

CREATING A NEW COMMUNITY OF LEARNING

Year in review **2014**



Yale
NUS
College

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



President Pericles Lewis

During the College's first year, we have been graced by visits from many distinguished speakers. In October 2014, we look forward to welcoming the poet Aimee Nezhukumatathil, part of whose lovely poem about a first anniversary is reproduced on the next page. Looking back on our first year, while we did not set out entirely without a compass, we did have to draw our own map. We can happily say that we have found rewarding detours and paths that we did not expect when we set out on this remarkable journey.

As the first liberal arts college in Singapore and one of the pioneers of such learning in all of Asia, Yale-NUS College aims to redefine liberal education for a complex, interconnected world. In the past three years, Yale-NUS has blossomed from an idea to a vibrant residential college that offers a unique curriculum and distinctive off-campus educational experiences, in Singapore and throughout the region. It is an extraordinary privilege to have the opportunity to lead this new college as we reimagine undergraduate education for this century.

Developing the curriculum in tandem with the new residential program has been an intense and dynamic process. We seek to combine the strengths of established liberal arts and science traditions with the diverse intellectual traditions and cultures of Asia and the world. Besides imparting knowledge, we want to instill in our students solid intellectual habits that will be useful to them for life. We are nurturing young minds and equipping them with the means to think critically, inquire endlessly, and pursue beliefs passionately. In July 2013, we opened our doors to the inaugural class of over 150 extremely accomplished students with diverse talents and backgrounds. A year later, we have just welcomed over 170 students to the class of 2018. By choosing Yale-NUS, these students are telling the world that they too want to blaze new trails.

At Yale-NUS, we are building a community of learning, where learning and living are intertwined. This unique educational experience relies on the principles of free exchange of ideas, pluralism and respect for diversity. We offer a space where colleagues, classmates and friends take their conversations beyond the classroom to the tree-shaded courtyard or late-night excursions to the Shiok Shack (the College buttery). In addition to the innovative curriculum, our students also learn by pursuing various extracurricular interests, ranging from sports to art, politics or travel. Our first academic year has seen the creation of

various student interest groups such as modern dance, improvisational comedy, Model United Nations conferences and even an Investment Club. Many students have joined more than one such organization. We believe that this broad exposure to ideas, people and the world will help our students define their choices and develop their character to shape society in the future.

Celebrated in their respective fields, our faculty members are leading educators and path breaking scholars whose research endeavors continue to ignite the community of learning. In the first year of the College, even while they shaped and taught a new curriculum, more than 90 percent of our faculty members authored or co-authored close to 100 peer-reviewed papers, of which nearly two-thirds appeared in academic journals of the highest rank of global impact and prestige. They also received over S\$3 million in external research funding from both national and international organizations such as the Global Asia Institute, National Research Foundation (Singapore) and the John Templeton Foundation.

Philanthropic giving has played an important role in our young College as we build our endowment to provide impactful programs, offer scholarships to attract talented students, make our education accessible to students through our study awards, and attract leading academics through our professorships and fellowships. The College has received remarkable support from the community, and for that, we are grateful and humbled. All of the senior leadership have made gifts to the College, and this is a strong testament to the passion and conviction we feel about Yale-NUS.

As the first academic year of the College came to a close, I marveled at the feeling of collective effervescence here at Yale-NUS, the sense that we have put ourselves fully into this collective experience in order to learn alongside one another. Indeed, one of the great successes of the past academic year has been the deep engagement of our faculty and students with the common curriculum, which provides our answer to the question, "What must a young person learn in order to live a responsible life in this century?" I am heartened that our founding group, from the students to the faculty and staff, has continued to demonstrate enthusiasm, adaptability and fearlessness, as we define and shape the future directions for the College.

I strongly believe that a Yale-NUS education will create leaders who can adapt to diverse and challenging environments and who are well-placed to embrace the uncertainties of our future as active citizens of the world. There will be detours and surprises, but that is part of the process of innovation. The next few years will be exciting times for the College as we move into our permanent campus, launch new courses, refine our curriculum, and develop unique programming. Once again, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for the tremendous support we have received from our Board members, founding benefactors, donors, industry partners, parents, students, staff and faculty, and I invite you to continue on this journey with us.

Pericles Lewis
Founding President
Yale-NUS College

*There is no crumbly
frozen cake to thaw.
Today, we are in the jungle.
I mean mosquito. I mean*

*tigers and elephants
sludging their way
to the lake for a drink...*

*Eventually you turn us
back to a place
not on any map,
but I know I can trace
it back with my finger*

*if we ever need it again.
We made it one year
without a compass and
we're not about to start now.*

Aimee Nezhukumatathil
Excerpt from "First Anniversary, with Monkeys,"
in *At the Drive-In Volcano* (Tupelo 2010)

May 2012

Inaugural leadership team

Professor Pericles Lewis was named the inaugural President of Yale-NUS College in May 2012. On the same day, Professor Lai Choy Heng was appointed Executive Vice-President (Academic Affairs). Both men formally took office on 1 July 2012. The leadership team is rounded out by Mrs Doris Sohmen-Pao, who was appointed as Executive Vice-President (Administration) earlier in 2012.

Professor Pericles Lewis *Founding President*

President Lewis has played an instrumental role in the conceptualization of the College's academic programs and in its establishment. In particular, he has been extensively involved in planning the new curriculum for Yale-NUS College and has chaired the committee that recruited the humanities faculty. A faculty

member of Yale University since 1998, Professor Lewis is a full professor in both the English and Comparative Literature departments. A distinguished scholar of British and European literature, he is recognized internationally as a leader in the field of literary modernism. Professor Lewis has held a series of important administrative positions at Yale, including Director of Undergraduate Studies for the Literature Major, and Chair of the Yale College Committee on Majors.

Professor Lai Choy Heng *Executive Vice-President (Academic Affairs)*

A theoretical physicist, Professor Lai has been Vice-Provost for Academic Personnel at the National University of Singapore (NUS) since 2003. A member of the NUS faculty since 1980, he was Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Science from 1996 to 2000, and Dean from 2000 to 2003. He has also served as Head of Department for Computational Science and Head of Department for Physics at NUS.

9 November 2012

Inaugural faculty shapes innovative Common Curriculum

Celebrated in their respective fields, our faculty members are passionate about teaching and mentoring every individual to fulfill their ultimate potential. Handpicked from over 2,500 applications over two years, the College opened its doors to the inaugural cohort of students with over 50 faculty members who are leading educators and distinguished researchers from around the world. Instead of traditional academic departments, the Yale-NUS faculty members teach in three divisions: Science, Social Sciences, and Humanities. In addition, more than 30 Yale scholars will visit the College over the next four years to teach courses and give guest lectures in disciplines that cut across the arts, humanities, and social and natural sciences, while NUS faculty will also teach Yale-NUS students through electives. Some will teach mini-courses of up to two weeks, while others will stay for a full semester.

The Yale-NUS Common Curriculum, built from scratch by the inaugural faculty, seeks to draw on the strengths of established liberal arts traditions, while introducing our students to the diverse intellectual traditions and cultures of Asia and the world. Announced in November 2012, the Common Curriculum is a set of interconnected courses designed to provide all students with a shared, intensive exploration of themes and topics ranging across all the academic disciplines, from science to the humanities. When combined with the residential college system, Yale-NUS students are immersed in a living and learning environment that fosters the ability to analyze issues, reflect critically, solve problems and communicate effectively. The Common Curriculum remains under review – the selected readings and themes may change from year to year – and will undergo a substantive assessment in its third year.

Since 2007, he has held the concurrent appointment of Deputy Director of the Center for Quantum Technologies, a Research Center of Excellence at NUS. Professor Lai received his undergraduate and doctorate degrees from the University of Chicago. The recipient of NUS Faculty Awards for the teaching of physics and computational sciences, Professor Lai has published over 130 papers in internationally refereed journals.

Mrs Doris Sohmen-Pao

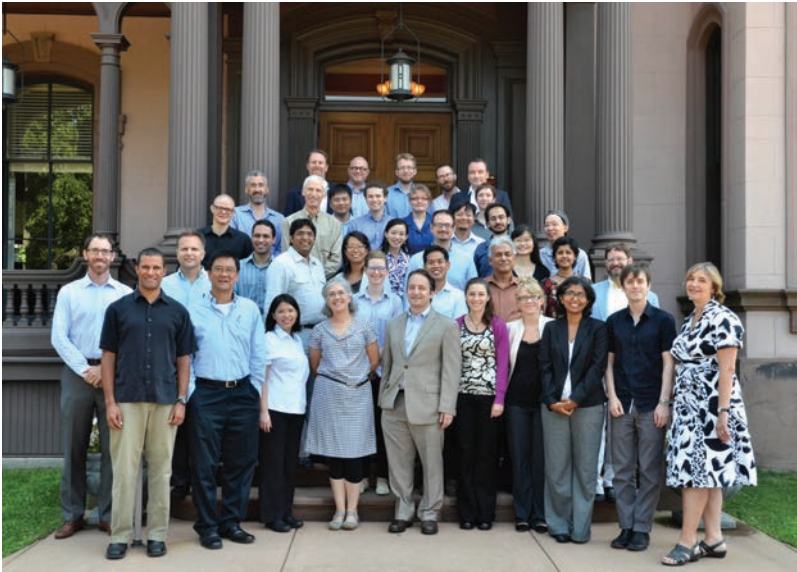
Executive Vice-President (Administration)

Mrs Sohmen-Pao has held senior positions in academic and business institutions. She began her career as a strategy consultant in PricewaterhouseCoopers' Entertainment, Media and Communications practice in New York City. Most recently, Mrs Sohmen-Pao was the Director of Human Capital for Bain & Company, Southeast Asia, and had earlier served as the Director of INSEAD's MBA Program overseeing the campuses in Singapore

and France. She held the same title at Singapore Management University, where she developed and launched the MBA Program. Mrs Sohmen-Pao has served on a number of boards including the Forte Foundation (for women in business) and currently serves on the international advisory board of the YK Pao School in Shanghai, the Southeast Asia Council for INSEAD as well as the Board of Governors of United World College of Southeast Asia.



(from left to right) President Pericles Lewis, Mrs Doris Sohmen-Pao, Professor Lai Choy Heng



The inaugural Yale-NUS faculty gathered at Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut

6 July 2012

Groundbreaking Ceremony



The Groundbreaking Ceremony was graced by Guest-of-Honor, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore.

The College held its groundbreaking ceremony on 6 July 2012. This landmark event was graced by Guest-of-Honor, Mr Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of Singapore. 200 distinguished guests attended the event, including the Presidents of Yale University and NUS, President Emeritus Richard C Levin and President Tan Chorh Chuan, the Yale-NUS College Governing Board, faculty, students and donors.

The Yale-NUS campus architecture will closely parallel the College's educational mission. Epitomizing the collaborative nature of the venture, two world-class architects, Singapore's Forum Architects and Pelli Clarke Pelli in the US, have been commissioned to design and build the future campus. Elements such as the syncopated skyline and richness of materials derived from Yale architecture are combined with Asian courtyard landscapes to meld cultures, traditions and styles of Singapore, America, and Southeast Asia, and support living-and-learning experiences between classroom and community.

This residential model creates 'nested communities' in the Yale tradition of supporting lifelong learning in liberal arts and sciences by combining academic, intellectual, social, athletic, and artistic life. There will be three residential colleges, each planned as a 'social home' for students and faculty. Delivering a great liberal arts and sciences education also requires open spaces that provide opportunities for students to explore their interests in the sciences, history, literature, and the arts. To create this environment, Yale-NUS' campus design will include spaces that reflect the openness, energy and optimism of the College's curriculum.

"Yale-NUS presents a new offering in this Singapore higher education landscape. It offers broad-based, multidisciplinary undergraduate curriculum, one which we hope will develop critical thinking, appreciation for complexity, communications and leadership skills..."

"Yale-NUS College will give high-caliber students from Singapore another option to pursue degree at home, instead of going overseas. We hope it will also attract top students from the region and some of these, after graduation, we hope will have had fond memories and seen good opportunities and will strike roots in Singapore."

"[Yale-NUS] is indeed first of its kind in this part of the world" and is "breaking new ground".

Mr Lee Hsien Loong
Prime Minister of Singapore

27 July 2012

Yale-NUS receives strong support from education community

On 27 July 2012, Yusof Ishak Secondary School (YISS) donated nearly S\$20,000 of funds raised from their annual Festival of the Arts 2011 to the Yale-NUS College Endowment Fund. This was the first donation by an educational institution to the Endowment Fund, which provides financial assistance to needy students.



February 2013

First Rector, Brian G McAdoo

In February 2013, tsunami scientist Professor Brian G McAdoo was named the inaugural Rector of Yale-NUS College. As Rector, Professor McAdoo oversees the social and cultural life of Yale-NUS students, as well as the complex physical space of the residential college. He plays an integral role in building a cohesive community, creating bonds among

students, and instilling in students a sense of belonging at the College. He also taps on his personal and professional networks to facilitate programs and activities for the students.

Yale-NUS first-year students will be assigned a residential college, each with its own identity within the community. One of the College's distinct qualities is the close-knit residential community where all students live and study on campus throughout their four-year education at the College. This unique model of residential living and learning, a first in Asia, will see interactions between students and faculty members extending beyond the classrooms.



April 2013

First Vice-Rector and Dean's Fellows

Dr Eduardo Lage-Otero was named the inaugural Vice-Rector in April 2013. As Vice-Rector, Dr Lage-Otero serves as the primary academic and personal adviser to the students. He works closely with the Dean's Fellows to ensure Yale-NUS students have a successful and rich social and learning experience living on campus and beyond. Dean's Fellows, who serve as the mentors and counselors,



The first 12 Dean's Fellows with Dean of Students, Kyle Farley (far left), Associate Dean of Students, Kim Cheah (center, second row), Rector McAdoo (far right) and Vice-Rector Lage-Otero (third from left, back row)

live in the college with the students and cultivate extracurricular activities. Together with the Dean of Students and the Rector, Dr Lage-Otero oversees the development of activities and events in the residential college to expand students' intellectual and personal growth beyond the traditional confines of the classroom. 12 Dean's Fellows joined the team in July 2013.

29 May 2013

Yale-NUS bags BCA Green Mark Platinum Award

Yale-NUS College's commitment towards sustainable development was recognized when its new campus bagged the 2013 Green Mark Platinum Award. The Platinum Award is the highest level of award given by the Building and Construction Authority to environmentally friendly buildings that are under construction. Students can look forward to green features like eco-ponds, sky gardens, energy-efficient sensors and campus designs which maximize natural light when the new campus opens in 2015.

June 2013

First Class

Over 150 top students from 26 countries formed the College's inaugural class. The College's highly selective and competitive admissions process yielded a class of extremely accomplished students with diverse talents and backgrounds.

In all, Yale-NUS attracted over 11,400 applications from over 130 countries. The acceptance rate of the inaugural class was under four percent. The College employs a holistic approach in evaluating applicants: while academic achievement as reflected in examination grades is a primary consideration, interviews, recommendations, essays and extracurricular accomplishments are also given significant weight in the process. Yale-NUS is planning to grow its class size to 250 students over the next few years, leveraging on the immense interest and high caliber of the applicant pool.

The students who formed the inaugural class came from 77 schools on six different continents. 97 members of the inaugural class are Singaporean (62%). 13 students come from the United States and four from Canada. 32 of the students hail from Asia, Australia and New Zealand, while another 11 are from Europe, the United Kingdom, Africa, or South America.

In July 2013, the inaugural class arrived for 'SingapOrientation', a week-long orientation for students to get to know their new living environment. This was followed by a three-week summer immersion session at Yale University where they gained knowledge on residential living and student government which they could adapt to the Yale-NUS context.

July 2013

SingapOrientation



During Yale-NUS SingapOrientation, students gave free hugs on Orchard Road.

4 July 2013

First Year Assembly

Yale-NUS staff and faculty ceremoniously welcomed the First Class of students into the Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH) for the College's inaugural First Year Assembly. With warm welcome speeches from President Lewis, Dean Kristin Greene and Dean Kyle Farley, the students also symbolically launched their College life by throwing paper airplanes into the air.



The inaugural class celebrates the First Year Assembly.



27 August 2013

Inauguration Ceremony

Yale-NUS College officially marked the start of its first academic year with an Inauguration Ceremony on 27 August 2013. Officiated by Guest-of-Honor, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, President of the Republic of Singapore and Chancellor of NUS, the event was graced by more than 500 distinguished guests, including NUS President, Professor Tan Chorh Chuan, Yale University President Emeritus, Professor Richard C Levin, the Yale-NUS College Governing Board, faculty, students, parents, donors and industry partners.

To mark the historic inauguration of the College, both Yale University and NUS presented a set of 50 books each to Yale-NUS College. A significant part of these two collections are books authored by prominent faculty of both Yale and NUS. Yale-NUS students will be able to access these books at the Yale-NUS library.

During his speech at the College's Inauguration Ceremony, Founding President Lewis remarked on the milestone achievements of the College as semester begins for the first class. "When Yale University and the National University of Singapore signed the agreement to launch Yale-NUS College in 2011, we had a mission to reinvent liberal arts and science education for a complex, interconnected world. Today, we open a new chapter with our Class of 2017, a cohort of trailblazing pioneers from 26 countries on six continents, each with remarkable achievements and even greater potential. We strongly believe that a Yale-NUS education will create leaders who can adapt to new environments, collaborate across disciplines, and quickly master new challenges," said President Lewis.

Living and Learning at Yale-NUS

“The level of genuine care by staff, faculty, and even the President at Yale-NUS is a culture shock for me. Where I come from, we only see professors and deans in their offices when we need something from them. Here, they’ll come to you! Professors and deans sit with us during lunch to exchange stories and academic experiences. It is truly a community of learning.” *David Chia, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia*

“This place is literally overflowing with talent. Even though everyone’s a master of their own art form, there’s this incredible culture of sharing and collaboration. Everything I thought I knew about music has changed, and my perspectives are widened everyday. I’ve only been here three months and I feel like a completely different person!”
Theodore Lai, Singapore

“The ‘Experience Yale-NUS Weekend’ was a deal-maker for me. I was not seriously considering Yale-NUS before I came, but I told myself I was ‘willing to be convinced.’ Which I soon was. I came expecting fun and excitement, and I got much more than I bargained for.” *John Reid, Durban, South Africa*

“Residential living at Yale-NUS means I can count on having company, whatever the time of the day, wherever I seek it: in the dining hall, the common lounges, the laundry room, even on corridor floors. My friendships formed outside of class carry into it, and our learning is never confined to seminars.” *Carissa Lim, Singapore*

“I’m all about passion, especially in sports, and getting outside my comfort zone so that I can live the most complete life possible. In the past few weeks, I’ve left my comfort zone (the hockey pitch) and tried out Chinese dance, tango, contemporary dance and Broadway, and I had never danced before!” *Ami Firdaus, Singapore*

“Studying at Yale-NUS with such curious and adventurous classmates means having a lot of new experiences, including early morning *qigong*! Sometimes dinner can be just as exciting, though. Where else can I joke with administrators’ kids, practise a new language with native speakers, and discuss techie culture with philosophy professors – all over one meal?” *Maggie Schumann, Washington DC, USA*

“My classmates, I’ve discovered, are far beyond the usual when it comes to knowledge of their own cultures and their desire to learn about others. At the same time, some things are universal – there is a certain type of joke that makes ALL teenagers break down in laughter.” *Adrian Stymne, Stockholm, Sweden*

“People always say that you learn more from your classmates in college than you do your professors, and now I fully appreciate just how much there is to learn from being part of such a diverse group. Stories and experiences are not delivered on a one-way street; everyone views the same events differently, which contributes to a more comprehensive understanding.” *Brian Huang, Philadelphia, USA*

Student Spotlight: Parag Bhatnagar

First-year student Parag Bhatnagar clinched the top prizes for two hackathons in 2013 – StartingUP2013 and E3 (Energy Efficiency for Everyone) Hackathon since joining the College. Hackathons are multiday computer programming competitions.

As a computing aficionado, Parag intends to major in computational science with a possible minor in fine arts.

Student Spotlight: Muhammad Amrullah Bin Zainal Abidin

Muhammad Amrullah Bin Zainal Abidin (Class of 2017) and two teammates from NUS and Singapore Management University (SMU) emerged as one of the six winning groups from different tertiary institutions across the globe of the Challenge: Future Global Youth Competition 2013.

Amrullah's team picked the challenge "My Dream Job" which encouraged youth to think about future problems and seek solutions based on the principles of radical inclusiveness and open innovation. They envisioned an ecosystem that emphasized holistic character development, hands-on learning and strong collaboration, thus grooming future grounded leaders who will pave the way for social change.

September 2013

Launch of President's Speaker Series

Yale-NUS College is bringing liberal arts to the community with a series of public lectures by key personalities and influential experts. Launched in September 2013, the Yale-NUS President's Speaker Series showcases accomplished and talented luminaries from around the world. The lectures are designed for a broad audience, enabling the community to learn from and engage with some of the brightest academics and practitioners in a diverse range of disciplines on contemporary issues in our world today.

To kick-off the series, Ms Maria Ressa, a journalist based in Philippines, author of two books on terrorism and social networks, and CEO of Rappler, helmed a public lecture titled "From Bin Laden to Facebook: The Power of Social Networks", where she discussed the spread of emotions and ideas through social networks and the challenges for law enforcement in the 21st century.



Yale-NUS students with Ms Maria Ressa who spoke about the power of social networks at the Yale-NUS President's Speaker Series.

Beyond open lectures, the Yale-NUS community enjoys small, informal chats, workshops, and Q&A sessions with the guest speakers, allowing for a variety of intimate learning experiences. Such events foster not only a curiosity for knowledge but also an appreciation of the diversity and free exchange of ideas, building the foundations for Yale-NUS students to become leaders in tomorrow's world.



Week 7: Placemaking RC4 (top) and students in Greece (bottom) with President Lewis (far left)

October 2013

Week 7: Learning Across Boundaries

Midway through the first semester, first-year students from Yale-NUS College spent a week out of the classroom to examine themes of the common curriculum in real-world contexts. This program, called Week 7: Learning Across Boundaries (LABs), started as an innovative pilot, and has become a flagship offering, highlighting aspects of Yale-NUS' distinctive education such as interdisciplinary, experience-based learning, and unparalleled access to professors that complement the rigorous classroom learning of the curriculum. The inaugural batch of Yale-NUS College students participated in 12 different projects, each guided by a few faculty members. A total of 23 faculty members were involved. Five of the 12 projects had overseas components, taking students into neighboring ASEAN countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia, and as far as Greece to learn about its ancient and modern culture.

One of the Singapore-based projects was Placemaking RC4, where students explored their local environment in depth. They applied principles of ethnography, visual literacy, architecture, and urban planning that they had been introduced to through their Comparative Social Institutions lectures in the Yale-NUS Common Curriculum. As part of this Week 7 project, Singaporean artist Dawn Ng conducted a master class for our students and mentored them in their efforts in Placemaking RC4. Students, parents, faculty and guests were then treated to a curated collection of four art installations that addressed the college site's history, desire lines of the building, reflections of the students living here, and their hidden dreams and hopes for the future.

Other Week 7 projects included Varieties of Religious Experience in Singapore, Alternatives to Fossil Fuels: Options for Singapore, Tsunami and Reconstruction in Banda Aceh, and Migrant Nation. While many students followed their passions, others pushed themselves out of their comfort zones, choosing topics they knew little about and allowing their curiosity to take the lead as they explored issues and the world.

5 November 2013

**President's Speaker:
Anthony Chen**

On 5 November 2013, Yale-NUS students had the chance to get up close and personal with acclaimed film director Mr Anthony Chen of *Ilo Ilo* fame.

Mr Chen was invited to speak at the President's Speaker Series – public lectures designed to enable the community to learn from and engage with some of the brightest academics and practitioners in a diverse range of disciplines on contemporary issues in our world today.



14 November 2013

President's Speaker: Pico Iyer

"Home is in the heart," declared award-winning essayist and travel writer Mr Pico Iyer at his lecture for the President's Speaker Series on 14 November 2013.

Remarking that Yale-NUS boasts some very talented writers, Mr Iyer encouraged students to write if they have any interest in doing so. During this visit to Yale-NUS College, Mr Iyer conducted a craft talk for budding writers, and the three winners from a recent student essay competition spent an afternoon chatting with the renowned writer at their favorite cafe.



**Student Organization
13th Floor Productions**

Timothy Chua (Class of 2017), along with 11 classmates, founded 13th Floor Productions to participate in the 48 Hour Film Project 2013 – a film competition where participants have to include a character, prop, line of dialogue and genre assigned by the organizers to the film they created.

Following the competition, 13th Floor Productions is hard at work on their second film *Anniversary* which is expected to premier in the 2014 - 2015 academic year.

Student Spotlight: Rohan Naidu

First-year student Rohan Naidu did the College proud by clinching the grand prize at the Tata Crucible Business Quiz on 11 November 2013.

Rohan and his teammate Abhimanyu Sarvagyam from the NUS Engineering faculty competed against eight other teams at the finals to emerge victorious. The duo will take on other competitors in the International Edition of Tata Crucible in 2014.



24 November 2013

Shiok Shack Opens

Inspired by Yale University's tradition of having butteries or late-night eateries in the residential colleges, the buttery at Yale-NUS College is named the Shiok Shack. Serving up homemade specials like Beef Stroganoff, and Double Chocolate Muffins to students, the Shiok Shack is looking into collaborating with the Yale-NUS arts groups to offer more special events like open mic nights and dramatic readings in the future.

18 December 2013

Scientific Inquiry: First Poster Session

In December 2013, Yale-NUS students had a scientific poster session at the end of Semester One's Scientific Inquiry course.

"The poster session is one excellent way to assess a student's understanding of his or her work. They are required to stand at the poster which they have produced, and answer wide-ranging questions from professors and classmates," explained Professor Jeremy Kua, a chemist, and one of the many professors teaching Scientific Inquiry. Part of the Common Curriculum, Scientific Inquiry aims to help students understand the underlying assumptions of various methodologies in science, and more fundamentally, the way that science functions as a mode of inquiry.

A common practice at scientific conferences, poster sessions allow scientists to present and communicate their findings to their peers and

the general public in an engaging manner with many opportunities for detailed discussions of the research, methodology and findings. It was an art in itself to decide what goes into the final poster for presentation. During the Poster Session, students gamely fielded questions from different professors, classmates and staff, and in the process, some discovered that they had a lot more to learn. Joan Danielle Ongchoco (Class of 2017) noted, "Instead of just memorizing facts, this is very good training for critical thinking."

Like many of the students and professors, Professor Kua maintained that a poster session reaps a lot more benefits than a typical final assignment. Students were assigned to teams of four, and each team could choose a topic to focus on from the wide range of themes they had studied. In about two weeks of preparation that included reading, discussions and consulting with their professors, many of them came up with interesting discoveries and perspectives within the themes of Cancer, Forensics, Nutrition, AquaQuackery, Quantum Magic, Human Evolution, Senescence, and the Science in SciFi.

Student Organization

Yale-NUS International Relations and Political Association

The Yale-NUS International Relations and Political Association (YIRPA) was formed in July 2013 by a group of eight like-minded students passionate about and interested in international affairs and politics. Today, YIRPA is one of the largest and fastest-growing student organizations in Yale-NUS, with 42 members at last count.

The organization represents Yale-NUS College in as many Model United Nations (UN) conferences as they can attend. At these international or regional conferences, students assume the roles of delegates at a conference similar to the UN, representing different countries. To date, YIRPA has represented the College at conferences held in Singapore, Taiwan, India, China, and Korea, and won awards at each conference. At the Asian International Model UN held in Beijing, China, organized by Peking University, they received a school delegation prize that ranked Yale-NUS as one of the top schools at the conference. Every student delegate also came home from the conference with an individual award, some with multiple awards to their name.

In March 2014, YIRPA started *Coffeehouse Conversations*, an informal speakers series that aims to increase awareness and engage the College community in dialogue over international and political issues. The first speaker was Nicole Seah, a member of the National Solidarity Party in Singapore, who shared her experience in the local political scene.

The group also organized a MasterClass in May 2014 to teach students from secondary schools, junior colleges, and other schools of equivalent-level, about the Model UN experience. Andrea Noelle J Lee, Walter Yeo and Sean Saito, who are all experienced Model UN student delegates, led the MasterClass.

In June 2014, YIRPA partnered the World Scholar's Cup to organize the Summer Camp for the finalists of the World Scholar's Cup Global Round 2014. In addition, the group also



organized the inaugural Yale-NUS Model ASEAN conference in late-August 2014, and will be heading to conferences in Taiwan and California at the end of 2014.

Over the last year, YIRPA has formed several strategic and valuable external partnerships, including Singapore Airlines as the official airline, World Scholar's Cup, REACH, and the NUS Political Science Society.

January 2014

Launch of elective modules

The start of the new semester also saw the launch of the first set of elective courses. First-year students can choose one elective in their second semester, allowing them the opportunity to learn more in a certain field of study before deciding on their major.

The first class had their pick from a range of electives based on student interests, from creative writing to courses on the history and culture of various parts of the world, to environmental and urban studies. These included a number of courses taught by pairs of faculty members, while foreign language courses such as French and Spanish were also made available through the NUS Centre for Language Studies.

“The students responded well to this range of options – none of the offerings were overloaded by excessive student demand, so all courses were kept at 17 students or less,” said Dean of Faculty Charles Bailyn. “In addition to regularly scheduled courses, some students and faculty created courses in independent reading and research on topics ranging from black holes to literary theory.”

The electives for the next academic year have also been revealed, Dean Bailyn added, with a wider range of offerings. Students were introduced to the new offerings in a Majors and Electives Informational held in the Multi-Purpose Hall (MPH) in end-April 2014. By the second semester of the next academic year, the College expects to have over 40 elective courses available.

Student Spotlight:

Willie Khoo

First-year student Willie Khoo is one of the top youth fencers in Singapore. Some of Willie's accomplishments include winning the Southeast Asian Fencing Championships 2014 Bronze medal, Taipei Open 2013 Bronze medal and Thailand Open 2012 Gold medal. When asked about his goals for the future, Willie, who started fencing in 2007, revealed that he aims to clinch a medal at the 2015 Southeast Asian Games which will be held in Singapore.

22 January 2014

Open House at the Reading Room

At the start of the second semester, the Yale-NUS Library hosted an Open House. More than 200 students, faculty and staff made their way to the Reading Room to hear about the new library services, while enjoying delicious snacks and cupcakes decorated with tiny books in the College colors, blue and orange. The Library's collection now exceeds 5,000 volumes across the three divisions. As one of their first activities, the Library co-sponsored a seminar by Associate Professor Thomas Princen from the University of Michigan, who spoke about his new project on the politics of delegitimizing fossil fuels, powering discussions on the need to “start to stop” the use of fossil fuels.



HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn touring the Reading Room at RC4

29 February 2014

Visit by HRH Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand

Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand visited Yale-NUS College on 19 January 2014. Her Royal Highness' interest in education is well-known, and over the years, she has been heavily involved in community and social development in Thailand.

The visit kicked off with a presentation by President Lewis on the College, the Yale-NUS Common Curriculum, residential life, and the diversity of students and faculty. After an animated discussion with the College leadership team, Her Royal Highness took a tour of the temporary campus, including students' living quarters as well as facilities like the Multi-Purpose Hall, Reading Room, and the Shiok Shack.

After the tour, Her Royal Highness sat down for a dialogue session with some faculty members and students who were more than

happy to answer her queries on the different aspects of Yale-NUS life, from the curriculum to residential life. Assistant Professor Andrew Johnson, whose academic interests have focused on Thailand among other Asian cultures, said, "The visit of Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn was quite an honor for our institution, and was significant for me personally, as Her Royal Highness has been a key patron of the humanities in general and anthropology in particular in Thailand."

Her Royal Highness was on a two-day visit to Singapore from January 17 to 19, during which she attended the opening ceremony of the Global Young Scientists Summit (GYSS), visited the National Research Foundation and the TUM Create laboratory.

13 February 2014

2014 UTown Intercollegiate Provost Challenge Shield

The Yale-NUS College team comprising May Ee Tay, Theodore Lai and Dennis Chiang emerged as the overall champions of the 2014 University Town (UTown) Intercollegiate Provost Challenge Shield. Dennis was also named Best Speaker in the finals.

The Provost Challenge Shield was founded by Tembusu College in 2012, as a debate focusing on social issues. The annual UTown-wide competition was opened to Yale-NUS, the University Scholars' Program (Cinnamon College), College of Alice and Peter Tan (CAPT) and Tembusu College.

19 February 2014

Mentoring Program at Crest Secondary School

Yale-NUS College partnered with Crest Secondary School to launch a trial mentoring program on 19 February 2014. Crest Secondary School is the first specialized school for Normal (Technical) students.

Under this program, Yale-NUS students serve as mentors to Crest Secondary students and meet

face-to-face with their mentees twice monthly in structured, supervised settings. At the same time, mentors and mentees learn from each other, launch joint service projects, and plan experiential activities such as an Arts Workshop.

Carissa Lim (Class of 2017) said, "I hope as a mentor not just to be able to help [my mentee's] self-belief, self-expression, and personal achievement, but also in encouraging a heart for others and goals beyond the self."





Senior Program Manager (International Programs), Ng Teng Kuan, with student participants of the Literary Burma LAB

February 2014

Learning Across Boundaries: Literary Burma

In February 2014, Yale-NUS' Director of the Writing Program and Professor of Humanities, Robin Hemley, led 13 students on the first Literary Burma Learning Across Boundaries (LABs), along with Ng Teng Kuan, a staff member from the Center for International and Professional Experience (CIPE).

This LAB introduced students to the literary riches of Burma, past and present. It provided an opportunity to visit cultural monuments and literary sites in Yangon, Mandalay, Bagan and Mawlamyine, and to explore works of literature, non-fiction, and poetry to better understand Burma's tumultuous modern history and rapid development. Readings and lively discussion formed a large part of the learning trip and students kept a travel journal documenting their experiences.

"I found the Literary Burma LAB a very enriching experience, as the activities we did were quite diverse," said Erika Terrones Shibuya (Class of

2017). "We were able to visit historical and cultural sites in Yangon, like the Shwedagon Pagoda, and in Bagan, the sunset behind the stretches of hundreds of temples."

The group also had the privilege of meeting with the acclaimed Burmese poet Zeyar Lynn, whose poems they had read beforehand.

"Our lunch meeting with Zeyar Lynn was a great success," shared Teng Kuan. "Students were exceptionally engaged in reading, interpreting, and applying poems on modern Burma. This then informed our animated discussion with him."

He added that through the readings and conversations on colonialism, race and identity in the Burmese context, this LAB helped students think in a more sophisticated, sensible and compassionate way about similar issues back home at Yale-NUS and in Singapore.



Yale-NUS '17 student Jolanda Nava in Kyoto

February 2014

Learning Across Boundaries: Kyoto

Professor of Humanities Jay Garfield and Assistant Professor of Humanities Cathay Liu led 17 Yale-NUS students to the historic city of Kyoto, Japan, in February 2014 for a week-long intensive study of Japanese Buddhist philosophy, society and culture.

Before students left Yale-NUS, their pre-trip preparations included readings and an orientation conducted by graduate students from Kyoto University on Japanese culture and Kyoto's history. In Kyoto, the students attended Professor Garfield's seminar on Buddhist philosophy at Kyoto University and explored the city's rich history and culture through its temples, shrines, museums, gardens, palaces and castles.

"I felt that the reading we had done before the trip really helped me appreciate the experience

a lot more than I did the previous two times when I had gone with family and friends," said Ling Xi Min, a student who went on the LAB. "The city was great for sure, but the new lens was the most novel, meaningful aspect of this program."

The students also experienced the quiet peace of Japanese Buddhism in the city of Nara. Molly Ma, a Dean's Fellow who assisted in coordinating the trip, said, "The students and I spent the night in a quiet Buddhist temple up in the hills. We had a great time eating the simple yet delicious vegetarian meals, attempting to meditate, and generally getting to know each other better."

Student Organization

Committee for Appreciating and Meeting People On Site



CAMPOS organized a Chinese New Year dinner celebration for 400 Ssangyong staff and workers

19 February 2014

President's Speaker: Jim Rogers

Investment guru and author of multiple books, Mr Jim Rogers, spoke to a packed auditorium on 19 February 2014. During his speech, Mr Rogers encouraged the audience to do what they enjoy to be happy and successful. Mr Rogers was a speaker

at the President's Speaker Series – public lectures by some of the brightest academics and practitioners in a diverse range of disciplines on contemporary issues in our world today.



The Committee for Appreciating and Meeting People On Site (CAMPOS) is one of the College's most prominent and active student groups. As their name suggests, this group of students is primarily interested in creating social events involving foreign construction workers and site staff members. Their events have brought smiles to hundreds of construction workers and staff from Ssangyong Engineering & Construction Co Ltd that have been working on the permanent Yale-NUS campus.

"The group started from a conversation between [fellow student] Tiffany and I as we walked back from church one day," explained John Reid, one of the leaders of CAMPOS. "We had recently heard a sermon about xenophobia and reaching out, and we realized that we could do something right here, close to home."

The pair met with Rector McAdoo who put them in touch with with Assistant Professor Anju Mary

Paul and Mr Mark Francis, Project Director of Design & Construction, and the rest was history. Soon, CAMPOS was formed, and the group began working closely with Ms Josephine Tan, Public Relations Officer from Ssangyong (Singapore branch) to organize events and activities.

Their first event was to create a Thank You banner expressing gratitude from the Yale-NUS community to the staff and workers involved in building the new campus. In February 2014, CAMPOS organized a Chinese New Year dinner celebration where 400 Ssangyong staff and workers were present. A group of workers even sportingly formed an "air band" and put on a lively performance of lip-syncing and air-instruments for the cheering crowd. The most recent CAMPOS event was a photo booth, where the group arranged for individual and group photographs of approximately 700 workers, and provided them stamps and envelopes if they wished to mail the photographs to their families overseas.

16 February 2014

La La Luna, music festival on campus

On 16 February 2014, Yale-NUS College students, faculty and staff enjoyed a night of music at La La Luna. Part of the UTown Inter-Collegiate Valentine's Festival, La La Luna also featured talents from the neighboring University Scholars' Program, Tembusu College and Kent Ridge Hall, as well as some of the Yale-NUS College Dean's Fellows, faculty and staff.

With performances at multiple stations around RC4 for more than three hours, the students managed to raise over S\$600 to support migrant workers in Singapore.



March 2014

InterCollegiate Games



Yale-NUS students took part in UTown's InterCollegiate Games for the first time in 2014

12 March 2014

Team-based learning in the classroom

Unlike traditional classroom teaching where knowledge is acquired individually, students from Semester Two's Qualitative Reasoning class will learn in teams. This team-based approach means that students are first tested individually before working together in teams to repeat the test and participate in class activities that explore the concepts and issues in more depth.

Erika Terrones Shibuya (Class of 2017) shared that she learns more from her classmates through this approach, as her peers can explain concepts in simpler terms.

Student Organization

Yale-NUS College Debate Society

The Yale-NUS College Debate Society, formed in May 2013, has competed in a total of ten competitions since their formation. They have done remarkably well as a new College debating team, and have consistently ranked within the top ten or twenty teams in competitions such as the National University of Singapore Pro-Amateur 2013, Nanyang Technological University Pro-Amateur 2013, Women's Debate Open 2013, Hong Kong Debate Open 2013, among others.

Their biggest competition to date was the World Universities Debating Championship (WUDC) 2014, where they were ranked 89th out of 340 teams, and bested teams from colleges in Singapore, Asia, and all over the world. Several members have already been encouraged to compete in next year's WUDC, invited to serve as a subsidized adjudicator in various competitions, and recruited to train and coach in schools around Singapore.

In April 2014, the Debate Society was invited to compete in FutureGov Forum 2014 in a segment called FutureCampus. Their competition was a team from Singapore Management University (SMU), while the audience comprised school educators, government officials, and education technology specialists. Yale-NUS, as the Opposition, bested SMU by the end of the debate and was named champion.

The society has also experienced success on campus in the past year at the UTown Intercollegiate Provost Challenge Shield 2014 where Yale-NUS clinched first place. Nicholas Carverhill (Class of 2017) received the title of Overall Best Speaker, tied with fellow Yale-NUS teammate Joan Danielle Ongchoco.

With so many successes under their belt, the Debate Society is looking forward to welcoming and training new members for competitions, and carrying on the consistency and momentum they are experiencing.



10 March 2014

Topping Out Ceremony

On 10 March 2014, members of the Yale-NUS College community and Ssangyong Engineering & Construction Co Ltd donned hard hats and celebrated an important milestone atop the new Residential College 2 (RC2) – the Topping Out Ceremony, which was attended by a small group of Yale-NUS Governing Board members, College staff and students. The ceremony was a sign of the exciting times ahead for the College, with the new campus on the road to being fully completed by early-2015.

The practice of “topping out” new buildings is a tradition carried out at many new sites to signify the completion of the new building’s structure. The guests-of-honor symbolically complete the final structural element – in this case, one final formwork that was left undone on the 24th floor of the new RC2. The eight

guests-of-honor, led by the Chair of the Yale-NUS College Governing Board, Mdm Kay Kuok, picked up golden shovels and poured cement into the formwork, amidst applause and cheers from the gathered community.

“This is a very important milestone not just for Yale-NUS College, but also for higher education in Asia. It marks a further step for Yale-NUS towards achieving our goal to bring the best undergraduate education to students in Asia and around the world,” President Lewis shared in his opening remarks. He added, “I have quite a clear view of the new campus from the bedroom of my current apartment, and it never fails to amaze me every single day how fast the construction is coming along.”

2 April 2014**Two new Rectors**

Professors Sarah Weiss and Derek Heng were appointed as Rectors on 2 April 2014, joining inaugural Rector, Professor Brian G McAdoo.

Associate Professor Weiss will take office on 1 January 2015, while Associate Professor Heng's appointment will begin on 1 July 2015. Each of the three Rectors will live with their families in one of the three residential colleges in the new campus when it is completed in 2015.

**30 April 2014****End of Year Celebrations**

Almost a year after the first class of students was admitted, the Yale-NUS community celebrated the end of classes for the first academic year.

May 2014

NGO Bootcamp

Leveraging sports to develop communities in Timor Leste; strengthening palliative care to children in Indonesia; campaigning to end violence against women in Singapore. These are among the ambitious endeavors that Yale-NUS College students took on as interns in nine countries including Singapore during the mid-year break from May to July 2014.

The College spearheaded the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO) Bootcamp, a five-day workshop-style program that brought together over 10 local and regional nonprofit, public sector, and corporate leaders from organizations such as the National Volunteer and Philanthropy Center (NVPC), the Association of Women for Action and Research (AWARE), World Relief, ThinkPlace Foundation, Bain and Company, Credit Suisse and Shujog. For the first time, NGOs from diverse fields teamed up with a tertiary education institution in Singapore to facilitate a training program that equips undergraduates with foundational perspectives and skills for community service or to advance social change.

More than 50 undergraduates, including close to a third of Yale-NUS' pioneer batch of undergraduates as well as students from various NUS faculties and schools such as the Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, signed up for the program. About 20 Yale-NUS students subsequently completed internships with NGOs during the summer break. Through dynamic and interactive discussions, case studies and hands-on activities on topics such as contemporary social issues and solutions; ethics in community development and service; and the capacity to do good well, the student participants picked up essential knowledge and skills on how to work effectively and ethically in nonprofit settings. A number of NGOs from Singapore and in the region also enrolled their staff in NGO Bootcamp alongside the students, considering the training to be valuable capacity-building in their organizations.

17 June 2014

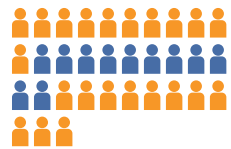
Welcome, Class of 2018!

Over 170 outstanding students from around the world will form the Class of 2018 at Yale-NUS College. With the arrival of these new students who hail from 35 countries, Yale-NUS continues to expand the diverse and global nature of its student body. In total, the student body is made up of around 330 undergraduates.

More than 12,000 applications were received for the second class. With such a large and vibrant applicant pool, the College's plan to grow its class size to 250 students over the next few years remains on track. The total expected student population at full capacity would be 1,000 students.

YALE-NUS COLLEGE AT A GLANCE

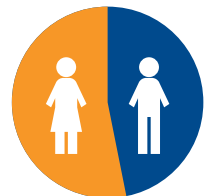
NEARLY 330 STUDENTS
IN THREE RESIDENTIAL
COLLEGES



40

TOTAL NUMBER
OF NATIONALITIES
FROM SIX CONTINENTS

54% FEMALE STUDENTS
46% MALE STUDENTS

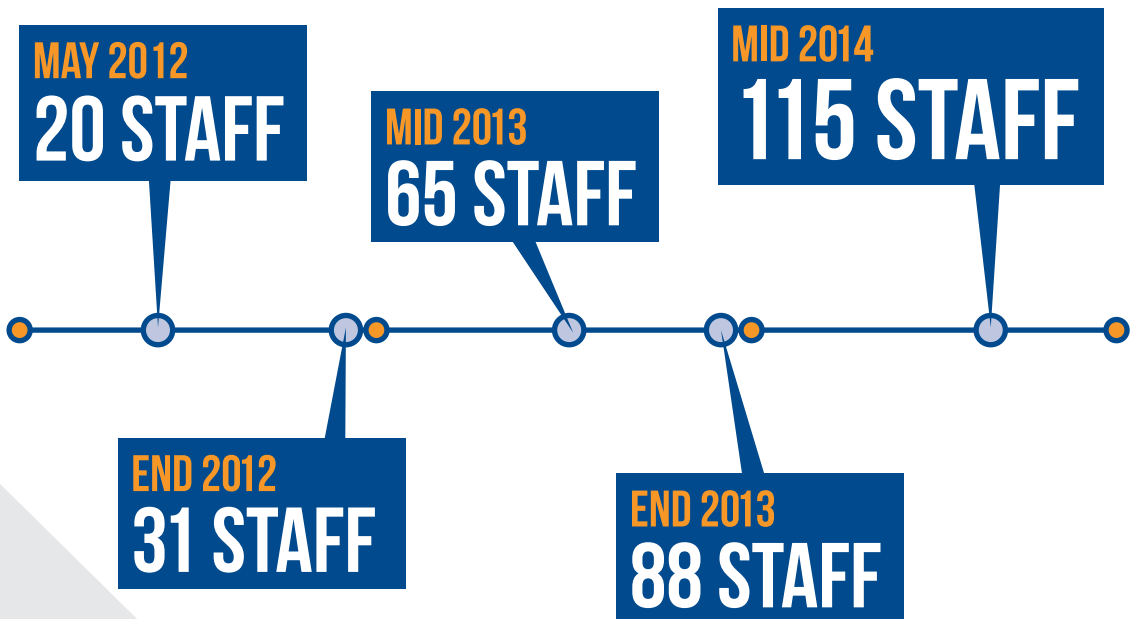


STAFF GROWTH



Yale-NUS staff has grown from 20 to 115 staff over the last two years

When the College first started, we had only 20 full-time administrative staff. Since then, our staff strength has grown nearly six times its original size, and the College is filled with people who are passionate about education and dedicated to building our community of learning. As the size of our College grows, open and friendly communication across the various departments is consistently encouraged. In May 2013, staff and senior management team members participated in intensive and adventurous team-building activities at Outward Bound on Pulau Ubin. Since then, the staff at Yale-NUS has enjoyed many moments of fellowship and bonding, including monthly birthday celebrations and other activities such as bowling tournaments and karaoke sessions.



FACULTY ACHIEVEMENTS

Since its establishment in 2011, Yale-NUS College has attracted top educators from around the world to develop a unique interdisciplinary curriculum that introduces students to the diverse intellectual traditions and cultures of Asia and the world.

Our faculty members are highly qualified in their areas of expertise, bringing with them years of experience in undergraduate teaching. To promote interdisciplinary work, our faculty members teach in three divisions: Humanities, Science, and Social Sciences.

Apart from teaching, our award-winning faculty members also conduct trailblazing research that has been published in academic journals of the highest prestige and global rank. Our faculty members have also received external research funding from both national and international organizations such as the National Research Foundation (Singapore), The Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, Teagle Foundation and the Swiss National Science Foundation among many others.

Jane M Jacobs
*Director, Division of Social Science,
Professor of Social Sciences*



Professor Jacobs trained as a human geographer, and researches, publishes and teaches in the fields of urban studies, postcolonial studies, and qualitative methods. Most recently, her scholarship focused on using science and technology studies approaches to better understand the relationship between architecture and society. In 2013, she was invited to lecture at the 'Liberal Arts in Asia' Australian Academy of the Social Sciences Fay Gale Annual Lecture Series, where Australian female academics who have demonstrated academic leadership, both nationally and internationally, are peer-nominated. In 2014, she co-authored the book *Buildings Must Die: A Perverse View of Architecture* with Stephen Cairns that was a memento mori for architecture and a call to re-imagine the design values that lay at the heart of its creative purpose. She also co-edited a special issue of the *Singapore Journal of Tropical Geography* titled "Advancing Postcolonial Geographies" that was published in 2014.

Kang Hway Chuan
*Director, Division of Science,
Associate Professor of Science*



Professor Kang applies quantum and statistical mechanical methods to a broad range of problems in surface chemistry. He is currently working on the chemical, electronic, and magnetic properties of small transition metal clusters absorbed on graphene, on the interactions of silanes on silicon-germanium surfaces, and on the influence of the ion-orbital coupling upon dynamical calculations in the Car-Parrinello method. In 2013, he published an article in the *Journal of Chemical Physics*, a highly cited peer-reviewed journal in his field and was invited to speak at the 7th Conference of the Asian Consortium on Computational Materials Science. In 2014, he was invited to speak at three academic conferences in Asia, including the 10th International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry International Conference on Novel Materials and their Synthesis which was held in China.

Rajeev S Patke
*Director, Division of Humanities,
Professor of Humanities*



Professor Patke's research interests cover three areas: postcolonial studies, modern poetry, and the relation between literature and the arts. He is currently working on a monograph about how musical forms and traditions develop over time, as well as a book that relates the genre of poetry to the topic of islands. Between 2013 and 2014, he authored the book *Modernist Literature and Postcolonial Studies* (Edinburgh University Press), published two journal articles on poetry in *The Yeats Journal of Korea* and *The Journal of English Language and Literature*, a book chapter on global cities in *A Companion to Diaspora and Transnationalism*, a book preface, and a book review. He also read papers at five international conferences, and signed contracts for two commissioned book chapters (for *The Cambridge History of Indian Poetry in English* and *The Cambridge Companion to Postcolonial Poetry*).

Rebecca Gould
Assistant Professor of Humanities



Dr Gould specializes in the literatures of the Middle East and the Caucasus, which she frequently studies in a comparative context. In 2013, she received a grant from the American Philosophical Society to research on Islamic theories of rhetoric as well as a Mentorship in Literary Translation from the British Centre for Literary Translation. In 2014, she received a grant from the Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation for her research on the experience of deportation in the 19th and early 20th century Islamic. She was also named a visiting fellow at the Heidelberg Center for Transcultural Studies.

Robin Hemley
*Director of Writing Program,
Professor of Humanities*



Professor Hemley is an award-winning writer whose works have been published in Australia, US, Europe and Asia. In 2013, his essay, "To the Rainforest Room" won the Pushcart Prize for non-fiction. In the same year, five of Professor Hemley's essays were published and he was named an Emeritus faculty member at the University of Iowa. He was also invited to give a keynote speech at the First International Creative Writing Conference held in Greece. Between 2013 and 2014, he conducted more than ten writing workshops, including the Iowa Summer Writing Festival, the Yale Writers Conference, Lighthouse Writers Workshop and the Novel Retreat at Vermont College of Fine Arts. Professor Hemley is currently a Contributing Editor of *The Iowa Review* as well as the publisher of bi-annual literary journal, *Defunct*. He is finishing a novel that takes place in the Philippines as well as a book about exclaves around the world.

Derek Heng
Associate Professor of Humanities



Associate Professor Heng specializes in the trans-regional history (pre-modern) of Maritime Asia, with an emphasis on the Maritime Southeast Asia-South China Sea-Bay of Bengal nexus. He seeks to develop knowledge on the state formation processes in the interstitial space of maritime realms, and the interactive dynamics between societies of such regions and tier-one states and sub-regional powers on the Asian continent. For his research, he has been awarded the Isaac Manasseh Fellowship, Asia Research Institute Summer Sabbatical Fellowship and Lee Kong Chian Senior Research Fellowship. In 2013, his articles were published in peer reviewed journals such as the *Journal of Southeast Asian Studies*, *The International History Review* and *The Economic History Review*. Professor Heng is currently the editor of *Berita Newsletter* and an executive committee member of the Malaysia/Singapore/Brunei Studies Group (Association for Asian Studies). Professor Heng serves on the board at the National Heritage Board, and he is also the Head of the Nalanda-Sriwijaya Centre at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

Mira Seo
Associate Professor of Humanities



Associate Professor Seo is a scholar of Roman literature who is currently researching two monograph projects: the rhetoric of money in Roman poetry, and a translation and commentary on Juan Latino in 16th century Granada. In 2013, she published the book *Exemplary Traits: Reading Characterization in Roman Poetry* which examines how Roman poets used models dynamically to create character. In 2014, she presented a paper on "Latino's library and Cervantes' Bibliomania: the Poetics of Lepanto" at the University of Michigan as part of a conference on the Black Atlantic.

Shaffique Adam
Assistant Professor of Science



Dr Adam was awarded the Singapore National Research Foundation Fellowship in 2012 for his research on the effects of electron interactions in new materials like graphene and topological insulators. Since then, Dr Adam has been the leading theoretical author on six research manuscripts, including two published in the American Chemical Society's peer reviewed journal, *Nano Letters*. In 2013, Dr Adam was invited to speak at over 10 international conferences including the prestigious 20th International Conference on the Electronic Properties of Two-Dimensional Systems and the American Physical Society (APS) March meeting in Denver, USA, where he gave a tutorial session. The APS is the premier meeting for Condensed Matter Physics in the United States with over 10,000 participants and less than 10 percent of abstracts are selected for invited talks.

Jan Gruber
Assistant Professor of Science



Dr Gruber is particularly interested in mitochondria and free radical mediated damage as a cause of aging. Since 2013, he has published seven research papers in international and peer reviewed journals such as the *Free Radical Research* and *Biotechnology Advances* among many others. In 2013 and 2014, Dr Gruber was invited to speak at seven international conferences and seminars held at renowned institutes such as ETH Zurich. He is the recipient of two academic research grants in support of his research on the fundamental mechanisms of aging and age-dependent diseases as well as related intervention strategies against them. He also won a stipend from the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNF) to work on a collaborative project on computational biology of aging at ETH Zurich.

Ng Hui Khoon
Assistant Professor of Science



Dr Ng's research interest is in studying and controlling quantum phenomena in few- and many-particle systems, for quantum information and quantum computation goals. In 2013, she published articles in *Physical Review B*, *European Physical Journal Plus* and *New Journal of Physics*. In 2014, Dr Ng was invited to be one of the ambassadors for the Singapore Committee for United Nations Women which promotes science and engineering to Singapore women. Dr Ng also presented a talk at the Annual Meeting for the Institute of Physics, Singapore, and was invited to judge the annual Singapore Young Physicists Tournament in 2014.

Christopher Asplund
Assistant Professor of Social Sciences



Dr Asplund is a cognitive neuroscientist who studies the neural mechanisms supporting attention, working memory, and reasoning, often by exploring their frequent failures. In 2013 and 2014, he published eight articles on topics such as conscious perception, information processing in human prefrontal cortex, and sleep deprivation's effects on attention. These articles appeared in international, peer-reviewed journals such as *Psychological Science* (a top empirical journal in psychology), *NeuroImage*, and *The Journal of Neuroscience*.

Andrew Alan Johnson
Assistant Professor of Social Sciences



Dr Johnson is a cultural anthropologist whose research topics include popular religion, urbanism, and the legitimation of power in Thailand. Currently, he is working on an ethnographic research project to understand how people adapt culturally and religiously to rapid environmental collapse, specifically, along the Mekong. In 2013, he had two articles published, one in *Anthropological Quarterly* and another in *Cultural Anthropology*. Additionally, he has reviewed books for the *Asian Journal of Social Science and Dissertation Reviews* and published chapters in two books - *Cleavage, Connection and Conflict in Rural, Urban and Contemporary Asia*, and *Figures of Southeast Asian Modernity*. Dr Johnson's new book - *Ghosts of the New City: Spirits, Urbanism and the Ruins of Progress in Chiang Mai* – on the new connections between urban history and popular religion that have implications far beyond Southeast Asia will be published in August 2014.

Michael Maniates
Professor of Social Sciences



Professor Maniates' research focuses on questions related to sustainable consumption, the environment politics of sacrifice, conscientious consumption, and teaching and learning in a turbulent world. In 2013, he was named Associate Editor of the *Journal of Environmental Science and Studies*. Professor Maniates also published a chapter titled 'Teaching for Turbulence' in The Worldwatch Institute's *State of the World 2013: Is Sustainability Still Possible* in 2013. Between 2013 and 2014, Professor Maniates was one of 22 experts who participated in two European Environment Agency workshops on sustainability. His articles on sustainable consumption and social change obstacles to environmentalism were published in *Gaia and A New Earth Politics*. Professor Maniates currently sits on the Harold and Margaret Sprout Award book committee, which judges the best book on global environmental affairs annually.

Anju Mary Paul
Assistant Professor of Social Sciences



Dr Paul specializes in international migration, race and ethnicity, gender and labor, and the processes of globalization. In 2013, she received a three-year grant from the J Y Pillay Comparative Asia Research Center to research on the migration and destination decision-making processes of Asian-born, Western-trained bioscientists as they decide whether or not to return to Asia. She was invited to present her initial findings at a workshop on high-skilled migration organized by the International Migration Institute at Oxford University. Dr Paul is currently working on two multi-country projects focusing on multistate labor migration amongst Filipino, Sri Lankan, and Indonesian migrant domestic workers and Filipino nurses. Her article on the factors affecting current migrants' decisions to provide migration assistance to contacts in their home country was published in the *Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies* in 2013. In 2014, Dr Paul was invited to join the editorial board of *Contexts*, an official publication of the American Sociological Association that publishes cutting edge sociological research for an educated lay audience.

NAMED PROFESSORSHIPS

J Y PILLAY DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR

In Jan 2012, renowned evolutionary biologist **Professor Sir Peter Crane FRS** was named the inaugural visiting J Y Pillay Distinguished Professor. Professor Crane is known internationally for his work on the diversity of plant life – its origin, fossil history, current status, conservation and use. He is also the Carl W Knobloch Jr Dean, School of Forestry and Environment Studies at Yale University. He was elected to the Royal Society – the United Kingdom academy of sciences in 1998, and was knighted in the United Kingdom for services to horticulture and conservation in 2004.

Professor Bryan Garsten was Chair of the Yale-NUS Curriculum Committee from 2012 to 2013, and was named the J Y Pillay Distinguished Professor in March 2014. On 11 March 2014, Professor Garsten gave a lecture on 'Rethinking Solitude'. During the lecture, Professor Garsten drew on a number of thinkers from the history of political thought to help articulate what is lost when solitude is threatened.

KWAN IM THONG HOOD CHO TEMPLE PROFESSOR OF HUMANITIES

As the inaugural Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple Professor of Humanities, **Professor Jay Garfield** contributes to the College's continued and expanding efforts to strengthen its standing internationally. Professor Garfield, who is also the Head of Studies in Philosophy at Yale-NUS College, teaches and pursues research in the philosophy of mind, foundations of cognitive science, logic, philosophy of language, Buddhist philosophy, cross-cultural hermeneutics, theoretical and applied ethics, and epistemology.

TAN CHIN TUAN PROFESSOR OF CHINESE STUDIES

Professor Valerie Hansen was named the first visiting Tan Chin Tuan Professor of Chinese Studies in April 2012. Professor Hansen is interested in drawing non-traditional sources to capture the experience of ordinary people. She is particularly keen to find out how sources buried in the ground, whether intentionally or unintentionally, supplement the detailed official record of China's past.

On 26 April 2013, **Professor Scott Cook** was named the inaugural Tan Chin Tuan Professor of Chinese Studies in recognition of teaching and research excellence. Professor Cook specializes in pre-imperial textual studies and early Chinese intellectual history, with emphases on recently excavated bamboo manuscripts and musical thought. Professor Cook noted that Yale-NUS College presents direct and practical learning opportunities for students that are unparalleled in the world, and at the same time, combines the rich and diverse historical experiences of two of the world's leading academic institutions.

On 12 March 2014, **Professor Deborah Davis**, visiting Tan Chin Tuan Professor of Chinese Studies, shared her expertise on urban studies, with an emphasis on urban China, in a lecture titled 'Re-Placing the Urban: Rural Binary'. Professor Davis has been involved in Yale-NUS' development since 2009, as part of the original committee that visited Singapore on the first exploratory trip from Yale, and subsequently in early curriculum development discussions.

Since its inception, philanthropic giving has played an integral role for Yale-NUS College. The College has received generous support from friends, corporations and foundations both locally and internationally, and we are also very grateful that all of our senior leadership has made gifts to the College. It is with all this support that we are building our endowment to provide accessible education to talented students through scholarships, programs, and study awards, and to attract leading academics through professorships and fellowships.

BANCO SANTANDER ESTABLISHES SCHOLARSHIPS AT YALE-NUS COLLEGE



Spanish international bank Banco Santander established two scholarship programs worth US\$800,000 in partnership with Yale-NUS College on 18 September 2013.

Santander's contribution will go towards the Santander Scholarship, which helps to attract top students, and the Santander International Experience Scholarship which will support exchanges, overseas internship and professional experiences for up to 100 students. Yale-NUS students will also be able to intern at Santander offices overseas.

President Pericles Lewis said, "Banco Santander's gift is a boost to our mission to reinvent existing models of liberal arts and science education. We are deeply grateful for this gift, and look forward to our continued partnership in educating leaders of tomorrow for the world."

Santander is the first international bank to be recognized as a founding benefactor of Yale-NUS College, joining other individuals, corporations and foundations that have made gifts of S\$1 million (US\$800,000) and more to the College during its founding years. The bank's gift to Yale-NUS is made through the Santander Universities Global Division, which maintains more than 1,100 collaboration agreements with universities and research centers worldwide.

"Yale-NUS College is one of the 21st century pioneers in liberal arts education in Asia. For Santander it is an honor to be one of the founding benefactors of this renowned institution, which will be represented by the top talented students and faculty members from Singapore and around the world. Higher education plays a vital role in the economic and social development of a country. Santander's institutional commitment to universities is one of the hallmarks of our bank's identity," said Executive Chairman of Banco Santander, Mr Emilio Botín.

ALAN CHAN STUDY AWARD ESTABLISHED BY DONOR

“I want to focus on something which gives humanity more handsome dividends,” declared Dr Alan Chan, a businessman turned scholar, whose gift established the Alan Chan Study Award at Yale-NUS College. His gift will not only help financially needy students, but will also support innovative student programs at the College, which will facilitate initiatives that focus on the development of students as ethical and effective global citizens.

“I like the unconventional approach Yale-NUS has taken towards its pedagogy and curriculum. It’s new and refreshing, combining American liberal arts traditions with the diverse intellectual traditions and cultures of Asia,” Dr Chan explained. “Students should learn to be open-minded, to take in diverse perspectives and opinions.”

It makes perfect sense for the self-made businessman to take a pragmatic and business-like approach towards philanthropy. Having started a shipping company from scratch and earned every dollar that he owns himself, it is very important to him that a gift yields maximum impact. In his opinion, education has a ripple effect that is far-reaching and long-lasting.

Enrolling in the Harvard Business School’s Advanced Management Program in his late 40s is evidence that Dr Chan greatly values education. Although he feels that successful entrepreneurship depends largely on one’s intellect and fortunate circumstances, education in his later years has helped him reflect on his past experience.

The former owner of a tanker shipping company has turned philosophical and is now a scholar in Confucian studies, with particular expertise on its applications in business and modern life. He shares his knowledge through books he has written, and also conducts seminars and lectures at the Confucius Institute in Singapore, Zhejiang University in China, and Bond University in Australia. Bond University also recently conferred a Doctorate on Dr Chan.

Expounding Confucian wisdom, he would give the same advice to both budding entrepreneurs and students at the College: “Look afar.” When he started his shipping company, he told his staff, “Don’t build ships for today, build ships for five years from now. We should always be one step ahead.”



Dr Alan Chan founded the Alan Chan Study Award at Yale-NUS

PRIMA SCHOLARSHIP



Sylvia Gan, Class of 2017, is a recipient of the Prima Scholarship

Prima Limited Singapore was founded in 1961 as the first flourmill in Singapore, and one of the first flour millers in Southeast Asia. To celebrate its 50th anniversary in 2011, Prima Limited Singapore funded a gift of S\$1 million to establish the Prima Scholarship at Yale-NUS College.

Students at Yale-NUS College go through an interdisciplinary inquiry-based curriculum where they not only master a body of knowledge and techniques, but also learn to ask the relevant questions from a global perspective. The College's distinctive curriculum spans Asia and the West, the arts and the sciences, which will prepare the students well for the 21st century, allowing them to develop their capacities to the fullest by encouraging active learning.

Mr Primus Cheng, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Prima Ltd, said, "Prima has chosen to support the cause of education because we firmly believe that education is the foremost fundamental enabler."

At the College, several students from the Class of 2017 have been awarded the Prima Scholarship including Sylvia Gan who shared, "Before I found out that I had made it into the College, I was still deliberating whether or not to even consider Yale-NUS (although I wanted to come here) as I was not sure if my family could afford it. The Prima Scholarship really played a part in influencing my decision. I am really thankful for the opportunities that Yale-NUS and this Scholarship have given me!"

Yale-NUS' Executive Vice-President (Academic Affairs) Professor Lai Choy Heng said, "A Yale-NUS College education aims to create leaders who are adaptable and well-placed to embrace the uncertainties of our future as active citizens of the world. We believe that Prima's generous gesture will go a long way in ensuring that our students can access the quality education they deserve and inspire them to give back to society in future."

KWAN IM THONG HOOD CHO TEMPLE STUDY AWARD & PROFESSORSHIP



Dr Tan Choon Kim, Chairman of the Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple

The Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple has established the Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple Professorship as well as the Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple Study Award at Yale-NUS College.

Dr Tan Choon Kim, Chairman of the Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple, said, "The Temple shares the values behind Yale-NUS' mission to equip young people with a form of education that will enable them to become leaders as well as engaged citizens who will be able to contribute to the advancement of society. We want to give bright, highly motivated and articulate students, regardless of financial background, a chance to benefit from a Yale-NUS education, and to learn from excellent teachers who are leaders in their fields."

The inaugural Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple Professor of Humanities Jay Garfield shared, "This Professorship has given me the opportunity of a lifetime - working with motivated, creative and talented students and colleagues, and working in a community committed to building something entirely new - an Asian liberal arts college with a truly global curriculum."

The inaugural recipients of the Kwan Im Thong Hood Cho Temple Study Awards will be awarded in 2014/2015.

LEGACY GIFT

Ms Siong Siew Oon, an 87-year-old retired school teacher, has lived in an historic shophouse off Emerald Hill for over 80 years. She now plans to bequeath her share of the house to NUS to fund a study award in honor of her father, the late Mr Siong Keng Hoon.

“My father worked very hard for us. He brought us up very well. I had a very happy childhood. I am doing this as I want to remember him and show respect. This was our family home and I have many happy memories here,” explained Ms Siong.

Her father, Mr Siong Keng Hoon, was a school friend of Tan Sri Dato’ Dr Lee Kong Chian who would later become a prominent businessman and philanthropist. Mr Siong left China for Singapore at the age of 18 with his great uncle to find his fortune.

After working at his uncle’s lumber yard, and then in the post office, Mr Siong set up a shipping company: Hoe Aik Steamships Ltd. Mr Siong brought his wife to Singapore from China in 1917 and together they raised 10 children.

Ms Siong’s legacy gift to NUS will fund a study award for students at Yale-NUS College, Singapore’s first liberal arts college.

“I believe in education. My father believed in education. His parents died young so he did not have the chance to go to university. My education was interrupted by the Japanese invasion and I did not go to college, although I obtained my teaching diploma,” she said.

The study award will give preference to Singaporean students interested in Chinese studies. “I regret never learning Chinese. My father said he would teach us but he never had the time. After I qualified as a teacher, I decided to learn and started attending night classes,” shared Ms Siong.

In recognition of Ms Siong’s generous gift, Yale-NUS plans to name a room at the College after her father.



ESTATE OF GEORGETTE CHEN

SUPPORTS FINANCIALLY NEEDY STUDENTS AT YALE-NUS

Before Yale-NUS opened its doors, the Estate of Georgette Chen through its trustees, Dr Lee Seng Gee and Dr Della Suantio Lee, topped up the fund to establish a study award as well as a fellowship at the College. In its inaugural year, eight beneficiaries received the Georgette Chen Study Award.

The late Georgette Chen was a pioneer in Singapore's early art scene, and a key figure in the development of the Nanyang style. Mrs Chen was known for her Post-Impressionistic styled oil paintings, which combined Western techniques with Asian themes. She was born in Zhejiang and spent much of her childhood in the West; she studied art at the Art Students League in New York and later at the Academie Colarossi and Academie Biloul in Paris. She moved to Singapore in 1954 and began teaching art at the Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts.

"I was elated and relieved to receive the Georgette Chen Study Award. Being recognized as a lover of the arts, and being bestowed with an award related to the legacy of an artist was huge for me. This Award was completely crucial in enabling me to join Yale-NUS College. Receiving this Award has made me more determined to find my way into the curator's seat. I hope to achieve at least a fraction of what Georgette Chen has," shared Keziah Quek, an inaugural recipient of the Georgette Chen Study Award and aspiring museum or art gallery curator.

Mrs Chen's legacy lives on at the College.

J Y PILLAY GLOBAL-ASIA PROGRAM AND STUDY AWARD

IMPACT THE YALE-NUS COMMUNITY

Through the generous support of corporations, foundations and individuals in the Singaporean community, the J Y Pillay Global-Asia Program along with two J Y Pillay Distinguished Professorships, a J Y Pillay Fellowship and a J Y Pillay Study Award, have been established to honor respected civil servant and corporate leader, Professor J Y Pillay.

Professor Pillay is recognized for his crucial role in establishing Jurong Town Corporation and the Sembawang and Jurong shipyards, as well as in developing Sentosa into a tourist destination. He is known for transforming Singapore Airlines from a modest fleet of 12 aircrafts to the world-class carrier it is today, and also served as chairman of Tiger Airways for several years before his retirement. For his contribution and leadership in developing Singapore Airlines, Professor Pillay received the Legend Award from Aviation Week and Space Technology magazine in 1998.

Throughout his career, Professor Pillay has held key positions, including managing director of the Monetary Authority of Singapore, Government of Singapore Investment Corporation, and founding chairman of the Singapore Exchange (SGX). He has also chaired a number of Singapore companies such as Temasek Holdings, the Development Bank of Singapore, Neptune Oriental Lines and Singapore Technologies Holdings. He is currently the Chairman of the Council of Presidential Advisers of the Republic of Singapore, and Rector of the College of Alice & Peter Tan at NUS.

The J Y Pillay Study Award was able to support five Yale-NUS students in 2013/2014 from the inaugural cohort.

IMPACT OF FINANCIAL AID



“The J Y Pillay Study Award has made the decision making process (in choosing a college) a much easier one—it significantly decreased the costs of joining Yale-NUS. The Study Award also further motivates me to make the most of my College experience, knowing that I’ve been given the opportunity to do so. I hope that a liberal arts education will be an enlightening experience that will inspire us to think out of the box, participate in discussions close to our hearts, and act on ideas we feel most strongly about.”

Evan Asava-Aree,
J Y Pillay Study Award recipient

“I have always desired a liberal arts and science education because it would finally give me the opportunity to learn for learning’s sake. Coming from a family of five children, the financial burden on my parents was no small sum. This Scholarship covers my tuition fees, removing a substantial load off my parents’ backs. I do not have to worry about being burdened by hefty student loans or about not being able to secure a place in this school due to the inability to pay.”

Andrea Lee,
Sharon Ann Eravelly Scholarship recipient



“The Georgette Chen Study Award has lifted a tremendous financial burden off me. I come from a single parent family, where my mother has to also support my younger sister’s education. By relieving my family of the expensive school fees, I do not have to worry about having to work part-time or accumulating debt.”

Sheryl Foo,
Georgette Chen Study Award recipient

As we lay the foundations for Singapore's first liberal arts college, we are profoundly grateful to individuals, corporations and foundations who have made significant gifts to Yale-NUS College. We would like to take this opportunity to recognize and thank our founding benefactors.

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Yale-NUS College is also grateful to those in Singapore and abroad who have kindly extended their philanthropic support to our college. We would also like to thank those who wish to remain anonymous. Through your generosity, a total of S\$12,486,146 in gifts was raised to support a wide range of innovative programs, scholarships, study awards and professorships at Yale-NUS from 1 April 2013 to 31 March 2014.

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