

Powering Ahead as the Premier Graduate Society

Celebrating seven decades of cultivating enduring ties and building legacies.

nussgraduate.org



NUSS President Mr Edward S Tay (third from left) with 2023's Distinguished and Outstanding Member awardees - Mr Yeo Keng Joon, Professor Kishore Mahbubani, Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong, Mr Lai Kim Seng and Mr Joseph Ng.

As NUSS marks its 70th Anniversary in 2024, we've chosen to streamline the traditional decennial celebrations, focusing on a meaningful kick-off event. By incorporating the NUS' Plant-It-Forward Challenge, we reinforce the symbiotic links between NUSS and NUS.

We kickstarted the NUSS' 70th-Anniversary celebrations by supporting our alma mater in the Plant-It-Forward Challenge, where trees were planted on the NUS campus in recognition of NUSS members' donations to the NUSS 70th Anniversary Bursary.

NUSS' legacy as a premier graduate club has been cemented by its enduring ties with its alma mater that trace back to the founding of the Society in 1954. NUSS plays a crucial role in facilitating scholarships, mentorship programmes and networking opportunities for NUS graduates. For instance, the NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme that connects NUS

students with industry veterans has entered its 11th year and now features a total of 134 mentors, including 22 associate mentors, all paired with 210 enthusiastic mentees!



While campaigning, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, extended an exclusive invitation to NUSS members to a Town Hall event held at the Pasir Panjang Power Station on 25 August 2023.

The Society also plays a pivotal role in keeping NUS alumni connected with their alma mater, creating a sense of belonging

through various events, reunions, and networking opportunities. We are also committed to nurturing engagement and discourse on politics and policy. This commitment, dedicated to positively contributing to Singapore's political and intellectual progress, was demonstrated in the hosting of the 'Meet our Presidential Candidates Series 2023'.

While Mr Ng Kok Song and Mr Tan Kin Lian engaged in dialogue sessions with NUSS members at the Kent Ridge Guild House, Mr Tharman extended an exclusive invitation to NUSS members to a Town Hall event held at the Pasir Panjang Power Station on 25 August 2023. It offered an excellent opportunity for NUSS members to participate actively in the event's interactive segment. President Tharman is now the Patron of NUSS.

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The latest cohort of mentors and mentees gathered for the NUSS-NUS Mentorship Programme Welcome Dinner on 6 October 2023 at Kent Ridge Guild House.

Our septuagenarian celebrations aim to blend enjoyment for our members with charitable engagement, featuring events like the NUSS Lecture, NUSS Day, a golf charity

event, and the traditional year-end party. Stay tuned for more details in the coming months.

In our long-standing commitment, NUSS remains dedicated to nurturing enduring

ties both with NUS and within the graduate community, solidifying its legacy as the premier graduate club. **B**

Photo Gallery



NUSS Professorship Lecture on 18 April 2023 featured Prof Tan Tian Yuan (left) expounding with moderator, NUS Prof Ong Chang Woei, Head of the NUS Department of Chinese Studies.



DramaWorks Section members bonding at a cosy yet vibrant Christmas-themed Slam.



The Choir's lilting voices enhanced the festive atmosphere at the Christmas Tree Light-Up at KRGH.



Participants of the 37th NUSS Annual Golf Tournament had a great time.



Welcoming the new year in NUSS style.

A Giving Year for NUSS

Key philanthropy initiatives.



The Society engaged in various initiatives in support of the Children's Wishing Well.

NUSS kicked off its 70th anniversary celebrations with an event organised in support of the NUS Plant-It-Forward Challenge, where a tree is planted on campus for every S\$1,000 donated to the cause. The funds raised went into the NUS Enhanced Financial Aid Scheme (EFAS) which ensures that all students, regardless of their financial circumstances, have access to education, while the trees planted contribute to the University's sustainability efforts. The Society strives to achieve a fundraising target of S\$70,000, earmarked for the planting of 70 trees.

Throughout the year, the Society supported impactful initiatives including our annual pledge of S\$250,000 towards the NUS Alumni Bursary Fund. This has

been instrumental in supporting numerous financially challenged NUS students, such as the aspiring musicians at the Yong Siew Toh Conservatory of Music.

Embracing innovation, NUSS backed the Philip Yeo Initiative for startup seed funding. The Society's commitment to sustainable development continued through the Bursary (Endowed) Fund for civil and environmental engineering. Furthering its dedication to leadership development, NUSS continued supporting the NUS College Alumni-NUSS Bursary, bridging the gap between alumni and current students.

The NUSS Community Care Sub-Committee remained actively engaged throughout the year in support of Dover Park Hospice and the Children's Wishing Well (CWW), two of NUSS' adopted charities.

The year started with NUSS volunteers spending a meaningful day in January decorating the Dover Park Hospice festive corner for Chinese New Year. Noteworthy events in support of the CWW included a day out at the Kent Ridge Guild House in March, and in September, a grocery shopping trip and a visit to the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum as part of the NUS Day of Service initiative. In December, the Society supported the Back-to-School Project, and within just a month, raised an astounding \$10,000, providing essential school supplies for 200 primary school children through the CWW initiative.

This year has been marked by meaningful contributions, reflecting the Society's ongoing commitment to create a brighter future for Singapore and the community. **B**



Clockwise from top left: An enriching trip to the Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum; Spreading Lunar New Year cheer at the Dover Park Hospice, NUSS Community Care Sub-Committee supporting the Back-to-School Project

Elevating Members' Experiences

An enhanced NUSS membership experience with added privileges.



NUSS members can now enjoy the facilities of these premium airport lounges.

Enhancing your NUSS experience, NUSS now offers complimentary access to True Fitness, premium passes for Plaza Premium Group, and Ambassador Transit Airport Lounges featuring award-winning facilities and services to make your journey even more delightful. Additionally, we've introduced hotel privileges locally and internationally, including destinations like Japan and the Maldives, and exciting cruise options with Resorts World Cruises.

In 2023, we revamped menus at The Café on the Ridge, The Ridge Bar, The Restaurant @ Mandalay, and The Bistro at Suntec, creating a culinary journey with festive highlights. It is a gastronomical spread comprising British-Hainanese favourites, Tandoor masterpieces and more. The inaugural Christmas Party at The Ridge Bar was a stupendous success and is likely to be featured as an annual event.



NUSS members jamming away at The Chill-Lab.

Also, Grad Jam Nights are rocking The Chill-Lab, as NUSS' resident bands and the Music Section taking to the stage to entertain their ever-growing fan base. The yearly tradition of Christmas light-up at Kent Ridge Guild House had not just lit up a dazzling Christmas



NUSS Choir in Brisbane

tree; it had illuminated many hearts with the joyful spirit of Christmas. All-in-all, the year was rich in experiences, from the White Christmas Band Showcase and harmonious Band Showcase to the NUSS Water Carnival and S&R Night post-pandemic hiatus. Events like the Singathon, Karaoke competition, DanceSport Night, "Shared Horizons" choir concert, and the 37th Annual Golf Tournament shaped a remarkable 2023 for NUSS.



Members of NUSS Pickleball Section in Sriracha, Thailand

Our members are venturing to diverse destinations, with a group of 25 exploring Central Asia in May 2023, and the NUSS Choir Section embarking on a musical journey to Brisbane, Australia, in June 2023. Then, in a trip spanning late August to early September, the Pickleball Section embarked on its first overseas Pickleball trip to Sriracha, Thailand. Following the lifting of COVID-19 travel restrictions, these overseas trips were eagerly welcomed by NUSS members. Looks like there's more to come in the years ahead! 🇧🇪

Nurturing minds, enriching journeys

Engaging events that spark curiosity and enrich the mind.



NUSS Visiting Professor Luan Sheng's lecture on food security attracted more than 120 NUSS members, NUS students, and guests.

Taking a proactive approach, NUSS champions lifelong learning opportunities and intellectual pursuits by organising various enriching experiences throughout the year for both members and the public.

Our activities transcend the social and gastronomic spheres. We cater to our members' intellectual interests with events like the NUSS Professorship Lecture

by Professor Tan Tian Yuan from the University of Oxford and insightful talks on Singapore's property market by industry experts. NUSS delves into cutting-edge topics, such as innovative crop breeding for environmental challenges, presented in a professorship lecture by plant biologist and NUSS Visiting Professor, Professor Luan Sheng. We stay abreast of important developments through thought-provoking

discussions on the future of Singapore's Parliament.

At Suntec City Guild House, industry experts, including Mr Alan Cheong and Mr Sebastian Soh, provide valuable perspectives on Singapore's property market. NUSS also organises exclusive Professorship Lectures, like the one by plant biologist Professor Luan Sheng, exploring innovative crop breeding to address environmental challenges. Discussions on the future of Singapore's Parliament feature insights from speakers Ms Audrey Wong, Associate Professor Walter Edgar Theseira, and Mr Han Fook Kwang.

Initiatives like NUSS Lifelong Learning Courses, in collaboration with the National Silver Academy, continue to draw substantial interest and participation from our members and the public.

The year's events exemplify our commitment to provide members with access to lifelong learning opportunities and thought-provoking experiences. **B**

Spotlight on Members' Triumphs and Achievements

They are the pride of NUSS.



Front Row (from left to right): Mrs Anne Mahbubani, Professor Kishore Mahbubani (Distinguished Member Award recipient), Mr Edward S Tay (NUSS President), Justice Andrew Phang Boon Leong (Distinguished Member Award recipient), Mrs Phang Sock Yong
Back Row (from left to right): Professor Tan Thiam Soon (Meritorious Service Medal recipient), Mdm Lee Giem Hong and Mr Johnny Tan (NUSS MC member)

On a joyous note, breaking a three-year hiatus, we proudly convened a ceremony to honour our new Distinguished Members, Professor Kishore Mahbubani and Justice Andrew Phang, alongside three Outstanding Members: Mr Lai Kim Seng, Mr Joseph Ng, and Mr Yeo Keng Joon.

Simultaneously, we extend our heartfelt congratulations to NUSS members recognised with National Day

Awards in 2023. Heading this prestigious list is Professor Tan Thiam Soon, who received the Meritorious Service Medal.

In sports, our Tennis Section secured 1st Runner-up at the 28th AIS Inter-Alumni Tennis Tournament, and the Squash Section clinched the Champion title, earning a commendable third place in the National Squash League 2023.

The Toastmasters Section achieved Gold awards in the Best Evaluator and Best Table Topics Speaker categories, showcasing

their dedication to excellence.

Team NUSS triumphed as the Overall Winner in the Inter-Club Balut Competition, emphasising strategic prowess and teamwork. The DanceSport Section excelled, securing third place in Senior Above 45, fifth place in Open Amateur Rising Star, and reaching the semi-finals in Open Amateur at the 7th Amazing Cup Ballroom Dance Open Championship. **B**

NUSS 2023 Annual General Meeting

Key takeaways and new appointments.



The Society held its first in-person meeting after three years of having it online

The NUSS Annual General Meeting (AGM) was held at the Della & Seng Gee Guild Hall at Kent Ridge Guild House on 27 April 2023, making it the first-time members have gathered in person since social distancing restrictions forced the meeting online. About 150 NUSS members were present.

The Committee welcomed six elected members to the 2024/2025 Management Committee (MC):

- Mr Vincent Rasa Benedict
- Vice-President I
 - Chairperson, Sports and Recreation
 - Ex-Officio, Food and Beverage

Mr Nakoorsha Bin Abdul Kadir

- Vice-President II
- Chairperson, Constitution and Regulations Review
- Co-Chairperson, Food and Beverage
- Ex-Officio, Sports and Recreation

Ms Catherina Tan Bee Hwa

- Honorary Treasurer
- Ex-Officio, Finance
- Deputy Chairperson, Editorial Panel

Mr Johnny Tan Khoon Hui

- Chairperson, Special Projects

Mr Lee Hay Keong

- Chairperson, Finance; Facilities Panel; and Tender Compliance Panel
- Deputy Chairperson, Food and Beverage

Mr Jeffrey Khoo Poh Tiong

- Chairperson, Community Care

The meeting confirmed the minutes of the AGM held virtually last year on 28 April 2022 and appointed an auditor for the coming year. Other topics discussed included the S\$2 million deficit reflected in the Financial Statements; the Mandalay Guild House lease, which is expiring in 2024; having more activities for seniors and targeting younger graduates; and the feasibility of a covered walkway from the carpark to the Kent Ridge Guild House.

The AGM closed on a high note, with members expressing their delight in attending the first physical meeting in three years. **G**

