



WINGSPAN

THE YALE-NUS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 10

BETTER FOOD

Alumni working in the
food tech industry



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Trisha Craig, VP of Engagement

Dear Friends,

The seasons just officially changed from Summer to Fall. Here in Singapore, that does not mark a noticeable meteorological difference, but Fall to me is inextricably bound with the excitement and joy of a new academic year. And that's what I've been feeling on campus. Our students and exchange students (so many exchange students!) seem to be reveling in the Yale-NUS experience and embracing what it means to be part of this community.

That same spirit and sense of collective identity has been on display as we've gone through the process of coming together to think about, and now form, the Yale-NUS alumni association. You are such a powerful and unique community, united by your shared experiences, deep love for the institution, and desire to create an impact in the world.

Recently, we asked you to nominate fellow alums to be your representatives and your voice in this new association. We at Alumni Affairs have been so moved by the thoughtfulness and care that so many of you took to send in names and we are so grateful for those alumni/ae who have accepted the nomination and chosen to put themselves forward as candidates. Now, it's up to you to select your representatives. Please vote in the alumni elections; the voting period is 6th October to 23rd October. We are so looking forward to working with the new Executive Committee to set the stage for a thriving alumni association for years to come.

Warmly,

Trisha

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RECTOR'S CORNER

Assoc Prof Khoo Hoon Eng

Today, I am writing to you as the sole Rector of Yale-NUS College. I hope you are all doing well. Within Yale-NUS, we are ensuring our community continues to be a vibrant, resilient and caring one. We have been busy enjoying many events you will remember – special semester dinners, stimulating dinner conversations and Rector's Teas. Some of you will recall inviting guests to dinners that you cooked. I am sure you continue to do that wherever you are living now. I also want to give a shout-out to the many alumni who have participated in mentoring and other events on campus to build bonds with current students. The College will continue to hold alumni events in Singapore and around the world which I hope you can attend.

My wish and hope for all of you is that you will have a long-lasting legacy with the establishment of the Yale-NUS College alumni club/association. Always remember we are in Asia, for the world. Do celebrate your friendships and the impact of Yale-NUS in all anniversary years from the founding of our College in 2011.



Rector's Tea with Max Boykoff, visiting Professor of Environmental Studies from University of Colorado Boulder.

BEYOND THE WORKPLACE: COMMUNITY INITIATIVES BY OUR ALUMNI

From climate change to LGBTQ+ rights, Kingfishers have never hesitated from taking initiatives within their community. Wingspan reaches out to two such alumni kickstarter initiatives: The Signpost Project and GreenCheck.

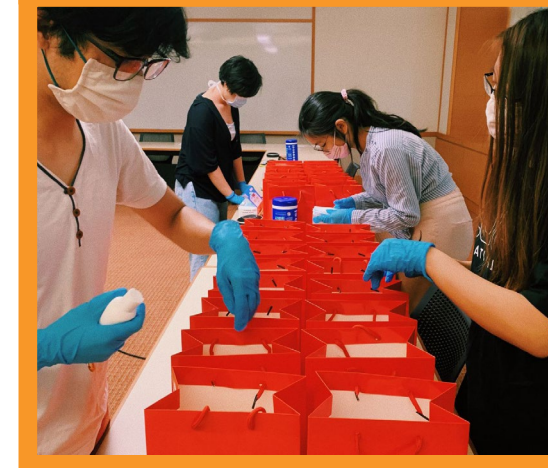
By Suman Padhi ('25)

THE SIGNPOST PROJECT

Nur Hazeem Abdul Naseer ('22) describes his award-winning personal project The Signpost Project (TSP) as, "befriend[ing] tissue sellers across Singapore to provide them with assistance and shar[ing] their stories with the wider community." Specifically, TSP offers personalized forms of aid to these peddlers like hospital visits, financial assistance and various other need-based aid depending on their wants and needs.

It initially began as a small group project in 2019 recognizing the many under-served members in the Clementi and Jurong East community. Now, it has grown to become a licensed non-profit working alongside the Ministry of Social and Family Development and other relevant public agencies to support and build relationships with this less-recognized community of peddlers. In conjunction with government support, TSP also founded the Vulnerable-in-Community Network, which provides coordinated support for vulnerable elderly people in Singapore.

They've come a long way since. In 2022, they won the Diana Award, named after Princess Diana of Wales. The award honours young people who aim to improve





The Signpost Project offers personalized forms of aid to tissue peddlers and other vulnerable elderly people. Images provided by Nur Hazeem, courtesy of The Signpost Project.

“ While he was sharing his struggles, he immediately broke down but said that he was glad he had a friend to talk to. His family did not approve of him selling tissue, and he felt that he had no one else to turn to. This made me realize that sometimes simply being present can make a big difference to many of our peddler friends, and that this work is worth continuing. ”

Nur Hazeem ('22), on an interaction with a tissue peddler

the lives of others in their community. Hazeem hopes “that we continue to maintain the warm friendships we have with our peddler friends whilst meeting new ones in different areas.”

Alongside expanding the aerial scope of the project, TSP also focused on shifting their aid-based services to fit the changing dynamic of peddlers and vulnerable elderly. For example, they hope to help the elderly with handling technology like email, Zoom, and online government services and apps.

Taking his education in public policy beyond the classroom, Hazeem has certainly managed to entwine his education and efforts into a tangible project that aims to alleviate a very real problem in Singapore.

GREENCHECK

From involvement in youth climate activist circles, Beatrice Baquero-Salah ('22), Shikhar Agarwal ('21), Beverly Choo ('22) realized “that the biggest problem facing changemakers was a lack of access to

the near-abundant resources that exist to empower sustained impact.” They shared, “At the same time, the current civil society space was missing a platform where climate-concerned individuals...could establish direct relationships with the changemaking Partners in long-lasting and respectful ways. We had no option, but to start GreenCheck!”

GreenCheck is a youth-led non-profit organization that supports various community-led climate action groups from Most Affected Peoples and Areas (MAPA) through fundraising, creating networks, and enhancing their climate capacities. Currently, they are based across Colombia, Guatemala, Haiti, Malaysia, the Philippines and Singapore. Having managed to become a recognized non-profit in the United States, they hope to expand the scope of their project across more countries equally affected by the climate crisis.

From a student-based grassroots organization, they've expanded to become a: donation platform, community-building network, and a movement pushing for decolonial climate action in the name of



Co-Founders Beatrice, Shikhar and Beverly enjoying an outing together. Images provided by Beatrice Baquero-Saleh, courtesy of GreenCheck

climate justice. But, they want to push even beyond, organizing bigger community events where more-affected communities can connect with each other, making relevant academic research more accessible, expanding their signature offerings for MAPA youth and even more.



WORKING TO MAKE FOOD BETTER FOR ALL

With sustainable food system practices becoming increasingly popular, read about three Yale-NUS alumni who have ventured into the food-tech industry.



By Siddharth Mohan Roy ('25)

Melody Madhavan (Class of 2017)

Melody Madhavan ('17) currently works at Umami Bioworks, a cell-cultivated seafood company based in Singapore, where she's currently in charge of helping them with their expansion into the Japanese market. Her day-to-day involves collaborating with partners and investors, working together with her colleague Hanae (also a Yale-NUS alum!) to create content for the company's LinkedIn, as well as crafting the company's narrative for investor decks and press releases.

What inspired you to pursue a career in food tech?

I worked in Food & Beverage marketing in Japan for 5 years. During that time, I was exposed to how the food system works - ingredients, the supply chain, and so on. Seeing the scale and mass of what we were selling and consuming made me think deeply about sustainability and how our society needs to shift towards a more sustainable method of food consumption, or we'll probably run out of a stable supply of food at some point. While pursuing my master's at Cornell, I was also exposed to topics related to the intersection of business and sustainability, which got me thinking about how we can align business motivations with long-term sustainability. Thus, the jump!



What advancements do you anticipate in food technology in the upcoming years?

Other than cultivated precision fermentation, regenerative agriculture, and using technology to monitor GHG emissions/carbon sequestering are probably the major trends on the horizon. Technology related to tracking and reducing biodiversity impact is also poised to become significant. In my

opinion, none of these technologies can function in isolation; instead, they require an extremely cross-disciplinary and collaborative approach to truly effect long-term change and impact. We need to take action now, and I hope that stakeholders in this space will begin to see their roles as part of an ecosystem rather than as individual actors.

What advice do you have for current students or alums looking to pursue a career in food tech?

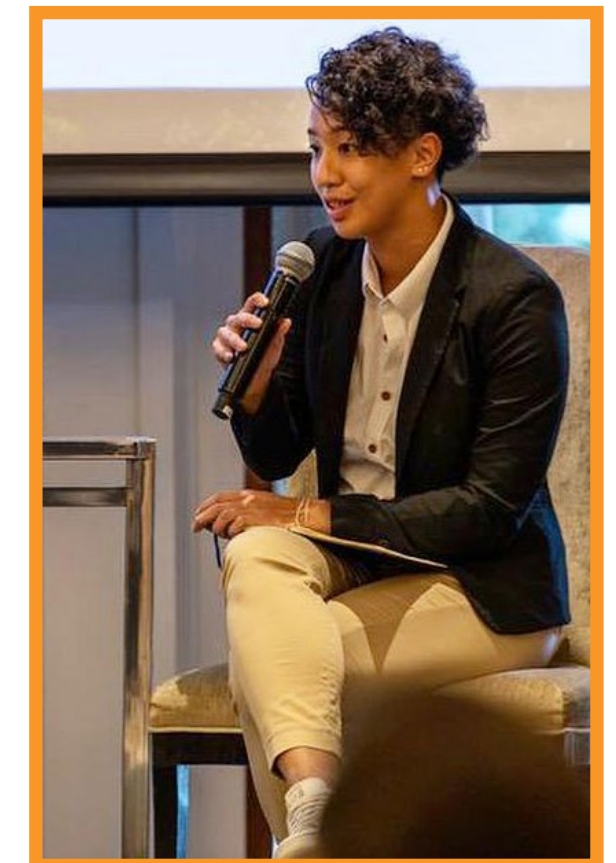
Think about a part of the food system that interests you and dive in! There's a substantial amount of work to be done in the future of food space, with plenty of room for leadership. I believe that Yale-NUS equips us with the critical thinking skills required to even attempt to address complex issues such as climate change, and we are well-positioned to make a significant impact in this field.

Jolene Lum (Class of 2019)

Jolene Lum ('19) is the Head of Business Development at Nurasa, a Temasek company established in 2021. She was part of the initial management team that set up the Food Tech Innovation Centre at Biopolis, focusing on helping companies shift from lab-scale to pilot-scale sustainable food production. Recently, her responsibilities expanded to managing partnerships, projects, and collaborations with startups and industry players.

How has your time at Yale-NUS influenced your path in food tech?

I think my path is to make food better for people. I like food. I got a chance to see what good and nutritious food can be from the farmers who taught me everything I know about the basic, hard truths about food. Most people who live in cities these days don't get or don't know what food can be. Neither are city folk given much of a choice between eating well or eating to



scrimp together what's needed to survive. At Yale-NUS, a central question throughout all 4 years was - there are a lot of people unhappy with life, but what makes a good life? Food lies at the intersection of science, socioeconomics, business, and marketing, and finally, a deep cultural and emotional connection to identity.

What advancements do you anticipate in food technology in the upcoming years?

Hopefully, cheaper, better for you, and better for the planet. Cultivated meat will probably hit the shelves. We need to respond to climate differences so farmers don't starve and continue to produce commodities. I anticipate the 5 companies who control >90% of the food we eat to get even richer, but start to hedge on new technologies.

Share your favourite memory while working in Nurasa.

I think it was seeing a 4,000-square-meter facility come together from nothing but an empty car park, and then hiring a team of



10 people to turn it into a bustling facility. It really reminds me of how a lot of my life has been in starting up new things, and hopefully creating communities that last. The heartwarming part is that as I was signing off on the furnishings of this facility, I put splashes of Yale-NUS colours on the ground just because I could. If anyone ever gets to visit, it's our little Kingfisher secret.

Jon Ho (Class of 2017)



Jon Ho ('17) is the co-founder and CEO of Allium Bio, a food tech startup focused on using fungi and algae to create innovative, sustainable food ingredients. Jon describes his day-to-day as "constant across every day", where he can be found on "Zoom meetings or Google calls"

What inspired you to pursue a career in food tech?

I came to the food tech world through a somewhat indirect route. Right after Yale-NUS, my initial job was with a major health-tech firm, where I led the launch of an accessible healthcare business across the APAC region. I was part of a small, versatile team of problem solvers, and we handled everything from market research to generating product and project ideas, testing them

in various markets, and presenting them to management to secure budgets for larger-scale development.

Later on, I took on roles with several startups in the region, always in these versatile "do-everything" positions. However, I never quite found something that truly satisfied me. I believe I was consistently in search of that ideal intersection between engaging in innovative and exciting work while also contributing to a greater "good," as abstract as that may sound.

What challenges did you face while working in the food tech industry, and how did you overcome them?

In the beginning, the biggest challenge was a lack of context and knowledge. In agrifood-tech, I think in more ways than many other tech-enabled industries, there is so much to learn, because these sectors touch our lives and the world in so many different aspects. There are upstream sectors like farm management and drone robotics, there's mid-stream stuff like AI-enabled food product development, and then there are all the downstream categories like e-grocery, alternative protein and dairy, last-mile delivery, and all the rest. I made an effort to absorb as

much knowledge as possible and engaged in conversations with numerous intelligent individuals to refine my understanding. I found it incredibly beneficial for my own learning to actively seek out dissenting opinions on the same topics and strive to comprehend both sides of the argument.

What advice do you have for current students or alums looking to pursue a career in food tech?

The first piece of advice I'd offer is to ask yourself "Why?" Why do you want to pursue a career in food tech? I mean that genuinely. Some individuals enter this field for the science, while others are driven by the potential climate change impacts, and some are simply thrilled by the abundance of free-food events that the industry hosts.

Understanding what motivates you personally will assist you in discovering your unique place in this rather extensive industry. It will guide you in finding roles that closely match your interests and values, and, ideally, improve your chances of securing those roles when hiring managers perceive that alignment from their perspective.



VOTE FOR YOUR YALE-NUS CLUB EXCO

We are excited to present our nominees for the first ever Executive Committee (Exco) of the Yale-NUS Club. Voting begins on Friday, 6th October, and will end on Monday, 23rd October 11:59PM SGT. You will receive an email with instructions on how to vote. Don't forget to cast your ballot and have your voices heard!

President

The President acts as Chairperson at all general and Executive Committee meetings and also represents the Club in its dealings with outside persons, including Yale and NUS.



ZHONG XUAN KHWA (2020)

I'm running for President to lay a strong foundation for the Club. Learning from my experiences in Alumni Council, YNC's staff, and Alumni Task Force, I hope to set up sustainable Exco practices, ensure the club is equipped to serve our alumni for years to come, and get shit done.



GLEN KOH (2018)

This community taught me resilience, courage, and humility in all my roles as student, staff, and alumnus. I want to lay foundations for our diverse alumni community to celebrate our varied achievements and successes, build and maintain connections, and continue advocating for positive change everywhere we go. To 2025 and beyond.

Vice-President

The Vice President assists the President and deputise for the President in their absence. They also oversees organisation of club activities, including reunions.



JAN BRONAUER (2020)

While our alumni community is small, our experiences stretch very wide. As I prepare to relocate, I feel a renewed sense of motivation to help create opportunities for us to feel connected, and to feel confident that we are part of this bigger, extraordinary network of experiences and individuals.



SAZA FARADILLA (2018)

Yale-NUS has forever been our sanctuary, our home. Witnessing the collective strength of 2000 individuals uniting on Discord and various platforms to resist the closure of YNC was awe-inspiring. As your Vice-President, I am committed to channeling our unwavering community spirit and deep passion towards brighter and more promising futures.



TINESH INDRARAJAH (2017)

Yale-NUS has informed every aspect of my development over the last decade - refining my academic pursuits, living out my faux professional sports career, and truly understanding what love and care means. I'm excited to continue my YNC journey by serving as your Vice-President, building new memories and collectively effervescing.



JAMIE LEE (2020)

I'm running as the inaugural Vice-President to collaboratively develop an enduring foundation for the Club. Continuing from the Taskforce, my vision is to build an independently controlled endowment for growing our alumni network. I will leverage both Yale and NUS affiliations to effectively advocate for an inclusive Yale-NUS alumni community.

Secretary

The Secretary keeps all records, except financial, of the Club and shall be responsible for their correctness. They coordinate communications in the alumni community, keep minutes of all general and Executive Committee meetings, and maintain an up-to-date Register of members at all times.



CLIN LAI (2018)

Individuals and institutions are the enduring written records left behind after its closure. Having served as RCA, Academic Co-director of the student government, and alumni council member, I prioritize accurate and transparent documentation of all narratives. Your vote will be safeguarding these vital accounts, promoting transparency in our alumni community.



ISABEL PERUCHO (2018)

With my project management background and steadfast belief in the Yale-NUS project, I hope to serve as Secretary, to give back to the college that has given me so much, and to keep the special spirit of our community alive and bright for the world to experience.



LINGXIN WU (2022)

Yale-NUS Club is, to me, an open door to the Third Place, where we connect with friends old and new to write the rest of the Yale-NUS story. Believing in this vision, as its Secretary, I shall be a long-time, conscientious and welcoming doorkeeper so anyone can come right in.



ADLIN ZAINAL (2017)

My legacy at Yale-NUS is more than just a buttery dish. I care deeply about our community and have consistently advocated for our interests. I believe I have the passion, experience, and expertise to build a strong foundation for our club to serve our diverse alumni for many years to come.

Treasurer

The Treasurer keeps all funds and collect and disburse all moneys on behalf of the Club and shall keep an account of all monetary transactions and be responsible for their correctness.



TECK YUKE CHIA (2017)

Hi, I'm Teck Yuke (Elm '17). There once was a student club called YIRPA. It was highly profitable and made tens of thousands per conference. I was the first Treasurer. Although the school shut down the club - what happened to all those money? - I gained invaluable lessons in dealing with bureaucracy and fighting NUS.



ELSON ONG (2017)

I am Elson ('17), an Executive Director with Goldman Sachs' Corporate Treasury division. My everyday work involves ensuring the firm has adequate funding to support our business activities, which is crucial in maintaining its financial health. I believe my experience will serve the club well and ensure its financial sustainability.



DASHA ROPION (2022)

Hi everyone! I'm Dasha (Morgane) from class of 2022. My first job is in banking, and tracking finances is a genuine joy of mine in my personal and professional lives. I would be thrilled to join Yale-NUS Club's ExCo as Treasurer!

Ordinary Committee Member

Ordinary Committee Members aid in the general administration of the Club and perform duties assigned by the Committee from time to time. As a member of the Executive Committee familiar with the organisation and its officers' duties, they may be asked to perform the functions of other officers in their absence or if an officership is temporarily vacant.



SHAHARAJ AHMED (2023)

Dear fellow alumni, I am running to be on the committee to strengthen our community. During my time, I've organized brekkies, mixers, and worked (quite happily) in the Saga College Office. I realize now that what we had was so special. Allow me to serve you all.



VASUDHA KATARUKA (2019)

With my extensive involvement in Yale-NUS and contributions to student life, as recognised by the Elm College Community Award 2019, and experience crafting the Club's constitution, I'm committed to preserving our legacy. I'm well-prepared to serve as an Ordinary Committee Member - vote to keep the Yale-NUS spirit alive!



AMI FIRDAUS (2017)

As an ordinary committee member, I aim to support the committee in creating the best possible platform for alumni experience and growth. With my background I am particularly suited to planning, developing and executing programmes, large and small, for the community. Let's keep the Yale-NUS dream alive. Let's show them.



MADI LOMMEN (2020)

Thank you for considering me to be Committee Member! As part of the Alumni Task Force, I have collaborated with co-chairs Scott and President Roberts, peers, and legal counsel to actively shape the constitution; heard your concerns/priorities at the May reunion and am committed to initiating lifelong support for Yale-NUS alumni.



LYNN DRESCHER (2023)

After four years with Alumni Affairs, I am excited to continue working with fellow alums to develop a space where our sense of community can thrive and adapt to our needs! Learning from different Exco roles and community volunteering, I hope to contribute with communication, administration-related tasks, and alumni gatherings.



JAY LUSK (2018)

My name is Jay Lusk and I am an alum from the class of 2018 now living in the United States. I am interested in promoting global engagement for alumni and providing a platform for continued development of Yale-NUS community identity across the world.



DEREK HUM (2018)

Yale-NUS is special, and I wish to contribute to keeping this a close-knit community. Our success was built on meaningful conversations and unlikely friendships, and I hope to help the Club preserve this. I remember the pioneering spirit of our early years, and will bring that attitude to my duties.



BRYSON NG (2021)

For me, Yale-NUS has always been defined by its vibrant community. I am eager to work with the Yale-NUS Club to continue to foster this sense of community with our alumni peers, and to contribute towards Yale-NUS Club's mission to help shape the college's legacy in enduring and meaningful ways.

continued on next page >>



JULIANNE THOMSON (2018)

I self-nominated for the position of Ordinary Committee Member at the direction of an inner call to tend to the responsibility I feel as an alumni & former staff member of Yale-NUS College. The responsibility is simply to offer my service to the visceral transformative power of a birthed and now dying institution. *Photo credits to Jonathan Tan.*



ZAC YEOW (2020)

#OldButGold I've been around the block a few times, but I'm still down to host fun events for the YNC-Club-of-SG! I know a lot of people. Mixers? Chill Gatherings? Legendary Zakku Chicken? I'm your bro/sis/champ/pal. Vote for this ordinary human for Ordinary Committee Member!



JIA QI YIP (2020)

As a member of the inaugural Ordinary Committee, I hope to help set up systems that will ensure our alumni network remains inclusive and continues to strengthen well into the future. Who knows, maybe in 20 years this Club could buy the rights to rename RC4 to College of Yale-NUS Club.



CELEBRATING OUR ALUMNI MENTORS

Every year, we invite our alumni who have given back to the college through the Alumni Advising and Mentoring Initiative (AAMI) for a dinner event to recognize and celebrate their contributions.

By Suman Padhi ('25)

September 8th saw alumni involved in the Yale-NUS Alumni Advising and Mentoring Initiative (AAMI) return to campus for the AAMI Appreciation Event at President Joanne Roberts' apartment.

In her speech at the event, Vice President of Engagement Trisha Craig thanked the forthcoming nature of many alumni, distinguishing the Yale-NUS community from other institutions with how attached many alums remain to the school. Dr. Roberts echoed this sentiment, praising how the reach of the programme allows alums "across various cohorts" to "[get] to know each through mentorship." She added how the AAMI ini-

Last academic year, 120 alumni participated in various initiatives like zoom panels, grad school programmes, career-focused chats, and Rector's Teas.

Support the **Digital Legacy Projects** by giving your consent



Interested in the latest happenings and events at NUS College? You can sign up to receive communications from them by [filling up this form!](#) You can also choose to follow their [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).

“No matter where I am, I can send a message on LinkedIn to any alum and ask to sleep on their couch,’ and that’s a very powerful thing and I hope people feel it even twenty-five years from now.”

President Joanne Roberts, quoting an alum she recently had a conversation with

tiative acts as the beginnings of this life-long, valuable network going forward from now onwards.

For many mentees, their involvement in the programme evolved into something much more relevant and significant in their academic and professional development. Cathy Choo ('24) talked about her experience meeting with her mentor, Geoffrey Martin ('19), this past summer in New York City after a semester of online communication, and how nicely it managed to translate into an in-person chat.

Ian Tan ('24) described his initial search for a low stakes professional mentorship, mainly to ease his student anxieties, and how it transformed into a much closer friendship with his mentor David Zhang ('19) who “helped [him] understand what [he] wanted to do in the future” by “pointing to certain resources for resumés, giving pro tips” and even “meeting once every month to discuss things.”

Mentors like David also seemed to echo this bond they'd formed with their mentees. He categorized his mentorship with Ian as “very positive”, mentioning that they'd had very deep, stimulating conversations, especially about working life after graduation and moving into non-academia industries. On top of the one-on-one mentorship, David expressed his excitement about the other events like upcoming Makan with Alums' and Rector's Teas' that he'd be participating in.

Glen Killian Koh ('18) who participated in the



CIPE panel on graduate school after graduating with a Masters of Public Health at John Hopkins, talked about his experiences with current Yale-NUS students interested in public health seeking him out, and the many relationships he's formed across various batches through this shared interest, cultivating that community.

For many alums, the AAMI programme is a way to reconnect with their roots, coming back into the very space they'd inhabited not too long ago. Spandana Bhattacharya ('17) described the endeavor as “an excellent way of giving back”. As one of the first Yale-NUS graduates, Spandana didn't have alums to mentor her, and she reiterated the importance of having potential mentors to talk to and how it can shape the trajectory of one's professional development.



Calling all Kingfishers!

We hope you have had a chance to visit the newly launched Legacy website! We invite you to share your content, and collaborate with us to make these initiatives truly special.

[Submit Your Stories](#)

SPARKLE

By *Anshuman Mohan* ('17)

Yale-NUS has always had its fair share of stairwell songs and bhangra performances, but to remember it primarily by its most memorable moments would be a disservice. The Yale-NUS I remember is not a mawkish highlights reel; it had moments – days in a row, if you'd believe it – of mundanity. Nothing to see here, just a school. However, within that mundanity was still a certain sparkle, an inexplicable something that felt both deeply intentional and completely natural.

I want to share one of these sparkles with you, and I hope that others will write in with theirs. Believe me in that all of this is true. You can't look it up anyway.

I want to tell you about Graham's room.

Walk by at the right moment, and you'd be treated to a rare sight: little tufts of hair and dust flying out from below his closed door and into the hallway. Every so many weeks Graham would take a stiff brush, the kind they throw in for free when you buy a nice couch, and give his room the once-over with it. He would then use his feet (which are perfectly rectangular and therefore ideal for the job) to slide the dust towards the door. Then the final act, the real masterstroke: he would get down on all fours, lower his head so his cheek was as close to the ground as he could get it, and blow his troubles away. The whole thing would only last a couple seconds, but in my memory it is an expertly choreographed hour and is set to Tchaikovsky.

Inside would be the oddest two square meters in all of Singapore. Clear plastic sheets blu-tacked to the walls with Emerson and Whitman quotes scrawled on. Part of the poetry, of course, was that the little blobs of blu-tack would themselves be visible through the plastic, for Graham had not had the foresight to buy white blu-tack. On the floor, a rug that was actually a prayer mat that Graham and Brian mistakenly bought from Arab Street, all the better to go with the matching silk pajama sets that proved too hot to ever use. A bamboo pole would be hanging horizontally and illegally off the two sprinkler outlets, and all of Graham's little toys would hang off that pole. I forget if Graham had plants. I had plants, hanging even more illegally off my window's operating arm and waiting to fall and maim someone on the sidewalk below, and so I feel like Graham must also have.

Smell something? Say nothing. The banana in the right drawer of the desk is yet to be discovered. On the desk proper would be one of Yale-NUS's few privately held bowls. A real ceramic bowl and a real metal spoon, real luxuries for an otherwise thrifty man. This bowl was critical infrastructure: every night, even after the nights we feasted at Erstwhile Wah Chee, Graham would perform some sort of religious penance by consuming two Weet-Bix with milk and honey. I really do want to believe that he enjoyed this – he ate three after successfully asking someone to the end of semester dance – but, having tried it myself (once, on his birthday (it was a Weet-Bix party)), I can only advise you to steer clear.

I have known Graham ten years, and I think I have visited him in every city he has lived, crashed on every couch he has owned. His room on the 10th floor of RC4 may have been his best work.

Have some writing or art you would like featured on Wingspan? Send it to us at alumni@yale-nus.edu.sg!

A LITTLE BIRD TOLD ME...

Click on the images to read more about what alumni have been up to



MASTERCHEF IN THE MAKING

Saza Faradilla ('18) was a finalist on the latest season of Masterchef Singapore as a member of Team Bjorn! Saza started learning how to cook just recently as a means of using up the ingredients she would rescue from her neighbourhood's Food Rescue group.

You can watch Saza's Masterchef journey on MeWatch using the link below!

▶ [WATCH MASTERCHEF SINGAPORE](#)

Image from Mediacorp Singapore.



KINGFISHERS IN PROSE

Lishani Ramanayake ('18)'s fiction piece, *What We Carried*, has been published in the latest issue of *Wasafiri*, a leading British quarterly publication that showcases international contemporary fiction. She was also recently shortlisted for the 2023 ALCS Tom-Gallon Trust Award for her story, *Amba Yahulowo*, which has been published by Porter House Review.

Jane Zhang ('18) first interviewed James Cotto, a legendary New York City roller skater, as part of a journalism class she was taking at New York University (NYU). She was so intrigued by his story that she continued to delve deeper, eventually sharing his story in an article on Hell Gate.

▶ [ORDER WASAFIRI ISSUE 115 HERE](#)

▶ [READ THE STORY BY JANE ZHANG \('18\)](#)

Images from *Wasafiri* and *Hell Gate* respectively.



INCLUSIVE DESIGN FOR ALL

Ishmam Ahmed ('23)'s capstone project was part of Singapore Design Week 2023 as part of the FI&LD exhibition which highlighted exemplary inclusive design projects from Singapore and around the world and was curated by Lekker Architects. Titled "Mind the Gap: Accommodating Neurodiversity in Singapore's MRT," Ishmam's capstone looked at the specific needs and preferences of neurodivergent individuals within the context of public transit.

▶ [FIND OUT MORE ABOUT THE FI&LD EXHIBITION](#)

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 our alumni's pets! If you would like to share a photo and a fun fact about your adorable pet, please contact us at alumni@yale-nus.edu.sg.

EDITORS

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