

Innovative ideas nab NTU trio global undergrad awards

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THREE people here have been named among the world's most creative and promising in their respective fields, in an international competition for undergraduates.

The winners from Nanyang Technological University (NTU) pipped their peers from top universities such as Harvard, Oxford and Yale.

They made their mark with research on an NTU-created unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), a toolkit to boost memory and a set of photographs protesting against the heavy industrial development of the Pengerang region in Johor.

The Undergraduate Awards, a Dublin-based competition under the patronage of Irish President

Michael Higgins, received 4,792 entries from 209 universities across 25 categories this year.

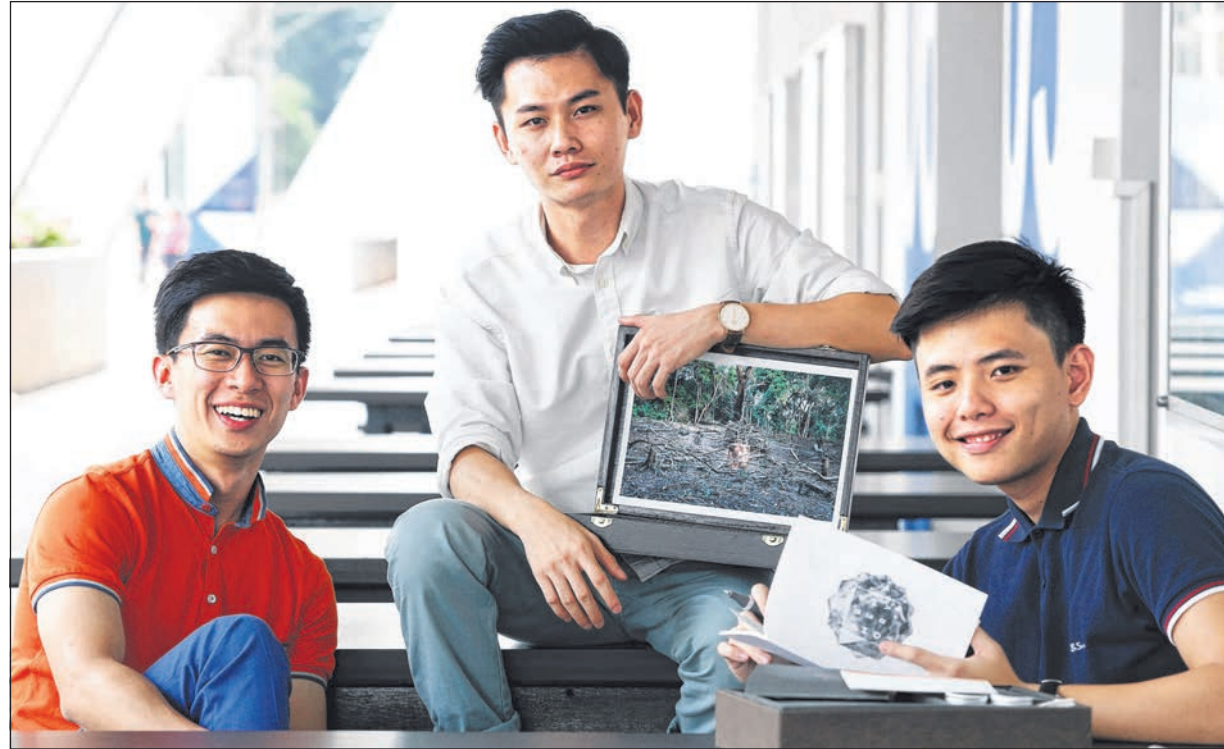
These include law, business, design, economics, education, historical studies and literature.

The undergraduates' projects were assessed by 229 judges globally. The winners were announced last month.

Their works will be published in an annual academic journal, which is sent to university libraries worldwide.

They also get a medal and an all-expenses-paid trip to Dublin to take part in a three-day networking and brainstorming event.

Mr Ong Kim Siang, 23, emerged tops in the engineering and mechanical sciences category with his work on a system to test



For their innovative projects, (from left) Mr Ong Kim Siang, Mr Wilfred Lim and Mr Lim Hansong emerged tops in their respective categories in the international Undergraduate Awards, beating competitors from Harvard, Oxford and Yale. The competition received 4,792 entries from 209 universities this year. PHOTO: DESMOND LUI FOR THE STRAITS TIMES

UAV aerodynamics.

The student from the School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engi-

neering was part of a team that used a wind tunnel and a scale model of the aircraft to extrapo-

late the impact of winds on an actual UAV.

He was in charge of the design

of the wind tunnel model, he said.

"I was very surprised at winning because the competition was very strong, and I'm very thankful for my project supervisor Professor Tonse Gokuldas Pai's guidance," he said.

Mr Lim Hansong, a 26-year-old student from the School of Art, Design and Media, won in the design category with his toolkit to improve memory.

This included a guidebook on mnemonics, which are techniques such as the use of acronyms to remember lists of items.

Mr Wilfred Lim, 26, who was from the same school, beat his competitors in the visual arts field with a series of photographs showing him trapped in small containers he placed in Pengerang's natural environment.

Both he and Mr Ong graduated from NTU this year.

"I come from Pengerang and, around three years ago, the Malaysian government introduced this oil refinery project in my home town," Mr Wilfred Lim said.

"They will demolish the entire place to accommodate the infrastructure, so I've been trying to use my art to address this issue."

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