THE UNION HERALD

FOREWORD

Hello! What you are reading right now is this semester’s first issue of The Union Herald, put together with much dedication from my small team of writers and designers. While we have enjoyed putting together this publication, what matters to us more is that you, dear reader, enjoy the stories, pictures and illustrations in it. What we do is of little significance if we do not achieve our main aim of engaging you, and letting you have a better idea of what we do at the Students’ Union.

As our publication takes its baby steps, I hope to have your opinions about what you hope to see in future editions of The Union Herald. If you have any suggestion or comment about this issue of the Union Herald, please do not hesitate to drop us an email at su-pe@e.ntu.edu.sg

Lastly, don’t forget to check out The Back Page, where a little puzzle awaits! Simply submit your answers and stand a chance to win a small token of appreciation from us.

Till next time,
Tan Li Fang, Jolin
Chief Editor

IN SUMMARY

Page 02 | A new wave of leadership: 24th AGM and 25th Investiture
Page 03 | Opening of The Hive
Page 07 | Honouring our alumni
Pages 05 - 06 | Subcommittee Bonding Day: A day of fun and games
The Nanyang Technological University Students’ Union (NTUSU) held its 24th Annual General Meeting and 25th Investiture on Sept 21. The outgoing President, Wu Guo Yi welcomed the audience and talked about the obstacles faced and successes achieved by the various portfolios. Some former members of the executive committee also shared challenges and targets hit.

To thank them for their contributions in the past academic year, certificates were given to members of the various portfolios. Students found the presentations to be extremely informative, since they provided greater insight to the structure of the NTUSU. One subcommittee member, Steven, said he was more aware of the scale of the various portfolios, which drove his enthusiasm and encouraged him to work harder in the Union.

Finally, the 25th executive committee was sworn in with them reciting the pledge with much gusto. Incoming president Gabriel Chee declared that he would always prioritise the needs and wants of students when making tough decisions. He added that EXCO members are not merely authority but humans; fellow students who can empathise with others. He emphasised the need for his charges to carry out their jobs with integrity.

Lastly, he promised to “continue working hard to represent the voices of students and to deliver the motto of the Students’ Union: Voice, service and vibrancy spirit”.

A NEW WAVE OF LEADERSHIP

The Annual General Meeting and 25th Investiture saw the baton being passed to the new leaders of the Students’ Union

By Olivia Agatha

Photos by NTUSU Photography Team

The challenge has largely remained the same over … a daunting challenge to engage the student community and to make its decisions and recommendations to the school management relevant to students’ needs. We will work hard to ensure that the Union stays relevant.

What do you think are some qualities a good leader should possess?

I think a good leader in the Students’ Union needs to have integrity, tenacity, empathy and professionalism. He needs to be true to himself; and manage himself in the most stressful of situations. He also needs to understand what the students he is serving are thinking. He must conduct himself professionally and befitting of a student leader.

Tell us something interesting about yourself!

I love playing street soccer and have been playing with my primary school friends weekly for the past 10 years!
The latest building in Nanyang Technological University’s (NTU) grounds — The Hive — was officially opened on Oct 20, with Acting Minister for Education (Higher Education and Skills) Ong Ye Kung as the Guest-of-Honour. Made up of 12 towers, each eight storeys high, The Hive has 56 smart classrooms, all equipped with LCD screens and electronic whiteboards.

In his opening speech, President of NTU, Professor Bertil Andersson, called The Hive “a university building like no other”. Unlike the usual modular buildings stacked up like “Lego bricks”, The Hive “defies the norms of traditional university buildings and redefines university buildings with its iconic shape and unusual use of space,” said Professor Andersson. He also noted that The Hive, which is opened 24 hours a day, has no entrance doors and cannot be locked. This is designed for students to enter from different directions. In a light hearted moment, Professor Andersson said: “NTU students are awake at all hours of the day, so I am sure it will be well used round-the-clock.” More importantly, The Hive would “inspire a free flow of ideas and interaction amongst students of different disciplines, and with their professors,” he added.

The Hive is running in next month’s World Architecture Festival, in the Higher Education and Research category that is held in Singapore.
**SPORTS BEYOND BOUNDARIES**

**COMPETITIVE GAMES**
- Captain's Ball
- Frisbee
- Dodgeball
- Basketball

**TRADITIONAL GAMES**
- Sack Race
- Ring-toss Race

Date: Friday, 6 November 2015
Time: 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
3:30 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.
Venue: Sports Recreation Centre

Register before 30 October 2015:
bit.ly/sportsbeyondboundaries
*Free registration and goodie bags*

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK.**

**HELP US SERVE YOU BETTER**

**STUDENTS’ WELFARE AND MINISTERIAL FORUM SURVEY**

3 - 8 November 2015

bit.ly/u-studysurvey

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**Planning for life after University days**

*Brought to you by AIA Singapore*

Life in school may be a bed of roses for many as you do not need to worry about supporting your parents, paying the monthly household bills or raising a family – simply because you are not earning an income.

However, as your graduation day draws near, the thought of taking on the responsibility seems daunting, isn’t it? You start to think about whether you can get a good-paying job, how much you need to set aside every month for the necessities, saving for rainy days, and perhaps a few indulgences here and there, such as going on holidays, buying the latest gadgets, or saving up for a car or a house when you’re done with your studies. Before the responsibilities start to weigh you down, here are a few tips that you can consider to ensure you are well prepared for life after University days.

**DURING UNIVERSITY**

Good financial planning should start before you graduate. In fact, start as early as you can for a good headstart.

**Set financial goals**
- Determine the financial goals that you would like to achieve by the end of your university days. For example, you can aim to have $10,000 in your bank account to tide you over for a period of three to six months while job hunting.
- Decide how much you need to put aside every month to achieve your goals. Rule of thumb: do not spend every single cent of your monthly allowances.
- Take note to include inflation rate into your calculation.
- Review every six months to ensure you are on track.

**Start a disciplined savings and/or investment plan**
- After you have set your financial goals, start a disciplined savings plan.
- Set up a separate dedicated bank account to save up for future use. You can set a standing instruction in your current bank account to auto transfer a fixed sum to your dedicated savings account every month.
- Another way to achieve your goal is via an investment-linked plan, where you receive the potential upside of your investment-linked funds to accumulate returns – a long-term investment horizon is required.

**Consider getting basic protection plans**
- Accidents and illnesses strike without warning. Take care of your protection needs so that you are not financially strapped should the unfortunate happen. Generally, you can purchase a personal accident plan at an affordable premium.
- If you have a CPF account, consider purchasing a hospitalisation and surgical plan payable via Medisave.

**ENTERING WORKFORCE**

**Review financial goals**
- Review the financial goals that you set earlier to include your new priorities.
- Consider having long-term, medium-term and short-term goals to meet your needs such as saving up for property, a car or for emergency use.

**Increase protection coverage**
- With your income, you can consider increasing your protection coverage to ensure that you and your loved ones are not in financial distress should an accident or illness strike. This is especially important if you are planning to get married and start a family too.
- Consider getting insurance plans that provide coverage for death, total and permanent disability and critical illnesses.
- If you already have a hospitalisation and surgical plan paid via Medisave, you can consider upgrading the plan for more comprehensive coverage.
- Disability Income plan is also important which can protect your income should you suffer a disability and unable to work.

**Increase monthly amount that you put into the savings and/or investment plan that you started during your university days**
- As a rule of thumb, you should save at least 10% of your monthly income and as usual set a standing instruction to auto transfer it to your dedicated savings account.
- When you receive bonus, you can park more to your savings or channel it to your investment-linked plan to potentially boost the returns. Investment-linked plans, while giving you a potential return, may also provide you with valuable insurance protection.

With any financial planning, it is advisable to start small to cultivate the habit and then move on to create a more robust plan. This is especially so if you have not had any financial plan. Do speak to an insurance advisor if you need help to get started as he/she will be able to review your financial needs, and thereafter advise and recommend plans to help you meet your financial goals.
The Students’ Union annual Bonding Day was held on Oct 3. More than 150 members from various portfolios came together to know one another better. The event was held indoors due to the haze, but this did not dampen the students’ spirit and enthusiasm. The morning started with icebreakers involving balloons and a session of “double whacko”, while the highlight of the afternoon was the Shark Team Challenge. Inspired by the reality television show Shark Tank, each team went through different stages to earn materials needed to impress the “sharks in the tank”. It was a gruelling eight hours, but the fun and new friendships forged were well worth the exhaustion. | Photos by NTUSU Photography Team

A DAY OF FUN AND GAMES
HONOURING OUR ALUMNI
Alumni Night and Homecoming 2015 was a night to remember as former graduates and pioneer educators returned to NTU
By Samuel Tjandra

More than 2,500 Nanyang Technological University (NTU) alumni and their families gathered at the Nanyang Auditorium on Oct 17 to celebrate Alumni Night 2015. A bold and energetic performance of Chinese drums kick-started the night, followed by NTU President Professor Bertil Andersson giving the opening speech. Prof Andersson shared a tiny snippet: in 1965, his history teacher had told him that a new country — Singapore — in South East Asia had gained independence. Little did he know that, one day, he would become the President of NTU. One of his goals included creating a lifelong learning campus for people to benefit from a continuing education.

The event’s Guest-of-Honour was Mr. Chan Chun Sing, Minister in Prime Minister’s Office. In his speech, Mr. Chan thanked the pioneers of Singapore and NTU. He believed that the most important thing we could learn from our pioneers is the pioneering spirit. Urging those at present to contribute to society at large and bring the university to greater success, he mentioned three different levels of success: the national level, university level and individual level.

At the award ceremony, four categories of awards — The Nanyang Alumni Service Award, Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award, Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award and the most prestigious Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award — were given out to more than 100 pioneer educators and 31 outstanding graduates. Notable mentions include: former Yayasan MENDAKI CEO Moliah Binte Hashim who has spent nearly 30 years serving in the education sector (Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award); national sailor Jovina Choo (Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award); award-winning photographer Edwin Koo (Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award) and composer Chester Tan, who has seven albums (Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award).

Actress Joanne Peh, who was also crowned Best Supporting Actress at MediaCorp’s Star Awards this year, was back at NTU to receive the Nanyang Alumni Achievement Award. She said that her alma mater opened many opportunities for her and made her a more versatile person, where she gained many applicable skills to prepare her for the workforce.

One of the highest honours, the Nanyang Distinguished Alumni Award, went to Mr. Teo Ser Luck, who is Minister of State for Manpower. Mr. Teo, 47, was an accountancy graduate and was recognised for his contributions in helping small and medium enterprises (SMEs) innovate and go global.

The award ceremony ended with various performances, including a lively and rhythmic piece by NTU’s Salsa En Sync and a contemporary dance by NTU’s Contempinated. Regional pop icon Stefanie Sun, who was from the Nanyang Business School, sang to the cheers of the audience. Ms. Sun also shared her nostalgic story of how she used to perform with her band, Rubberband, on top of a floating stage on a pond near Hall 6 during her NTU days. This was a particularly memorable night for Ms. Sun, as her father, Dr. Sng Yeow Hong, a former Associate Professor at the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, was also among the pioneer educators honoured.

Alumni caught up with their friends and schoolmates of yesteryear over beers and Turkish kebabs, with jazz music by NTU’s Jazz and Blues flowing melodiously in the background, as the night came to an end.
LIFE IN NTU: READY, SET, GO!

By Tiong Linshan

Last month, it was announced that Nanyang Technological University (NTU) has leapt into 13th place of the annual World University Rankings up from 39th last year. Stop any student you see and ask them if they are proud to be an NTU student. The answer is probably a resounding YES. With the Massachusetts Institute of Technology topping the list, followed by Harvard, and Cambridge and Stanford in third place, let us take a moment to bask in glory and prestige.

However, beyond NTU’s successes in the realm of academia, being a student isn’t merely based on the university’s reputation. The idea of being a university student was something so foreign when I first started. I was initially overwhelmed by the different events taking place almost every day, ranging from post-camp gatherings, to hall events, to the NTU induction activities. I am glad, however, that the dust has settled.

It has been three short months since the semester began. One thing that stood out to me the most was how university life hinges upon socialising and meeting new people. In a campus as huge as NTU’s, it is impossible to know even a tenth of the entire student body. It may be hard for some of us to find friends we feel we can truly click with, but the thing about these events is that you are never really alone. I tell myself we are all fish in the same sea trying to stay afloat – to keep an open mind and make new friends.

Before university started, the one unanimous opinion I heard was that I should opt to stay in hall. You’ll meet wonderful people, they said. You get to experience independent living, and cherish the time you spend with your family in the weekends! Seniors were convincing their juniors that staying in hall was the quintessential aspect of university life. While I used to be apprehensive about staying in hall – would I make like-minded friends? – I now know my worries were unfounded. I am amazed by the effort my fellow hall mates put in: just last month, we had an Open Mic night, Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations and night cycling, to name a few, all in the name of bonding and cohesion.

Humans are social animals by nature – a characteristic that these events try to take advantage of. After all, it’s much easier to make friends when you have something to talk about. What’s a better icebreaker than having fun together?

My hall experience so far has been nothing short of wonderful, because of the friends I made during camp or at events. Frankly, even though some choose to be involved in hall activities to continue staying on after freshman year, it is a lot easier to put that aside and just live in the moment. Sure, being a familiar face is an advantage, but try to throw yourself into it and enjoy the experience for what it is.

Besides hall activities or course-related events, being in the NTU Students’ Union (NTUSU) is also a way of contributing to the school. Why not try out something new, when we don’t carry the weight of the world on our shoulders yet? Joining the NTUSU allows me to meet interesting people I normally won’t cross paths with, given the diversity of the student body. Even though I have enough on my plate as it is, I enjoy the challenge of juggling commitments. I tend to work much better under pressure (a bad habit, I know).

I can go on forever about the various avenues we have to be a part of the NTU culture. Learn a language, pick up a sport, or chair a committee! The school is awash with opportunities for us to get involved. We are worth more than just the degree we leave with after graduation. It is how our contributions, no matter how small, leave an impact at the end of our time here. That, to me, is the essence of being an NTU student.
STAND A CHANCE TO WIN
ONE OF THREE STARBUCKS CARDS with S$20 value EACH!

Simply complete this crossword puzzle, and send a screenshot or you may send the answer directly to su-pe@e.ntu.edu.sg by 30th November for a chance to win! Winners with the correct answers will be drawn randomly. All judges’ decisions are final.

ACROSS
1 NTU shuttle bus service runs from Ang Mo Kio, Sengkang, Tampines and ... ?
4 This library, popular among students, has extended its opening hours during the exam period. It is now open till 11.30pm from Mondays to Fridays.
5 Latest building in NTU that was officially opened on Oct 20
6 A privilege card scheme initiated by the NTU Students’ Union

DOWN
2 President of the 25th NTUSU executive committee, as featured in this edition of The Union Herald
3 Guest-of-Honour at the opening of The Hive on Oct 20
7 (In numerals) NTU’s ranking in the latest Times Higher Education World University Rankings

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