



WINGSPAN

THE YALE-NUS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 08



LOVE AT FIRST FLIGHT

We speak to our kingfisher
couples who met in college



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Trisha Craig, VP of Engagement

Dear Friends,

Recently, I did some commentary on the US State of the Union speech and it made me think about the state of our own alumni community. I'm blown away by the level of your engagement and enthusiasm, which is an indication of our community's cohesion and strength. The Task Force considering the formation of an Alumni Association has drawn dozens of committed alums to talk through issues of governance, purpose, and long-term sustainability. We can all look forward to an update and recommendations at this year's Reunion.

I've also been so gratified to see the community come together at a couple of recent alumni gatherings I hosted abroad. In both London and Washington, DC, it was incredible to see not just people catching up with dear friends but the connections being made across 'generations' of alumni. Our expansive alumni community includes graduates, former faculty and staff members, former students, and current undergraduates. Having all of them in the mix at our recent events, offering advice, warmth, ideas and friendship to each other was a marvel to see and indelible proof of the power of the Yale-NUS connection.

With Graduation and Reunion coming up, this is the time of the year when we are especially focused on renewing connections. I'm looking forward to seeing many of you return to campus for these celebrations. But I also want to remind those of you who are living outside of Singapore that we want to support our alumni community wherever you are. Let us at Alumni Affairs know if you want to host an alumni gathering and we'll help you organize it.

Warmly,

Trisha

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RECTOR'S CORNER

Assoc Prof Lynette Chua, Elm College Rector



This semester, Elm revived the pre-pandemic tradition of the start-of-semester BBQ. Having joined Elm College at the beginning of the pandemic, this was also my first Elm BBQ. My Elm colleagues and I were excited to smell food grilling in the courtyard and see people mingling around with plates of food and cans of beverages.

In addition, for the first time since the start of my rectorship, I was able to hold a Lunar New Year open house without any headcount restriction. We ordered lots of satay, ketupat, otah, dumplings, and traditional Singaporean lunar new year goodies, such as kueh lapis, pineapple tarts, and kueh bangkit. We also held an "ang bao" lucky draw (the prizes were mall vouchers, Grab vouchers, and snacks).

As we transition from three to two residential colleges in the next academic year, I will be working with fellow Rector Khoo Hoon Eng to preserve the RC traditions that you all remember and love. These will include the start-of-semester BBQ dinners, end-of-semester themed dinners, and Rector's Tea series. Although we have not hammered out the finer details, we are happy to be working together as "co-rectors" and continuing the journey with the remaining cohorts at the College.



Students at Elm College enjoying their first start-of-semester BBQ, a tradition that had been on hold since the pandemic
Image provided by Elm College.



Yale-NUS College

ALUMNI REUNION 2023

2:30PM

Registration Opens

2:30PM - 6:45PM

Activities

(More details to come)

6:45PM

Dinner

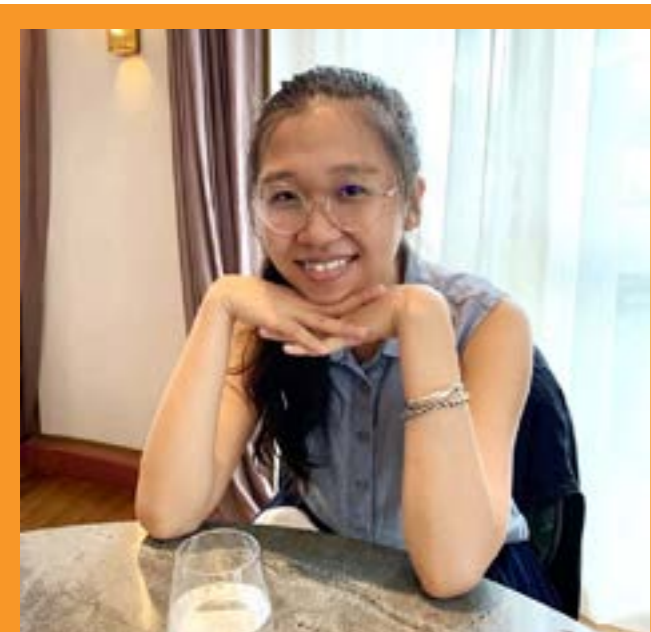
Register by 31 March



THE START OF SOMETHING NEW

Yale-NUS students have always been described as risk-takers so it is no surprise that some of our alumni have chosen to ply their talents in new ventures. We check in with our alumni who are making their mark in the world of start-ups.

By Siddharth Mohan Roy ('25)



ENGAGING EDUCATION THROUGH CREATIVITY

"Our goal when founding Deko has always been to make education more engaging and entertaining," said Huang Huanyan ('23), the co-founder of Deko World Pte Ltd, a start-up focused on making education more engaging by incorporating creative mediums. Her day-to-day involves meeting with her co-founder Richard Shim Jo ('22) to discuss the content and R&D for the products in their shops. They are also launching a new sustainable-gift merchandise shop featuring unique products such as seed cards.

Richard and Huanyan met each other at Yale-NUS. They initially started working on COVID-19 comics, which were published in the Yale-Global Health magazine. This further helped in garnering interest for their creation, and the Service in the City grant helped them in validating their ideas.

When asked about the experience of working with a fellow kingfisher, she finds Richard extremely supportive. "To be creative

Co-founders of Deko, Huanyan ('23, top) and Richard ('22, bottom) founded Deko while still students at Yale-NUS College. Images provided by Huang Huanyan.



requires a team with a similar version, and finding someone just as passionate as I am is hard," said Huanyan. They feel lucky that Deko is based on their collective hobbies, and they have a lot of fun while working on the start-up. "He constantly provides me with the necessary push and motivations to keep going," remarked Huanyan.

Since its inception, Deko has come a long way. They had to polish their designs and undergo extensive trial and error on content. When asked about their favourite memory, there were countless, but they are really excited about their upcoming content on cell biology. "I had quite a lot of fun designing the comics and reviewing the poems (yes, we have inserted poems) with Richard," said Huanyan.

They reaffirmed that the journey isn't easy. "There are always going to be a lot of struggles," said Huanyan, "and late-night marathons, co-founder conflicts, and failures." They noted, "There are no shortcuts to success" and encouraged young kingfishers to keep going.

HELPING NEW MOTHERS FIND COMMUNITY

"Seeing the first moms sign up and use Mamio to create friendships and share their journey is just a joyous rollercoaster ride," said Lauren, the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Fondee and co-founder of Mamio, an app where moms will be able to find a supportive community of women. Lauren joined Fondee, an investment platform, to help the firm expand to European markets and help women gain financial independence. She noted, "The idea is to bring investment closer to those who do not have the expertise or time to invest on their own." Later, she co-founded Mamio because she saw many women become new mothers and face loneliness.

"The problem is the sense of isolation," remarked Lauren. It harms a mother's mental health. She said, "4 out of 5 moms feel this way in Czechia." Her team saw the



Deko is launching a new sustainable gift merchandise shop including the self-watering planters pictured above. Image provided by Huang Huanyan.

To find out more about Deko, you can check out their [website](#) or follow them on [Instagram](#) and [YouTube @scideko](#)



Lauren Hollge ('17) co-founded Mamio, an app that helps new mothers fight isolation. Images provided by Lauren Hollge.



Laureen Hollge ('17, extreme right) found that her experiences in entrepreneurship mirrored that of a liberal arts education. Image provided by Laureen Hollge.

opportunity to innovate parenting forums in the Central and Eastern European region. Mamio aims to support new mothers.

When asked about her challenges as a COO, she highlights the ambiguity that comes with output generation. "One can do their best to ensure things work," she notes, "but one can never know if it would work." She found it challenging to ensure both companies grow.

Moreover, the liberal arts experience helped her as an entrepreneur. She had to manage decisions about the product, user research, and business model. "Jumping across different domains in a start-up,"

said Laureen, felt similar to the liberal arts concept: one has to learn different subjects. "One has to become a generalist," she noted.

When asked about advice that she would give young kingfishers embarking on the journey of startups, Laureen encourages them to use the time and space to start one's own companies. "Gaining the skill and confidence to create something later on," she said, "will have much higher barriers to entry."

Find out more about the Mamio app through their [website](#) or on [Instagram](#).



ALUMNI TASK FORCE UPDATES

Scott Lee Chua ('20), Alumni Task Force Co-Chair

Over the past month, the Yale-NUS alumni task force has started discussions about what a Yale-NUS alumni association might look like. While this task force is chaired by President Joanne Roberts and myself, its beating heart is the 50-odd alumni, students, and staff from across all cohorts and around the world, who have come together to discuss what we call our "Pillar Questions." These fall into five categories: Vision & Scope, Governance, Data & Platforms, Funding, and Relationship with Parent Institutions.

We hope to present some options to you, the wider Yale-NUS community, during the Alumni Reunion this May — stay tuned!

For feedback, suggestions, or just to say hello, you can find me on telegram as [@scottleechua](#), or scottleechua@gmail.com.



The Alumni Task Force, comprised of over 50 alumni, students and staff, have been meeting regularly to discuss what a Yale-NUS Alumni Association will look like. Image provided by Scott Lee Chua.



LOVE AT FIRST FLIGHT

From the hallways of RC4 to late-night debates, love has blossomed between some of our Kingfishers. We check in with two couples to find out how their relationship grew throughout their time at the college.

By *Sophia Chok* ('25)

Jane Zhang ('18) & *Tinesh Indrarajah* ('17)

How did you meet at Yale-NUS?

Jane: We met in mid-August of 2014, in the hallway of the 12th floor of Residential College 4 (RC4), the temporary Yale-NUS campus at the time. Tinesh was the Student Athletics Director and desperately trying to recruit people to represent Yale-NUS in various sports in the Inter-Faculty Games which were just around the corner.

I was in the hallway with two friends, one of whom Tinesh had already convinced to join the road relay team, and he was following up with her when she suddenly roped me in. I reluctantly agreed, as I actually despise running but wanted to help out Yale-NUS.

After that initial interaction, Tinesh and I started hanging out more; we were both on the frisbee team and would play midnight soccer in the Multi-purpose Hall (MPH), played foosball in the 12th floor common lounge together almost daily (Tinesh would always want rematches because I would keep beating him), and studied together until the wee hours of the morning because we both had horrible sleep schedules.

How has building a relationship been like throughout college and beyond?

Jane: One benefit of dating while at Yale-NUS was that we could always spend time together — between classes, at our many sports practices, and in the evenings. We were enmeshed in one another's lives even as we had our own interests and activities.

However, we also spent quite a bit of time apart: when we were home during breaks (Tinesh in Malaysia and I in the U.S.), on our respective semesters abroad, and some summers when our internships and summer programs brought us to different places. During those times, we learned to manage a long-distance relationship through making intentional time to call each other and include one another in our lives thousands of kilometers apart.

Many people often say that the transition from college to post-college can be tough on couples, but I'm grateful that we were able to transition rather smoothly, thanks in part to the fact that we both remained in the Yale-NUS community after we

Jane Zhang '18 (left) and Tinesh Indrarajah '17 (right) have spent most of their 8-year relationship at Yale-NUS, first as students and then later as staff members. Photo provided by Jane Zhang and Tinesh Indrarajah.



Jane (right) and Tinesh (left) met through the Inter-Faculty Games and started off as friends before eventually becoming a couple
Image provided by Jane Zhang and Tinesh Indrarajah.

graduated in 2018 through our jobs as Dean's Fellows. But more important was the intentionality, open communication, and friendship we had fostered in the years prior, which has carried on to today.

I'm currently living in New York while Tinesh continues his good work at Yale-NUS, and the experiences we had as a couple at Yale-NUS and when doing long-distance created a solid foundation for our relationship to stand on now. We've grown a lot together in the past 8.25 years, and I'm glad to say that Tinesh continues to be my absolute best friend. In November 2022, Tinesh and I proposed to one another and got engaged during his visit to New York City. So good thing I agreed to run a road relay all those years back!

Tinesh: Building and nurturing our relationship has been the most rewarding life experience I have enjoyed. The beauty of meeting at a young age is that we have both seen the other grow in important ways as we negotiated different life milestones together.

It has been critical for us to provide room for the other to develop into the person they want to be while still ensuring that we remain committed to our partnership.

This balance has been tricky and we continue to negotiate and re-negotiate our expectations with new life experiences enjoyed. In particular, over the course of our 8.25 year relationship, we have had multiple long-distance episodes, including right now. However, we have successfully navigated the distance apart by continuing to video call every day and make time for us to visit each other as much as possible.

In fact, on my last trip to New York, where Jane is currently based, we proposed to each other and are now engaged - another exciting milestone in our relationship journey! Overall, I have truly enjoyed getting to know my best friend through all of life's stages and look forward to many more years in her company, building our life together.

Are there any significant locations at Yale-NUS for both of you?

Jane: The Multi-Purpose Hall is an obvious one, as we both played a number of sports while at Yale-NUS and spent huge chunks of our time in the MPH. The Saga butterfly is another location that stands out to me. I worked in Shiok Shack for three years, and Tinesh would often very patiently wait there for my shift to finish, and then we

would play a few rounds of pool once I was done.

Tinesh: In chronological order, the 12th floor Common Lounge in RC4 was the first significant location for us because it was where we developed our friendship and relationship while playing foosball and "studying".

Next, the Multi-Purpose Hall was another important space for us because we shared the court together for many sports and competitions and had quite a good track record of placing quite highly in these competitions, despite also almost always getting into fights due to our competitive spirits.

Lastly, once I became an RLO in Saga during Covid-19, we had the chance to move in together to our apartment at Saga. Building a life together in our apartment for two years was truly a wonderful experience as we hosted games nights, food hangouts, and just enjoyed the daily routine that we shared together. We have great memories together in almost all spaces at Yale-NUS, but these three would definitely be my top three choices!



In November 2022, after 8 years together, Tinesh and Jane both proposed to each other in New York City.
Images provided by Jane Zhang.



The couple has spent a significant amount of their relationship apart, which they get through by making conscious time for each other, including frequent video-calls. Screenshot provided by Jane Zhang and Tinesh Indrarajah.



Han Chong ('18) and Helen Jin ('18) started dating in their first year of college having met and bonded through their time in the same Dean's Fellow (DF) group. *Image provided by Han Chong.*

Han Chong ('18) & Helen Jin ('18)

How did you meet at Yale-NUS?

Han: We were in the same Dean's Fellows group! (*Editor's note: Dean's Fellows groups were precursors to the current RCA structure*) She stood out to me as being a total badass and we began dating in our second semester.

Helen: Even though we talked for hours on our RCX trip, I only realized his name was "Han" and not "Hans" weeks later.

How did Yale-NUS bring you together?

Han: I loved picking her brain on the things we were learning in the Common

Curriculum. One time we debated PPT ideas in her room till 3am and then went to Cheers for ice cream after. Little did we know that not getting enough sleep and loving ice cream would become hallmarks of our relationship.

Helen: Proximity also helped. Because we lived on the same floor, we saw each other all the time. He'd pop by my room under some pretense, and we'd end up chatting for hours. While waiting for the elevator, I'd always look into the common lounge to see if he was there and we'd grin at each other through the window (this was back when we lived at RC4 and had common lounges on every floor).

How has building a relationship been like throughout college and beyond?

Helen: It was a bit nerve wracking at first because the YNC community is so small that the possibility of breaking up was extra daunting. But the fact that our relationship was built on a strong friendship really helped. It was nice coming back to the suite after a stressful class and having someone to rant to or having that emotional support during exam time. Given that I'm still in school, that part hasn't really changed.

Han: Living on campus and spending a LOT of time together allowed us to really know each other - how we handle stress, how we spend our downtime, how we enjoy each other's companionship, and how we look to each other for support. Our relationship deepened further after graduation as we entered a long-distance relationship. It's led us to challenge many conventional and monogamous assumptions we previously held about relationships. Good thing we

had two exchanges' worth of trial runs to practice!

Are there any significant locations at Yale-NUS for both of you?

Helen: I used to sneak onto the performance hall balcony to hear him sing when his barbershop group was practicing. I'd sit on the floor and study with the melodious background sounds of off-key "Hooked on a Feeling".

Han: Anywhere with air-conditioning. That's where I knew Helen would be. (The auditorium had air-conditioning). There's also that time I sat in on her Capstone presentation in one of the Rector's Commons. Watching her flex her academic muscles and show off the results of months of her hard work? Major turn on.

Han and Helen's relationship has only grown stronger despite being thousands of miles apart. Images provided by Han Chong.

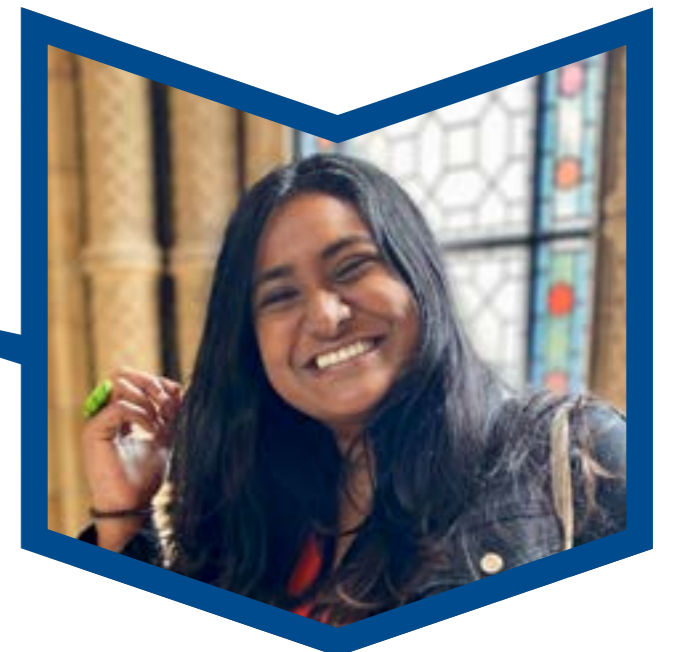


THE SUN NEVER SETS

Join us as we journey to the isles of the United Kingdom and Ireland, where we catch up with some of our alumni who are making their mark on that side of the world.



By *Sophia Chok* ('25)



LISHANI RAMANAYAKE ('18)

London, United Kingdom

Where are you working now?

I work in the British Library's Press Office as a Press Officer - essentially, our work involves raising the Library's profile, and managing relationships with the media. Working in the Press Office gives me a bird's eye view of all the cool things that happen within the organization, and gives me the opportunity to work across multiple teams. Every day is different -- it can range from working with film crews to showcase exciting collection items, to briefing curators on how to talk to the media, to coming up with a press campaign and story angles to promote an upcoming exhibition.



What has been your favorite memory in London since moving?

Last December, I experienced snow for the first time! It doesn't snow properly in London very often. I was at home with my flatmates watching TV, and we heard kids screaming and laughing from below our building -- and when we went down to investigate, the whole street was totally transformed! It was so beautiful. We made snowmen, and had snowball fights, and came back home to drink some really decadent hot chocolate (with marshmallows on top!) -- it was a really cute day!



How did Yale-NUS influence your path to where you are now?

I knew for a while that I wanted to work in the arts in the UK and it was actually someone from the Yale-NUS community that asked me "well, what's stopping you?"

I had easy retorts, but that one question gave me the perspective I needed to just apply and see what happens. And here we are! I think that sense of audacity is deeply characteristic of the Yale-NUS spirit. At YNC, we had the enormous privilege of being surrounded by such a brilliant, diverse, enterprising community -- it was the kind of place where anything was possible, and nothing felt out of reach. It really was the kind of place where when you're faced with something that feels impossible, you just roll up your sleeves and ask, "well, why not?"

That sense of audacity -- to see a great opportunity, and to just go for it, to ask, "well, why not me?!" -- feels like a really important lesson to hold on to, both in my personal and professional life.

What is something that you have grown to love about the UK, now that you have been living there for some time?

London is far from representative of the whole UK, but it's where I know best, and I would say I've grown to appreciate its diversity, above all. There are parts of



London where you can be on the high street and not hear a word of English. You can go to a market and end up with food from all over the world within just a few steps.

If I could use one word to describe the city, it would be "diasporic". You can be a Londoner, and still hold on to where you come from so strongly - one thing that took me by surprise is that if you ask someone where they're from, they're more likely to identify as Nigerian or Jamaican or Bangladeshi first, and British second... even if they have a British passport and grew up here! I really appreciate that -- I've lived away from home for about nine years now, but my heart still feels very much in Sri Lanka (where I'm from!), and London is a city that seems to truly embrace that feeling of inbetweenness.

★ ★ ★ RECOMMENDATION ★ ★ ★



I'd really recommend having a wander down to Brixton, which is the heart of the Caribbean community in London. There's incredible food, live music and great markets. It's also home to the Black Cultural Archives, The Ritz (an Edwardian-build cinema that's also a protected heritage building), and Bookmongers, my favorite second-hand bookshop, where you can easily spend your whole afternoon!

Photo by Javier Quiroga on Unsplash



JASON CARLO CARRANCEJA ('18)

Dublin, Ireland

Where are you working right now?

I work in risk and compliance for a tech company's Europe, the Middle East, and Africa headquarters. I analyse risks on our company's products and address them to ensure compliance to government regulations. Given the global reach and breakneck pace of technology, everyday at work is different: working in tech means that I tend to expect (and address) the unexpected!



What is something that you have grown to love about Ireland, now that you have been living there for some time?

The pubs and the craic. Ireland's pubs are legendary for great beer (Guinness in pubs taste very different from those served in cans), great music (whether from the live performers or the drunk patrons), and great craic (conversations and gossip from both friends and fellow pub patrons). As a quote traditionally attributed to William Butler Yeats says about a pub, "There are no strangers here, only friends you haven't met yet." Once you have been to an Irish pub, it's not hard to realise why many pubs outside of Ireland are modelled after Irish pubs!



How do you enjoy your free time?

Outside of work, I sing as a Tenor 1 with the Dublin Youth Choir. Last year, we won Ireland's Choir of the Year 2022 at the Cork International Choral Festival. Ireland is home to great traditional celtic music (e.g. think of jigs, bagpipes, and ballads) and famous bands (U2, The Cranberries, Westlife), and it's such a joy to be part of the exciting music scene in the country.

★★★ RECOMMENDATION ★★★



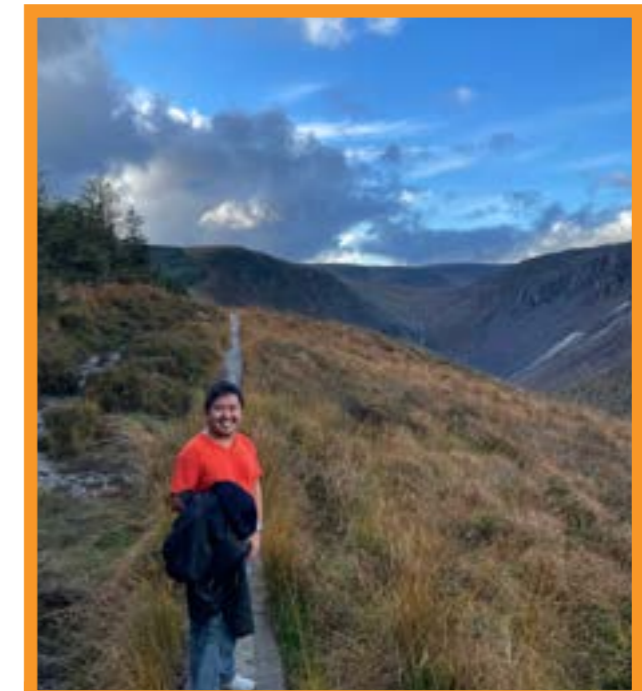
The nature walks around Bray Head! Bray Head is only a 40 minute scenic train ride from Dublin City Centre, and offers a sampling of Ireland's best nature sights: dramatic coastal cliffs, windswept hills, and pastoral views. As with everything in Ireland, everything is weather dependent though! If you happen to be in Dublin during a clear, cloudless day, drop all your plans for the day and make your way to Bray Head for dramatic views of Ireland's natural treasures.

How did Yale-NUS influence your path to where you are now?

Yale-NUS taught me how to embrace serendipity in an unpredictable world. I graduated with a major in Global Affairs and a minor in Economics, and previously worked for an intergovernmental organisation. Although public sector jobs offer stability, I seized the opportunity to move to tech after realising growing challenges in tech regulation. Although tech is facing headwinds these past few months, I believe that my broad-based and interdisciplinary training will continue to help me identify and seize upcoming serendipitous opportunities, both within and outside of tech.

What is a favourite memory you've had since moving?

One of my most memorable moments in Ireland was the first time I saw dramatic coastal views aboard the DART, Dublin Area Rapid Transit! I was so impressed with the view that I forgot to alight at my train stop and got off at the next stop instead, only to realise that the next train won't go the other direction until an hour later! Barring the terrible train and bus intervals, when the weather is good, my daily commute treats me to breathtaking views of the Irish Sea and Howth Peninsula.



ADRIAN STYMNE ('17)

London, United Kingdom

Where are you working right now?

I work as a behavioural science advisor at the Department for Work and Pensions. The department has almost 100 000 employees supporting people in the UK, from getting people into work, helping them save for their pensions, and providing health care benefits. I help the department understand people and their behaviors to make sure our services are easy for people to access. Thus, our services will be provided appropriately and are easy for our staff to administer.



What drew you to live and work in London?

I moved to the UK because it leads the world in applying behavioural science in government. I fell in love with the approach during Prof Liu's course "Applying Psychology to Public Policy" and wanted to continue deepening my understanding and impact, and so moved here to pursue an MSc. in the topic in 2019.



How do you enjoy your free time?

I love running and am currently training for the Stockholm Marathon! I am also a total book-nerd with a constantly expanding bookcase. My sci-fi shelf is always overflowing.

What is something that you have grown to love about the UK?

I love London. More than everything, I love the feeling I get when I pass Big Ben every morning on the way to work: it's this sense of being at the center of things, of being a part of a long history, of doing something important, of living in a place that people travel to experience for just a weekend.



Please share a favourite memory that you have had since moving.

After graduating, I knew I wanted to do this behavioural science thing – but the field simply wasn't mature enough in Sweden, there were no jobs. I moved to the UK to do the MSc, and then the pandemic hit, meaning that the job market completely dried out. I hankered on with a more generic government job, and then, at the start of January 2022, two and a half years after moving to the UK, I finally got my behavioural science job. It felt incredible: I'd set my sights at something, taken a risk, and it had paid off. Kind of like attending Yale-NUS College.

How did Yale-NUS influence your path to where you are now?

There's no way I would be where I am now without Yale-NUS College. If the Common Curriculum hadn't broadened my mind to the full range of social scientific approaches, if Professor Asplund hadn't influenced me to become a Psychology major, if I hadn't had all the million conversations with brilliant fellow students about what it means to be a citizen of the world, I would not be where I am today.

★★★★ RECOMMENDATION ★★★★★



I would recommend all who come here to visit Daunt Books on Marylebone High Street. It's a gorgeous bookshop with a great selection of world literature. It's also one of the reasons bookstores survived the pandemic in the UK or US: seeing the success of Daunt books, first Waterstones and then Barnes and Noble hired James Daunt to run their stores. With his understanding of what makes bookstores lovely – it's the human touch, catering to the local community, and staff-led curation – these companies went from the brink of Amazon-imposed irrelevance to a new lease of life.

VASUDHA KATARUKA ('19)

Cambridge, United Kingdom

What are you doing right now?

I work in the British Library's Press Office as a PR officer. I decided to pursue postgrad education after completing my TGS obligation, so I'm back to being a student for now. I'm enrolled in an MPhil course called 'Health, Medicine, & Society' at the University of Cambridge. The course allows students to explore medical humanities (philosophy and history) and social sciences (sociology and anthropology). My days are scheduled around my research work, involving a lot of time reading at the libraries, digging through online archives, and setting up means and methods for my dissertation fieldwork. All in all, my days are mostly spent around various study spots in my college (Hughes Hall) and different libraries.



What drew you to study here?

The thriving academic atmosphere, access to resources, and the interdepartmental nature and research-based focus of my master's programme attracted me to the University of Cambridge. It also felt like a great privilege to study at one of the world's oldest universities. I also wanted to challenge myself in terms of the locale. This is my first time living away from an urban setting for an extended duration. Cambridge had the charm of a well-resourced (and really pretty) town minus the urban hubbub!

What do you do in your free time?

Outside of academics, I spend time attending theatre shows, exploring Cambridge on long walks, learning swimming and ice-skating, and indulging in other hobbies. I enjoy the slow pace of life in Cambridge. The historic architecture, lack of high-rise buildings, changing nature and seasons... It has been nice to experience the world around me change seasons with time. I even got to see snow this winter, a rare occurrence for this part of England!

What has been your favourite memory in Cambridge since moving?

Getting (temporarily) back into student theatre! Towards the end of my first term in Cambridge, I got involved in assistant directing a student play in my college – The Importance of Being Earnest. It was an intense experience to put together a well-polished full-length play within three weeks. Not only did the cast memorise all their lines, the backstage crew made some costumes from scratch, and thrifted the rest. A couple days before the play, we had to make some casting changes, and so unexpectedly I ended up acting in the play on show day. I loved the adrenaline of being on stage after such a long time! And an unexpected bonus was meeting some fantastic people.



How did Yale-NUS influence your path to where you are now?

Yale-NUS helped me discover my love for interdisciplinary research and global health. My four years in college were fundamental in many ways. The lessons on resilience, community-building, and pursuing passions pushed me to keep working on my goals. On a more practical level, members of Yale-NUS's alumni network gave me advice during the postgraduate application process that brought me here. And I feel capable of thriving in this new environment academically because of the curiosity and research ethics fostered by Yale-NUS's unique approach to higher education.



★★★ RECOMMENDATION ★★★



If you find yourself in Cambridge, I would recommend checking out the Whipple Museum. It is on the smaller side compared to other museums in Cambridge, but given its focus on history of science, seeing and learning about the artefacts preserved here will definitely give you a whole new perspective on scientific development over the centuries.

Photo by Dorin Seremet on Unsplash

EVENT GALLERY

Here is a little peek into all the alumni events we've hosted over the past few weeks!



Liberal Arts College Alumni Reception and Potehi Puppetry Event (3 Feb)



Alumni Dinner in Washington D.C. (21 Feb)



Saga Homecoming Dinner (Feb, Mar)



Social with Yale Alums at Florian (10 Jan)



London Alumni Gathering (18 Feb)



Lunar New Year Celebrations in New York (20 Jan)

A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME...

Snippets of what our Kingfishers have been up to!

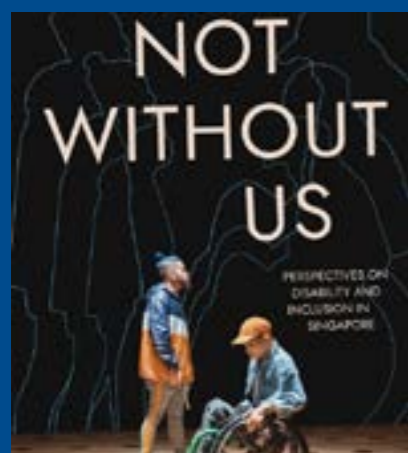


CREATING A MEANINGFUL FUTURE

Alumna Jolene Lum ('19) was recently interviewed by e27 about the inspiring work she has done in the sustainable food industry. In the article, she talks about her previous start-up, Urban Tiller, and how it has led her to her current role at Nurasa (a wholly owned company of Temasek focusing on sustainable foods).

Image from Jolene Lum.

➤ [READ THE ARTICLE HERE](#)



DISABILITY AND INCLUSION IN SINGAPORE

'Inclusion' is more than just a buzzword. What does it mean to be truly inclusive in Singapore, especially when we inevitably come to experience or encounter disability? Daryl Yang ('19) and Xie Yi Hui ('23) are contributing writers to this groundbreaking collection of essays in Not Without Us: Perspectives on Disability and Inclusion in Singapore.

Image from Ethos Books.

➤ [PURCHASE A COPY HERE](#)

TELLING STORIES OF QUEER AGING

Chng Yi Kai ('18) recently wrote and directed a play, *When cloud catches colours*, which was reviewed in The Straits Times. The play features two queer individuals in their fifties who are realising that they have new obstacles to overcome. Yi Kai was inspired to write the play through conversations about queer aging, a topic that is not widely talked about, particularly in Singapore.

Image from Drama Box.

➤ [READ THE REVIEW HERE](#)

EXAMINING MALE FRIENDSHIPS

Brown Boys Don't Tell Jokes, will begin its run at the Drama Centre Black Box from 23rd March until 2nd April. Written by Myle Yan Tay ('19), the play examines the intersection of brown masculinity in Singapore.

Image from Checkpoint Theatre.

➤ [BUY TICKETS HERE](#)

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

BE FEATURED

Want to be featured in upcoming issues of *Wingspan*? We're always on the lookout for interesting things that alumni are doing. If you are doing something cool or exciting that you want other alumni to know about, let us know! If you know a friend who is doing cool stuff but is too shy to blow their own trumpet, let us know as well!

PITCH IDEAS

This newsletter is for alumni, and we also want to feature things that you are interested in. If you have an idea for a feature or an article, please feel free to write in as well, and we'll see if it's a good fit!

SEND US YOUR FEEDBACK

We're trying out something new for the alumni newsletter, and we want your feedback! Do you like it? Do you hate it? What do you want to see? And what do you want to see less? Let us know!

You can contact us at alumni@yale-nus.edu.sg.

SHARE YOUR STORY

For our next issue, we're looking to feature alumni in various places from around the world! If you would like to share about your life in a city outside of Singapore, and your photos about your adventures, please contact us at alumni@yale-nus.edu.sg.

EDITORS

Trisha Craig
Alyson Rozells

EDITING, WRITING, DESIGN AND LAYOUT
Adlin Zainal

STUDENT ASSOCIATE WRITERS

Sophia Chok ('25)
Siddharth Mohan Roy ('25)

COVER PHOTO

Lawrence Makoona on
Unsplash