NEWS RELEASE

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NTU’s Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences presents seminar series
- Renowned scholar to examine signature novels and short stories by Stephen Crane

The Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) of Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is organising a seminar on “Why Philosophers Need Literature: Stephen Crane on the Varieties of Heroism” on 9 April 2008 at NTU. Dr Patrick K. Dooley, a Fulbright Fellow at NTU’s School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) and an eminent American scholar, will be the speaker at the seminar.

At the seminar, Dr Dooley will examine American novelist and journalist Stephen Crane’s explorations of exceptional conduct described in his signature novel, “The Red Badge of Courage”, ethical problems raised in the short stories, “The Veteran” and “The Mystery of Heroism”, and several moral issues dramatised in his late novella, “The Monster”. These books have opened up large areas of study and offered profound instances of behaviours for philosophical analysis.

Dr Dooley, who is also a Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Philosophy of St. Bonaventure University, is a world renowned expert in the study of philosophy and American Culture. His most sustained effort in this area is “The Pluralistic Philosophy of Stephen Crane” (University of Illinois Press, 1993).

NTU’s Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, established in 2006, is a research centre which aims to facilitate, and encourage both interdisciplinary and discipline-specific humanities and social sciences research at NTU. Through organising activities such as seminar series, public lectures, workshops and conferences, CLASS provides an effective platform for interaction among local and international scholars from the various disciplines to exchange their latest research findings and ideas.

“The humanities and social sciences are an integral part of NTU’s curriculum. The School of Humanities and Social Sciences continues to develop high calibre undergraduate and graduate degrees in the Humanities and Social Sciences, across several major disciplines, and the school also contributes significantly to a holistic education at NTU by complementing the university’s science and technological, business and communication strength. Through the research centres in HSS, such as CLASS, we continue to foster academic excellence in the humanities and social sciences, and in interdisciplinary research, all of which is essential to the continued development of the school’s high academic standards and the provision of a quality education to our students”, says Dr Neil Murphy, Associate Director of CLASS and Associate Professor from the Division of English, who is chairing the CLASS seminar.

For more information on the seminar, please refer to the annex attached.
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About Nanyang Technological University

Nanyang Technological University (NTU) is a research-intensive university ranked among the top 25 technological universities in the world. The Yunnan Garden campus, NTU's main campus, is located in the south-western part of Singapore. The NTU@one-north campus, home to educational and alumni clubhouse facilities, is located near Singapore’s biomedical research hub, Biopolis; and the new infocomm and media hub, Fusionopolis.

NTU has four colleges, namely:

- The Nanyang Business School (the College of Business), the first and only Singapore business school to be ranked in the top 50 of the Financial Times Global MBA 2008 rankings
- The College of Engineering, with six schools focused on technology and innovation and a research output among the top four in the world
- The College of Humanities, Arts, & Social Sciences, home to Singapore’s first professional art school offering degree courses in art, design and interactive digital media; the Humanities and Social Science School; and the Wee Kim Wee School of Communication and Information, a top journalism and media school in Asia
- The College of Science which offers Singapore’s only direct-honours bachelor’s degree programme

The S Rajaratnam School of International Studies, one of two autonomous institutes of NTU, is a world authority on strategic studies and terrorism. NTU is also home to the internationally-acclaimed National Institute of Education, Singapore's only teacher-training institute.

As Singapore’s main science and technology university, NTU makes significant contributions to the nation's renewed drive for research and innovation spearheaded by the Singapore National Research Foundation (NRF). NTU’s strengths in biomedical sciences, environmental and water technologies, and interactive and digital media mirror the NRF’s research focus.

NTU has a strong and broad international reach covering academic and research partnerships with top institutions in the US, Europe and Asia, such as MIT, Stanford University, Cornell University, Caltech, University of Washington, Georgia Institute of Technology, and Carnegie Mellon University; Cambridge University, Imperial College and Swiss Federal Institute of Technology; and Peking University, Shanghai Jiaotong University, Waseda University, and Indian Institute of Technology.

For more information, visit www.ntu.edu.sg
ANNEX: INFORMATION ON THE SEMINAR

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Event</th>
<th>CLASS Seminar Series: “Why Philosophers Need Literature: Stephen Crane on the Varieties of Heroism”</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>Dr Patrick K. Dooley, Fulbright Fellow at School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS), NTU; Distinguished Board of Trustees Professor of Philosophy, St. Bonaventure University</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organiser</td>
<td>Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS), School of Humanities and Social Sciences, NTU</td>
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<td>Chaired by</td>
<td>Assoc Prof Neil Murphy, Associate Director, CLASS</td>
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<tr>
<td>Date/Time</td>
<td>Wednesday, 9 April 2008, 1.30pm – 3pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venue</td>
<td>Executive Seminar Room 4 (S3.1-B1-06), NTU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admission</td>
<td>Admission is free</td>
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<tr>
<td>Target audience</td>
<td>Students, academics and members of the public</td>
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</tbody>
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Abstract

Moral philosophers badly need the concrete, vivid, probing dramatisations that are the stock and trade of novelists and short story writers. The shifting and uncertain borderline between ordinary and exceptional moral actions is a topic that has recently attracted renewed attention from philosophers (and theologians) who have examined heroic (and saintly) conduct as acts of supererogation. While many of these analyses have offered theoretically acute and logically clear principles to demarcate ethically required actions from those above and beyond the call of duty, unfortunately they have failed to provide persuasive, emotionally compelling and intellectually engaging illustrations of such conduct. Worse, such actions have been trivialised. For instance, some philosophical essays appeal to intuitions about overtricks in bridge ostensibly to aid our understanding of optional and praiseworthy actions. Or Roderick Chisholm explores restaurant etiquette, offering as an example of acting beyond duty, not lingering at one’s table in a crowded restaurant.

In contrast to these superficial examples of supererogation, Crane’s works supply striking and profound, and serious instances of behaviours for philosophical analysis. Dr Patrick K. Dooley’s presentation examines Crane’s explorations of exceptional conduct described in his signature novel, “The Red Badge of Courage”, ethical problems raised in the short stories, “The Veteran” and “The Mystery of Heroism”, and several moral issues dramatised in his late novella “The Monster”. In a word, overlaying Crane’s literary depictions on a framework that utilizes philosophers’ requirements for supererogation is pedagogically fruitful, for as we will see engaging and vivid answers surface, and fresh and challenging questions emerge.

About the speaker

Dr Patrick K. Dooley, Fulbright Fellow at the School of Humanities and Social Sciences of NTU for the spring 2008 semester, is a Board of Trustees Distinguished Professor of Philosophy from St. Bonaventure University. From 1996 to 1999 he was a Distinguished Visiting Professor of English and Philosophy at the United States Air Force Academy. He obtained his BA (in philosophy and Latin) from St. Paul College, St. Paul, MN and his MA and PHD (in philosophy) from the University of Notre Dame.
He has published four books and more than eighty articles and book chapters in the general area of philosophy and American Culture. He is interested in philosophical themes—particularly ethical issues—in American Literary realism and naturalism—the literary period contemporaneous with his philosophical specialisation—the classical American pragmatists, especially William James (the subject of his first book "Pragmatism as Humanism: The Philosophy of William James"). His most sustained effort in this area of philosophy and literature is "The Pluralistic Philosophy of Stephen Crane" (University of Illinois Press, 1993). He is also interested in Environmental Ethics and has published essays on Henry David Thoreau, Aldo Leopold, Robinson Jeffers and Edward Abbey.

His most recent volume, "A Community of Inquiry: Conversations between Classical American Philosophy and American Literature", to be published by Kent State University Press in March 2008, explores the fertile cross fertilization of philosophy and literature at the turn of the (last) century in America. Philosophers C. S. Peirce, William James, John Dewey, Josiah Royce and George Herbert Mead are examined in concert with William Dean Howells, Stephen Crane, Jack London, Frank Norris, Theodore Roosevelt, Harold Frederic, Willa Cather, John Steinbeck and Norman Maclean. He is working on book on philosophical themes in the works of John Steinbeck. He is the bibliographer for "Stephen Crane Studies" and for the past twenty years he has been the editor of the Society for the Advancement of American Philosophy Newsletter.

About NTU's Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences

The Centre for Literal Arts and Social Sciences (CLASS) (南洋理工大学人文与社会科学研 究中心) under the School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) of NTU was established as a school-level research centre in 2006. The centre aims to facilitate, coordinate and encourage both interdisciplinary and discipline-specific humanities and social sciences research at NTU. It has six research clusters including Global Studies, Urban Studies, Chinese and China Studies, Gender Studies, Singapore Studies, and Language and Cultural Studies. Activities organised by the research centre include seminar series, public lectures, workshops and conferences. CLASS seeks to provide a platform for interaction among local and international scholars from the various disciplines to exchange their latest research findings and ideas. CLASS also houses the editorial office of the Singapore Economic Review, a leading journal of economics in Asia. Associate Prof Euston Quah, Associate Director of CLASS and Head of Division of Economics, has been the editor of the journal since 2002.

About NTU's School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS)

The School of Humanities and Social Sciences (HSS) (南洋理工大学人文与社会科学学院) is one of the three schools under the College of Humanities, Arts, and Social Sciences of NTU. The school is home to six divisions: Chinese, Economics, English, Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, Psychology, and Sociology. Since its establishment in 2003, HSS has added greater intellectual vibrancy to the campus. Complementing the strength of NTU in science and technology, the school offers a broader and richer undergraduate education — which promises students an exciting intellectual and cultural experience that crosses traditional disciplinary boundaries.

HSS began offering the Double Major programme in 2005. The objective of the Double Major is to allow HSS students to graduate with a second major in another discipline offered by the school. In addition to the major disciplinary areas, the school also offers students the opportunity to broaden their horizons through a selection of minors drawn from Chinese, Economics, English Literature, History, linguistics, Psychology, Public Administration, Sociology, and Translation. There are four centres under HSS, namely, the Centre for Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, the Centre for Chinese Language and Culture, the Economic Growth Centre, and the Language and Communication Centre.