LUNAR NEW YEAR DINNER 2006

On 20 January, international students ushered in the Lunar New Year with great fanfare in the first-ever Lunar New Year dinner organized by the ISC. The special festive menu, karaoke sessions, cultural demonstrations and lucky draw attracted over 220 students to join in the celebrations.

NTU Deputy President 2 Professor Er Meng Hwa was the guest of honour at this dinner, which was also attended by other staff members and hall fellows. This dinner was welcomed by many, especially ethnic Chinese, who were grateful for the opportunity to celebrate this significant annual festival. Final-year student Liu Xiaogang from China summed it up best, saying that his Chinese New Year was “not just about having instant noodles” anymore. Indeed, food was one of the highlights—Northern Beijing dumplings, PRC student Liu Libiao noted, ran “out of stock” very quickly!

Students also learnt to make craft mandarin oranges, Chinese lanterns and tried their hand at Chinese calligraphy. Many exchange students gleefully took the red couplets home as souvenirs. But the focus of the night was the highly-anticipated lucky draw, in which food hampers, bottles of wine, laptop accessories and other attractive prizes were given away courtesy of our generous sponsors. Will Kohut, an exchange student from USA who won the coveted iPod Shuffle, says that it “must have been all the good fortune of the new year!”.

Truly, it had been a most meaningful and enjoyable gathering for all who had attended. We thank all for their support and look forward to celebrating more festivals together.

PRE-GRADUATION TALK 2006

For final-year international students, the transition from university to the workplace can often be fraught with concerns: “Can I defer my Tuition Grant? How do I find a place to stay in Singapore?” The ISC’s Pre-Graduation Talk, held during the recess, aimed to address students’ various concerns.

Nearly 350 students attended the Talk, which was conducted by representatives and officials from ICA, MOE, property management agency EM Services Pte Ltd, and the Office of Professional Attachments, Taiyabi Ahmad Shadab, President of the NTU Students’ Union in AY2004/05 and a former international student from India, also returned to share some of his experiences upon graduation.

Students welcomed the talk. Duong Hoang Linh, an SCE student from Vietnam, commented that it was “good to have talks like this”.

We wish all graduating international students the best in their future endeavours.

INTERNATIONAL GAMES (IG) 2006

The mini Olympics of NTU right here on campus? That’s right - the third International Games, held over two weekends in late February, saw students from different countries competing in an exciting variety of sports. Teams from China, Vietnam, Indonesia, Singapore and more pitted themselves against one other in outdoor and recreational sports, and even LAN games! The team from China emerged the overall winner, and received a big trophy for their efforts. Indeed, through friendly competition and the sporting spirit, the Games provided a platform for friendship to be fostered amidst diversity.

Questions? Comments? Contact the webmaster at isc@ntu.edu.sg.