IN SUMMARY

March swooshed by — and it has sure been busy. We started with Celebrate NTU!, coming together to mark the university’s achievements as we move towards a new year. The NTU Open House then welcomed prospective students and their parents to come find out more about our university and campus. Then, it was Flea & Feast, where budding entrepreneurs set up stalls and tried their hands at selling various merchandise.

As we all gear up for finals, the U-Study campaign made its return, dishing out goodie bags as a form of encouragement for our examinations.

The month ended with an insightful Ministerial Forum with Home Affairs and Law Minister K Shanmugam, who shared on progressing Singapore towards SG100.

As the semester comes to an end, the Publications team would like to thank our readers for staying with us on this wonderful journey as we shared events by the Students’ Union each month. Also, we haven’t forgotten the rest of the SU family, who have put in much hard work in organising these events. Without each and every one of you, there would not have been the making of the previous five editions of The Union Herald.

Suggestions on how to take The Union Herald further next semester are welcome at su-publications@e.ntu.edu.sg

Signing off,
Tan Li Fang, Jolin
Chief Editor
On March 28, the annual Ministerial Forum was held at the School Of Art, Design and Media Auditorium, where Home Affairs and Law Minister K Shanmugam was guest speaker.

This year’s forum was themed “Progressing Towards SG100”. According to Ms Charlene Tan, the chairperson of this year’s Ministerial Forum organising committee, as Singapore has just celebrated SG50 last year, it is important for us to recognise the resilience of our founding fathers who have built the nation up.

“As we work towards SG100, the world around us is changing socially, economically and politically”, and not only that, “within Singapore, there are also potential emerging divides that must be handled carefully to preserve Singapore’s social cohesion,” she added.

During the dialogue, Mr Shanmugam spoke on the challenges Singapore faces. This includes an ageing population and low birth rate, the threat of terrorism, as well as competition from other countries.

Other than factors such as racial harmony and political stability, the Minister said that, whether the Republic can reach SG100 depends on us, the students. “I’ve a lot of faith in our young people ..., I believe our young people know what it is (that) makes Singapore successful,” he added.

After the dialogue, students also had the opportunity to ask Mr Shanmugam questions at a Q&A, during which, the minister gave his views on issues such as the death penalty, and transient workers.
The fifth edition of Celebrate NTU! was held on March 8. The event started on an interesting note as NTU President, Professor Bertil Andersson, made an unusual entrance into his State of the University Address by swooshing in on an Inokim electric scooter.

Prior to that, he had scooted his way around the new retail outlets at the North Spine that was opened earlier this year. During his address, Prof Andersson reminisced with the packed auditorium about the events in NTU for the past year, including those held in conjunction with the SG50 celebrations. He also took the opportunity to update the audience about NTU’s achievements and what everybody can look forward to in the year ahead.

After which, the Nanyang Awards Ceremony honoured outstanding NTU members — professors, lecturers and students — who made their mark and contributed to the university. This year, Prof Andersson and NTU Provost Freddy Boey presented the awards to 35 individuals and 4 teams.

The day ended off with the Party at The Quad and the FUSE Music Festival. Not only was the crowd treated to performances by NTU’s very own talents, including the CAC Jazz & Blues and Sabby & the Cats, all the hall jam bands helped liven up the atmosphere by rocking out their tunes.
Every semester, the U-Study campaign helps students prepare for their final exams. On March 30, queues formed at the Canopy Stage and the benches outside Lee Kong Chian Lecture Theatre as students eagerly awaited to collect their goodie bags filled with study supplies and snacks. For those who needed a caffeine boost or had rumbling stomachs, there was free coffee, cheesecake, ice cream and curry puffs on offer. Students could also stand a chance to win USB thumb drives with Marvel characters if they tried their hands at a “gacha” game.

Many at the event also shared their studying tips for exam preparations. In fact, most students said their preferred venue for “mugging” was Lee Wee Nam Library, or in the comforts of their own hall rooms. Here are some tips: 1) Do past year papers; 2) Have enough sleep; 3) Study in a group; 4) Have consultations with professors to clear doubt; 5) Relax by watching comedy shows.

U-Study campaign is back again to encourage students for their coming exams

Photos by NTUSU Photography Team
NE
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Photos by NTUSU Photography Team
Before becoming an NTU student, we have all been through time when we had to decide which university to go to. Each year, NTU Open House attracts thousands of youths and their parents to drop by our campus to know more about the university, and this year was no different. On March 5, our friendly student ambassadors and faculty staff went all out to introduce prospective students the various degree programmes and scholarships NTU has to offer, and at the same time, offer a glimpse of how fulfilling student life at NTU can be. | Photos by NTUSU Photography Team
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 wedding bells ring.

Before the responsibilities start to weigh you down, here are a few tips that you can consider to ensure that 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 $X 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 ride on 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. With any financial planning, it is advisable to start small to cultivate the habit and thereafter build on it 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.

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 account.

NOT YOUR USUAL FLEA MARKET
Flea & Feast was held on March 21 and 22 at the Canopy Stage. Other than the sale of merchandise such as handicrafts and clothes, there was a twist to the two-day event. There were booths aimed at raising cultural awareness, such as a Chinese calligraphy, as well as free international food. | Photos by NTUSU Photography Team
From the bottom of our hearts, THANK YOU.

IT’S BEEN A GREAT JOURNEY, AND WE ALL HAD FUN

Subcom Appreciation Night was held on the evening of March 31 at the rooftop of The Hive. With ‘live’ music by a band, acapella and even a performance by the EXCO, it was a heartwarming moment to gather together to appreciate and reflect upon the hard work by all the sub-committee members this semester.