The knowledge-based economy and the life sciences are the waves of the future. “Self-learning”, “life-long learning” and “multi-disciplinary” have become the new buzzwords. If tomorrow’s workforce needs the new engineer – a creative individual equipped with both broad engineering fundamentals and specialised knowledge – NTU will create him.

And it will do this with a new broad-based two-year common engineering curriculum to be implemented this July.

Students on the revamped engineering curriculum will specialise only after their second year of study, instead of the first. Two key features of the new programme are a broader coverage of engineering fundamentals and an introduction to basic elements in the physical and biological sciences, better known as the life sciences. Complementing these two features are subjects useful for the modern engineer – management, economics, law, humanities and the arts, communication skills, and IT.

The content of existing engineering subjects will be cut by 20% to accommodate these new features without increasing workload.

Although students will still be streamed at the end of their first year into an engineering discipline (i.e. civil and structural, electrical and electronic, or mechanical and production engineering), they will read only two school-specific subjects in their second year. In their final year of study, they may further specialise within their chosen discipline – into areas such as environmental engineering, infocommunications, microelectronics, mechatronics and biomedical engineering. Responsive and flexible, the new curriculum will allow students with outstanding A-level results to graduate earlier, as they can skip studying certain subjects like economics, mathematics, engineering physics and engineering chemistry. Academically bright students can also choose a faster route of study via the existing Accelerated Bachelors Programme (ABP) to graduate in 3½ years. Leaving no stone unturned in its quest to nurture the best and brightest engineers, NTU will identify and place gifted students on a special programme with personal tutors.

Although students in the School of Materials Engineering will participate in the new programme, they will be admitted directly into the Bachelor of Engineering (Materials Engineering) programme right after their first year. The School of Computer Engineering, which recently modified its curriculum structure, will participate in the common engineering programme in a few years’ time.

The last engineering curriculum revamp was in 1998. NTU looked to the best when revising the present curriculum by studying the engineering curriculums of world-class universities such as Oxford, Cambridge and MIT.
NTU turning 20 with a bang

A big birthday bash is on the cards for a University that has made great strides since its days as the Nanyang Technological Institute

Nanyang Technological Institute (NTI) was set up in August 1981 with roots in engineering to provide skilled manpower for the nation. In July 1982, it admitted its first batch of 582 engineering students into one of three Schools – the School of Civil and Structural Engineering, the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, and the School of Mechanical and Production Engineering.

That was then. Today, NTU has grown – not only in stature but size – to become a full-fledged university with seven Schools and an emerging College of Life Sciences. Not only that, when NTI was reconstituted to become NTU in 1991, it took under its wing the National Institute of Education. And over the years, the University has made the world sit up and take notice of it – if not for its research breakthroughs and forward-looking curriculum, then through the many success stories of its students and alumni.

In celebration of its 20th year of milestone-making, NTU has lined up a series of 20 activities, the majority of which will be held in July. It will kick off its birthday bash with a Gala Dinner on 8 July 2001 graced by His Excellency Mr SR Nathan, President of the Republic of Singapore. At the dinner, NTU’s “Vision Plan: Beyond 20” will be unveiled to the world. Then, on 27 July 2001, the whole campus will unite in celebration at a concert packed with multimedia treats and performances, where the excitement will rise to fever pitch with a special appearance by top songbird and NTU alumnus, Stephanie Sun. Other celebration highlights to look out for include a series of talks by eminent professors, a carnival, and a world-record breaking attempt (see full list on right). Many of these activities will be open to the public.

Prof Er Meng Hwa, Deputy President of NTU, is the Chairman of the committee organising the anniversary celebrations.

Here’s the celebration logo chosen to mark NTU’s 20th year of being – and to reflect its status and standing as a world-class university. The logo, designed by Cheah Siew Chuan from NTU, was chosen from among 59 entries submitted for a logo design competition organised in conjunction with NTU’s 20th Anniversary. Entries were received from students and staff of NTU, the polytechnics and two local arts colleges. Mr Cheah received a cash prize of $1,000 for producing this winning design. Four merit winners – Leong Lai Nang, Low Geok Fong, Ng Pei Sin and Ong Kwang Hui – each received $250. The logo will grace publicity material associated with the celebrations.

At a glance: the 20 celebration activities

Gala Dinner @ Westin Stamford
Celebration Concert
Logo Design Competition (see above)
Technopreneurship Competition
Technology Showcase
Seminars & Talks by Eminent Professors
NTU Golf Tournament
NIE Open House
Healthy Lifestyle Activities
Karaoke Competition
Australasian Inter-Varsity Debating Tournament
Carnival
Dance Fiesta
Photography Competition cum Exhibition
Charity Concert “Glowing in the Dark IIIX”
Annual Concert by Harmonica Group, Chinese Society
Nocturnal Relay and Red Nose Day 2001
Flag Day and Donation Draw
Record-breaking Event
IP (Innovation Programme) Fair

For more details, check out the celebration website, accessible from the NTU homepage @ http://www.ntu.edu.sg.
NTU President, Dr Cham Tao Soon, has been invited by the Premier of South Australia, Hon John Olsen MP, to be a Member of South Australia’s Information Economy International Advisory Panel (IAP). The Panel, consisting of prominent expatriate South Australians and global leaders in the Information Economy, will meet once a year in Adelaide to provide South Australia with advice, insights and global perspectives on fundamental developments within the global Information Economy. It will also oversee the advancement of the State’s Information Economy 2002 Plan and the “next-generation” agenda. Chaired by Mr Bob Bishop, Chairman and CEO of Silicon Graphics Inc, the Panel will hold its first meeting in July 2001 during Adelaide’s Festival of Ideas, where it will meet under the patronage of the Governor of South Australia, HE Sir Eric Neal, AC, CVO.

**Charting the future**

The International Academic Advisory Panel made its third visit to NTU in January

NTU is on the right track – with its new venture into the life sciences, its broadening of the undergraduate curriculum and its adoption of a more interactive style of teaching and learning. This was the report card that the university received from the International Academic Advisory Panel (IAAP), which held its third meeting in Singapore from 8 – 11 January 2001.

The Panel – comprising eminent academics, corporate leaders and strategic thinkers from the US, Britain and Japan – had last met in January 1999, and before that, in August 1997. This time, the panel members were in Singapore to review the strategic roles of the universities and the structure of the higher education sector here. As part of the IAAP programme, they visited NTU on Tuesday, 9 January 2001. NTU Deputy President, Prof Cheong Hee Kiat, briefed them on how the recommendations of the second IAAP Meeting had been implemented.

The IAAP was set up in April 1997 to help the universities in Singapore develop into world-class centres of excellence in scholarship and research. It is chaired by Dr Yeo Ning Hong, Chairman of PSA Corporation Ltd.
Foundation laid for world-class supercomputing and visualisation hub

NTU augments its life sciences capabilities with the establishment of the Nanyang Centre for Supercomputing and Visualisation (NCSV), its third partnership with SGI

Here’s the research challenge of the 21st century: moving, integrating, manipulating and analysing enormous amounts of complex multi-dimensional data for life sciences research and development – a problem of great significance considering that data generated in this area doubles every six months.

Charging ahead energetically to meet this challenge is NTU – through the new Nanyang Centre for Supercomputing and Visualisation (NCSV) jointly launched on 12 March 2001 with US-based Silicon Graphics Inc (SGI), a global leader in modular high-end servers and graphics computing.

“No other science will generate as much big data as the life sciences.”
– Mr Bob Bishop, Chairman and CEO of US-based SGI

The multi-disciplinary Centre will promote and develop world-class competencies in supercomputing and visualisation by creating an environment in Singapore for researchers and the industry “to leverage on the use of high-performance computing and visualisation facilities relating to engineering simulation, genomics, proteomics and biomedical modelling, for cutting-edge research at the forefront of science and technology,” said NTU President, Dr Cham Tao Soon. Over the next five years, both NTU and SGI will jointly invest $10 million in the NCSV for hardware infrastructure and manpower resources. As a start, a 32-processor supercomputer – the SGI Origin 3000 – offering 540GB of storage space, has been installed at the Centre.

Today, much multi-disciplinary R&D work involves the “life-saving” arena, such as diagnostic imaging for surgical simulation and planning, and molecular modelling studies for novel drug design. “The promotion of inter- and multi-disciplinary R&D within the Centre will help to advance these neo-sciences and neo-dimensionalised human capabilities, and our quality of life for tomorrow,” said Dr Cham. NTU is already well-poised to make a significant contribution to the life sciences with details being worked out for a new College of Life Sciences in 2002.

The NCSV is currently housed in the same premises as the Centre for Advanced Numerical Engineering Simulations (CANES) at NTU. One of its upcoming research projects involves working with the Hospital for Sick Children in Ontario, Canada, to develop a unified interface for the life sciences community to access computational research tools.

NTU’s association with SGI runs to as far back as 1992, with the joint establishment of the Centre for Graphics & Imaging Technology at NTU. The technology collaboration of the current agreement includes the establishment by both parties of a Mineset Datamining Training and Education Centre at the NCSV. Also on the cards: joint workshops and seminars, NTU-SGI staff secondments and regional engineering and life sciences symposiums and conferences.

Shared common goal: Dr Cham (left) and Mr Bishop signing the MOU

Singapore operates the busiest port in the world in terms of shipping tonnage. Now, it will remain on the cutting-edge and at the forefront of safety, supported by the latest port and maritime technologies. This is because Singapore’s first dedicated Maritime Research Centre (MRC) has been set up at NTU to initiate and undertake research and development in the port and maritime field.
First Double Masters in Computer Engineering

It’s a double first for NTU as it strikes its maiden alliance with a Russian university

Fancy spending a year doing research in one of Russia’s most prestigious universities? Graduate students on a new double Masters programme at the School of Computer Engineering (SCE) will soon be able to do more than just entertain this thought – all because of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between NTU and the Moscow Institute of Physics and Technology (MIPT) on 22 January 2001.

A number of “firsts” have been achieved through this MOU. This is the first time a double Masters programme in computer engineering is being offered by NTU and a foreign university. Graduates who have completed their Honours degree in computer engineering can apply to join the double Masters degree research programme where they will spend approximately one year in MIPT and one year in NTU. Upon successful completion of the programme, they will be awarded a double degree – a Master of Engineering (Computer Engineering) from NTU and an equivalent Masters degree from MIPT.

This is also the first time NTU is linking up with a Russian University. MIPT is ranked among the world’s most prestigious institutions in science and technology and it has, among its alumni, some of the most brilliant scientists in Russia. In fact, MIPT and the Moscow State University are ranked the top two universities in Russia by international sources. When it first started in 1946, MIPT had eight Nobel Prize Laureates among its faculty, including Nikolay Semenov, Petp Kapitsa and Lev Landau. Admitting only the best and the brightest, MIPT accepts just 5% of the 20,000 student hopefuls who sit for its entrance tests each year.

Prof Harcharan Singh, Dean of SCE, and Prof Stanislav Klimenko, Director of the Institute of Computing for Physics and Technology at MIPT, signed the MOU in the presence of NTU President, Dr Cham Tao Soon.

The collaboration will certainly see both parties benefiting from each other’s strengths, with MIPT providing a strong theoretical foundation in physics and mathematics, and NTU’s School of Computer Engineering offering a good grounding in computer applications.

The first three students from MIPT are expected to arrive in Singapore sometime this year and have already commenced communication with local supervisors on their research topics.

The MRC was formally established on 28 February 2001 with the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement by Prof Cheong Hee Kiat, NTU Deputy President and Dean, School of Civil and Structural Engineering (CSE), and Mr Chen Tze Penn, Director-General of the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA). Besides managing joint R&D projects between MPA and NTU, the MRC will also collaborate with other local and foreign institutions and industry partners. The initial seed funding of $1 million and yearly top-ups to this amount will be equally shared between NTU and MPA.

NTU has collaborated with MPA on a number of projects, such as the development of an electronic enforcement system for regional ferries. Ongoing joint research work on a high-capacity container terminal simulation system will now come under the management of the MRC. A remote pollution monitoring system may also be developed in future.

Being a multi-disciplinary centre, the MRC, hosted in CSE, will involve research talent from four engineering schools at NTU, while MPA staff will be involved as collaborators. Said Prof Cheong: “The maritime industry is multi-disciplinary and relies very much on the application of advanced technology. This is where NTU has a strong role to play, with its wealth of experience and capabilities that are useful to the shipping industry, port operations, coastal developments and general maritime business.”
FEE HIKE IN TANDEM WITH ECONOMIC GROWTH

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<th>Type of course</th>
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<th>2001</th>
<th>2002</th>
<th>2003</th>
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* The part-time postgraduate course (by coursework) fees are half of the fees for the full-time equivalent courses, rounded up to the nearest $10.

The revised fee structure, announced on 15 January 2001, will affect students pursuing all undergraduate and postgraduate courses, except medicine, dentistry and the NUS MBA, at the three local universities – NTU, NUS (National University of Singapore) and SMU (Singapore Management University). Students pursuing the MBA course at NUS will have to pay an additional $1,050 per year.

Undergraduate fees were frozen for the last two academic years (1999/2000 and 2000/2001) in line with cost-cutting measures implemented by the Government in 1998 to deal with the economic crisis. The economy has since picked up, and in view of the restoration of the Central Provident Fund (CPF) and wage cuts, and further increases in salaries and other costs due to strong economic growth, it has become necessary to revise university tuition fees.

The revised fees will apply to existing and new students. Fees for foreign students will continue to be set at 1.1 times the local rates for both undergraduate and postgraduate students. The universities will ensure that no student is denied the opportunity for university education because of financial difficulties; the present slew of financial assistance schemes will continue to be available to them.

At the revised rates, the Government will continue to bear the bulk of the universities’ operating expenditure and 100% of capital expenditure. The subsidy level ranges from 75% – 84% for undergraduate courses and 65% – 92% for postgraduate courses.
A feat in electrochemistry and corrosion measurement

After carrying his ideas around the world, Asst Prof Tan Yong-Jun hit the jackpot – with a Wire Beam Electrode, now protected by a US patent

Paper clips that won’t rust and leave a stain on your paper, airplane parts that will not disintegrate, costume jewellery with even sheen, and gas pipes that never leak. Whether small or large, if an item can be protected from corrosive effects, the world would be so much shinier, prettier, and just plain better.

Dr Tan Yong-Jun, an Assistant Professor from the Division of Materials Science, School of Materials Engineering, will now help create this perfect world with a groundbreaking method and apparatus called the Wire Beam Electrode (WBE) which measures localised corrosion and other heterogeneous electrochemical processes. He was awarded a US patent for this invention in October 2000.

The WBE developed by Dr Tan and his co-workers aims to provide a general method of studying heterogeneous electrochemical processes to bridge the gap between ideal and practical electrochemistry. It can be used to study various industrial electrochemical processes such as crevice corrosion, electroplating, electropolishing and metal replacement reactions. It will also be used to study controversial electrochemical phenomena such as electrochemical noise.

Dr Tan first discovered a major problem with conventional electrochemistry and corrosion theory and method in 1990: it applied only to ideal electrochemistry and corrosion systems. So in his free time, he sought a solution to the problem. “I carried the idea with me from China to Australia, and then to Singapore,” he said. In 1997, he received a research grant in Australia for the application of the WBE method in the oil and gas industry to monitor and minimise corrosive activity inside high-pressure oil and gas pipes.

Other researchers in the field have been lavish with their praise for the invention. The ARC Fellowship 2000 assessment report hails the research as “groundbreaking” and states: “The wire beam electrode method has the potential to revolutionise the field (of electrochemistry and corrosion).” As for Dr Tan, his next goal is to set up a spin-off company – within the next few years if all goes according to plan.

NBS forecasters: slowdown but no recession

Singapore’s economic outlook for 2001 – 2002? The Econometric Modelling Unit released some figures without last year’s cheer, but there’s no reason to be depressed either

Singapore’s Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is expected to grow by 4.5% in 2001 and 5.9% in 2002, Assoc Prof Tan Khee Giap and Assoc Prof Chen Kang – two experts at reading the economy – made this assessment on 19 January 2001. Their figures came in the midst of conjecture and uncertainty about the state of the US economy.

“Singapore is heading for a slowdown, but not a recession,” said Assoc Prof Chen, at the press conference to release the bi-annual forecasts for the Singapore economy. “We have seen this kind of growth rate in 1991 and 1992,” he added. Their forecast is in contrast to the spectacular though uneven growth rate of around 10% that Singapore experienced last year, led by a healthy showing in the manufacturing sector, in particular, the electronics sub-sector.

Inflation is projected to remain low at about 1.6% this year and 1.4% in 2002, but things are looking down, generally. For example, manufacturing exports will dip to 2.3% this year from last year’s 14%, before rising to 5.8% in 2002. Due to the electronics downturn, growth of non-oil domestic exports is also expected to slow from 11.8% last year to 2.4% this year and 4.4% in 2002. In making their assessments, the forecasters assume 4 consecutive quarters of negative growth in US imports of computer and related products.

Assoc Prof Chen heads the Econometric Modelling Unit, while Assoc Prof Tan heads the ASEAN Economies Monitoring Unit, at the Nanyang Business School (NBS). Both are well known for their spot-on economic forecasts. Last January, they projected a GDP growth forecast of 7.5% for the Singapore economy – one of the more optimistic projections put forth then – before subsequently revising this figure to 8.5% in July.
Just imagine: a world without walking canes for the visually-handicapped. This could well happen if the voice-navigated Electronic Travel Aid (ETA) created by final-year EEE students Philip Quek and Ho Siong Teck makes it to the market. This invention, showcased at the E3 Technology Week Exhibition, was so impressive that it won its inventors the Gold Prize of $1,000 in the Final Year Project Competition.

The ETA is a user-friendly micro-controller-based device which is strapped to the waist. Its main purpose is to alert users to obstacles in their path. Created from scratch over nine months, the device works by reading the distance of objects from the user via 3 sets of ultrasonic sensors, while another 3 sets of infrared receivers identify the current location of the user from separate transmitters called “Zoners”. The ETA also

If a fresh brew of new and emerging technologies is your cup of tea, you would have enjoyed tremendously a visit to NTU during the post-break week from 5 – 9 March 2001.

That was when the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering (EEE) organised a series of events to showcase its capabilities and programmes, and to provide opportunities for industry experts, researchers, staff and students to interact and explore joint collaborations in areas relating to the latest and most significant technological trends.

Talked-about technologies included key emerging ones such as the Internet, multi-media and information technologies, wireless communications, integrated circuit design, microelectronics, biomedical engineering, robotics and automation, and power quality. At a Convention, hot topics in mobile multimedia communications were addressed, while seven Focus Seminars presented by industry experts and NTU professors covered the latest in such topics as e-business, image processing for surveillance and broadband technologies.

Over 60 technology projects by EEE professors and students were showcased at the E’ Technology Exhibition, which saw two thousand visitors thronging through the Nanyang Auditorium exhibition hall for a glimpse of the useful and sometimes wacky innovations. “Some project exhibits and focus seminars drew a lot of interest from both the local and foreign media,” said Assoc Prof Sng Yeow Hong, Chairman of the E’ Technology Week Organising Committee.
Getting to the heart of the matter

Heart valve moulds that result in perfect replicas of the real thing materialise in a final-year project. Now, an Honourable Mention in the Young Inventor’s Award 2000 adds to the heartfelt joy.

Lim Hou Sen got to the heart of the matter with his series of valve moulds and accessories for the reconstruction of heart valves using the patient’s pericardium (the tissue that surrounds the heart). For that, he received an Honourable Mention in the inaugural Young Inventor’s Award 2000, a regional competition jointly organised by Hewlett-Packard Asia-Pacific and Far Eastern Economic Review.

Hou Sen, from the School of Mechanical and Production Engineering (MPE), won this recognition with his final-year project. He was one of five winners selected from over 300 entries. The judges looked for creative and original inventions that could enhance the quality of life in a significant or meaningful way.

Under the supervision of Assoc Prof Tony Yeo Joon Hock from MPE, Prof Carlos Duran, a cardiac surgeon at the International Heart Institute of Montana, USA, and Eugene Sim, a cardiac surgeon at the National University Hospital, Hou Sen used Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing (CAD/CAM) to develop a series of valve moulds and sizers for the reconstruction of a patient’s aortic valve. This inexpensive technique of making heart valves can drastically reduce costs for patients. In doing so, more people would be able to benefit from heart-valve transplants.

Unlike existing valve moulds, Hou Sen’s new design also offers a reliable method of sizing the valve mould to match the dimensions of the patient’s valve. More importantly, the geometrical profile of the valve mould design comes closer to that of the natural valve. “Because it is the patient’s own tissue and not the valve mould that is implanted, the risks of rejection or other complications arising are much lower,” said Hou Sen.

Since its invention, Prof Duran has successfully carried out the first of four clinical trials. Hou Sen, who has moved on to pursue a Master of Engineering in heart valve engineering, is currently attached to the International Heart Institute of Montana where he has been working with Prof Duran.

The aim is to trick the body into believing that nothing is out of place. That is the difficult part. There is a lot more to be done… good designs and ideas can only come about from a multi-disciplinary mix combining knowledge from the fields of engineering, medicine, materials science and microbiology.” – Lim Hou Sen

Fear not where you tread: Siong Teck demonstrating the aid for the visually-handicapped, an outstanding project supervised by Assoc Prof Lee Peng Hin

Before embarking on their project, the students did a survey at the Singapore Association for the Blind to find out the needs of the visually-impaired. Top on their wish list? “Something affordable,” said Philip. So the students set out to create a device that not only works well in real environments but can also be produced at a low cost of around $200. “We are very pleased with the product. It is better than what we had expected considering that our original intention was just to create an obstacle detector,” said Siong Teck.

for the blind

comes with a talking clock, an emergency distress signal, “battery low” warning and volume control.

“Current devices for the visually-handicapped use vibration or different frequencies of tone to indicate how far an obstacle is from you. Considerable amount of training is needed to be able to identify the meaning of the different vibrations,” said Philip. In comparison, no user training is required with the ETA; a computer-generated voice “speaks” through a single earphone and tells you exactly what you need to know.
Meet Prof Harry C Triandis – founder of cross-cultural psychology in 1980. This lover of Bach cantatas and Nonya food, who lectures with the fluency of a native in English, Greek, French, Spanish, German and Italian, was recently back at the Nanyang Business School (NBS) as the Distinguished T K Goh Professor in Business Management. Prof Triandis, 75, was last at NTU two years ago as a Shaw Professor.

While at NBS from 15 January – 15 February 2001, he conducted seminars on research methodology in cross-cultural psychology for NBS staff and students, and mentored three graduate students. "Some of the newer or younger faculty are looking into things that are rather promising," he said.

A Professor Emeritus at the University of Illinois, Prof Triandis knows full well the value of passion. After all, "passion" was what led him on to much bigger things in life. His father, "a great engineer", was the inspiration for his first job way back in 1951. But, after a four-year stint as a Methods Engineer with Proctor & Gamble in Canada, the younger Triandis decided to pursue the equivalent of an MBA, thinking he would become a businessman since engineering wasn’t giving him the fulfilment he wanted. It was there that he “met psychology” – while doing a course in Industrial Psychology – and promptly fell in love with it. The rest, as they say, is history – or psychology in this case. Prof Triandis then went on to pursue a doctorate in the subject, and eventually edited the handbook that became the focus of the field of cross-cultural psychology as we know it today.

In 1992, he received the Centennial Citation from the American Psychological Association for his “significant contribution to the establishment of cross-cultural psychology as a distinct discipline”.

Prof Triandis is a former President (1990 – 1994) of the International Association of Applied Psychology, which will be organising a major conference in Singapore from 7 – 12 July 2002. This is the first time the conference will be held in Asia.

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**He’s got high bandwidth for success**

The founder of Carnegie Mellon’s pioneering wireless network and first Cheng Tsang Man Visiting Professor shared a success story of his – and in one of ours.

Prof Alex Hills, a Distinguished Service Professor of Engineering & Public Policy and Computer Science at Carnegie Mellon University, is one extraordinary person – for his immense technical ability, leadership and foresight are matched equally by a very big heart. So much so that he is known as a Distinguished Service Professor, a term which acknowledges his many and varied community service contributions.

In NTU as the first Cheng Tsang Man Visiting Professor from 12 – 24 February 2001, Prof Hills’ very presence was destined to excite from the start. He shared one of his many success stories during a public seminar on Carnegie Mellon’s innovative “Wireless Andrew” network, a high-speed network which he founded in 1994 as part of a wireless research initiative at Carnegie Mellon. He also introduced a new “Walkabout” wireless design software which has been developed at Carnegie Mellon to help other institutions build similar wireless
**Expert discusses 21st century civil-military relations**

Since the end of the Cold War, the civil-military divide has widened and a crisis appears to be brewing. Today, military organisations are torn between adhering to their traditional values and adopting the ways of the civilian world.

Not necessarily by their own preference, these organisations are now more open to intervention in their internal affairs by civilian institutions like the legal system, special interest groups and the media. How can we bridge the divide between the “hierarchical, altruistic and collective” values of the militaries and the “individualistic, hedonistic and libertarian” ways of civilian society?

Prof Eliot Cohen, Director of Strategic Studies at the Paul H Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of Johns Hopkins University, addressed these issues at NTU on 9 January 2001 – in a speech titled “Problems of Civil-Military Relations in the 21st Century”.

A recently-appointed member of the Institute of Defence & Strategic Studies (IDSS) Board of Governors, Prof Cohen observed that as militaries become more democratic and transparent, greater tension also develops within them owing to differing views about changes within the armed forces. For there to be mutual trust, militaries need to reexamine their own ways, while civilian society has to show more understanding for their work.

Prof Cohen’s was the fourth in a series of Colloquia on Strategic Trends in the 21st Century hosted by IDSS. Another two such events will be held again later this year.

**An evening with the Deputy Prime Minister**

No one left the 7th Ministerial Forum without a resolve to do their bit for Singapore at 7pm, and a full-house captive audience of mostly students had already packed the Nanyang Auditorium, their sense of purpose intensifying by the minute. After all, they were there at the Ministerial Forum organised by the NTU Students’ Union on 30 January 2001 to find some answers to the pressing question: “What’s next for us?”

Excitement overtook anticipation when the guest speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister himself – Brigadier-General (NS) Lee Hsien Loong – finally appeared at 7.30pm and took to the podium with a speech on the topic of “One Singapore - Together On the Next Lap”. After giving a rundown of the uncertainties in the region and their impact on Singapore, BG Lee focused on the ways in which Singapore society could be strengthened. Five were mentioned – maintaining racial and religious harmony, looking after lower-income groups, rooting Singaporeans to Singapore, building political consensus, and producing new leaders.

At the end of his 45-minute speech, BG Lee sounded this clarion call: “You asked the question ‘What’s in it for us?’ The answer is: ‘It depends want we put into it, together’. So let us strengthen our social cohesion, overcome the problems in the region, and work together to stay ahead in the next lap.”

Next came “part two” – the lively Q&A session that saw the affable minister fielding a variety of questions with candour and wit. Twelve students asked questions ranging from the effectiveness of the scholarship system in producing future leaders to what defined being a Singaporean. One asked whether he would be the next Prime Minister. The forum ended at 9.15pm with a reception for BG Lee, invited guests and student leaders from NTU, NIE, NUS and SMU.

**Expert discusses 21st century civil-military relations**

Not necessarily by their own preference, these organisations are now more open to intervention in their internal affairs by civilian institutions like the legal system, special interest groups and the media. How can we bridge the divide between the “hierarchical, altruistic and collective” values of the militaries and the “individualistic, hedonistic and libertarian” ways of civilian society?

Prof Eliot Cohen, Director of Strategic Studies at the Paul H Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) of Johns Hopkins University, addressed these issues at NTU on 9 January 2001 – in a speech titled “Problems of Civil-Military Relations in the 21st Century”.

A recently-appointed member of the Institute of Defence & Strategic Studies (IDSS) Board of Governors, Prof Cohen observed that as militaries become more democratic and transparent, greater tension also develops within them owing to differing views about changes within the armed forces. For there to be mutual trust, militaries need to reexamine their own ways, while civilian society has to show more understanding for their work.

Prof Cohen’s was the fourth in a series of Colloquia on Strategic Trends in the 21st Century hosted by IDSS. Another two such events will be held again later this year.

**An evening with the Deputy Prime Minister**

No one left the 7th Ministerial Forum without a resolve to do their bit for Singapore at 7pm, and a full-house captive audience of mostly students had already packed the Nanyang Auditorium, their sense of purpose intensifying by the minute. After all, they were there at the Ministerial Forum organised by the NTU Students’ Union on 30 January 2001 to find some answers to the pressing question: “What’s next for us?”

Excitement overtook anticipation when the guest speaker, the Deputy Prime Minister himself – Brigadier-General (NS) Lee Hsien Loong – finally appeared at 7.30pm and took to the podium with a speech on the topic of “One Singapore - Together On the Next Lap”. After giving a rundown of the uncertainties in the region and their impact on Singapore, BG Lee focused on the ways in which Singapore society could be strengthened. Five were mentioned – maintaining racial and religious harmony, looking after lower-income groups, rooting Singaporeans to Singapore, building political consensus, and producing new leaders.

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High honours for Technopreneur–21 Programme

Taking a risk and being daringly different is what characterises the T-21 (Technopreneur–21) Programme at the School of Mechanical and Production Engineering (MPE). Students spend seven to eight weeks of the second-year curriculum creating innovative products and services that are then marketed as business ventures.

This is the very feature that has made T-21 different enough to win an “Honourable Mention” award given by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) 2000 Curriculum Innovation Award (CIA) Committee. There were over 35 entries from around the world, with the eventual winner coming from the University of Texas (Austin). NTU’s entry was one of only three that received an Honourable Mention.

Assoc Prof Tan Ming Jen made a presentation on behalf of the School of MPE at the ASME International Mechanical Engineering Congress in Orlando, US, from 5 – 10 November 2000. T-21 and its award also made BBC news on television in October 2000.

Drivers of T-21: (left to right) Assoc Prof Toh Kok Chuan, Prof Lim Meng King and Assoc Prof Tan Ming Jen.

The CIA programme seeks to recognise and encourage innovation in Mechanical Engineering Education. It also encourages the dissemination of exemplary curricular innovations throughout the engineering education community. ASME International, a nonprofit educational and technical organisation, serves a worldwide membership of over 120,000. It conducts one of the world’s largest technical publishing operations, holds some 30 technical conferences and 200 professional development courses each year, and sets many industrial and manufacturing standards.

WAP’s the deal?

Everything that matters – food, pets, shopping, work schedules, property and even Toto – as a peek into the creative WAP concepts of the NTU-JC Challenge participants show

Rack your brains – come up with a great WAP proposition that a potential investor will buy. This was the challenge thrown to about 170 junior college (JC) students last November. And throw their hats into the ring they did, with well-formed ideas ranging from a WAP advertising company (iBoard) to a shopping directory (Hotspots), a food search engine (Gourmet de Saints), group virtual pet rearing (Cpetz), and even 4-D betting via WAP phones.

A proud moment for the Hwa Chong Junior College team with (left to right) Assoc Prof Simon Yu and Asst Prof Clement Chia from NTU, Mr Lucas Chow (CEO, SingTel Mobile), and Assoc Prof Yaacob Ibrahim.

At the Grand Finale, the Guest-of-Honour, Assoc Prof Yaacob Ibrahim, Parliamentary Secretary, Ministry of Communications and Information Technology, presented awards to the three winning teams with the following applications:

WAP4U – Best Technical Innovation, Hwa Chong JC
A sales model developed to increase the online sales revenue of retailers via WAP- and Web-enabled online catalogues.

Appointment Maker 2001 – Best Business Proposition, Anglo-Chinese JC
An online interactive scheduler that allows both the user and a select group of clients to view the user’s schedule via WAP or Internet. When deployed as part of a B2E portal, it allows managers to schedule meetings with their subordinates.

e-Card Superstore – Best Presentation, Tampines JC
A “store” selling WAP e-Cards, the revised version of SMS (short-text messages). e-Cards will be “the next Hello Kitty in all McDonald’s outlets,” say its creators.

Three teams received awards at the Grand Finale of the NTU-JC Challenge on 17 February 2001 (see inset). Assoc Prof Simon Yu, Chairman of the Career Guidance Committee which organises the annual Challenge, was impressed with how “original and innovative” many of the WAP applications were. “We are also glad to learn that the students benefited tremendously from the experience of our professors and sponsors,” he said.

JC students, if the life sciences gets you all excited, the next (third) NTU-JC Challenge may be just right up your alley. Look out for it!
NIE unveils new work paradigm and logo

The new corporate logo reflects the metamorphosis of the Institute in recent years and its status as a national institute of education.

On Saturday, 10 February 2001, some 360 faculty and staff of the National Institute of Education (NIE) gathered at its third corporate seminar to wrestle with the question of quality in research, teaching, staff and NIE graduates. Their aim: to thrash out issues and make recommendations which could be factored into the strategic priorities of the Institute.

The Guest-of-Honour for this working occasion was Dr Aline Wong, Senior Minister of State for Education. Also present was Dr Christopher Chia, Chief Executive Officer of the National Library Board and guest speaker at the event.

Titled “new paradigm, new environment, new ways of working”, the seminar was a fitting occasion for the unveiling of a bold new NIE, aspects of which were nicely captured in Dr Wong’s speech. Some of these were the primary teaching focus of the newly revamped Bachelor degree programmes, the new BA in Malay Language and Literature (to be introduced in July 2001), and new research capabilities such as the NIE life sciences initiatives made possible as a result of the move to the Yunnan Garden Campus. Last July, NIE completely overhauled its operating structure and adopted a “programme-driven matrix organisational structure” to provide more flexibility by empowering Academic Groups with the freedom to make decisions about the deployment of resources.

To symbolise the great metamorphosis of NIE in recent years, a new corporate logo for the Institute was unveiled at the seminar.

Notions of “change” and “progress” also surfaced in Dr Chia’s

Arthur Andersen establishes $100,000 scholarship fund

Chiu Li Yu, a second-year Accountancy student from the Nanyang Business School (NBS) was a “mediocre student in secondary school”. However, he has made good – in time to be the recipient of a new scholarship worth $3,000 offered by Arthur Andersen to academically able students from NBS.

“National Service taught me the value of discipline,” he said, of the reason for his success. “I started to work harder when I entered the university.” Today, Li Yu is among the top 5% of his cohort.

In addition to the monetary support, Li Yu will benefit from a mentorship scheme which will allow him to have direct contact with a Director at Arthur Andersen – someone whom he can share his ideas with and learn the ropes of the industry from. “This is our personal investment in the lives of talented young students, preparing them for the working world,” said Mr Steven Lim, Country Managing Partner of Arthur Andersen.

Speaking at the launch, Prof Neo Boon Siong, Dean of NBS, said that he was delighted to embark on this new partnership with the big-five firm, which has been actively contributing to tertiary education at NTU – and just as actively snapping up its graduates. “Arthur Andersen offered jobs to 100 of our graduates last year. In my time, they took in just two – me and a colleague,” he said.

The Arthur Andersen Foundation Fund for the award of the yearly scholarships (for Accountancy/Business undergraduates) and cash prizes (for MBA students) was established on 13 March 2001 with a $100,000 pledge from Arthur Andersen. The Fund is endowed in perpetuity. Arthur Andersen also currently awards a Gold Medal cum Cash Award to the graduating student with the highest aggregate mark in Advanced Auditing & Practice and Income Tax Law & Practice.
Another feather in her cap

Human Relations has awarded one of this year’s four Meritorious Reviewer Awards to Assoc Prof Ang Soon from the Nanyang Business School (NBS). Assoc Prof Ang, who heads the Division of Strategy, Management & Organisation at NBS, was chosen from a pool of some 3,500 reviewers for her comprehensive and in-depth reviews.

Tamar Jeffer, Managing Editor of the journal, said: “Human Relations (HR) relies on its reviewers for expert advice on the papers submitted to it. This is important for any peer-review academic journal but even more so for HR, given the very wide range of issues it covers.”

Founded in 1947 and owned by The Tavistock Institute, Human Relations is an international interdisciplinary forum for the publication of high-quality original papers across the wide range of the social sciences. It is grounded in the belief that social scientists in all fields should work towards integrating their disciplines in order to understand the complexities of human problems. It also seeks to translate the understanding of human problems into courses for social action by establishing links between theory and practice.

Assoc Prof Ang, who received the award in April 2001, has also won two awards for Best Paper in 1998.

A special Valentine’s Day affair

Valentine’s Day launched more than just romance at the School of Computer Engineering. After all, it was on Valentine’s Day – 14 February 2001 – that the School of Computer Engineering (SCE) officially launched its new school logo. “Exclaim!”, the celebratory event organised by the Computer Engineering Club (CEC), took place less than a year after SCE became an independent identity. Before July 2000, it was one of two Divisions (Computer Engineering) in the now defunct School of Applied Science. “Exclaim!” was also held to launch the CEC logo and website.

A defining moment during the event in the Nanyang Auditorium was when the Guest-of-Honour, NTU President, Dr Cham Tao Soon, presented the Dean of SCE, Prof Harcharan Singh, with the School flag bearing the new blue and white logo. SCE students later celebrated in a striking way with a LAN gaming competition in the auditorium foyer. Entertainment and goodies were the order of the day, and few could have missed the glorious buffet spread and glisten of balloons that added spice to a special celebration. Indeed, love was in the air – for a young discipline and School that has evolved and blazed a solid trail in its 12½ years of existence at NTU.
The University welcomes the following new staff members:

**Nanyang Business School**
- Assoc Prof Sunanda Sangwan
- Assoc Prof Yao Xuan
- Assoc Prof Choichon
- Assoc Prof Cheung Man Yuen, Cindy
- Assoc Prof Olaf Riese
- Assoc Prof Zhao Yonggan
- Miss Cheng Oli Nian
- Mr Colin Mackinnon Clark
- Mr Kong Yoon Kee
- Mr Sundram Joseph Indran
- Prof Harry C Tunn
- Prof Albert William Richardson
- Prof Colin Hunter Kirkpatrick
- Prof Frank Martin Horwitz
- Dr Sri Lop Chai

**School of Computer Engineering**
- Prof Ngan Kian Ngo
- Assoc Prof Nuno Mila Mancin Jacoby Stulie
- Prof Wong Hau San
- Mr Aaf Jobal Siddiqui
- Dr Man Zhuhong
- Mr Kad Wolfgang Mueller-Wirting
- Mr Zhou Jiepeng
- Mr Chen Chunyuan
- Mr Loo Soon Wun

**School of Materials Engineering**
- Assoc Prof Rajeev Vijayraghavan Ramaman
- Miss Yew Siew Ling
- Mdm Tan Lay Poh

**School of Civil & Structural Engineering**
- Mdm Xiao Qin
- Dr Chen Xiangze
- Dr Zhang Yongjiang

**School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering**
- Assoc Prof Lau Wai Shing
- Assoc Prof Zheng Wende
- Assoc Prof Braham Barakat
- Assoc Prof Ma Macro
- Assoc Prof Qian Ying
- Prof Alexander H Hills
- Prof James C M Hwang
- Prof Yau Yi
- Dr Hisomada Shinichi
- Dr He Guorang
- Dr Liu Zhong
- Dr Yang Dongkai
- Dr Ye Qiang
- Dr Zhou Kejun
- Dr Guo Jiaxin
- Dr He Bo
- Dr Tian Tong
- Dr Wang Sigeng
- Dr Yuan Tianting
- Mdm Deng Jiaping
- Mr Lu Haiping
- Miss Ong Ber Soon
- Mr Wang Jiangang
- Mr Wang Peng
- Mr Wu Si
- Mr Xiong Wei
- Mdm Jiang Hongzun
- Mr Mohamad Saifuddin bin Abu Bakar
- Mdm Cai Xinwei
- Mdm Lim Xinhua
- Mdm Sarawutheekarn Arooshiaraj
- Miss Zhou Bing
- Mdm Li Wendi

**School of Mechanical & Production Engineering**
- Assoc Prof Shi Jun Jun
- Assoc Prof Lin Chi Kuang
- Assoc Prof Ay Chi Kai
- Dr Saman Kumara Halgamuge
- Dr Smithil Nathan Sambandam
- Dr Asekan Thumbyath
- Dr Gao Jimxia
- Dr Sun Tietian
- Dr Vwianosel V Lenterbow
- Dr Zhang Sheng
- Dr Zhang Xuefen
- Mdm Deng Liqian
- Mr Narayanan Karthikeyan
- Mr Patil Bharat Kadam
- Mr Qian Kemao
- Mdm Tan Bo
- Mdm Amathsara Ramatanthan
- Mr Cheah Chi Min
- Mr Ng Suan Yuan, Alex
- Mr Sio Han Chien

**School of Communication Studies**
- Prof Asst Dapakinar Benjumae
- Mr Foo Tie Yean
- Mr Meier Gerd Siegfried
- Prof Irving Fang
- Dr Krishnamurthy Sreenivas
- Ms Min Ling Loh

**School of Computer Engineering**
- Assoc Prof (Adj) Claire Dawn Morris

**School of Materials Engineering**
- Assoc Prof Rajeev Vijayraghavan Ramaman
- Miss Yew Siew Ling
- Mdm Tan Lay Poh

**School of Civil & Structural Engineering**
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- Ms Min Ling Loh

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**APPOINTMENTS**

**New Appointments**
- Assoc Prof Koh Hian Chye – Vis-It-Dean (Research), Nanyang Business School
- Assoc Prof Gillian Yeo – Vis-It-Dean (Academic), Nanyang Business School
- Assoc Prof Pearlie Koh – Sub-Dean (Assantancy), Nanyang Business School
- Assoc Prof Dennis Ong – Sub-Dean (Business), Nanyang Business School
- Assoc Prof Tan Ooi Kiang – Head, Division of Microelectronics, School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Assoc Prof Yeow Kiat Seng – Sub-Dean (Student Affairs), School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering
- Assoc Prof Sathasivam Karu – Vis-It-Dean (Administrative), School of Mechanical and Production Engineering
- Assoc Prof Shyam Sundaram (NSIS) – Deputy Director, Centre for Financial Engineering & MSc (Financial Engineering) Programme
- Assoc Prof Edmund Pehkuali (SCE) – Deputy Director, Centre for Financial Engineering & MSc (Financial Engineering) Programme
- Assoc Prof Tan Teng Koe (NBS) – Director, Nanyang Technopreneurship Centre
- Assoc Prof Kam Basu Chak (MPE) – Deputy Director, Nanyang Technopreneurship Centre
- Assoc Prof Tang Hung Kui (EEE) – Deputy Director, Nanyang Technopreneurship Centre
- Assoc Prof Wan Chiew Young (NBS) – Deputy Director, Centre for Financial Engineering & MSc (Financial Engineering) Programme

**Re-appointments**
- Prof Chai Chong Ning – Senior Director, President’s Office
- Prof Neo Boon Shim – Dean, Nanyang Business School
- Assoc Prof Geraldine Chen – Vis-It-Dean (Corporate Services), Nanyang Business School
- Assoc Prof Choo Teck Min – Vis-It-Dean (MD), Nanyang Business School
- Assoc Prof David Suew Chee Khung (EEE) – Director, Information Communication Institute of Singapore
- Assoc Prof Hu Kim Wai (NBS) – Director, Centre for Financial Engineering & MSc (Financial Engineering) Programme
International Interlude

NTU attracts students from all corners of the globe – such is the reach and reputation of our university. Although cultural diversity is the hallmark of each School, it is especially evident in the School of Computer Engineering (SCE), where a truly colourful mix of peoples and cultures resides.

With such a rich palette to draw from and to share, it seemed especially fitting that “International Week” burst into the School scene this year – right after the mid-semester break – with small-world gatherings of SCE students and staff delighting in their own heritage. An exhibition, quiz, potluck, and a medley of traditional music and dance were among the items dished up during the week-long cultural fest which took place from 5 – 9 March 2001. Last year, an international interlude of this sort was also organised, albeit on a much smaller scale just over one day.

“We have, among us, students from India, Vietnam, China, Mauritius, Myanmar, Germany and Switzerland,” said Asst Prof Arlene Bastion, advisor with Brasstacks, the 50-member strong SCE student group which organises the annual event. The academic staff make-up at SCE is just as international – walk into the School and you may just bump into a Polish, German or Russian lecturer.

Brasstacks, the student club with a very global perspective, envisions a larger base of small-world gatherings coming into the picture at NTU. “We hope to get students from other Schools interested. Perhaps in time to come, someone will start an International Club for all,” said Asst Prof Bastion.

Visitors

During the period January to March 2001, the University received the following distinguished visitors:

4 Jan  Prof P B Sharma, Vice-Chancellor, Rajiv Gandhi Technological University, India
19 Jan  Prof Dendeviin Badarch, President, Mongolia Technical University, Mongolia
  7 Feb Dr Otto Wiesheu, Bavarian State Minister for Economic Affairs, Transport and Technology, Germany
16 Feb  HE Natsagiin Bagabandi, President of Mongolia
20 Feb  Prof Eng Niculae-Napoleon Antonescu, President, “Petroleum & Gas” University of Ploiesti, Romania
  5 Mar  Asst Prof Manop Pasitwilitham, President, Rajabhat Institute Chiang Rai, Thailand
  9 Mar  Prof Jan-Eric Sundgren, President, Chalmers University of Technology, Sweden
12 Mar  Prof Jean Bulabois, President, University of Technology of Belfort-Montbeliard, France

During this period, the University also received visiting delegations from Da Lian University, PRC; Sapporo Gakuen University, Japan; East Stroudsberg University and Duke University, USA; Sripatum University and Ramkhamhaeng University, Thailand; and Akwa Ibom State University of Science and Technology, Nigeria.