Singapore, 10 August 2004

URECA – a new programme to cultivate a research culture among NTU undergraduates

A new programme - Undergraduate Research Experience on CAmpus (URECA), will enable outstanding Nanyang Technological University (NTU) undergraduates to immerse themselves in a research culture while earning benefits such as monetary allowances and academic credits. (See factsheet for details.)

Students under the URECA programme have the flexibility to work on research projects of their choice from any discipline in NTU. By undertaking these projects, the students will gain a good appreciation of research, including the need for rigour and independence. They will experience first-hand the open-endedness of research, as well as the formulation of and approach to research problems. In addition, the students will be able to learn the ‘makings’ of a researcher as they work closely with the projects’ supervising professors.

Another key feature of the URECA programme is the substantial immersion period which allows students to have a better understanding of the research problem in order to facilitate more significant research findings. Students are expected to put in an average of 10 hours a week for a minimum of eight months in the academic year. They can manage these hours to suit their own work loads and time schedules.

For this inaugural year of the URECA programme, more than 300 outstanding second and third year NTU undergraduates will have a choice of more than 800 research projects in the areas of engineering, biological sciences, business management and accountancy, communication studies and humanities.
The key driver of the URECA programme, Professor Tony Woo, Vice-President of Research in NTU, hopes that the flexibility of URECA programme will encourage students to pursue the research in areas they are most passionate about.

“It is well known that the researchers do best and make most contributions in topics and areas that they enjoy most and or have greatest passion for. NTU recognises this and in URECA, the student can take full advantage of such an opportunity. “

Professor Woo also hopes that through such exposure to research, these undergraduate students will consider pursuing a higher degree by research upon their graduation and thereafter, embark on a career in research.

The URECA programme will be launched this evening, 10 August 2004, 6 p.m. at the Nanyang Auditorium at NTU. At the event, the students will learn more about the various research projects available through presentations by the representatives of these projects.

About Nanyang Technological University

The Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a top-tier university, ranked among the best science and technological universities in Asia. It has a business school that is consistently ranked among the top ten in Asia.

Established in 1991, the university has since been positioning itself to be a global university of excellence and is committed to its mission in Educating Leaders and Advancing Knowledge for Singapore and Beyond. NTU has an undergraduate and graduate enrolment of about 25,000 and an international faculty of over 1,500. It offers a broad-based curriculum, which focuses on the development of global views, entrepreneurship and adaptability, through the following schools:

1. College of Engineering, which consists of five schools:
   - Civil and Environmental Engineering
   - Computer Engineering
   - Electrical and Electronic Engineering
   - Materials Engineering
   - Mechanical and Production Engineering
2. Nanyang Business School
3. School of Biological Sciences
4. School of Communication and Information
5. School of Humanities and Social Sciences
6. School of Art, Design and Media (to be established by 2005)
7. School of Physical Sciences (to be established by 2005)

For more information, visit http://www.ntu.edu.sg

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