Hey!

THE NTU MAGAZINE MAR-APR 2019 NO. 41

HOT JOBS OF THE FUTURE (and what you need to bag them)

“JUST BE YOURSELF” TIPS FOR THAT ADMISSIONS INTERVIEW

YOU WOULDN’T MISS A CLASS LIKE THIS

SLEEP IN, HAVE VIRTUAL FUN AND EVEN CHOOSE THE WEATHER FOR THE DAY

PERKS OF BEING Insta FAMOUS

DEBT THING YOU DO

How to bounce back from three near bankruptcies by 32

WIN! MOVIE TICKETS, HAIR STUDIO VOUCHERS, FACE-PAMPERING SESSIONS & MORE. FIND OUT HOW ON PG 21.
Fruitful union
How do you measure the worth of a graduate? Certainly with more than letters on a certificate, says the NTU Students’ Union, which aims to bring leading employers and students together to share their thoughts on hiring and job prospects, and work towards a holistic approach in talent recruitment. The Students’ Union is also working with the Singapore Manufacturing Federation to give undergrads and fresh graduates leadership training, mentorships and job-matching opportunities. Education Minister Mr Ong Ye Kung (top right) applauded the initiative: “I am encouraged by the effort to raise awareness amongst employers on how higher education has evolved, developing students holistically beyond academic knowledge.”

World’s best undergrads
NTU students scored again in the annual Global Undergraduate Awards in Dublin, Ireland. Three NTU students were named global winners, making NTU the joint top institution among 333 universities from 46 countries. NTU outshone other Asian universities as well with seven regional winners and 40 highly commended students who form the top 10% of entrants – the most from any university. Competition was keen with almost 5,000 entries from students, who put their best coursework forward in categories ranging from business and economics to engineering and medical sciences. The top winners received a sponsored trip to present their work at a summit in Dublin.

NTU’s SHINING STARS
Tan Li Ling (top left), Sylvia Lee (standing, third from left) and Issa Sng (bottom right).
Peter Yeo takes a look at the skills today’s students will need for tomorrow’s workplace, and how they can arm themselves for their future careers – even for jobs that don’t yet exist.

**HOT JOBS OF THE FUTURE (and the skills you’ll need)**

Technology is the catalyst for Industry 4.0, a new age of disruptive technologies where computers and automation will be enhanced by smart and autonomous systems powered by data and machine learning.

Can you imagine a time without your Apple or Android? These days, more people are accessing the Internet on their smartphones than on their personal computers, and using their phones to work rather than to make calls.

Robots – both the humanoid and the manufacturing kinds – have been grabbing media headlines all over the world. Think of NTU’s very own IKEA-assembling wunderkind and Singapore’s first android customer service representative, Nadine from NTU.

In an increasingly volatile and machine-operated world shaped by artificial intelligence, or AI, where will humans fit in and how can students future-proof themselves?

The jobs of the future will demand a wide knowledge and skill base. There’s a risk of specialising too early in something that might look promising at the beginning, but be outdated or not exist by the end of your studies, says Nanyang Visiting Professor Helga Nowotny, a research and innovation policy expert.

Giving an industry perspective at a recent talk to students, Chief Executive Officer of DBS Group Piyush Gupta said that it is important to have interdisciplinary skills. “I need people who can make the connection across. And because I need to make the connection across, I desperately need horizontal skills, people who can actually think laterally. Which means that you not only need to know how things work, you need to know how they fit with everything else. And, ideally, you need to have some skills across a range of different dimensions. That’s when you can bring it together,” he emphasised.

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BUILD YOUR DIGITAL TOOLKIT

Data Science and Artificial Intelligence programmes are several new interdisciplinary double-degree courses for incoming freshmen. The Double Major in Mathematical and Computer Sciences programme will produce future leaders savvy in areas such as fintech and data analytics, while the Double Major programme in Biomedical Sciences and BioBusiness, run with Copenhagen Business School, will equip students to harness biotechnology and business and manufacturing management in professions for the expanding healthcare sector.

First-year student Max Ng (main picture), who’s taking a double major in accountancy and business, recognises how uncertain the job landscape will be by the time he enters the workforce. However, the Nanyang Scholar, who plans to specialise in Banking and Finance, is unfazed. “NTU prepares us for the workforce and up-to-date education in core subjects as well as soft skills such as the ability to adapt. By the time I graduate, fintech will no longer be a buzzword but a norm in the banking and finance sector,” he says.

“A component of fintech is to analyse data, which I have an interest in. I like to study historical data and predict outcomes of the future. I believe this will stand me in good stead regardless of which company I join – or even if I decide to switch industries.”

GOOD JOB!

Taking a cue from NTU’s Smart Campus experts, and the possibilities playing out in the world today, Hey! brings you some hot jobs of the future and the skills needed to thrive in them.

CYBER SECURITY

In the future, computers will move from processing binary data to quantum bits. This will allow computers to move at blazing speeds and enhance their capabilities. The flip side is cyber criminals may attack companies and individuals from every access point at high speeds, warns Assoc Prof Zhang Baile, whose work on an invisibility cloak was voted one of the top 10 breakthroughs by Physics World. To be an effective cyber security operative, you’ll need an intimate knowledge of quantum mechanics on top of computing skills.

DATA RECYCLING

By 2020, each person on earth will generate 1.7MB of data every second, according to cloud-based mobile operating software provider Domo. It will be the job of data recycling architects to make sense of unused data and turn them into insightful gems. For this role, you’ll need strong technical skills in statistics, machine learning and computer science, says mathematics professor Nicolas Privault. Management and marketing skills would be an added advantage. A good data science degree offers the right foundation for this career path.

PERSONAL DRONE TRANSPORT

Flying cars in science fiction movies like Blade Runner 2049 are already on the horizon. Technology for the flying vehicle may be here but issues of safety and insurance must first be resolved, says NTU’s drone expert, Prof Low Kin Huat. For it to be accepted, insurers must want to cover the risk of transport and riders must feel it’s safe. Personal drone transport designers and manufacturers will need an engineering background and knowledge of unmanned systems such as sense avoidance and risk management.

MAN & MACHINE SYSTEMS

Big retailers like Toolooa today are already employing AI in the warehouse to fulfil online orders automatically. As technology advances, there will be a clear demand for a bridge between man and machines, says Assoc Prof Bo An. Apart from computer science and engineering knowhow, skills that stand you in good stead for this job include people skills such as human psychology, neuroscience and possibly human resources.
The secondary forests around NTU are home to some of the region’s most endangered fauna, as Peter Yeo discovers

As AI takes over more of our everyday tasks, people may find more time for leisure and non-wage-related activities such as volunteering. Also, new unexpected jobs will emerge, says Prof Vanessa Evers from the University of Twente, who spoke recently at NTU. Think professions like outer space tour guide, e-sports referee or even humanoid yoga programmer.

The future workforce will need to anticipate and be able to manage frequent interaction between humans and machines. Assoc Prof Tan Joo Seng, who studies leadership and psychological tools in human resources to create a motivated and productive workforce. That could change in the next five to 10 years if sensors and biometric technology are adopted in the workplace. Arm yourself for this role by learning research design and data collection, data analytics, and psychological, organisational behaviour and management principles.

Calls of the Wild

The next time you’re strolling in NTU, stop and listen. That melodious bird song emanating from the forest could be from the endangered Straw-headed Bulbul. Once found all over Southeast Asia, the forest songbird is highly prized in the cage bird trade and has been hunted for its sweet songs. Nature experts say the forests adjacent to NTU are home to other locally endangered fauna such as the Sunda Pangolin, Oriental Pied Hornbill and Wild Boar.

The Sunda Pangolin is the only mammal to be covered in scales. This vulnerable armoured mammal is the most relentlessly poached animal in the world. Young pangolins ride on their mother’s (coat) tails. Cute!

Wild boars are surprisingly good swimmers and it has been suggested that their rise in numbers in Singapore could be due to populations swimming here from nearby islands and even Malaysia. Wild piglets are speckled and look like facts.

Moving watermelons. Boars are very protective of their piglets, so observe them from afar and do not feed them.

Ring in the Year of the Boar with this video starring NTU’s Lucky Boars.

Because these forests are off-limits to the public, the animals have a safe refuge. NTU is located next to forests with amazing biodiversity and NTU can do much to raise awareness of these species,” says conservationist Dr Norman Lim from NTU’s National Institute of Education.

NTU students like biological sciences major Gina Goh and environmental sciences undergrad Chua Kai Ting have been doing their part. Gina heads an initiative to record animal sightings in NTU and shares them via the Facebook page, Campus Creatures. Kai Ting leads volunteers to monitor the Straw-headed Bulbul and other birds and butterflies in the university.

Ecology and forest expert Dr Shawn Lum from the Asian School of the Environment, who also heads the Nature Society (Singapore), says: “Not many institutions in the world, let alone universities, find themselves at the frontlines of the protection of globally critically endangered species at their doorstep. NTU can be an important player in the protection of these peaceful and amazing creatures if we are committed as a community to look after them.”

He adds: “The rich wildlife in and around our campus is a unique aspect of NTU life that should be something for us to rally around and be proud of.”

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“Admissions interviews are not about impressing the interviewers but for us to learn more about who you are.”

— ASSOC PROF YEONG WAI YEE, SCHOOL OF MECHANICAL & AEROSPACE ENGINEERING

Communicate your enthusiasm for the programme, and the environment in general. It almost always grabs our attention when a student can link what we’re talking about to wider world issues. It’s a good sign when students can make the interview feel more like a conversation rather than just answering questions.

— DR NATASHA BHATTIA, ASIAN SCHOOL OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Prospective students eyeing a place at NTU can improve their chances through a holistic admissions assessment that includes interviews, aptitude tests and portfolios. A prospective student who shows passion and enthusiasm for a chosen programme, as well as potential to succeed may have an edge over a more academically qualified applicant vying for the same course.

Says NTU Provost Prof Ling San: “NTU’s new holistic approach means that our professors are investing more time, resources and manpower to interview and assess individual students. But we are willing to do so, to better match students’ aspirations and passion for the subject, as long as they can show us that they can cope with the rigours of their chosen degree course.”

“Students should try to be genuine, natural and honest in their answers. Show us your true conviction and passion to pursue a career in medicine. Answers that are not ‘run-of-the-mill’ would be preferred. Instead of answering ‘I want to help people’, when asked why you want to be a doctor, share with us your unique reasons that distinguish you from others.”

— ASSOC PROF KWEK TONG KIAT, LEE KONG CHIAN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

“Do not give short answers like ‘yes’ or ‘no’. Tell us your motivation for applying to the programme. More importantly, don’t feed fuzzy information as interviewers will chase the line of questioning if they find an answer fishy. In short, don’t be pretentious.”

— ASSOC PROF TAN HOWE SIANG, SCHOOL OF PHYSICAL & MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES

The single biggest obstacle is not knowing what you have applied for. I am not interested in generic answers. If there is passion for the subject, it usually comes out in the conversation.

— ASSOC PROF DANIEL JERNIGAN, SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES

“When a student can link what we’re talking about to wider world issues, it’s a good sign.”

We did not consider her a good fit for the school! Professors have devoted their lives to becoming experts in their subjects, so try to match their enthusiasm by showing you are really enthusiastic about some aspect of the school. And have a few examples of cool stuff you have seen and noticed, and want to learn about.”

— ASSISTANT PROF ANDREW DUFFY, WEE KIM WEI SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATION & INFORMATION

“The Renaissance Engineering Programme conducts multiple mini interviews for its candidates. Through the five to six interview stages, we assess the students’ creativity, critical thinking, communication skills and leadership. There are no wrong or right answers. We just want to find out more about how you think, how you communicate, your interests and your passion. So if I were you, I’d just be myself – calm, composed and exuding confidence.”

— PROF LAILIT GOEL, DIRECTOR OF RENAISSANCE ENGINEERING PROGRAMME

“Knowing why you are there
If you want to pursue science so you can be a researcher, show you know something about the subject of science and researchers.

ASK QUESTIONS Ask relevant questions that you want answers to. The worst thing is to ask no questions.

BE RELAXED The interview is a chance for the interviewers to know you, and for you to get to know NTU.

BE COMMITTED Don’t drop out of the interview at the last minute as it won’t reflect well on you.

Through admissions interviews, we are able to assess the potential of a student beyond his academic results, as well as his suitability for the programme as seen through his passion.

“Fit for Admission

P"
Get an edge in employability and real-life experience with these NTU courses designed together with big global brands – such as Dyson, Google, AMD and DBS – as well as Singapore’s National Environment Agency

**DESIRED TO WORK**

**DEVISE WITH DYSON**

Have fresh ideas to create exciting new products? Get the know-how in the Product Development Challenge module, an initiative of NTU and Dyson, the British technology company that’s known for marrying engineering with sharp design.

Inside the Dyson-NTU Studio, Dyson’s first on a campus in Asia, engineering students are asked to summon their spirit of design-based thinking.

Since the studio simulates Dyson’s working environment, students get a feel of what it’s like to be a design engineer at the company that’s known for cool products ranging from bladeless fans and cordless vacuum cleaners to Airwrap hair stylers. Using advanced 3D printers and modelling software, students can develop 3D prototypes of their own and test them on the NTU Smart Campus.

**Renaissance Engineering** Programme student Cyndi Teh, 23, who enrolled in the semester-long module taught by Dyson engineers and NTU professors, says: “The course has been an eye-opener. I’ve learnt a lot from the NTU and Dyson mentors, and the importance of collaborating with others from different engineering backgrounds. It has helped me discover why I need to question convention and experiment without the fear of failure.”

In the works are internship and job opportunities at Dyson. Students can try their hand at designing, developing and testing prototypes, and those who pick up a lot of knowledge can be hired by the company when they graduate.

**BANKING ON DBS**

The financial sector needs more talent in wealth management and Nanyang Business School’s Applied Wealth Management track is right on the money.

Designed by NTU and DBS Bank, the course is first of its kind in Singapore and trains up to 50 students every semester to serve the well-heeled in the Asia-Pacific, where the number of ultrarich is growing.

Students don’t just get a solid education in wealth management. Even before they graduate, they serve clients and work in a digital banking environment through two internships with DBS, named the Global Bank of the Year in 2018. Students do a 10-week and 20-week stint at the end of their second and third year of study, respectively.

Armed with the required regulatory certifications and experience, graduates of the programme will be able to hit the ground running, instead of undergoing a six-month training and certification period, as is the current practice.

The programme provides a ticket to coveted positions too, as top students are offered full-time jobs at DBS as wealth management associates in the bank’s consumer banking and wealth management group. And if they continue to impress, they will be offered a place in DBS Treasures, the bank’s wealth management segment.

Says Ma Tan Su Shan, Managing Director, DBS Bank: “We need to build a workforce of job-ready wealth managers today. From ensuring that these students have the best-in-class curriculum to hands-on training through this course, we want to develop innovative and committed bankers who are ready to succeed in the future economy.”

**NEAR AND PRESENT DANGERS**

Our lives are inextricably connected with the environment and the other animals that live on our planet. The One Health course, developed by NTU and the National Environment Agency (NEA), takes this to new levels of understanding.

Available to students of the School of Biological Sciences, it prepares them for future careers in areas such as public health, medical research and bio-businesses by laying the foundation of how food safety, animal health and the mitigation of climate change are linked to human health in Singapore and around the world.

Students gain knowledge which will aid them in their careers in various government agencies involved in the One Health movement, such as the NEA, Agri-Food & Veterinary Authority of Singapore and Health Sciences Authority. Says Dr Hong Yan, the professor in charge: “Since it was conceived two years ago, the module has generated strong interest among students. Every semester, about 300 undergraduates from other disciplines such as business and humanities join this module, and there are plans to increase the intake due to its popularity. Many students can relate personally to the subject since it concerns their lives and some see a close relation to their future careers.”

**FUTURE-READY WITH AMD**

Do you dream of being the next Elon Musk or Bill Gates? Dive into the deep end of computing in NTU’s new Data Science and Artificial Intelligence course, which has been boosted with modules in high performance computing, parallel processing and deep-learning technologies.

Next-generation tech leaders on this bachelor’s programme, which starts in the new academic year, will be exposed to real-world applications through American firm AMD’s industrial network. Students can try their hand at developing software used in security fields like identification and motion detection. They will also work on big data and analytics that more companies are using to their advantage.

Kitted out with AMD’s state-of-the-art equipment, the upcoming Data Science and Artificial Intelligence Lab in the School of Computer Science & Engineering will be the classroom for students taking these modules. AMD will provide internship opportunities at its Singapore office as well as its research laboratory in Shanghai, China. The tech giant will also support a work-study programme, where students go through multiple internships and do an industrial final-year project. Those who shine could be hired by the company when they graduate.

“NTU is the premier institution for artificial intelligence, and we’re very excited to bring our technologies to empower the participating students to freely explore the diversity of deep-learning applications,” says Allen Lee, Corporate Vice President for Asia Datacentre Group and General Manager for China R&D Centre, AMD.
Chrystal Chan checks in on various classes at NTU to see what the undergraduates are up to.

**WILD BY NATURE**

Let the great outdoors be your teacher when you are a student at the Asian School of the Environment. Students specialising in geosciences head to Mono Lake in California for a five-week trip where they explore rugged terrain, make geological maps, dig trenches to uncover the Earth’s sedimentary history and more. Camping outdoors in tents is par for the course and an essential skill for any field geologist. Now that’s a learning experience that rocks.

**THE BIG SLEEP**

You won’t be faulted for taking a snooze when this class is in session, but you probably won’t fall asleep either. Third- and final-year psychology students who take the module, The Last Dance, get to undergo a funeral simulation where they are empowered to reflect on the meaning of life. Such experiential classes help students better understand the psychology behind death and bereavement, says Asst Prof Andy Ho, who started the course.

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**THE BIG PICTURE**

Chrysalis Chan checks in on various classes at NTU to see what the undergraduates are up to.

**VIRTUAL FUN CLASS**

Is this the classroom or a hospital ward? Try on different VR devices and decide for yourself in this communication class run by Asst Prof Benjamin Li that looks at the effects of virtual reality on human behaviour and attitudes. For a couple of lessons, students get to see what it’s like to be immersed in a virtual world, such as a hospital setting, where they can virtually pick up a bottle of medicine or read a diagnosis on a clipboard.

**DOME YOU LOVE IT?**

Head to school for your very own IMAX experience as you lounge on cusdy bean bags with like-minded pals. Students taking Academy Award-winning professor Ben Shedd’s Immersive Imagery class spend a few lessons under a dome, located at the School of Art, Design & Media, getting acquainted with the wonders of borderless cinematography. Get ready to be mesmerised by swirling graphics that appear to be closing in on you or feel breathtakingly close to the trapeze artist swinging right above.

**WHERE WOULD WE BE WITHOUT YOU?**

Say hello to windmills, tulips, wooden clogs and plenty of cheese. All students taking a second major in food science and technology go on a two-week class trip to the Netherlands, where they get an inside look at how food is made at the Heinz, Mars and Unilever factories, not forgetting jaunts to touristy attractions like this cheese farm in Zaanse Schans.

**Cruise Control**

As an aerospace or a mechanical engineering student, you can visit the two-storey-high air-traffic control tower simulator and determine more than just the arrival and departure of planes. Decide the weather (fierce snowstorm, sunny day or heavy rain) to see how well you manage the traffic situation after adding congestion on the ground or in the air, simply with a touch of the controls in front of you. The wow factor is watching the “world” you create play out on the screen in front of you in all its 360-degree glory.

**All You Need is Patients**

Do not disturb this class in progress. Students from the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine get hands-on experience when they perform an ultrasound on actors pretending to be patients, all under the watchful supervision of a faculty member. This eye-opening experience takes place during their practical skills or anatomy lessons.
Don’t fall hook, line and sinker for online scams, which are more prevalent than you think

BY CHRYSTAL CHAN

You’re checking your emails when you spot an urgent notice from Apple that says your computer’s security has been compromised. The email notes that as long as you verify your Apple store account by logging in at the link provided, you’ll be safe. Sounds legit? Don’t bite the bait – your device could be infected with malware and you could have your data stolen.

Phishing, where people are tricked into giving away confidential data to imposters online, is a growing concern. Surprisingly, research by a team of NTU communication students has found that millennials are the most common victims of cybercrime, although only 11.4% felt they were at risk of falling prey to online scams.

DON’T BE SCAMMED

**Something’s Phishy** is a final-year project by four Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information students – Cyrus Chng, Phyllicia Gan, Oh Chin Ying and Amanda Tan – to raise awareness of cybercrime and teach young people to be wary of phishing scams.

**How to identify phishing baits** (adapted from Cyber Security Awareness Alliance):

1. Panic-inducing emails that pressure you to reply quickly. These typically use phrases such as “urgent action required” or “your account will be terminated”.
2. Emails with an invoice for an item you did not purchase.
3. Requests for confidential information, such as your NRIC, login credentials and credit card details, over email.
4. Email attachments that look foreign to you, often in file formats such as .exe.
5. Senders’ email addresses with different urls when you hover your cursor over them.
7. If anything sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Scammers often dangle amazing deals to get you to click on a link.

18% of young adults aged 18 to 25 correctly identified a phishing email (despite 65% being confident of picking one out).

88% felt they weren’t at risk of being a victim of online fraud, saying they have nothing valuable to “steal”.

ONLY 1 IN 5 use different passwords across different online accounts.

4 IN 10 would contact their bank if they received an email asking for their financial details.

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**NOTES**

- **NTU Smart Campus, Smarter Thinking**
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Enjoy this immersive experience now with a pair of VR goggles. Write to hey@ntu.edu.sg with your name, school, address and the subject line, “NTU VR Goggles”. Be VR-y quick, so you don’t miss out on getting your free pair* by mail!

*While stocks last
Three NTU students who have built a five-figure following on Instagram tell Chrystal Chan how they keep their Insta game strong

Communication student Carrine Low has over 15,800 followers on Instagram, but unlike most students who take to social media, she gets a side perk from her hobby.

“It has helped me to land paid modelling jobs from brands like Topshop and Laneige,” she explains. “Since I first got on Instagram six years ago, my followers have grown organically. Perhaps it helps that I kept a blog in secondary school, which had about 2,000 readers back then,” says the third-year undergrad who gets an average of 1,000 likes with every photo she posts.

National taekwondo athlete Ng Ming Wei built his base of 47,500 followers over years of taekwondo competitions abroad in places like Iran and Croatia, where he often gets attention as the lone representative from Singapore.

The final-year psychology student keeps his account interesting by pairing his expertise in taekwondo with other sports like table tennis and basketball. A video post of him playing table tennis with his foot went viral after it was picked up by popular social media website 9GAG, garnering over 260,000 views and 7,905 likes.

Jonas Koh, a third-year chemical and biomolecular engineering student, racked up over 39,700 followers in the last four years, thanks to his keen eye for aesthetics and his love for cafes. While he uses Instagram to share culinary pleasures, especially his love of baking, he does so with so much precision that he can spend up to an hour crafting a post.

“Creating flat lays with different items can take much longer as I have to prep the background, pull out props and then arrange or rearrange the items. If it is a photo of interior design or just coffee, I usually get the shot I want in a couple of minutes,” he says.

The perks of being an Instagram personality run from receiving business proposals to meeting like-minded pals, say Jonas and Carrine.

“The best thing about being on Instagram is being able to work with brands I love. It’s a happy accident since I started the account just to share pictures with friends,” Carrine admits. Her stylish feed has also resulted in collaborations with Lazada, Nivea and ezbuy.

Ming Wei gets his kicks out of sharing his love of taekwondo with friends and perfect strangers. Some of the nicest comments he has received are from people who tell him how he has inspired them.

INSTA PERKS
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to continue practising the sport. “I am glad that I can promote the sport in Singapore. I want others to know that it’s really fun and not violent at all.” Jonas reveals that in the four years or so that he has been Insta-famous, a number of companies have approached him for sponsored posts, but he is adamant about working only with brands whose products he truly likes. “I do not see a point in accepting money, so I reject payment. My most popular post resulted from a collaboration with a tea company. I made a non-diary coconut matcha ice cream with their matcha powder. The end result not only looked but tasted delicious,” says the 24-year-old. For him, the best perk is meeting like-minded Instagrammers who have become travel buddies. His last trip with Insta buddies was during his exchange in Korea, where they hung out in cafes.

KEEPING FOLLOWERS HAPPY
It goes without saying then that there is some pressure for these social media influencers to keep their followers happy. Jonas keeps his fans happy by posting at least once every two days, although this can be hard to do during busy school weeks. “I try my best to create content wherever I am, even if I’m having breakfast. I’ll make the meal look presentable and snap a few pictures.”

Carrine says consistency is important as people tend to lose interest if they haven’t seen anything from you in a while. “Posting regularly helps. But you must have interesting content. Currently, I’m trying to post more videos to switch things up a little bit,” she says.

DEALING WITH TROLLS
One downside of Insta-fame is getting negative comments on posts. “I tend to encounter trolls when I post videos. Since there are people I don’t know, usually with no profile pictures, I am not affected by them,” says Carrine. “Most of the hateful comments I’ve seen online come from a place of anger and lack of understanding about taekwondo,” says Ming Wei. “They believe the sport should look a certain way and when I don’t do it that way, they post angry comments. I don’t get upset, because their comments are not directed at me personally.” Jonas has not received any hate online but he recalls the one time a stranger secretly tried to take a photo of him: “At cafes, I sometimes shoot cups of coffee on the floor instead of on the table, and my friend once saw a girl trying to photograph me doing that. I went up to her and told her it made me feel uncomfortable. Her excuse was that she was just trying to take a picture of my coffee!”

“MY MOST POPULAR POST RESULTED FROM A COLLABORATION WITH A TEA COMPANY. I MADE A NON-DIARY COCONUT MATCHA ICE CREAM WITH THEIR MATCHA POWDER. THE END RESULT NOT ONLY LOOKED BUT TASTED DELICIOUS.” – JONAS KOH
Not many people can say they’ve turned their love for snacking into a viable business.
Together with her boyfriend, Jonathan Goh, final-year sociology student Vivian Ong spends her free time between classes tossing tapioca chips at a rented stall at Pioneer Road.
“We both love food and wanted to start a business around that. At one point we even contemplated running a food truck! But the eureka moment came when we noticed how popular unique snacks like salted egg chips were,” says the 24-year-old.
“That’s when we thought that Singapore should have its own specialty store selling locally-inspired snacks, starting with tapioca chips, which is our favourite.”
The brand, Uncle Jimmy’s, is named after Jonathan’s uncle, the “head chef” at chips, which is our favourite.”

Together with her boyfriend, Chrystal Chan and Derek Rodriguez meet two undergraduates who can tingle your taste buds and leave you spellbound.

INSPIRED BY ITS NAMESAKE’S WELL-LOVED RECIPES

“First, we toyed with the idea of having flavours like bak chor mee, chicken rice and nasi lemak. But we realised not every dish can be turned into chip seasoning. Sometimes, it’s the texture of the food that makes the dish what it is,” says Vivian.

As the business is still fairly new, Vivian and Jonathan have to dip their fingers into the entire process. They slice the tapiocas and deep-fry them, then season and pack them in resealable bags. To cope with the amount of work, they spend Monday to Friday at their stall, alternating the frying and mixing process on different days.

“It is not easy juggling school and work but I’m thankful that our friends and family members are so supportive. Sometimes when I end school late, Jonathan will get his brother to help out and I’ll get my dad to assist if Jonathan is busy,” she says.

“We have to plan our time carefully to get everything done. All our time outside of school is spent doing assignments, preparing the chips or selling them at bazaars.”

Aside from learning how to perfect the crisp with constructive feedback from friends, Vivian – who had little sales or marketing experience before Uncle Jimmy’s – learnt the tricks of the trade thanks to a number of NTU electives as well as a one-year stint on a school club committee.

It’s crunch time for Vivian and Jonathan, and their hard work certainly seems to be paying off. The couple has sold close to 1,000 packets since they started Uncle Jimmy’s in September 2018, an impressive figure considering they are limited by the amount they can produce.

“Right now we can only make about 150 packets a week, so we had to reject some larger orders. However, we are working on it. We have plans to expand the business and make it available in more places soon,” says Vivian.

“While my dad showed me how it was done, I was hooked. After that, he showed me the French drop. He made a coin vanish and reappear behind my ears. I thought it was really cool, so that was the first trick I learnt,” says Joel.

The lure of magic continued to bewitch the young showman. He honed his craft by performing for not just friends and family, but in public places as well. He practises daily to perfect his routines and has spent the last two years learning his newest trick, which he has yet to unveil.

“It would also help him in school and in his love life, as Joel sheepishly admits. “I specialise in close-up magic where I perform for small groups in intimate settings. This has helped to sharpen my interpersonal skills. I tend to score well in presentation-heavy courses too.”

Near the end of his freshman year in NTU, he met Alexander Yuen, a veteran local magician, who took him under his wing and brought him into his company that has professional magicians for hire. Two years on, Joel is a performer in demand, clocking up to 10 shows a month.

By day, he studies the forces of physical science. By night, he defies nature and logic in a suit and tie as he works the audience into raptures at a popular venue in town. Most physics undergraduate, Joel Lim, who moonlights as a magician whenever he gets the call.

“This spellcaster’s story began when he was 15. A simple mind-reading card trick by his father was all it took to change his world.

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By his account, being a magician is the best job in the world. “When my friends are down, I use magic to cheer them up. As a magician, I also get to meet people from all walks of life. I’ve met many inspiring people inside and outside the magic world.”

Although he can turn pieces of magazine paper into American currency with a flick of his wrist, he dispels any notion of making magic a full-time vocation.

“School still comes first. I attend all my lessons and make sure my assignments are completed. Magic will always be a part of my life and I intend to continue performing, but doing it for a living is a different matter,” says Joel, who is considering a career in the financial sector when he graduates this year.
Have you ever imagined yourself as a professor one day? You may think it's out of your league now, but many of your own profs were once NTU students in NTU themselves.

One of them is Assoc Prof Shirley Ho (below), who entered NTU as a communication student with ambitions of becoming a journalist. “After completing my A-levels, I was deciding between accountancy and communication studies in NTU and chose the latter because I had dreams of being a news reporter,” says the Associate Chair (Faculty) at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information.

“I quickly discovered that there were many other interesting facets of communication apart from journalism. I was particularly intrigued by the phenomenon of communication itself. Since walking into Lecture Theatre 1 as a freshman in 1992, Theatre 1 as a freshman in 1992, Prof Louis Phee, a graduate from the School of Materials Science & Engineering, Assoc Prof Joachim Loo takes care of the well-being of undergrads in the school. It’s a fitting position as Assoc Prof Loo had a self-described “happening” varsity life as a materials engineering student. “I had four splendid years as an undergraduate where I stayed at Hall 2. I was an active student leader both in school and in hall and represented both in all sorts of sports and games. NTU left me many beautiful memories, so returning wasn’t an opportunity I was going to pass up,” says the materials engineering graduate.

“The best takeaway is to make the right decisions.”

Similarly, School of Materials Science & Engineering Chair Prof Lam Yeng Ming found herself drawn to the opportunity to learn how engineering theories translate into real-world applications. “My NTU education gave me a peek into the life of a materials scientist and it drove me to find out more. My early career as a development engineer took me to many places, like the United States, Japan and Korea, but when NTU offered me a route back as an academic, I couldn’t say no.”

For Prof Louis Phee, who admits that he “grew up breaking toys and putting them back together”, NTU, with its reputation of churning out hands-on engineers, was a natural choice for him to pursue a degree in mechanical engineering. Says the current Dean of Engineering: “I had my first taste of research doing my final-year project. It was love at first sight! I was inspired by my profs too. My favourite teacher was Prof Ooi Kim Tow, who’s now the Acting Chair of the School of Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering. He’s totally selfless and passionate about teaching and helping students. I remember thinking to myself while sitting in his lecture many years ago, ‘One day, I’m going to be a lecturer like Dr Ooi!’”

Adds Prof Phee: “Coming back to NTU was a no-brainer. I really find satisfaction in imparting knowledge to students who sit on the very same seats I used to sit on.

The fact that I knew the professors played a part too. They were doing world-class engineering research and I wanted to be part of that. As a young faculty member, my first thought was that I could address my previous professors by their first names. But I still ended up blunting ‘sir’ and ‘ma’am’ in the first few weeks!”

MEMORIES OF ALMA MATER
In his position as Associate Chair (Students) at the School of Materials Science & Engineering, Assoc Prof Joachim Loo takes care of the well-being of undergrads in the school. It’s a fitting position as Assoc Prof Loo had a self-described “happening” varsity life as a materials engineering student. “I had four splendid years as an undergraduate where I stayed at Hall 2. I was an active student leader both in school and in hall and represented both in all sorts of sports and games. NTU left me many beautiful memories, so returning wasn’t an opportunity I was going to pass up,” says the materials engineering graduate.

“The best takeaway is probably the friends I made. One of my former hall mates is now my daughter’s form teacher. And several classmates are now business owners whose companies are household names.”

Likewise, Prof Phee spent four memorable years living on campus, in Hall 2 and Hall 4. “The halls never slept. Giggles and the sounds of guitar strumming filled the air at night. It was normal to see people doing laundry or cooking Maggi noodles at 3am. The 8.30am lectures were simply impossible to wake up for; I hear they still are,” he laughs, adding: “I’d do it all over again.”

Since walking into lecture Theatre 1 as a freshman in 1992, Prof Louis Phee (left) has gone from a shy young man to a world-renowned scientist and innovator. He has received numerous awards for his scientific achievements, which includes minimally invasive methods of surgery using robotics.

As NTU students, these profs enjoyed a rich campus life. Some things never change. Check the leaders on NTU’s YouTube and Facebook.

STUDY THIS AS NTU STUDENTS, THESE PROFS ENJOYED A RICH CAMPUS LIFE. SOME THINGS NEVER CHANGE. CHECK THE LEADERS ON NTU’S YOUTUBE AND FACEBOOK.

Prof Lam, a graduate from the Class of 1996, thinks students’ minds have been transformed since then, and so have their methods of learning.

She says: “Students are more willing to challenge professors now, which is great for discussions in and out of class. They have access to more information at the touch of a keyboard or smartphone. Learning is also more collaborative and teamwork is encouraged. The tutors are more approachable and willing to challenge professors now, and so do their methods of learning.

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"Living on campus has broadened my horizons as I get to interact with friends from different schools and countries."

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NTU SMART CAMPUS, SMARTER THINKING

How NTU technologies are changing our future

" LESTER KOK

SEED SENSATION

NOW Don’t throw out those durian seeds. By cutting them up and boiling them to extract gum, NTU scientists have turned these discarded parts of the durian fruit into food stabilisers, which are used to give food items a uniform texture. The extracted gum also supports the growth of probiotics for gut health at a fraction of the usual cost.

FUTURE With millions of durians consumed worldwide each year, the gum harvested from discarded durian seeds can be upcycled to benefit industry and society. For example, it could be an effective plant-based alternative to gelatin used in cosmetics and skincare products. The husk can be ground into cellulose powder and made into biodegradable cling wrap.

OVER THE MOON

NOW NTU’s ninth satellite has been deployed in space. The pint-sized AOBA VELOX-IV has a special low-light camera to capture the Earth’s horizon glow and it comes with advanced microthrusters to help it rotate and move with precision.

FUTURE Small satellites with advanced miniaturised technologies could be deployed in lunar missions to take Singapore’s first snapshots of the moon.

NO DRIVER? NO PROBLEM

NOW NTU’s latest self-driving 40-seater bus has built-in artificial intelligence smart enough to navigate public roads using multiple sensor systems, high-precision GPS and stereoscopic cameras. It will be the world’s first autonomous electric bus.

FUTURE The next time you see your ride, don’t panic if the driver doesn’t have his hands on the wheel. After trials at our nearby test circuit for autonomous vehicles, the emission-free electric bus could be trialled on campus in the near future and you can expect to see more of them on the roads. Each bus can take 36 seated passengers, 50 standing passengers, 50 standing passengers, 50 standing passengers, almost as large as our public buses!
Be ENLIGHTENED by the touching story of an autistic young man with a hidden talent

A QUEK SHIO CHUAN FILM

guāng
14 MARCH

mm2 MOVIES IN MARCH

Be FRIGHTENED by the shocking tale of a convent school with a haunting past

BEA ALONZO CHARO SANTOS

EERIE
A MIKHAIL RED FILM

28 MARCH

PHOTOS: INSTAGRAM FEED OF @P_E_I_Y_I, @NTULINDYHOP, @TYLER_GOES_TO_ASIA, @YJYU99, @NTUHALL7, @JOURDINARY AND @CHELRACHELRACH

Swing into action with NTU Lindy Hop.

A big draw for students.

A shoulder to lean on.

Supreme court action.

Palm reading.

Peekaboo pangolin.

Off-the-wall exhibits at the Lee Kong Chian Lecture Theatre.

#SEEINGTHINGS
KWOH PEI FANG

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Off-the-wall exhibits at the Lee Kong Chian Lecture Theatre.
HOME REMEDIES:

DO THEY WORK?

Home remedies can range from comical to downright bizarre. But here, NTU experts run the rule over some that might actually work.

"DEREK RODRIGUEZ"

Hiccups can be triggered by a number of things, including eating too much, consuming too much alcohol and even getting shocked by someone. Even more cures for hiccups have been touted: Holding your breath, breathing into a paper bag, and again, getting shocked, are well-known remedies. Another peculiar fix that has been suggested is eating a spoonful of sugar. According to Prof William Chen, Director of NTU’s Food Science & Technology Programme, this might have more than a grain of truth. "It’s all about distracting your brain. Taking sugar would stimulate our sensory nervous system and thus divert its attention from hiccups," he says.

A SPOONFUL OF SUGAR FOR HICCUPS

Chicken soup isn’t just food for the soul. It’s also a cure for colds, according to multiple online recipes. It’s hard to deny a hearty bowl of warm soup goes down easy when your body is having an off day, but whether it actually treats physical symptoms is the question. "One study has shown that chicken soup might have a mild anti-inflammatory effect that can potentially improve cold symptoms," says Assoc Prof Wong Tock Yew, Assistant Dean (Year 4 & Family Medicine) at the Lee Kong Chian School of Medicine. "Researchers have also found that hot chicken soup can help break down and expel mucus."

Still, Assoc Prof Wong, who is also a senior family physician at Tan Tock Seng Hospital, reckons the best treatment for colds is resting in bed, drinking water and eating well. "Chicken soup is fine, but in my family, porridge does the trick!" he says.

CHICKEN SOUP FOR COLDS

For those who tinker in the kitchen, getting burnt by a hot pan is not uncommon. It would be great if there was a quick remedy within reach, such as mayonnaise, which some believe provides quick relief.

But Prof Chen says mayonnaise should be saved for your sandwich. "Although it is possible that the oil in mayonnaise could sooth pain to a certain extent, it’s not a good idea to apply mayonnaise on burns. Mayonnaise contains ingredients that could favour microbial contamination. Simply put, it might hinder healing."

Instead, wash your wound under cool running water to alleviate the pain. If it’s a small cut or burn, applying a speck of sugar is a quick remedy within reach, such as mayonnaise, which some believe provides quick relief.

MAYONNAISE FOR BURNS

A popular home fix is the practice of reducing puffiness around the eyes with slices of cucumber. This works, partly because antioxidants in cucumbers help with inflammation and swelling, says Prof Chen.

Cucumber also has a high water content that might help moisturise the skin around the eyes. If you do try this at home, remember to remove the cucumber skin first as it may contain pesticides that you might be sensitive to.

CUCUMBER SLICES FOR PUFFY EYES

Coffee is hailed as a magical beverage for many reasons, including being a purported way of controlling your blood sugar level. Some people believe coffee can lower the risk of developing diabetes. Dr Lee Chia Khee, a physician at the NTU Chinese Medicine Clinic, says: "In traditional Chinese medicine, we won’t advise people to use coffee for this. The warm properties and astrigent taste of coffee may not be suitable for certain types of body constitution. Studies have shown that coffee beans contain active compounds that could lower the risk of developing type 2 diabetes, though these chemicals could be destroyed during roasting. It also doesn’t help when patients already suffer from diabetes."

COFFEE AS A CURE FOR...

HEADACHES

Many coffee lovers swear by this, and they aren’t wrong. But there’s a big caveat. Says Prof Wong: “Coffee only ‘cures’ headaches that are caused by coffee withdrawal. Some coffee drinkers experience symptoms of headache, fatigue, irritability and difficulty concentrating after they stop drinking coffee abruptly. Drinking coffee often rapidly eliminates the withdrawal symptoms.” If you plan on cutting down on your daily java juice intake, he suggests weaning off it gradually instead.

DIABETES

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WEIGHT LOSS

By itself, black coffee contains no calories. This makes it a good, delicious alternative to sugar-laden canned drinks if losing weight is a priority. But does it play an active role in helping you shed kilos? Says Dr Lee: “Coffee does help with weight loss in people with a certain body constitution, such as spleen deficiency with dampness. From the Chinese medicine perspective, it can improve the function of the spleen, which results in improved digestion and fluid metabolism. It may also help with bowel movement, since it has a mild diuretic effect. However, overdoing on caffeine or drinking coffee with too much sugar is bad for our health,” she warns.
As an entrepreneur, things can look very bleak when you hit rock bottom and you have nothing left in the bank but debt. I say this as someone familiar with the sting of failure. In the first seven years after I founded Resvenus Capital, a research and development lab and online retailer of health and beauty supplements, I had three brushes with bankruptcy. In the initial years, I made the mistake of blindly trusting my co-founder and old friend of 10 years, who ended up running away with $80,000 of the company’s coffers secured from an angel investor. It was my first brush with bankruptcy – there was nothing left in the bank account, and I had no access to the health and beauty supplements that we were planning to sell. Thankfully, the angel investor bail me out. I admitted my oversight, and he kindly lent me another $100,000 to set things right again.

You would think a case of once bitten, twice shy after the incident. But just a year after my co-founder absconded, my trusting nature was taken advantage of again. This time, it was by a distributor whom I’d established a good working relationship with over a year. The distributor collected money from the dealers, but never delivered the stock. I only found out when the dealers started demanding for their stock. Needless to say, the distributor became uncontactable. Once again, I was left near destitute. Some of the dealers emphasised with my situation and gave me time and space to work out a plan.

They say the third time’s the charm, but my third attempt to rebuild Resvenus ended with a lawsuit. My relative sued me for $1 million due to a misunderstanding over exclusive distributor rights.

Pros and cons

On top of that, my family was subjected to verbal abuse and psychological stress by the gangsters sent by my relative to threaten us every other day. Finally, my uncle acquiesced and we had an out-of-court settlement of a fraction of the original sum, which cleaned out my bank account again. I had to sell my car, and almost sold our home just to get by. It took me up running away with $80,000 of the company’s coffers secured from an angel investor. It was my first brush with bankruptcy – there was nothing left in the bank account, and I had no access to the health and beauty supplements that we were planning to sell. Thankfully, the angel investor bail me out. I admitted my oversight, and he kindly lent me another $100,000 to set things right again.

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I have grown to cherish a handful of close, trustworthy friends even more.

On my second and third mishaps, I was also fortunate to have completed my PhD in Business Administration through a distance learning programme with the University of Southampton. It was a challenge to have some savings, and I have kept education as a form of investment.

Today, Resvenus is back on track with healthy margins. It has an annual turnover of $6 million and a fixed asset portfolio of more than $12 million. Traditionally dependent on distributors, we hopped on the e-commerce bandwagon to capture the online market.

With robotics and automation, we also managed to shave man-hours to pack orders. We started out with having four to six people packing 50 orders over six hours. Today, we just need one person to process 400 orders over six hours.

For that’s not enough. With global uncertainties looming, we want to work towards expanding into more overseas markets, and using artificial intelligence to streamline processes. To me, success is an ongoing effort.

One thing that hasn’t changed since starting Resvenus is our belief in giving back to society, no matter how cash-strapped we are. Just before the Lunar New Year, our contributed to an animal welfare home and tried to renovate an old folks’ home.

Looking back, I don’t think I would have survived the three setbacks if not for my family, who never left me in the lurch despite the difficulties I was going through. I’m especially grateful for my wife, and my daughter and three sons – the oldest boy is seven and the youngest boy just turned one. They make the turbulent times all worth it. So building entrepreneurs, when the going gets tough, always remember that recovery doesn’t come overnight.

Try to ride the wave, be realistic about the situation, and keep sight of what’s important in life, like your loved ones, who will be your greatest source of support. True failure only comes when you give up completely.

PHOTO: RAY CHUA

**BLIPS IN MY LIFE**

**BEEN THERE, DONE DEBT**

Bouncing back and rebuilding a company after three brushes with bankruptcy is possible if you stay realistic and accept that recovery doesn’t happen overnight. — DR TOMMY ONG

**WITH GLOBAL UNCERTAINTIES LOOMING, WE WANT TO WORK TOWARDS EXPANDING INTO MORE OVERSEAS MARKETS, AND USING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE TO STREAMLINE PROCESSES. TO ME, SUCCESS IS AN ONGOING EFFORT.**

**ON THE POLITICS OF ENGINEERING**

Engineering is the art of building. The principles of engineering involve measuring, designing, calculating, planning, and implementing solutions to problems. There are many fields within engineering: mechanical, electrical, civil, chemical, and more. In order to be successful in any of these fields, one must have a strong foundation in mathematics and science.

**DEVELOPMENT OF THE NANYANG OUTSTANDING YOUNG ALUMNI AWARD**

This year, the Nanyang Outstanding Young Alumni Award, which recognises and celebrates the exemplary achievements of NTU alumni, continues to be your greatest source of support. True failure only comes when you give up completely.
Andrew Duffy expounds his Theory of Student Evolution

One of the perks of professor-hood is to watch young people grow. Since I stand in front of classes of them, live on campus with them and join in their daily attempt to break the Guinness World Record for the Most Number of People with Backpacks and Badminton Racquets All Looking at Phones While Trying to Get on a Bus, I witness their metamorphosis.

This article is like a time-lapse nature documentary compressing their four-year life cycle into one minute. (It’s even faster for Nanyang Business School students who graduate after three years and still pack in five internships if they want to.) I record particularly the different physical transformations of the males and the females.

Year Ones sport drab plumage chosen by mature female relatives who don’t want them to catch the eye of predatory Year Twos. But, like Pokémon, this is not their final form and they transform like butterflies after they go clothes shopping with someone under the age of 25. A cognitive leap sees them moving away from knowing stuff to actually thinking about stuff. This leap is undertaken at the same time Andrew Duffy expounds his Theory of Student Evolution

Andrew Duffy is an Assistant Professor at the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication & Information. He has previously worked for The New Paper and The Straits Times.

In Year Two, a mental transformation happens on overseas exchange, as over half the cohort leave the herd for pastures new. They come back with experiences they will never tell me about. Exchange returnees have one of two mindsets: they’re either itching to get away again and Singapore is too small to hold them; or they’re grateful to be home and Bukit Batok is all the world they’ll ever need.

Males: Still trying to keep their NS figure they hit the gym and wear T-shirts with worrying slogans such as “Hello, I’m a senior”.

Females: Former JC girls start to dress like poly students and former poly students start to dress like JC girls. No one can explain this.

Year Three is turbulent. Students look at Year Ones and see how much they have grown since then; and look at Year Fours and see how far there is still to go. They leave for internships as happy-go-lucky youngsters and return as worldly-wise semi-adults with classier clothes, sharper haircuts and an illusion of expertise.

Males: NS is a fading memory and athlete-sized canteen portions have not been balanced with athletic SRC routines. They start the tragic journey from “boy” to “uncle”. Many resist but the change is inevitable.

Females: Auntiehood is years away. But while for the males it is a gradual, ongoing process, for the females it happens slowly and then very fast.

By the end of Year Four, adulting is complete. The chrysalis breaks. The fledglings shed their fluff. The bold ones call their professors by their first names. Only once, though. Respect is perhaps the last lesson they must learn at university.

Males: Realisation dawns that 35 years of deskwork and annual IPPTs beckon, and they try to halt the slide into unceded. They are 25, and this is their last chance at sporting glory – unless Carom is a sport.

Females: The final flowering of fashion before the corporate pencil skirt and blouse consume them. Their plumage becomes exotic, perhaps silk shirts or T-shirts with funny memes. Their hair changes colour for the last time.

Finally, in the dying weeks of the last semester comes the heart-breaking moment when I see the monochrome shape of things to come: project presentation day, when Year Fours don white shirts and black skirts or trousers. It’s a signal that they have achieved maturity and must now pursue a career beyond the university. Or apply to graduate school, in which case the whole process starts over.

“THEY LEAVE FOR INTERNSHIPS AS HAPPY-GO-LUCKY YOUNGSTERS AND RETURN AS WORLDLY-WISE SEMI-ADULTS WITH CLASSIER CLOTHES, SHARPER HAIRCUTS AND AN ILLUSION OF EXPERTISE.”

THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE NTU STUDENT CHANGES:

THE LIFE CYCLE OF THE NTU STUDENT CHANGES:
Loh Cai Hao, 23, went from not knowing the sport of curling four years ago to competing in the World Curling Tour against Olympic medallists last year. Eileen Tan tosses a few questions into the path of the third-year business student.

**Curling? What’s that?**
It’s a Winter Olympic sport where players slide rocks on a sheet of ice towards a circular target.

**And as a player, you are called... a curler?**
Actually, yes!

**What traits or skills must you have to be a good curling player?**
Great balance on the ice, and the ability to throw accurately towards a target. It’s “chess on ice” as you need to think ahead of your opponents. Not knowing where to play the rock is the key to playing better.

**How long have you been curling?**
I normally play the “lead” position and then sweep the last six rocks. I normally play the “lead” position and then sweep the last six rocks.

**What else was memorable about your exchange?**
I took weekend trips to countries around Switzerland. The Vatican Museums in Rome, with their amazing sculptures and paintings, really took my breath away. I took weekend trips to countries around Switzerland. The Vatican Museums in Rome, with their amazing sculptures and paintings, really took my breath away.

**What’s one side benefit of curling?**
On ice, curlers are constantly discussing the ice conditions and their strategy. Knowing each player’s strengths and weaknesses is the key to playing better.

**What were your weaknesses and how do you up your game?**
I normally play the “lead” position and then sweep the last six rocks. I normally play the “lead” position and then sweep the last six rocks.

**What are the future plans?**
We were later up against Swiss curlers Martin Rios and Jenny Perret, who won the Silver medal at the Winter Olympics on TV. It looked interesting, so I joined the Equatorial Curling Club, Singapore’s only curling club, at JCube. Curling still isn’t a recognised sport in Singapore, and it can be expensive and difficult to get ice time here. I used to practise with the club just five or six times a year.

**Did you opt to do your exchange in Switzerland last semester for this reason too?**
Yes, Switzerland is full of curling facilities and clubs. I did my exchange with Zurich University of Applied Sciences and managed to play weekly with one club in Baden. Everyone was so warm and welcoming.

**Best of all, I got to play a lot of practice games and against strong teams; something I wouldn’t be able to do back home. I like how the Swiss players are so serious and dedicated to their sport even if they are playing recreationally.**

**What was the most difficult part of your exchange?**
The Swiss players are so serious and dedicated to their sport even if they are playing recreationally.

**What do you hope to achieve?**
I hope to compete against them! I had to learn to control my nerves during the game. I hope to compete against them!

**How do you up your game?**
I normally play the “lead” position and then sweep the last six rocks. I normally play the “lead” position and then sweep the last six rocks. I normally play the “lead” position and then sweep the last six rocks.

**What’s the difference between curling and table tennis?**
As a sportsman, I love the excellent training facilities at NTU, such as The Wave. Students lead a vibrant campus life with guaranteed accommodation in the first two years.

**What are your weaknesses and how do you up your game?**
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# Contiki vs Free & Easy

## With Contiki

- **Loving the hotel!** Super central, great facilities & free WiFi in my comfy room.
  - INCLUDED

- **Waking up to breakfast just downstairs is so easy & delicious!**
  - INCLUDED

- **Coach right outside – yes please!** Love being shown around this city in comfort and style!
  - INCLUDED

- **Contiki Trip Manager’s history talk and a walking/bike tour with a Local Guide are amazing!**
  - INCLUDED

## Free & Easy

- **Ouch, hotel accommodation in Europe is super expensive!**
  - €115 per night

- **Now... where can I find decent breakfast?**
  - €8

- **How? Where? How long will that take me?**
  - Ugh I’m lost!

- **Where do I start? How do I get there? OMG the queue to get in is insane!**
  - €50 per day

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<th><strong>Total</strong></th>
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