It’s a celebration! And justifiably so, as the University commemorates 21 years of remarkable progress through a new book – *Coming of Age (The NTU Story Part II)*

For the inside story on NTU, you can now dip into a new 104-page book. Launched at this year’s Convocation dinner on 6 September, the book written by journalist Leong Ching captures NTU’s meteoric rise to academic maturity, with particular emphasis on its last decade of progress.

*Coming of Age* is a sequel to another historical record on NTU simply entitled *The NTU Story*, by Mrs Lu Sinclair. This earlier volume, published in 1995, focuses on the founding of NTI (the predecessor of NTU) in 1981 right through to the mid-1990s. *Coming of Age*, while establishing the necessary background, picks up where *The NTU Story* left off. It was completed after nine months of interviews with 150 staff, students and alumni.

“Her approach is not to tell by details but by stories, as told by those who know NTU best,” said Prof Eddie Kuo, Dean of the School of Communication and Information, one of three, including this year’s Honorary Graduate Sir Eric Ash and the author herself, who helped to launch the book in the Nanyang Auditorium.

Designed like a computer manual to reflect NTU’s technology heritage, the book contains 21 chapters broadly classified into the four categories of Software Drivers, Hardware, Global Links, and Local Networks. Tribute is paid to, among other drivers of the University, founding President Dr Cham Tao Soon and Singapore’s President and NTU Chancellor, His Excellency Mr S R Nathan, who founded the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies at NTU in 1996.

Dr Cham receives the first copy: President Nathan (left) had earlier signed the book at a special glass podium to launch it

Comming of Age (The Uncensored Version): Author Leong Ching regaling guests with juicy interview snippets that never saw the light of day

A fund-raising book

Two thousand copies of *Coming of Age* have been printed and proceeds from the book sale will go to NTU’s 21st Century Fund. President S R Nathan has graciously signed 21 copies of the book for sale at $1,000 each. Dr Cham has also signed 210 special-edition copies priced at $210. Unsigned copies cost $50. To get a copy, contact Jacky Khoo of the Alumni and Endowment Office (tel: 6790-4144; fax: 6792-6627; email: YSKhoo@ntu.edu.sg).

**New chief in January – Prof Su Guaning**

The worldwide hunt for a successor to NTU President Dr Cham Tao Soon is over. And set to occupy the hot seat is the outgoing Chief Executive of the Defence Science & Technology Agency (DSTA).

Prof Su Guaning, 52, will join the University as President-Designate in December, before coming on board as President from 1 January 2003, which is also when Dr Cham retires.

A former President’s Scholar and Colombo Plan Scholar, Prof Su was one of 150 local and overseas candidates evaluated by a three-man search panel headed by Mr Koh Boon Hwee, Chairman of the NTU Council. Dr Cham and another NTU Council member, Mr Michael Lim, Executive Chairman of PricewaterhouseCoopers, were the other panel members.

Prof Su was eventually picked from a final shortlist of five, three of whom were foreigners. He brings with him not just stellar scholastic achievements, but also a background in academic administration.

Continued on page 3
$2.7m raised for E W Barker Professorship and Scholarship

Raised after a successful six-month effort, the amount will be used to develop Physical Education and Sports Science in Singapore

The memory of Mr Eddie William Barker – a prominent statesman, scholar, sportsman and supporter of sports – has been preserved for eternity in a new professorship and scholarship in physical education and sports science.

NIE initiated fund-raising efforts for the professorship and scholarship in February this year through a 15-member fund-raising committee chaired by Dr Tan Eng Liang, Vice-President of the Singapore National Olympic Council (SNOC).

The largest donor, Singapore Pools Pte Ltd, gave $1.03 million to the professorship and scholarship. The Singapore Totalisator Board and Lee Foundation also chipped in with substantial donations of $500,000 and $250,000, respectively. In all, donations from 110 companies and individuals have pumped in $2.7 million for NTU’s 21st Century Fund – a sum which will be matched dollar for dollar by the Government.

At the launch dinner on 27 August at the Shangri-La Singapore, Dr Tan Eng Liang attributed the successful fund-raising effort, even in these straitened times, to the man that is Mr Eddie Barker. “He is the one who made the fund-raising easier for the committee.” He added that donations were still pouring in after the targeted end-date for fund-raising in July. “We only stopped receiving donations when we had to print the dinner programme.”

Fittingly enough, through the professorship, world-class researchers and other renowned individuals will be flown in to examine the emerging needs and practices in sporting Singapore – to carry on part of his work. The professorship will also fund joint research between NIE, NTU, the Singapore Sports Council, SNOC, and other overseas universities.

Mr Barker, who passed away at the age of 80 in April last year, was a Queen’s Scholar and an accomplished sportsman in his younger days. He later dedicated much of his time to grooming the local sporting scene.

A solid role model with the right mix of brains and brawn, Mr Barker was not only concerned about elite sport, said Assoc Prof Teo-Koh Sock Miang, Assoc Dean of Physical Education at NIE, in her citation of Mr Barker at the Shangri-La dinner. “He represented the average sportsman, the average player, the dedicated official.”

“When our athletes did not meet the expectations of the nation, he was there to tell them that they still did us proud.”

She noted that the greatest pleasure for Mr Barker was taking sports to the people. It was he who fought and persuaded the Government to build the present National Stadium in his dream for Singapore to host the Asian Games. He, too, was instrumental in the building of sports complexes in our housing estates, including 38 Olympic-sized swimming pools.

As a long-time politician, and one of the longest-serving law ministers in the Commonwealth, Mr Barker will be remembered for settling the final legal documents for the peaceful separation of Singapore from Malaysia.

He was a man who enjoyed the simple pleasures in life, and loved “being around friends and family, music, and humour.” Not surprisingly, at the dinner in honour of him, music and friends ruled the night, as Mr Barker’s own daughters and close family friends Dick Lee, Danny Koh, Jacintha Abisheganaden and Glen Goei, among others, banded together in whole-hearted song in remembrance of him – just as he would have liked it.
Leading through software

Assoc Prof Seah Hock Soon, now heading the School of Computer Engineering (SCE), has several initiatives lined up for staff and student development.

June 1st was a significant day for SCE, for it saw Assoc Prof Seah Hock Soon sitting in the commander’s seat as Dean. Assoc Prof Seah took over leadership of the School from founding dean Prof Harcharan Singh, who relinquished his post for directorship in the Office of Graduate Studies.

Assoc Prof Seah, an expert in computer graphics and image processing, is no neophyte of leadership, having culled solid managerial experience from his two terms as SCE’s Vice-Dean (1996 – 2002) and as Director of the Centre for Graphics and Imaging Technology (1992 – 1996). Banding together computer graphics developers and users, he also founded the Special Interest Group on Computer Graphics (SIGGRAPH) Singapore Chapter in 1998, a society he still chairs.

Although relatively new to the job, Assoc Prof Seah has already done much to facilitate his staff’s personal and professional growth.

For example, he recently innovative a lab management system, where technical staff have been reorganised into clusters. Previously, these staff were confined to particular laboratories. Now, a cluster manager takes care of three to four labs, with each individual lab supervised by a senior lab technician. Clusters are given greater autonomy in the daily operations, explained Assoc Prof Seah. “Cluster managers have greater flexibility in deploying their technical staff. This arrangement also relieves a number of academic staff of some day-to-day administrative duties, allowing them to spend more time on research and teaching.” He added that having a group of laboratories operate as a unit also facilitates cross-training.

A rather early initiative of his was establishing an in-house eLearning unit offering online courses and materials. He now wants to broaden his students’ learning opportunities with new undergraduate elective subjects and Master’s programmes.

In setting up a corporate communications committee, Assoc Prof Seah also intends to boost SCE’s profile through more intensive liaison with the local and international media.

research and technology, as well as experience in running large organisations such as the 2,800-strong DSTA.

Individuals from the US, Europe and the Asia-Pacific had responded to the worldwide search, kicked off in September last year through consulting firm Heidrick & Struggles Singapore. Mr Michael Lim said: “It speaks a lot for the University that we managed to attract many candidates of very high quality.”

Prof Su obtained his MSc degree from California Institute of Technology and his PhD degree in Electrical Engineering from Stanford University. He has been CEO of DSTA since 2000. Prior to this, in 1986, he led the growth and restructuring of the Defence Science Organisation (DSO) into DSO National Laboratories and became its first CEO in April 1997. Then, from 1998 – 2000, he served as Deputy Secretary (Technology) in the Ministry of Defence. His board appointments have included chairing the council overseeing Singapore’s research institutes and centres, and sitting on the NTU Council since 1997. He also lectures part-time at the National University of Singapore.

Handover soon for founding President Dr Cham (right) with Prof Su (left) picked to take over the top job

Upon retirement, Dr Cham, 63, who has with great vision and leadership built up Nanyang Technological Institute – the predecessor of NTU – into the premier University of today, will become Distinguished University Professor and a professor-at-large. He plans to undertake consulting engagements and in-depth studies into the strategies of small- and medium-sized enterprises – “areas which will be useful for Singapore and local companies,” he said.
Harnessing the network

Come December, after upgrading of the campus network, all networked PCs on campus will be able to concurrently receive live video, TV broadcasts and video conferences.

Multimedia content delivery has gained much importance in recent years. While NTUnet, the campus network, could support video streaming in the past, it could not provide streamed video to each and every PC on the network concurrently.

The Centre for IT Services (CITS) recently engaged Hewlett Packard (HP) to upgrade NTUnet to allow for on-demand and concurrent playback of streamed videos and other rich media content. This will make NTUnet truly video-enabled, as all PCs connected to the 24,000 network points on campus will be able to concurrently receive live video, TV broadcasts and pre-recorded video programmes, as well as live video conferences.

As a start, one can already view ChannelNTU, the University’s very own broadcast channel, on the desktop. This is delivered on demand, and through multi-cast, which means that there is only one source of broadcast, and anyone tuning in to the same source will get to see the same video. Multi-casting not only makes available information in real time, but also optimises existing network bandwidth resources.

The network upgrading exercise, which is slated for completion in December, will also increase the overall capacity of the campus network to handle future growth without compromising on network security and reliability. This round of upgrading also includes network extensions – some 2,500 new network points – to many new academic facilities being built on campus.

IT salaries up

Good news for IT professionals. The latest Singapore IT salary survey jointly conducted by the Information Management Research Centre (IMARC) at the Nanyang Business School and the IT Management Association of Singapore (ITMA) has found that IT salaries are still rising.

In fact, this year’s survey, covering 2,700 workers from 26 organisations, showed that IT salaries have maintained a general upward trend over the last five years. And compared to the previous year, average turnover in 2001 was reduced by almost half. Looking ahead, companies expect to increase their total IT staff strength by 3.5% this year. Though a third of the surveyed organisations projected a continued wage freeze in 2002, the rest expected to see IT salaries rise by up to 4%.

IMARC and ITMA, the only professional association in Singapore dedicated to IT management issues, have been conducting annual nation-wide IT salary surveys since 1994. The survey results are used to benchmark IT salaries in organisations.

Responding to the latest findings, Asst Prof Christine Koh, a key IMARC researcher, said: “IT is not immune to the impact of the economic downturn. In the long term, however, the career prospects for IT professionals remain good. IT professionals should use this time to develop themselves and advance their technical skills.”

SCI turns ten

The School of Communication and Information (SCI), Asia’s premier communication school, celebrated its 10th anniversary on 12 July.

Over 200 people – the SCI fraternity of staff, students and alumni joined by media and information practitioners and government officials – celebrated SCI’s 10th anniversary in style with a gala dinner at the Mandarin Hotel. The evening’s celebration was themed “Continuing A Legacy of Excellence”.

SCI, formerly known as the School of Communication Studies (SCS), was established in 1992 under the guidance of founding dean Prof Eddie Kuo. Today, the School has 43 faculty members from 14 countries and has increased its intake from 96 students for the pioneer batch in 1993 to 750 in 2002.

Housed in a $22.6 million building, the School changed its name earlier this year after expanding with the absorption of Information Studies, previously a division of the School of Computer Engineering. It has two endowed professorships and academic exchange programmes with universities in China, USA, Australia, Europe and Japan.
Partnerships

Setting new nanometrological standards

As small gets smaller, the Precision Engineering and Nanotechnology (PEN) Centre is partnering SPRING Singapore to develop new capabilities in nanometre measurement, paving the way for new national measurement standards.

Making things smaller – that, in short, is the preoccupation of the PEN Centre at the School of Mechanical and Production Engineering (MPE).

Together with SPRING Singapore (Standards, Productivity and Innovation Board), PEN Centre is paving the way for the development of new metrological capabilities and measurement standards to meet the industry-wide demand for micro- and nano-parts.

“These days, everything is becoming smaller. We need the capability to measure to that kind of accuracy to help industries make sure they are making things to specifications,” said Assoc Prof Bryan Ngi, Director of PEN Centre.

And so, to keep costly nano-errors at bay, MPE and SPRING Singapore will jointly develop measurement artefacts and standards, as well as new measurement techniques. These will be used to develop and maintain Singapore’s national measurement standards, and will constitute part of Singapore’s national measurement system. Calibration services will also be made available to industry.

Nanometrology – the measurement of dimensions and tolerances in the range of 0.1nm to 100nm – is applied in precision engineering, electronics, electro-mechanical systems such as “lab-on-a-chip” devices, and the biomedical fields such as gene therapy and drug delivery. PEN Centre has achieved several breakthroughs in this area. Using its patented nano-laser technology, it has successfully created features with dimensions less than 100nm, which is 1,000 times smaller than the diameter of human hair. It has also fabricated microdevices with nanometre resolution.

NTU and HKUST are tapping the potential of optical technology

NTU and Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST) have agreed to establish a long-term partnership in the area of optical technology.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed at York Hotel, Singapore, on 3 September during the 7th Asian Symposium on Information Display (ASID’02).

Under the MOU, NTU and HKUST will undertake collaborative research projects in optical technology as well as facilitate information sharing and staff and student exchanges.

Optical technology is a broad area that includes optical communication, nonlinear optics, display technology, and light-emitting materials and devices.
Partnerships

US$380,000 boost to Knowledge Management programme

The sponsorship from content aggregator LexisNexis gives students on new Master’s programme access to more than 12,000 databases and 28,000 sources of information.

Just before its maiden run, the School of Communication and Information’s newly launched Master of Science (MSc) in Knowledge Management (KM) programme received a shot in the arm.

This took the form of a sponsorship valued at US$380,000 from LexisNexis that has given MSc (KM) students access to one of the world’s largest Knowledge Management systems for their course work – some 12,000 databases and 28,000 sources of information offered by LexisNexis.

At an MOU-signing on 10 July, Prof Eddie Kuo, Dean of the School of Communication and Information (SCI), said that LexisNexis “has demonstrated its sincerity in promoting Knowledge Management in Singapore, and it is clear that the company is not driven merely by its bottomline.”

The MSc (KM) programme attracted 230 applicants for its first intake in July this year. The initial targeted intake of 25 students was increased to 45 to cater for the overwhelming demand for knowledge management education and the high quality of applicants.

Keeping heritage alive

Students opting to pursue the Master of Science (Information Systems) programme at the School of Communication and Information (SCI) can now choose to specialise in Archival Informatics, a new concentration. Previously, they could only specialise in Library and Information Science, School Media Resource Management, Information Management, or Information Systems.

The new concentration, made possible through a partnership with the National Heritage Board (NHB), will help groom skilled manpower in archives and records management. It also gives rise to the first postgraduate training programme of its kind in the region.

The Archival Informatics curriculum covers the expert management of historical materials, as well as methods that can be applied in information systems design to support the integrity, authenticity and long-term preservation of records. Students on the programme will have access to NHB’s archival and information management expertise and facilities.

Those who will benefit most from the training are records management specialists, archivists, manuscript and museum curators, special collections librarians, digital preservation specialists, cultural information specialists and information managers.

This is the second tie-up between NTU and NHB, with the first formalised in March last year to jointly develop online exhibitions that promote Singapore’s history and heritage.

For more information, visit http://www.ntu.edu.sg/sci/curris-new.html, or contact Asst Prof Chennupati K Ramaiah at SCI (tel: 6790-6866; email: asramaiah@ntu.edu.sg).

Viva la France!

Want to study in France? Learn French first. Opportunities for students to do so in France are ripening, as the University builds new ties with its French counterparts.

As part of its continued efforts to promote international collaboration, the Director of International Relations, Prof Brian Lee, and his manager, Mrs Priscilla Lee, visited France from 23 June to 4 July.

The team visited the following institutions: Institut Supérieur de l’Électronique de Paris, ESSEC Business School, Institut Nationale des Télécommunications, Ecole Supérieure d’Ingenieurs en Electrotechnique et Electronique d’Amiens, Ecole Nationale des Ponts et Chausées, Université de Marne la Vallée, Université de Technologie de Troyes, Ecole Nationale d’Ingenieurs de Tarbes, Pole Universitaire Européen de Toulouse, Ecole Supérieure d’Ingenieurs de Marseille, and INSA Lyon.

To further beef up ties with Toulouse University Network, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with one of their member universities – Institut d’Études Politiques de Toulouse.

The visit has sparked off fresh plans for student exchange between NTU and the French tertiary institutions. Because the language barrier could be a problem for NTU students, the possibility of organising summer language courses in France is being explored. If this materialises, our students could soon be attending cultural courses, field trips and intensive French courses in selected French partner institutions.
Great journeys to the top

History shows that the “gold standard” for tourism research is well within NTU’s reach, as students repeat prestigious international win

Nanyang Business School undergraduates and postgraduates have been garnering prestigious Travel and Tourism Research Association (TTRA) awards for three years running.

Handling the challenges of tourism with aplomb is the latest winner – Master of Business graduate Goh Hwai Kar, who won TTRA’s Masters Student Research Award for best Master’s dissertation. TTRA, the international association of travel marketing and research professionals, is responsible for the top tourism conference held annually.

Hwai Kar’s dissertation, supervised by Assoc Prof Stephen Litvin, is a fascinating compendium for destination marketers. It points out how each individual when placed in a specific role in a family has a unique situational actual self-image and situational ideal self-image different from their actual self-image and ideal self-image.

Because individuals are more likely to visit a destination for a family vacation when their situational self-image matches the image of the destination, tourism marketers should ensure that targeted promotions are consistent with how the target audience see or want to see themselves when travelling as a family.

“The answer to effective destination marketing is in Hwai Kar’s first-rate thesis,” said the high-flier who has since joined the Civil Aviation Authority of Singapore (CAAS).

INSTEP’s a hit this semester

Bumper crops of students going abroad and coming in on exchange programme

More and more NTU students are setting their sights on varsity stints overseas, sending student exchange figures soaring to new heights since the establishment of NTU’s International Student Exchange Programme (INSTEP) in 1995.

Thanks to greater publicity of the programme, there has been a 156% increase in the number of NTU students going abroad for exchange programmes as compared to the same semester in the previous academic year. Foreign students are also flocking to NTU – some 54% more. In the same period last year, we sent 34 NTU students abroad and received 123 foreign students on exchange. This semester, we sent 87 students abroad and received 189 foreign exchange students.

INSTEP was initiated to enable students to study overseas for up to one academic year. It is administered by the International Relations Office (IRO) and supported by the Schools.

Through the programme, NTU students get to study in renowned universities in countries like Norway, Australia, Canada, China, France, Germany, Japan, Korea, Sweden, UK and USA. Some even extend their stay to do their work attachments abroad.

While our students expand their horizons overseas, our foreign exchange students – from institutions of higher learning in Scandinavia, Canada, China, Japan, Korea, UK and USA – bring about an international flavour on campus, enriching varsity life for all.

Eyeing a career in IC design?

Join the IC Design Scholarship Programme!

The School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, in partnership with the Economic Development Board (EDB) and IC design companies, launched the IC Design Scholarship Programme on 6 August with a roadshow.

The IC design programme is open to students seeking expertise in the field of IC (Integrated Circuit) design. It imparts specialist knowledge of both analog and digital IC design.

Sponsored candidates are required to take Final Year Projects in IC design, and will perform their third-year industrial attachment at the sponsoring company, which will pay in full their final-year course fees and a monthly stipend. Upon graduation, they will be hired by the sponsoring company.

According to a report in The Straits Times (5 Aug 2002), IC design occupies the top-end of the semiconductor value chain and is less vulnerable than chip manufacturing activities to companies relocating because of cost issues.

Companies and students who would like to participate in the IC Design Scholarship Programme can contact the programme manager, Assoc Prof Vincent Ong (email: eongks@ntu.edu.sg; tel: 6790-4708), for more information.

So far, seven companies have joined the IC Design Scholarship Programme, offering about 60 scholarships worth $720,000 over the next three years.

- Advanced Micro Devices (Singapore)
- Agere Systems Singapore
- Broadcom Singapore
- Infineon Technologies Asia Pacific
- Matsushita Semiconductor Singapore
- Motorola Electronics
- Philips Semiconductors – Asia Product Innovation Centre
Defining moments

Like the graduands and parents at Convocation 2002, he brimmed with pride. But there were also bittersweet moments for Dr Cham Tao Soon – the man who founded NTU and helmed it for 21 straight years. In his last convocation address, he urged graduands to nurture their dreams and aspirations through the University which he said valued them as partners in the educational enterprise.

At the first of ten convocation ceremonies on 2 September, at least one parent in the Nanyang Auditorium reminiscenced. Like the rest, he was witnessing a special rite of passage. His “child” had passed the tests and met the challenges of university education with flying colours. And now, at 21, it harboured dreams of taking on the world – of becoming a University of Global Significance and Excellence.

“I know this is a tall order for a 21-year-old university since most great universities are centuries old,” NTU’s founding and outgoing President, Dr Cham Tao Soon, told 435 graduands. “We may take many more years to achieve our vision, but one thing is for sure, we need the support of everyone here.”

Alma mater – for life

“You are our precious alumni and ambassadors to the world... we value your feedback, support and contributions as partners in this knowledge enterprise, and we encourage you to maintain close ties with the University.”

– Dr Cham
And in return, NTU would endeavour to be the “best academic home” for its alumni. The University recently established a Nanyang Alumni Fund, which offers scholarships to alumni and their children or siblings for higher degree or undergraduate studies. Along with this, all alumni enjoy a free “email-for-life” service, access to career services – especially helpful in these times of economic hardship – and continuing education at discounted rates.

Later, announcing his retirement, Dr Cham said: “The last twenty years have been challenging, satisfying and memorable. The University has grown from scratch to a full-sized university with a good reputation. It has come of age to reach adulthood at 21 years. I am confident my successor will bring it to a higher level, fulfilling the expectations of our stakeholders.”

NTU’s 11th Convocation, held from 2 – 6 September, saw 5,072 graduands – including 109 PhD and 1,185 Master’s degree graduands – receiving their degree scrolls. Mr S R Nathan, NTU Chancellor and President of Singapore, presided over the first ceremony.

Sir Eric Ash, Honorary Graduand

Sir Eric Ash is the fifth person to receive the degree of Doctor of Letters conferred by the University Council. A former Rector of the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, and the current Treasurer and Senior Vice-President of The Royal Society in London, Sir Ash has contributed greatly to NTU’s development with the offering of invaluable advice on various policy and operational matters after two visits here in 1996 and 1999 on the invitation of Dr Cham. The distinguished professor is currently engaged in developing science policies pertaining to energy generation and usage.

Heady research your cup of tea? The excitement’s right here

Research is in full bloom at NTU, and graduands – with their fresh talent and passion – are welcome to plant new seeds of technology evolution. Giving a report card of the University’s achievements over the past year, Dr Cham touched on the recent inroads into the life sciences, among other topics. He said that the School of Biological Sciences had gotten off to a good start with the recruiting of 22 outstanding international faculty and a pioneer batch of 40 graduate students comprising mostly PhD students.

R&D in the field is also at an all-time high. For example, a team of environmental engineers is collaborating with Stanford University and the Public Utilities Board to create new technologies that will provide clean water for human consumption. Biomedical engineering and bioinformatics are also disciplines flourishing in our research labs and classrooms.

Turning his attention to the $40m Research TechnoPlaza, scheduled for completion in January next year, Dr Cham said: “We welcome all graduates who are interested in setting new research frontiers to join our PhD programmes and be a part of this exciting development.” When completed, the eight-storey TechnoPlaza will house groups of inter-disciplinary research centres along its corridors.

As NTU gears up to be a research-intensive university, the graduate student intake is expected to increase, and in anticipation of this, NTU plans to build more graduate halls over the next 10 years, said Dr Cham.

Later, announcing his retirement, Dr Cham said: “The last twenty years have been challenging, satisfying and memorable. The University has grown from scratch to a full-sized university with a good reputation. It has come of age to reach adulthood at 21 years. I am confident my successor will bring it to a higher level, fulfilling the expectations of our stakeholders.”
Attogenix – new kid on the block

Spun off in August, the start-up hopes to commercialise proprietary DNA microfluidic biochip technologies, including a chip that can detect hereditary diseases such as cancer.

Attogenix Biosystems Pte Ltd is a biomedical sciences company spun off from NTU and the Defence Science and Technology Agency (DSTA), with support from the Economic Development Board (EDB) and Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR).

The company’s key founders are Assoc Prof Thomas Gong of the BioMEMS Lab at the School of Mechanical and Production Engineering (MPE) and Dr Eric Yap from the Molecular Genetics Branch of the Defence Medical Research Institute (DMRI).

Among the proprietary technologies Attogenix is developing is an integrated molecular analysis chip that will be used to diagnose disease (see inset). This diagnostic chip, the brainchild of Assoc Prof Gong and Dr Yap, makes use of an on-chip integrated bio-microsystem that taps on the research processes of non-silicon microfabrication, nucleic acid membrane filtration, passive microfluidics, nano-litre volume enzyme reaction array, and arrayed fluorescence detection and image processing. So far, 2 US patents and 2 PCT patents have been filed.

When commercialised in October 2003, the Attogenix chip will be a useful and low-cost tool for the biotech and pharmaceutical industries, clinical diagnostic labs, and life-sciences institutions. It is being developed by a multidisciplinary team at Attogenix comprising a molecular geneticist, biochemist, surface chemist, wafer fab engineer, MEMS engineer, thermal-fluidic engineer, optics engineer, and instrumentation and software engineer.

To further advance its biomedical expertise, Attogenix will continue to draw on the expertise of the University through joint R&D projects with MPE, which already has an established BioMEMS Strategic Research Programme undertaking studies in DNA detection and diagnosis of disease.

Chip warns of imminent disease

Attogenix Biosystems is developing a series of powerful proprietary technologies for single-step multiple-gene analysis directly from raw genetic samples, such as blood. The complex analysis will be done quickly and automatically on a single chip. Positioned as the next-generation molecular diagnostic tool with a market size of over $10 billion worldwide, the Attogenix disposable chip, offering high-density genetic analysis, is a faster and cheaper alternative to existing lab-based genetic analysis operations. It can detect genetic diseases such as inherited forms of cancer and other life-threatening diseases such as pneumonia and hepatitis viruses.

Homegrown entrepreneurs show and tell

Their inspirational stories are a powerful source of motivation for all, especially entrepreneur-wannabes and those as yet undecided about taking the plunge.

In the recent six weeks, NTU students and staff met a string of successful entrepreneurs and technopreneurs through the Entrepreneurship Speaker Series organised by the Nanyang Technopreneurship Center (NTC). The talks, held at the NTU Executive Centre in town and on campus, fired up many to chase their own entrepreneurial dreams.

Among the role models – some of whom dazzled as orators were familiar names, such as Mr Ong Peng Tsin, founder of NASDAQ-listed Interwoven, Mr Samuel Chia, Managing Director of NYDC, Mr Seah Liang Chiang, founder and Managing Director of DSC Holdings, Mr Kannappan Chettiar, Chairman and founder of The Stansfield Group, Ms Janet Ong, co-founder of Billy Bombers restaurant, and Mr George Quek, founder of Breadtalk and this year’s Rotary-ASME Entrepreneur of the Year.

Perhaps benefiting most from the talks were the 50 students on NTC’s flagship four-month graduate Technopreneurship and Innovation Programme (TIP) jointly conducted with the University of Washington. Many TIP students – some entrepreneurs in their own right – were thrilled to meet their “big brothers and sisters” in the corporate world, and to grow new business ideas, get start-up tips and network. And judging from the buzz on campus, it seems more and more undergraduates, previously content to just study and play, are now looking for their “big break” in the business world.
Tired of sniffing? Let machines do the work

A new branch of science – Olfactory Mechanics – is being developed right here in NTU

Ants use it as their main information channel. Dogs use it to receive information ten times more effectively than human beings do with their eyes. It is the sense of smell. And it is the basis of a new branch of science called Olfactory Mechanics.

A research group in the School of Mechanical and Production Engineering (MPE) led by Assoc Prof Vladimir Kulish has initiated exciting research which aims to make olfactology an important branch of biomedical engineering.

The team is developing a mathematical model of smell and precise methods for odour recognition. To quantitatively measure smells independent of human experts, a portable device is being designed and created based on measurements from an olfactometer and a mass spectrometer. When completed, it could be used as a tool in medicine to diagnose diseases. Environmentalists could also use it to check toxicity in the environment or fire safety levels. And when the sense of smell is incorporated into stimuli generated by the computer, a whole new kind of virtual reality – and sensory entertainment – can be enjoyed!

The research also underscores the team’s effort to develop a new branch of olfactology – Olfactory Mechanics. The olfactory sense in human beings has long remained in a shadow because it is a sense that is suppressed by competition from our eyes and ears. Since it has only a small role to play in receiving information, the sense of smell in human beings is not well understood.

However, more recently, research in olfaction has taken off, and olfactology has made an impact in areas such as neuron networks, pattern recognition methods, artificial intelligence, virtual reality and medical diagnosis. In time to come, it will become an established area of research in engineering.

The best of advanced materials showcased

More than a decade’s worth of achievements in advanced materials research are now on display at the AMRC Research Gallery

Ever wonder how materials engineers contribute to society and industry? To find out, just step into a new research gallery at the School of Materials Engineering (SME). Called the Advanced Materials Research Centre (AMRC) Research Gallery, the 64-sq-m viewing area showcases 24 projects that have earned researchers and academics from SME and MPE (School of Mechanical and Production Engineering) international acclaim. These projects have given rise to revolutionary inventions such as nano-bone, ceramic fuel cell, biodegradable stents, and novel “micro-balloons” called hollow spheres. Members of the public may access the gallery (AMRC Lab 2, N4-B3a-01) during office hours. For more information, contact AMRC Director Assoc Prof Philip Cheang at 6790-6090.

It’s a material world: AMRC Director Assoc Prof Philip Cheang explaining the mechanics of an invention to Deputy President Prof Lim Mong King (centre) and Assoc Prof Michael Khor

Janet Ong and company: The co-founder of Billy Bombers (centre) cosies up with some TIP students after sharing trade secrets

The smell of excitement for the research team of (from left) David Chin (PhD student), Bayu Wijayanto (MEng student), Seow Tzer Fook, Assoc Prof Vladimir Kulish and Asst Prof Lim Chu-Sing
**Kudos**

## Academic par excellence

For promoting Singapore as a centre of excellence in the field of medical informatics, Biological Sciences Vice-Dean Prof Lun Kwok Chan reaps the Excellence for Singapore Award

Prof Lun Kwok Chan’s forte is applying ICT tools and techniques to health and medical teaching, research and practice – what is better known as the scientific discipline of medical informatics.

And he does this in a big way, taking on the challenges of medical informatics in the global playing field. For doing so, he was singled out as having brought credit to Singapore by being among the best in his area of activity in Asia and the world. He received this honour – the Excellence for Singapore Award – from the Singapore Totalisator Board (Tote Board) in August.

In 2001, Prof Lun catapulted Singapore into international acclaim by becoming the first Singaporean and the second Asian to be elected President of the 20,000-member International Medical Informatics Association (IMIA). This is the highest professional recognition in the entire field of medical informatics. And, earlier, he made his mark as founding President (1994 – 1997) of the Asia Pacific Association for Medical Informatics (APAMI), a regional federation of 14 national medical informatics associations.

On winning the award, Prof Lun said: “I am privileged and honoured to be selected from among the 51 nominees. I hope it will inspire my students to aspire for excellence.”

## Ultra-fine work

Working fast and furious in the lab has paid off for graduate student Jenny Lam Hwee Ming, who bagged the Student Award at the 3rd International Congress on Laser Advanced Materials Processing (LAMP) in May 2002.

Jenny clinched the award based on the clarity, originality and significance of her research on the laser ablation of semiconductor structures for potential applications in optoelectronic devices.

Presently pursuing her Master’s degree at the School of Materials Engineering (SME) and Data Storage Institute (DSI) under a DSI scholarship, Jenny worked under Assoc Prof Yuan Shu from SME and Dr Hong Minghui from DSI to achieve her feat. A state-of-the-art femto-second (fs) laser machining system newly installed in DSI was used to etch materials with enormous success. This method of etching has great scientific significance as no damaging heat is generated during the laser ablation, thanks to the ultra-short laser beam used.

## Researcher extraordinaire

Dr Shum Ping, hailed as a “science luminary” by A*STAR, is the first NTU recipient of the prestigious Young Scientist Award

Kudos to Dr Shum Ping, Director of the Network Technology Research Centre, for triumphing in his scientific pursuits.

His ongoing research into next-generation optical communication systems has unfolded one brilliant discovery after another, and for this, he recently picked up the coveted Young Scientist Award presented by the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR). Dr Shum was one of three research scientists working in Singapore who bagged the award and were singled out for showing great potential to be world-class researchers in their respective fields of expertise.

The School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering professor also recently beat 300 others to the Best Paper Award at the 3rd International Conference on Microwave and Millimeter Wave Technology (ICM2T2002) in Beijing, China. In his research, a passively mode-locked soliton fibre ring laser was investigated and shown capable of producing ultra-short optical pulses. This pioneering feat could spur the development of future terabit optical fibre communication systems including the next-generation broadband network.
No stuffed shirts, these colonels

Every year, senior military officers from around the world hit the sunny island of Singapore, mixing work with play.

It used to be known simply as “Summer School”. But, however you call it, the Asia Pacific Programme for Senior Military Officers is an annual networking highlight of the Institute of Defence and Strategic Studies (IDSS).

And this year was no different as IDSS hosted some 55 senior military officers from 22 countries* at The Beaufort Hotel on Sentosa from 5 – 10 August.

Opened by Deputy Prime Minister Dr Tony Tan, the programme consisted of lectures, panel discussions and workshops on international and regional security issues, featuring speakers from Britain, China, USA and ASEAN. Delegates examined the new dimensions of terrorism, looked at the post-September 11 security architecture of the Asia-Pacific, and exchanged experiences to get to know one another better. Participants and speakers were also treated to a special dinner graced by President S R Nathan.

In between heady discussions, the military officers played with gusto an ice-breaking beach volleyball game, toured Singapore’s military heritage sites and facilities, and enjoyed a grandstand view of the National Day Parade. After receiving their certificates from IDSS Chairman Dr Andrew Chew at the farewell dinner, they even put on an impromptu display of acting and singing, proving that they were no stuffed shirts.

Thus began Emeritus Professor Edwin Thumboo, the renowned Singaporean poet and writer, at a talk entitled “We and Our Language: The Use of English”.

This talk, organised by the School of Materials Engineering, was held on 14 August as the fifth lecture in the Good English Lecture Series. Addressing an audience of 500, Prof Thumboo began by explaining his intention to create an awareness of the types of English used in different situations, and the consequences of speaking non-standard English. He warned that Singaporeans would be disadvantaged globally if Singlish – “a bazaar English”, as he called it – continues to be used freely.

Improper use of the language is costly, warns Prof Edwin Thumboo

Stressing the need for an extensive vocabulary, he said that life requires more than the 800 words found in the vocabulary of the average person. “You have to take the learning of the language seriously, regardless of which field you are in.”

Prof Thumboo’s comments, especially his avowed distaste for Singlish, led to a lively question-and-answer session. As members of the audience tried to defend the use of Singlish and argued that CSE (Colloquial Singapore English) is acceptable because people use different forms of the language to relay their thoughts, Prof Thumboo remained adamant in his stance that the popularity of Singlish does not justify its existence.

Edwin Thumboo on good English

“Language defines the parameters of our mind, our spirit, our sensitivity. Try to have a thought without a word. You will find it very difficult…”

On 29 August, Carnegie-Bosch Institute (CBI) of Carnegie Mellon University (CMU) hosted a workshop on Logistics and Operations Management. This workshop was jointly conceived and planned with the School of Mechanical and Production Engineering.

The workshop in Pittsburgh, USA, attracted some 30 logistics and operations management faculty and researchers from Carnegie Mellon University, University of Pittsburgh and NTU. Lending their expertise at the workshop were Assoc Prof Kam Booi Chung, Asst Prof Rajesh Piplani and Assoc Prof Appa Iyer Sivakumar from NTU.

Prof Mike Trick, President of CBI, called on NTU to host the next logistics and operations management workshop in Singapore.

Edwin Thumboo on good English

Improper use of the language is costly, warns Prof Edwin Thumboo

NTU-Carnegie Mellon logistics and operations workshop a success

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National Day honours

The National Day Awards recognise various forms of merit and service to Singapore. This year’s award winners from NTU have no doubt served both the University and nation well.

The Public Service Star
Prof Lim Mong King, Chairman, Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety & Health for the Shipbuilding and Ship-repairing Industry (Deputy President, NTU)

The Public Administration Medal (Silver)
Prof Yue Chee Yoon, Dean, MPE

The Public Administration Medal (Bronze)
Mr Loh Khoon Chiang, Senior Officer (Grade 1), Office of Human Resources; Assoc Prof Koh Thiam Seng, Science & Technology Education, NIE (seconded to MOE as Deputy Director, Higher Education)

The Public Service Medal
Assoc Prof Michael Heng Swee Hai, Vice-Chairman, Toa Payoh West CCMC (EEE)

The Efficiency Medal
Mrs Chong-Goh Mei Eng, Senior Officer (Grade 2), Office of Professional Attachments; Mrs Elaine Tan-Ong Peck Lian, Management Support Officer (Grade IV), EEE; Mr Heng Mok Hee, Senior Technical Executive, Centre for IT Services; Mr William Chew Chok Hon, Senior Technical Executive, Academic Computing & Information Services, NIE

The Long Service Medal
Mr Ng Kim Chuan, Technical Support Executive (Grade 3), Office of Estate & Amenities; Mdm Poh Kwee Eng, Operations Support Officer (Grade 3), Office of Estate & Amenities; Miss Soo Soo Eng, Trainer, Special Training Programme (Mother Tongue), NIE; Mrs Ong Pang Hai, Senior Officer [Lib] (Grade 1), Library & Information Services Centre, NIE; Mrs Lee Mui Sin, Senior Officer [Lib] (Grade 2), Library & Information Services Centre, NIE; Mrs Low Chwee Tee nee Sze, Corporate Support Officer (Grad II), Mathematics & Mathematics Education, NIE; Mdm Jaiton Binte Ibrahim, Corporate Support Officer (Grad III), Psychological Studies, NIE; Miss Tan Sok Hoon, Corporate Support Officer (Grad III), Finance, NIE

Promotion to full Professorship
Prof Kam Chan Hin, EEE
Prof Lye Sun Woh, MPE
Prof Freddy Boey Yin Chiang, SME

Congratulations!

Another Silver HEALTH Award

For the second time, the University has been awarded the Silver HEALTH (Helping Employees Achieve Life-Time Health) Award by the Ministry of Health. This award, given annually, recognises organisations with commendable workplace health promotion programmes. Once again making the Silver win possible is the NTU Healthy Lifestyle Committee chaired by Assoc Prof Quek Jin Jong from NIE. NTU also bagged the Silver HEALTH Award in 2000 and 2001. In 1999, it clinched the Bronze award.

Appointments

Appointments
Prof Hong Hai – Dean-Designate, Graduate Programmes, NBS
Assoc Prof Cai Wentong – Head, Division of Software Systems, SCE
Assoc Prof Ma Jan – Head, Division of Materials Technology, SME
Asst Prof Mary Anne Heng – Head, Specialised Education, NIE
Asst Prof Lam Ying Ming – Sub-Dean, SME
Assoc Prof S M Krishnan (EEE) – Co-Director, Singapore-University of Washington Alliance

Re-appointments
Assoc Prof Lau Chiaw Tong – Head, Division of Computing Systems, SCE
Assoc Prof Oh Joo Tien – Head, Division of Materials Science, SME
Assoc Prof Schubert Foo – Head, Division of Information Studies, SCI
Assoc Prof Chan Chiu Ming – Head, Asian Languages & Cultures, NIE
Assoc Prof Christine Lee – Head, Humanities & Social Studies Education, NIE
Assoc Prof Philip Wong – Head, Instructional Science, NIE
Assoc Prof Lim-Teo Suat Khoh – Head, Mathematics & Mathematics Education, NIE
Assoc Prof Dione Cheong Hoong – Head, Natural Sciences, NIE
Assoc Prof Teo-Koh Sock Miang – Head, Physical Education & Sports Science, NIE
Assoc Prof Joy Chew – Head, Policy & Management Studies, NIE
Assoc Prof Toh Kok Ann – Head, Science & Technology Education, NIE
Assoc Prof Lutz Presser – Head, Visual & Performing Arts, NIE
Assoc Prof Gan Leong Huat – Deputy Head (Chemistry), Natural Sciences, NIE
Asst Prof Chen Lai Keat – Deputy Head (Physics), Natural Sciences, NIE
Assoc Prof Goh Ngoh Khang – Deputy Head (Science), Science & Technology Education, NIE
Asst Prof Eugene Dairianganathan – Deputy Head (Music), Visual & Performing Arts, NIE
Assoc Prof Stephen Hazell – Deputy Head (Drama), Visual & Performing Arts, NIE
Assoc Prof Rita Skuja-Steele – Head, English Language & Literature, NIE
Assoc Prof Esther Tan – Head, Psychological Studies, NIE
Assoc Prof Vilma Anne D’Rozario – Sub-Dean, Diploma Programmes, NIE
Asst Prof Carolyn Tan-Niam – Sub-Dean, Special Programmes, NIE
Assoc Prof Angelina Khooh – Sub-Dean, PGDE Programme (Primary), NIE
Asst Prof Steven Tan Kwang San – Sub-Dean, PGDE Programme (PE) & Dip PE Programme, NIE
Assoc Prof Law Choi Look (EEE) – Director, Global Positioning Systems Centre (GPSC)
Assoc Prof Goh Pong Chai (CEE) – Deputy Director, GPSC
Assoc Prof Xie Ming (MPE) – Deputy Director, GPSC
Assoc Prof Yun Chan Hua (SCE) – Deputy Director, GPSC

President has extended the appointment of Assoc Prof Simon Yu Ching Man (MPE) as Principal Staff Officer, President’s Office, to 31 December 2002.

Redesignation
Prof Lennie Lim – Associate Dean (Undergraduate Studies)

Change of job title
Mr Teo Soon Hock – Director of Policy Review

Reaching new heights of community service

Assoc Prof Michael Heng from the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering received double honours in August. First, he was conferred the Public Service Medal by the Singapore Government on National Day. Next, he was appointed ILO International Consultant to advise the Government of Vietnam on the implementation of a national tripartite consultative framework for social dialogue. The International Labour Organisation (ILO), a United Nations agency, appointed Assoc Prof Heng, a Certified Management Consultant, to this position after eight months of intensive search for a suitable candidate.
Welcome

The University welcomes the following new staff members:

School of Business (BSB)
Prof Hong Hai – Professor
Asst Prof Bhattacharya Sivakumar – Assistant Professor
Asst Prof Ralph Buchmann – Assistant Professor
Miss Chua Wei Hwa – Assistant Professor
Miss Koh Wei Chen – Assistant Professor
Mr Koh Wee Ling, Kevin – Assistant Professor
Miss Tham Tsz Man – Assistant Professor
Prof Charles Michael Hamppen-Turner – Professor
Prof Anantharaman Pattaraman – Professor
Prof Andrew Charles Ilkpen – Professor
Prof Frank Martin Horwitz – Professor
James Christopher Westland – Professor
Mr Peter Alan Reday – Professor
Prof (Ady) Gunter Key – Professor
Miss Qua Pek Nui – Senior Officer
Miss Gay Chwee Hwa – Senior Officer
Mr Wm Zhen – Senior Officer
Miss Poon Wei Ling – Senior Officer
Mr Wm Wunnie Tan Wei Nee – Senior Officer

School of Computer Engineering (SCE)
Assoc Prof Annamalai Benjamin Premkumar – Associate Professor
Asst Prof Cai Jianfei – Associate Professor
Asst Prof Deepika Ratan – Associate Professor
Mr Kevin Anthony Jones – Associate Professor
Mdm Wu Xinya – Associate Professor
Prof Toshiyasu Kamii – Associate Professor
Dr Wu Hong Ren – Associate Professor
Dr Sohn Kwanghoon – Associate Professor
Mr Michael Wunsteil – Associate Professor
Mr Chan Siew Kwok – Associate Professor
Mr Liu Genping – Associate Professor
Mr Shiu Menon – Associate Professor
Mr Siddhartha Sarval – Associate Professor
Mdm Phung Huey Lin – Associate Professor

School of Materials Engineering (SME)
Prof William John Cligg – Professor
Prof John Anthony Kilner – Professor
Dr Stephen Osoyemi – Professor
Dr Hui Kam Man – Professor

School of Civil & Environmental Engineering (CEE)
Asst Prof Ma Guowei – Assistant Professor
Prof Lee T-Cheung – Professor
Miss Bian Haiying – Professor
Mr Chung Chi Fu – Professor
Mr Fung Eng Wei – Professor
Miss Lee Chien Cheah, Selina – Professor
Miss Lim Tok Hoon – Professor
Mr Liu Yu – Professor
Mr Ng Tian Guan – Professor
Mr Shun Huang – Professor
Mdm Zhau Xiaoqiu – Professor

School of Electrical & Electronic Engineering (EEE)
Asst Prof Ang Ding Sheng – Associate Professor
Asst Prof Lee Yee Hui – Associate Professor
Asst Prof Tan Eng Leong – Associate Professor
Prof Choi Soon Dal – Professor
Prof Loh Nan Khan, Robert – Professor
Prof Jan Mariya Maciejowski – Professor
Prof Amar Singh Bhalia – Professor
Dr Srinivasan Buddha – Professor
Dr Wu Bin – Professor
Dr Chen Dengpeng – Professor
Dr Sun Hong Bo – Professor
Dr Tian Jing – Professor
Dr Yang Xinan – Professor
Dr Yu Hongchuan – Professor
Dr Zhang Jangguo – Professor
Dr Tong Ming Xue – Professor
Mr Bo Binxuan – Professor
Mr Law Chong Fatt – Research Assistant
Mr Loke Wan Khai – Research Assistant
Mr Ng Tien Khee – Research Assistant
Mr Zhang Hanming – Research Assistant
Miss Gao Yang – Research Assistant
Mr Koh Chee Hwee, Dennis – Research Associate
Mr Kuek Hong Wee – Research Associate
Mr Lim Ti Hock – Research Associate
Mr Shantu Shukla – Research Associate
Mr Tan Soo Chang – Research Associate
Mr Ye Tianzhu – Research Associate
Miss Zeng Rong – Research Associate
Mr Zhang Yuebin – Research Associate

School of Mechanical & Production Engineering (MPE)
Assoc Prof Limet Onderd – Associate Professor
Assoc Prof Wang Shao – Associate Professor
Asst Prof Sung Hang Ki – Assistant Professor
Prof David Vernon Boger – Professor
Prof Janunthula Narasimha Reddy – Professor
Prof Woo Cheng Hsiang, Tony – Professor
Prof Arkady Voloishin – Professor
Prof Ping Cheng – Professor
Prof Vasudev Pillai Radhakrishnan – Professor
Mr Avram Grant – Senior Fellow
Mdm Chen Lui Sheng – Senior Fellow
Dr Fok Wing Chau – Senior Fellow
Dr Gao Xiangyang – Senior Fellow
Dr Goh Sor Koon – Senior Fellow
Dr Hu Min – Senior Fellow
Dr Wan Haugen – Senior Fellow
Dr Wang Weichong – Senior Fellow
Mdm Cindy Anastasia – Senior Fellow

School of Communication & Information (SCI)
Assoc Prof Alan Rundolph Kluver – Associate Professor
Asst Prof Jin Cheon Na – Assistant Professor
Asst Prof Lee Seow Ting – Assistant Professor
Prof Theodore Lewis Glasser – Associate Professor
Prof Crispin Chioo Maslog – Associate Professor
Dr Cheng Hong – Associate Professor
Mr Sunanda Kisor Dutta-Ray – Associate Professor
Miss Fong Phai Ying – Associate Professor
Mr Tan Mon Kiat, Trevor – Associate Professor

School of Biological Sciences (SBS)
Prof Sulih Kumar Bose – Professor
Centre of Human Resources
Ms Tio Yueh Keaw – Centre Officer
Centre for IT Services
Mdm Tan Siew Pong – Centre Officer
Centre for Educational Development
Mdm Koh Sow Ngor – Centre Officer

Office of Professional Attachments
Miss Ng Tsui Hoon, Charmaine – Assistant Professor
Miss Chiam Poh Ling – Assistant Professor
Public Relations Office
Miss Cheryl Tan Wei Yin – Assistant Professor
Centre for Continuing Education
Mdm Michele Khoo Cheng Hoon – Assistant Professor
General Studies Unit
Miss Ho Mun Ying – Assistant Professor
Singapore-MIT Alliance Programme
Dr Anand Natarajan – Assistant Professor
Dr Yan Yehai – Assistant Professor
Miss Tian Yuan – Assistant Professor

Institute of Defence & Strategic Studies
Dr J Soedradjat Djwandono – Adjunct Professor

NIE
Graduate Programmes & Research
Miss Chiam Ching Leen – Senior Officer

Specialised Education
Assoc Prof Lim Heng Fook, Levan – Associate Professor

Psychological Studies
Assoc Prof Russell Martin Francis Hawkins – Associate Professor
Asst Prof Lau Kin Fie, Albert – Associate Professor

Instructional Science
Mr Woo Huay Lit – Lecturer
Asst Prof Janette Ring – Assistant Professor

English Language & Literature
Ms Sally Ann Jones – Lecturer
Asst Prof Heather Louisa Kay – Assistant Professor
Mrs Jessica Robert – Assistant Professor

Asian Languages & Cultures
Asst Prof Zhu Xinhu –Assistant Professor
Miss Tan Ah Yong –Assistant Professor
Mdm Lim Seok Lai –Assistant Professor
Mr Mohd Aaidil Subhan B Mohd Solor –Assistant Professor
Dr Mohd Muktibin bin Abu Bakar –Assistant Professor

Humanities & Social Studies Education
Miss Chee Min Fui – Lecturer
Dr Michael Shavone Pucci – Teaching Fellow

Visual & Performing Arts
Ms Madonna Therese Stinson – Lecturer

Physical Education & Sports Science
Mr Chaw Jia Y – Teaching Fellow
Asst Prof Anthony James Rossi – Assistant Professor

Science & Technology Education
Mr Tan Soon Kian, Raymond – Teaching Fellow

Mathematics & Mathematics Education
Assoc Prof Eric Frederick Wood – Associate Professor
Assoc Prof Lim Keng Suan – Assistant Professor

Natural Sciences
Prof Kiang Bun I, David – Assistant Professor
Dr Denyzenko Igor – Assistant Professor
Mr Alin Constantin Patran – Assistant Professor

Human Resource Department
Miss Lim Kim Huay, Fiona – Senior Officer
Miss Tan Joo Wee – Senior Officer
Mdm Tan Wee Lian, Joann – Senior Officer

Finance Department
Mdm Tan May Loo – Senior Officer

Development & Estate Department
Mr Ng Tiong Ying, Christopher – Senior Officer

Computer Services Centre
Mdm Cui Bee Hiong, Cordelia – Senior Officer

Library & Information Services Centre
Mdm Cui Bee Hiong, Cordelia – Senior Officer

E-Learning Competency Centre
Mdm Cui Bee Hiong, Cordelia – Senior Officer

Staff News

15
A grand sharing of culture

This is epitomised in the generous donation of books on Japanese culture and a gift of $1m yen from Japanese Grand Tea Master Dr Sen Soshitsu XV to NTU

In Japanese culture, the offering of a cup of green tea is a gesture of friendship, respect and tranquility.

At a book presentation ceremony on 27 August, in which NTU commemorated the receipt of 93 books from Japanese Grand Tea Master Dr Sen Soshitsu XV through the Urasenke Singapore Association, this extension of respect and friendship was replayed in full.

First, Mr Freddie Ang, President of the Urasenke Singapore Association, marked the donation with the symbolic presentation of a book to NTU President Dr Cham Tao Soon. Later, members of his association, in the Japanese tradition of hospitality, served guests Japanese sweets followed by meticulously-prepared green tea.

Dr Cham acknowledged with thanks the Grand Master’s additional gift of one million yen to NTU’s 21st Century Fund, which he said would be used to promote Japanese cultural studies in NTU.

The Grand Tea Master had, last December, visited Singapore to launch the new NTU General Studies (GS) Elective “Japanese Culture Through Chado”, and to demonstrate The Way of Tea. It was at this meeting that he announced his intention to share the flavours of Japan through a gift of assorted books.

The ceremony at the Lee Wee Nam Library was graced by His Excellency Mr Makita Kunihiko, Ambassador of Japan to Singapore, who was pleased to hear that the Chado course, taught in the 2001 inter-semester by Senior Tea Master Mrs Watamizu Soyu, had been a huge hit with our students. At that time, some 450 students were on the waiting list. Mrs Naoko Nakabayashi from Kyoto has been appointed to teach the next course.

Visitors to the Lee Wee Nam Library can now dip into a veritable treasure trove of Japanese art and culture. The books, including 11 on Chado by the Grand Tea Master himself, touch on core, fascinating aspects of the country. Those tired from reading can retreat with five videos – on topics like tea etiquette, scroll-hanging and flower arrangement – also generously donated by the Grand Master.

The Chado course is just one of some 100 multi-disciplinary subjects, or General Studies (GS) Electives, which NTU and NIE students can take in fulfilment of their academic requirements. Chinese Opera and Spanish, two new GS Electives, have already begun to capture the interest of students. Courses in Batik and Pottery are now being planned.

The course lecturers for the GS programme are selected with great care. “For example, Chinese Opera is taught by Dr Chua Soo Pong, who is the Director of the Chinese Opera Institute in Singapore. We are now trying to get foremost Singapore Batik artist Sarkasi Said Tzee to teach the batik course,” said Dr Yeoh Oon Chye, Director of the General Studies Unit, College of Engineering. Sarkasi Said Tzee is a world-renowned local Malay artist who has been instrumental in elevating batik from folk art to fine art.

From Japanese tea culture to batik and pottery!

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Visitors

During the period July to September 2002, the University received the following distinguished visitors:

5 July Mr Anthony Dunnett, Chief Executive, South East England Development Agency (SEEDA), UK
18 July Dr Phan Thi Tuoi, Rector, Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, Vietnam
15 Aug Prof Andrew Hamnett, Principal, University of Strathclyde, UK

During this period, the University also received visiting delegations from the Consortium for Global Education; Myong Ji College, Korea; University of Central Committee of CPC, South China University of Technology, and the National Natural Science Foundation of China, PRC; Universiti Teknologi Malaysia; the Malaysian National Association of Private Education Institutions; Sripatum University, Thailand; Chiba Institute of Technology, Japan; the Secretariat for Education, State of Jalisco, Mexico; University of Stellenbosch, South Africa; and the College of Engineering, Iowa State University, USA.