and social gatherings.

A compilation of selected online articles published in 2022 presented for members' easy download



After a two-year hiatus, NUSS members and their families were eager to take in the NUSS 'Christmas Light-up' on 4 December 2022.

With the relaxation of the COVID-19 rules, members have returned to their favourite places as well as to participate in their usual activities at NUSS Guild Houses at Kent Ridge, Suntec City and Mandalay Road.

The events calendar kicked off at Kent Ridge Guild House with 'Predictions 2022' on the evening of 20 January 2022 at the Della & Seng Gee Guild Hall. About 50 members gathered to hear Master Lynn Yap – Singapore's Feng Shui Queen — unveil developments expected in the Year of the Tiger.

Then on 9 March 2022, NUSS members were in for a treat as they explored 'Patrick Yee's Magical World of Illustration' in the Virtual Art Dialogue. One of Singapore's leading illustrators for children's books, Mr Yee has produced more than 180 books and has won

multiple awards, including the Most Prolific Children's Books Illustrator from the Singapore Book of Records in 2016. This was one of the many art dialogue sessions members enjoyed throughout the year.



Invited speakers Dr Chee and Mr Chen sharing their insights on caring for one's feet.

This was followed by a talk on common foot problems and possible treatment methods on 31 March 2022. Sharing their expert opinions were senior consultant Dr Chee Yu Han, National University Hospital (NUH)

Department of Orthopaedic Surgery (Foot & Ankle Surgery Division), podiatrist Mr John Chen from NUH's Rehabilitation Centre and moderated by Associate Professor Wilson Wang and Dr Bryan Koh, both also from NUH.

On 20 May 2022, NUSS President Professor Tan Eng Chye joined a fireside chat on 'The Future of Education'. It was the first of his two appearances at NUSS as he returned on 9 November 2022 for another Fireside Chat, titled 'Can Learning Become a Lifelong Habit?'

Then on 8 June 2022, there was a Fireside Chat titled 'Challenges of Overcoming Adversity and Succeeding as an Asian in The New World'. Here, three business leaders shared valuable insights on how Asians can succeed in the post-COVID era.

The session featured Ms Lu Zhang, Ms Chong Phit Lian and Dr Philip Wong. Ms Lu is the Founder and Managing Partner of

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NUSS
The Graduate Club



Panellists Ms Lu Zhang, Dr Philip Wong and Ms Chong Phit Lian, shared their experiences in navigating through uncertainty in their respective industries.

Silicon Valley-based Fusion Fund, proven serial entrepreneur and venture capitalist with multiple successful investment exits. Ms Chong is presently an Independent Director of Rokt, an e-commerce marketing software provider. She also serves as a Corporate Advisor to Temasek International and an Independent Director to Singapore Polytechnic International, Singapore Science Centre Global, Mandai Global and Eu Yan Sang. Dr Wong is the CEO and Chief Medical Officer of Web Biotechnologies and a Consultant Cardiologist at Raffles Heart Centre. Drawing from the experience of navigating through their respective industries, the three panellists shared their views on what it takes to succeed in life.

On 29 August 2022, Indonesia's Coordinating Minister for Economic Affairs, Dr Airlangga Hartarto shared his views on 'Driving Indonesia's Next Leap Forward: Economic Transformation and Structural Reforms'. Organised by NUSS, NUS Office of Alumni Relations and the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore, the event was held on 29 August 2022 at the Shaw Foundation Alumni House

A day later, Dr Liu Thai Ker shared his thoughts on the state of Singapore's public housing to date with NUSS members at KRGH. The former CEO of Housing & Development Board (HDB) and Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) also addressed hot-button issues, like the 99-year leases of HDB flats and rising pricing of public housing.

NUSS community outreach programmes also regained momentum

It was no ordinary trip to the mall on 2 July 2022. Organised by the NUSS Community Care & Cultural Sub-Committee (CC&C SC), a group of NUSS volunteers accompanied 20 child beneficiaries from the Children's Wishing Well (CWW), one of the two charities adopted by NUSS, on a shopping trip around IMM mall.

The trip was met with much anticipation as it has been a long time since gatherings of such a scale was permitted, due to COVID-19 safe management measures.

Giving back as a community of graduates

This year's 'NUS Cares' event was held on 3 September 2022 involving NUS staff, students and alumni giving back to the community and less fortunate. As for NUSS, many members and guests volunteered to organise activities and spend quality time at CWW and Dover Park Hospice (DPH) – the other adopted charity.

At KRGH, members of NUSS' sports sections stepped up to guide the child beneficiaries through a myriad of sports activities such as badminton, pickleball, table tennis, tennis and darts. This seemingly simple exercise made a lasting impression on the CWW's child beneficiaries as many have not had the opportunity to try out such sport activities before.

In the meantime, a group of NUSS volunteers joined the elderly beneficiaries and their families for a fun-filled day of activities at DPH. Organised and hosted by NUSS volunteers, the beneficiaries enjoyed simple games and tried out soap making and essential oils at the various booths. Another highlight for many was the professional family portrait-taking booth,



The child beneficiaries were all smiles after a time of activities around Kent Ridge Guild House.

where the elderly beneficiaries and families were able to take pictures together as a precious keepsake of the event.

Ending the year in style

On 13 November 2022, there was the 'NUSS Choir Concert: Fantasia Musicale' at the Victoria Concert Hall at Empress Place. The audience was treated to a musical journey with the NUSS Choir as they explored folk tunes and songs of life and love from three continents, sung in a variety of languages.

Then, there was the 'Christmas Light-up' on 4 December 2022 at KRGH. After a two-year break because of the pandemic, NUSS members and their families were eager to take in the beautiful festive decorations and fully decked out Christmas tree, as well as to participate in fun activities.



The NUSS Choir in action at the Christmas Light-up.

The NUSS Choir added to the festive spirit with an enchanting medley of Christmas carols, while the kids had a great time participating in stage games and a best-dressed contest.

In the spirit of giving, families were also encouraged to participate in NUSS' annual Adopt-A-Wish project by picking a 'wish' to fulfil off the adorned Christmas tree. Participants could then bring a little joy to beneficiaries at the Ramakrishna Mission Boys' Home, Singapore Association for Mental Health (YouthReach), and Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore by giving them a gift this Christmas. **6**

Dialogues with prominent leaders and thinkers on hot topics ranging from Education to Property

Fireside Chat with NUS President

As a graduate society, NUSS aims to contribute positively towards the development of Singapore's political and intellectual scene through meaningful dialogues.

Two fireside chats

Drawn by the intriguing title: 'Can the Future Be Shaped?', about 80 NUSS members and guests attended the Fireside Chat with NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye held at NUSS' Della & Seng Gee Guild Hall on 20 May 2022.

Prof Tan's focus was on the importance of promoting multiple competencies to give students opportunities to leverage on different approaches to solve complex real-life problems.

The setting up of the two new colleges – College of Humanities and Science, a collaboration between the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences and Faculty of Science; and College of Design and Engineering, a merger of the School of Design and Environment



Prof Tan Eng Chye, (right) shares his thoughts on continuous learning in the fireside chat moderated by Mr Lai Kim Seng, NUSS' past president from 2001 to 2005.


with the Faculty of Engineering, are two initiatives which the University has embarked on, to promote interdisciplinary learning.

Importance of lifelong learning

In a second Fireside Chat on 9 November 2022 titled 'Can Learning Become a Lifelong Habit?', Prof Tan highlighted that with a lot of skills and knowledge becoming obsolete, being equipped with a degree is not sufficient for

graduates who may need to change jobs many times in the course of their work life spanning between 40 and 50 years.

Prof Tan also pointed to the progressively blurring line between education and career. "Today, both are intermingled especially when the external environment is changing very fast and while working you have to update and upgrade yourself with technical knowledge and technical skills. The learning process is spread over your lifetime and not just concentrated within the four years at university," he said.

NUS' targeted solution to this phenomenon is the Lifelong Learners Programme, where students will be enrolled in the university for 20 years from the point of their undergraduate admission and will be eligible for NUS' wide range of Continuing Education and Training (CET) courses. This opens up diverse upgrading opportunities to the NUS alumni, which now number more than 300,000. 

Sharing by Dr Liu Thai Ker

Widely regarded as the architect of modern Singapore, Dr Liu Thai Ker was the keynote speaker at the NUSS seminar titled 'Who Moved My Cheese series – Public Housing: A Housing need or Business Venture?' at Kent Ridge Guild House (KRGH) on 30 August 2022.

Dr Liu, who was the former CEO of the Housing & Development Board and the Urban Redevelopment Authority, and his team are credited with formulating Singapore's world-acclaimed public housing projects that provided public housing for 80% of the local population and transformed Singapore into a modern metropolis.

From public service, the 84-year-old Dr Liu went on to make his mark in architecture on the global stage. As the founding chairman of Morrow, his firm has accomplished a portfolio of iconic projects, such as the Guilin Watermark Villa and Weifang Cultural Centre in China, and in



Dr Liu Thai Ker delivering his keynote speech.

Singapore, the Marina Bay Cruise Centre and Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music at NUS.


Addressing the hot button issue of 99-year leases for HDB flats, Dr Liu explained that by law, the lease policy is applicable to all kinds of land use, including those leased out for factories, and hence it had to apply to residential properties.

Ever rising demand for property

Fellow speaker Ms Christine Sun, Senior Vice President of Research and Analytics of

OrangeTee & Tie, highlighted how recent pricing trends in the private property market have strengthened the valuation of new suburban home prices.

Another interesting trend was the rising number of million-dollar transactions especially in non-mature estates in the HDB resale market. Ms Sun said that the high prices were likely due to rising affluence.

It was an enlightening session for the audience who appreciated the panellists' candid and insightful sharing on Singapore's property issues. 



Panellist Ms Christine Sun responds to questions from the floor.

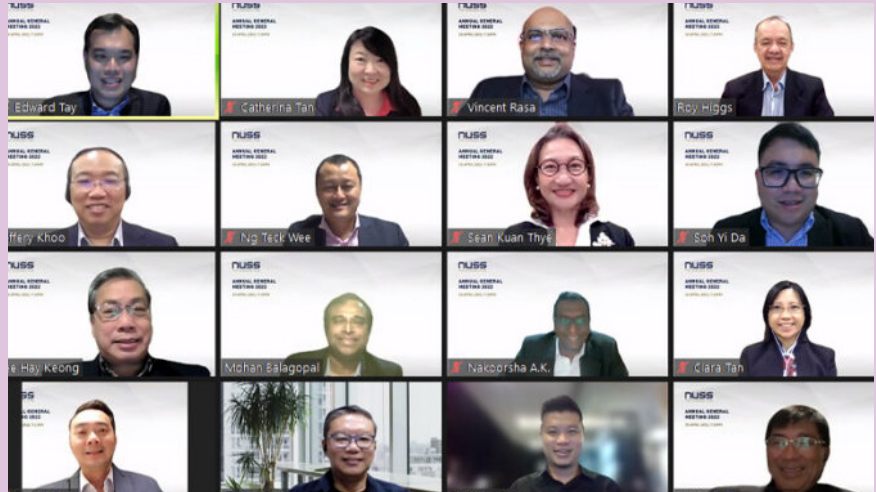
NUSS 2022 Annual General Meeting

The Society welcomed two newly elected Management Committee (MC) members and bade farewell to its former CEO.

The NUSS Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held virtually on 28 April 2022, after two online dialogue sessions were held on 14 March and 25 March for members.


Prior to the AGM, ballot boxes were placed at all three Guild Houses from 26 to 28 April for members with voting rights to elect members to the Committee.

It resulted in two new members coming onboard the 2022/2023 Management Committee (MC). They are Dr Keith Alan Liew, who was appointed Deputy Chairperson for the Food & Beverage and Intellectual Pursuit Sub-Committees; and Mr Sonny Yuen Chee Choong, who was appointed Co-Chairperson for Alumni Development and Deputy Chairperson for Finance. The meeting also confirmed the minutes from the last General Meeting held on 25 January 2021 and the last AGM held on 29 April 2021, as well as appointed an auditor for the coming year. Three other resolutions were carried by the majority: to seek members' approval for the reduction



of membership entrance fee for six months during the Member-get-Member Membership Campaign; that the Society's Constitution be amended; and that the Committee be empowered to amend any of the Resolutions which were approved at the AGM before submission to the Registrar of Societies.

During the AGM, the Society bade farewell to former NUSS Chief Executive Officer, Mr Roy Higgs who had contributed a wealth of wisdom and time during his eight-year tenure.

The AGM warmly welcomed his successor, Ms Clara Tan. 

NUSS Charity Golf raised its highest amount ever



Participants were proud of their achievement.

The NUSS Charity Golf event held on 1 September 2022 at Tanah Merah Country Club attracted close to 150 golfers and friends. Together, the golf enthusiasts raised

a total of \$716,000, which included a \$100,000 contribution from Tote Board. The event culminated with a dinner at NUSS' Kent Ridge Guild House, where the players cooled off from the

day's activities and were treated to a scrumptious spread. There was also an award ceremony where winning golfers received a plaque and a set of Titleist Pro V1 golf balls.

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The VIP table hosted by NUSS President Mr Edward S Tay (third from left) and Ms Clara Tan (second from left) at dinner.

A cheque of the raised proceeds was presented to the Guest-of-Honour – NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye, by NUSS President Mr Edward S Tay. From the amount raised, \$40,000 was contributed in support of NUSS' adopted charities – Children's Wishing Well and Dover Park Hospice, with each

organisation receiving \$20,000. Through these donations, NUSS hopes to do its part in helping the underprivileged in the community.

The establishment of this new bursary is aimed at supporting the NUS Alumni Bursary Fund (ABF) Campaign. Since its inception in 2013, NUSS has pledged

up to \$250,000 annually to help ease the financial burden of NUS students in need. To date, NUSS has donated \$2.25 million in fulfilment of this pledge. With the collective efforts and strong support of the NUS alumni community, the ABF campaign has raised in excess of \$25 million. **6**

Welcoming the new year in style

The NUSS Countdown Party was a 'Crazy Rich Asians' affair inspired by the popular Hollywood movie with the same name. Held on New Year's Eve at the Della & Seng Gee Guild Hall after a two-year absence, what a celebration it was!

It was loads of great fun, fine food and fabulous company to usher in the new year. Dressed to the nines, members and their guests soaked in the party atmosphere that was made even more memorable with popular emcee Moe Alkaff and live band Jerry and the Neu Faces.

It looked like the good old days are back again! **6**



NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme

The NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme has been a resounding success since its launch in academic year (AY) 2012/2013 as a partnership between NUSS and the NUS Office of Student Affairs. The programme for the current AY 2022/2023 kicked off with a welcome dinner held on 13 October 2022 at the Kent Ridge Guild House.

Among the mentors who turned up at the event was Mr Arulnathan John, a communications specialist with over 20 years' experience in journalism, media and publications, who was matched with two mentees. "I wanted to give back to society and my alma mater, by mentoring and guiding the younger generations of students in work and life lessons," he said.

A new participant, Mr Lau Eng Seng, a retiree with over 38 years of working experience, was similarly attracted to join the programme. He said, "It dawned upon me that it is time for me to give back to society and what better way than to share my life experience including the lessons that I learnt through mistakes. I am keeping an open mind

and look forward to a positive experience that will last beyond a year."

This year also saw the launch of a new class of mentors, comprising Associate Mentors, who possess between five and 10 years' experience. Members previously needed to have at least 10 years' experience to be eligible to take up a mentor role.

In his welcome address, NUSS President, Mr Edward S Tay explained the rationale of bringing in Associate Mentors, "We recognise that it will be useful for our undergraduates to tap on the experience of those who have graduated more recently. We hope that our mentees would be able to gain a more diversified perspective from mentors with a wider range of experience."

Mr Tay thanked the mentors for their time and effort in shaping and guiding the next generation and hoped that the mentees would use the programme to gain insight and direction in their future careers. He also thanked Associate Professor Ho Han Kiat and the NUS Office of Student Affairs for making the longstanding partnership possible. 



Thumbs up for a job well done.