

WINGSPAN

THE YALE-NUS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
ISSUE 13

**THE ONE WHERE
THEY GRADUATE**

We welcome the Class of
2024 to our alumni family!



MESSAGE FROM THE YALE-NUS CLUB

Adlin Zainal, Secretary

As we bid farewell to yet another academic year and welcome the warmth of summer (though, admittedly, it's just always warm for us here in Singapore!), it seems like the perfect time to reflect on all that we have achieved together as a community. This past year has been filled with growth, learning, and unforgettable moments that have continued to shape our community.

We recently celebrated the graduation of the penultimate class of Kingfishers. I want to take the opportunity to warmly welcome the Class of 2024 to our alumni family. Congratulations on your graduation and we can't wait to see what's next for you! As always, don't forget that you have a whole community of fellow Kingfishers who will be there for you.

I was also really heartened to welcome hundreds of my friends back to campus for our annual reunion in Singapore. The storm did little to dampen our spirits or our appetites. A big thank you to everyone who came down to listen to me, Zhong Xuan '20 and Ami '17 talk more about the Club, what we have done, and what we are working towards. It was genuinely exciting not only to share about our plans, but to hear from you. We hope to continue to engage you and your feedback as we work hard on building the alumni community we all deserve. Each of you play a vital role in building and strengthening our community and we are so grateful for your continued support. If you haven't, please do [sign up to be a member of the club](#) so that we can keep you updated on our progress.

We were also able to host a small reunion in New York City, thanks to Madi '20 and Tinesh '17! We are working hard to continue finding these opportunities to host overseas events. I myself will be headed to Chicago this summer and can't wait to meet all of you based in the midwest!

Together, let's continue to celebrate our achievements, nurture our connections and embrace the spirit of Yale-NUS!

With excitement,
Adlin on behalf of the Yale-NUS Club

IN THIS ISSUE



COMING UP NEXT | 6
We check in with our baby Kingfishers to see what's next!



THEN AND NOW | 16
Hear more about what our alums have learnt since graduating

WINGSPAN SUMMER PLAYLIST

SUMMER BOPS | 28
Check out the Wingspan Summer Playlist as suggested by you!

SAO'S CORNER

Cory Owen, Dean of Students

The end of an academic year always puts me in a reflective mode. I started at Yale-NUS in September 2020 so this graduating class and I have a lot in common. From social distancing, Zoom, and masks to adjusting to the "new normal". And as they join the esteemed ranks of the previous classes, I'm grateful. Grateful for the time spent together, the memories made, and hope for the future.

As we get closer to the closure, it is hard not to focus on a sense of loss. But I try to rally and remember the joy as well. I've had the great joy of meeting some of the older alum who graduated long before I arrived and it has brought me so much joy. I loved having alums join us for the Elm Buttery closing event and celebrating memories with the custom cutting boards. I loved hearing alum stories that are helping to curate our Legacy Wall. I loved learning about how our traditions have continued on, albeit with some tweaks, despite our closure.

This is a truly loving community. I hope that we don't ever take for granted how unique our time has been building this family. I encourage you all to continue to contribute to our community by engaging with the Yale-NUS Club and keeping the kingfisher spirit alive!

Sincerely,

Cory



We were excited to welcome back our alumni for the last opening night of the Elm Buttery

THAT'S THAT ME, ESPRESSO

JOANNE

THE SUMMER TOUR 2024

WITH SPECIAL GUESTS **DAVID POST & LINDA PUTH** ★ **JEANNETTE ICKOVICS** ★
NELSON CUNNINGHAM ★ **PETER CRANE** ★ **PERICLES LEWIS** ★ **TRISHA CRAIG** ★

28 JUN	WASHINGTON, D.C. ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ DINNER AT FOUNDING FARMERS	6 PM
11 JUL	NEW YORK ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ NEW-YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM PART 1: BEATRICE GLOW: WHEN OUR RIVERS MEET EXHIBITION (4 PM) PART 2: DINNER AT CLARA (6 PM)	4 PM/6 PM
18 JUL	BOSTON DINNER AT THE WESTIN COPLEY SQUARE	6 PM
30 JUL	TORONTO DINNER AT DOUBLETREE BY HILTON HOTEL TORONTO DOWNTOWN	6 PM
3 AUG	LOS ANGELES DINNER AT KIMPTON HOTEL PALOMAR BEVERLY HILLS	6 PM

TO NEW BEGINNINGS

In this feature, Wingspan interviews some of our bright new graduates about their future plans and their time at Yale-NUS College.

By *Suman Padhi* ('25)



ANDREW SIOH ('24)

London, United Kingdom



What are your professional plans after graduation?

I'm planning to do the MSc AI program at Imperial starting in September later this year. It will be a one-year course, and then I will return to work in Singapore since my family and friends are all here. Independently, in the short term I'm interested in implementing small-scale applications that utilise language models. One project I am exploring is to leverage language models to develop a free tuition application for Singapore students, but this is still very early in the works. Otherwise, I hope to work with existing AI projects in areas that interest me personally, such as ecology and education. In the longer term, I hope to use my academic knowledge and project experience to help organizations implement AI safely.

How did YNC prepare you to go out into the "real" world?

YNC prepared me for life after graduation by being a space where I could explore

and develop my personal and professional interests. I came into YNC interested in current affairs, but in QR I quickly found that I enjoyed statistics, and that I could apply them to the areas I was interested in, such as election polling. That's actually how I got into data science, and consequently, AI, in the first place.

If you could do it all over again, is there anything you'd like to change?

I'd have tried to become friends with the friends I made sooner! I really think that YNC is such an amazing environment for friendship, and now that I've graduated, it'll be harder to meet my friends. Having been able to spend more time with them would have been great.

What is your most cherished memory from your time at YNC? What is the most fun memory?

My most cherished memory would be fostering and subsequently adopting Jiji, the cute and friendly Bombay stray cat that used to roam Elm and Saga in 2021. The most fun memory I have was when I represented YNC at this year's ICG foosball with my fellow foosball friends and when we celebrated Ren Yu winning a completely unexpected victory over NUSC, the tournament favourites.



DHIRA VIDHEA ('24)

Jakarta, Indonesia



What are your professional plans after graduation?

I will be joining OCBC Indonesia as a management associate in their Graduate Talent Programme in September 2024.

In 2021, I was fortunate to receive the OCBC Regional Undergraduate Scholarship which came with a post-graduation employment bond. The programme itself comes with various rotations across the bank's departments, that I'm excited for.

Between now and September, I plan to continue working on my startup, Tinlit, and learning more about my mother's business, PT D&D Consulting. I want to also mention how grateful I am to have been awarded the "Emerging Young Leader" award from Yale-NUS alongside a monetary award, as I plan to use that award to further build Tinlit over the next several months!

I'll also be continuing my education at MIT Sloan in 4-5 years. I would like to give a special shoutout to CIPE, my professors, supervisors, and the Writer's Centre for their support!

How are you celebrating graduation: any fun plans?

Post-exams and before graduation, I travelled with my suitemates to Ho Chi Minh and Vung Tau. In a few months, I will be visiting Bali to catch up with my



extended family members and participate in my coming-of-age ceremony, called "Potong Gigi." This will be directly followed by a trip to Taiwan with my family.

What is something you learnt at YNC (non-academic) that you believe to be most important/valuable?

There is a popular idea that "we should be careful where we share our dreams". I think things are different at YNC. I'm always in awe at the abundance of support I've received from the YNC community over the years, especially from people I've shared my dreams to. The genuineness of the YNC community is incredible. The experience affirmed my belief that it's important to seek support when we need it and open up about our aspirations — the number of doors this opens up and the level of support we receive from those around us may just surprise us.

What is your most cherished memory from your time at YNC?

My most cherished memory was in year two: when the closure was first announced, I distinctly remember everybody coming together in the Elm courtyard. While there was certainly sadness, I also felt a powerful sense of love and hope in the space, and witnessed a solidarity I've never seen before.

HARRY HWANG ('24)

Baltimore, United States

What are your professional plans after graduation?

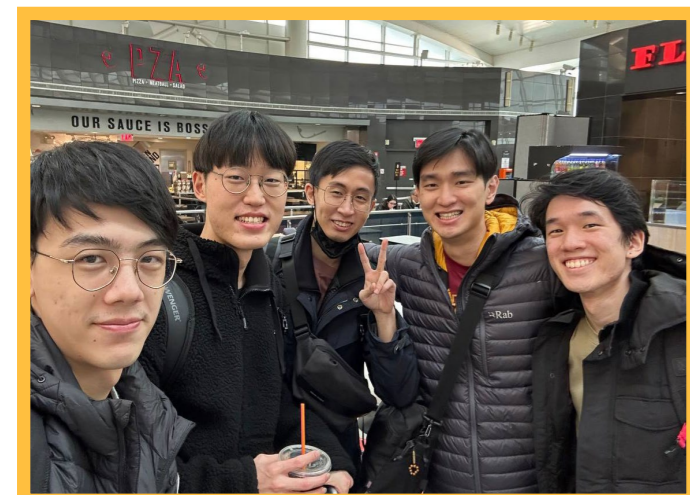
I will be pursuing a PhD degree in Biophysics at Johns Hopkins University. My current research interest lies in studying the proteins responsible for organising DNA inside living cells. By studying this subject, we hope to better understand the role of DNA organisation in developmental disorders and dozens of cancers.

How are you celebrating graduation: any fun plans?

My suite and I went to Seoul, South Korea for our graduation trip. During the trip, we did three things only: eat, play, sleep, and repeat. There were so many fun, memorable moments during the trip that I will forever remember, especially the catchphrases that we created during our chit chats. I am now back at my parents' place and spending more time with my family before I head off to the U.S.

What is your most cherished memory from your time at YNC? What is the most fun memory?

Performing at Tape Days with the band "The Contagious B.I.G" during my sophomore year was definitely one of the must fun memory I can recount. The showmanship that we had was, in my opinion, out of



the world. We were shredding the guitars, doing crazy solos, screaming at the mic, and having the crowd chanting. The last song we performed was especially emotional. We played "Don't Look Back in Anger," a song about accepting the reality and moving on, which was something that every YNC student could relate in that particular year.

What is your favourite spot on campus?

Shiner's Diner. During my senior year, I worked at the diner as a cook. There were many memorable moments in this space: deep frying 50 Korean corndogs for the hungry students, talking to friends who came by during my shifts, decorating the patio with balloons filled with helium from the lab, and many more. It was also where I have developed my skills in cooking and baking, which will definitely come in handy as I enter the "real world."

Any advice for the Class of 2025?

Understand what you value. There are so many things to do out there, especially during our college years, but we have so much time in our lives, so pour your energy in things that you truly value.

LIZ KOH ('24)

Singapore



What are your professional plans after graduation?

Following graduation, I will be studying for the bar till the end of the year. From January 2025 onwards, I will be training in Drew and Napier's Dispute Resolution Department. In the meantime, I intend to continue as a part-time research assistant with Professor Lynette J. Chua and Dr Jack Jin Gary Lee on the Governing through Contagion project, which is a historical-ethnographic project on the colonial and post-colonial governance of epidemics.

How are you celebrating graduation: any fun plans?

I just returned from a graduation trip with my suitemates to Vietnam - we saw the sights in Hanoi, Halong Bay and Sapa! It was a wonderful way to cap off my university journey with these girls.

How did YNC prepare you to go out into the "real" world?

Before coming into YNC, I remember how I would casually float through life, adopting wholesale the views introduced to me without truly understanding what I cared for, or why I cared about it. The curriculum

and culture of open conversation in YNC has encouraged me to interrogate the truths I took for granted and taught me the importance of intentional discourse, always coming from a place of empathy and a desire to learn and be challenged.

What is your favourite spot on campus?

The corridors of my suite! The best conversations happen spontaneously in the space between the common area and my room - as always, a door cracks open, I am accosted and suddenly I find myself wrapped in a half hour conversation. Special mention goes to the Elm and Saga courtyard, where I have many cherished memories lounging on the hammock or lying in the grass with friends chatting after classes.

If you could do it all over again, is there anything you'd like to change?

Dear Y1 Liz, the graphic tees of bands you know nothing about have got to go. People will ask what your favourite song or album is, and you will relive the shame forever. If I could do it all over again, I would tell doe-eyed, freshman Liz to take herself less seriously. Explore more societies, go for that RCA taco night, and fret less. And cherish your professors while you can; so rarely do you find people so generous with their time and expertise.



HTET MYET MIN TUN ('24)

Beijing, China

What are your professional plans after graduation?

I will be going to China for a year to pursue the master in global affairs at Tsinghua University under the Schwarzman Scholarship.

How are you celebrating graduation: any fun plans?

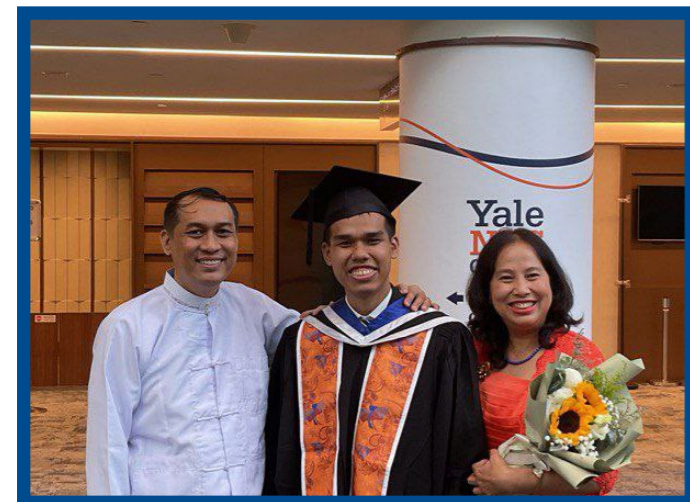
I went to Cebu, Philippines with my suitemates for a grad trip! We did snorkelling, canyoneering, and other water activities. It was so fun, and things were very cheap!!

What is something you learnt at YNC (non-academic) that you believe to be most important/valuable?

One lesson I took, especially from the work of my peers, is to put people at heart in whatever we do. Especially in politics or academia, it is easy to be swept away by all these big ideas. At such times, it is important to be reminded of whom we are working for.

How did YNC prepare you to go out into the "real" world?

One thing I really appreciate about YNC is that there are so many opportunities that expose me to the outside world. For example, I did my exchange in France,



interned in the U.S., and learned Chinese during the summer. All these opportunities helped me expand my perspective of the world, be exposed to new possibilities, and adapt in new places and cultures.



If you could do it all over again, is there anything you'd like to change?

I don't think I would want to change anything. Life is a journey, and I embrace every turn of it. What we perceive as either good or bad moments always give us a lesson to learn, and they are what make me who I am today.

What is your favourite spot on campus?

I really like the YNC library – I think it is the space I used most apart from my own suite. It is so cosy and serene, especially in the late evenings.

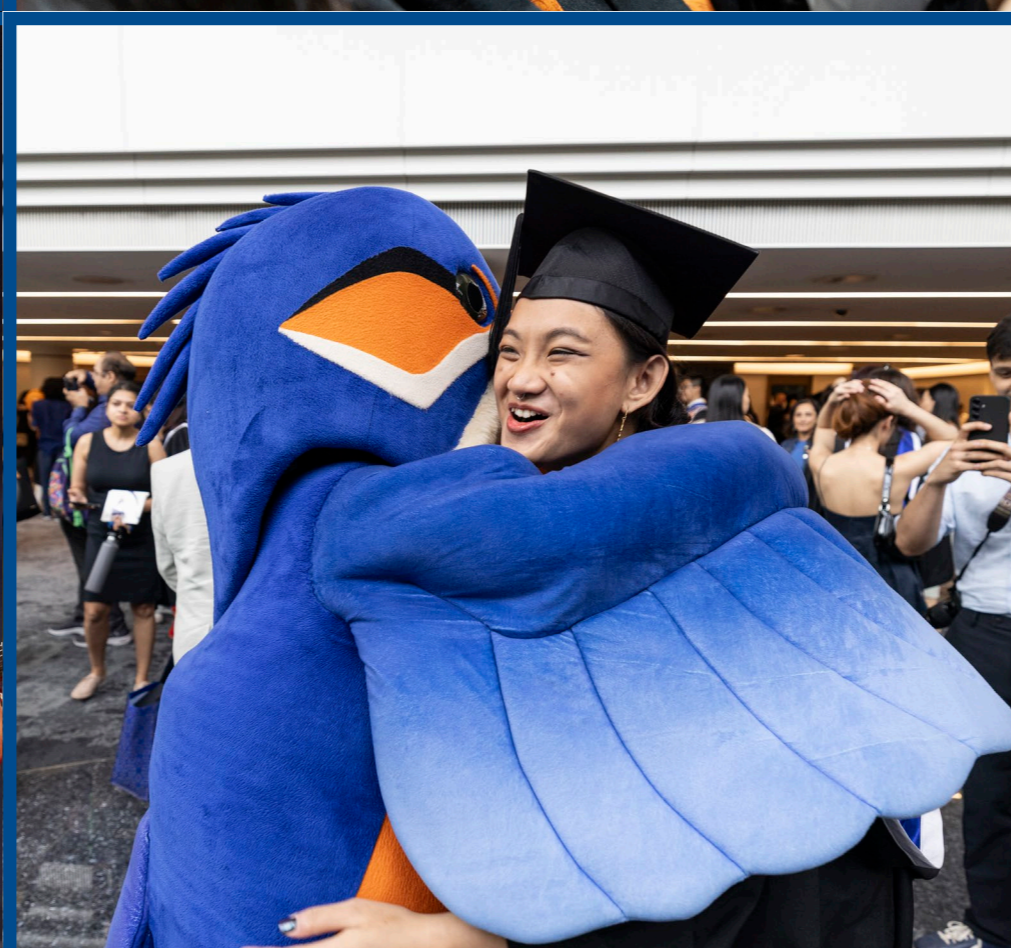
join the yale-nus club

let's shape the future of our alumni community



for more info: yale-nus.club

CONGRADULATIONS CLASS OF 2024



POST-GRADUATION MUSINGS

In this feature, we catch up with our alumni to hear their reflections on life, careers, and grad school since graduation.

By Siddharth Mohan Roy ('25)

Soh Wee Yang (Class of 2017)

After graduating from Yale-NUS in 2017, Wee Yang pursued a master's programme in Chicago, followed by a PhD in anthropology. Wee Yang calls Chicago home, but is currently based in Seoul, South Korea, for anthropological fieldwork.

For Wee Yang, the transition from Yale-NUS to the challenging, high-pressure world of postgraduate studies was a daunting experience. "The year following my graduation was one of the toughest of my life," he reflects. One of the biggest challenges Wee Yang faced was the stark contrast between the nurturing atmosphere of Yale-NUS and the isolating nature of his postgraduate studies. The move to Chicago, a breakup, employment



anxieties, and harsh weather tested his resilience.

However, these experiences also forged a stronger, more self-aware individual. Wee Yang emphasises the importance of personal growth, stating, "The accomplishment I am most proud of since graduation is myself." Moving away from Singapore, rediscovering a childlike wonder about the world, making like-minded friends, and simply growing older and wiser have all helped him become a more confident and compassionate individual.

Moreover, Wee Yang's goals have matured over time, though their core remains

unchanged. He has always sought to ensure that his work is meaningful and that he continues to challenge himself. His aspirations now include writing a book on fearful living, drawing from his experiences in Singapore, South Korea, and the United States.

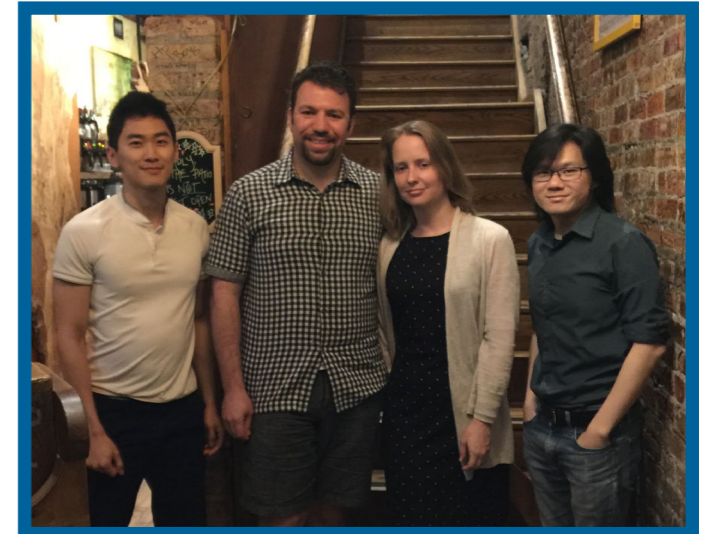
Since graduating, Wee Yang has developed a passion for CrossFit, which has provided him with a sense of community and support across different cities. From music festivals in Chicago to ski trips in Korea, these activities have improved his social connections.

Despite the physical distances, Wee Yang has maintained strong connections with his classmates and professors from Yale-NUS through regular Zoom calls with his suitemates and reunions with friends.

He also continues to engage with his

mentors, and met two former Yale-NUS professors, Anne Kreps and Martin Weissman, in Hyde Park in 2018.

Wee Yang recently hosted Prof. Andrew Bailey at a workshop in Chicago, and still reflects on the influence of his late college advisor, Barney Bate, who inspired him to become an anthropologist.



Advice for recent graduates:

"You will always surpass any general descriptor of yourself. Instead of defining yourself by social norms and rushing to meet standards, learn to sit with and embrace the tensions within you."



Jane Zhang (Class of 2018)

Jane graduated in 2018 and spent a year as a Dean's Fellow at Yale-NUS—a role that involved engaging with student life and mentoring peers. In 2019, she transitioned into journalism by joining Mothership.sg as a writer. There, she covered a range of topics, including breaking news, parliamentary proceedings, feature interviews, and first-person narratives. Her passion for journalism eventually led her back to the U.S. in 2022 to pursue a master's degree in journalism and international relations at New York University.



herself navigating the complexities of maintaining friendships and finding fulfilling activities outside the structured environment of college. Outside of her professional life, Jane has cultivated several hobbies that bring her joy. Board games, particularly Settlers of Catan, have become a staple in her social life, enjoyed alongside her partner, Tinesh Indrarajah (Class of 2017). During the pandemic, she discovered her love for climbing and rekindled her passion for figure skating, even competing in the 2019 Singapore National Figure Skating Championships and collegiate competitions.



Since graduation, Jane has had many journalistic achievements, from a silly, gif-filled viral article about a woman who was accidentally slapped in the face with a noodle at Hai Di Lao to interviewing Minister for Foreign Affairs Vivian Balakrishnan. However, there are two stories that stand out to her. The first is a compelling interview with Zakir Hossain Khokan, a Bangladeshi migrant worker, which shed light on the ongoing restrictions faced by migrant workers in Singapore. The second is an in-depth article for the Chicago Sun-Times exploring the controversial chant, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” and its significance to Palestinians.

For Jane, adapting to post-university life posed its challenges, with Jane finding

Reflecting on her time at Yale-NUS, Jane credits the diverse academic environment and the close-knit residential community with broadening her worldview and shaping her journalistic interests. Despite the geographical distances, Jane maintains strong connections with her friends and professors, utilising voice messages, texts, and video calls. Alumni events also provide an opportunity to reconnect and celebrate shared experiences.

Jane and Tinesh's enduring relationship, which began on the 12th floor of RC4 before Yale-NUS had its own campus, is another testament to the lasting bonds formed during her college years. Engaged since November 2022, they are set to marry later this year, marking, as Jane says, “nearly a decade” of togetherness.

Advice for recent graduates:

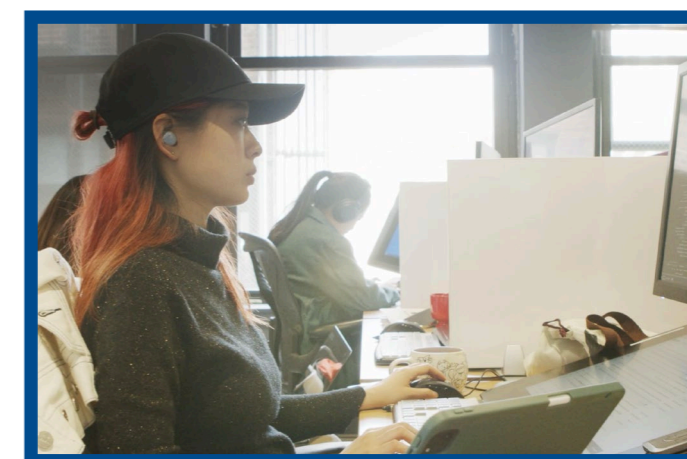
“I wish I had known the importance of standing up for myself in professional environments and setting boundaries. I also was (and still often am) so afraid of making mistakes at work and would beat myself up over any missteps. I’m still learning this, but it’s so important to remember that no one expects you to have all the answers at first — one of the benefits of being student or recent graduate is that everyone understands you’re inexperienced and are there to learn.”



Rebecca Huang (Class of 2019)

Rebecca calls New York City her home—a bustling metropolis that echoes her dynamic journey since graduation. The vibrant cityscape of New York provides the perfect backdrop for her creative endeavours, particularly in the field of animation, where she has carved out a niche after an illustrious start in the tech world.

Her professional journey began at Google, where she worked for three years in Shanghai, focusing on sales and marketing strategies. This period was instrumental in honing her business acumen while sparking a passion for storytelling and creativity. In 2022, she made a bold career



Personal website: <https://rebhuang.art>
Twitter / Instagram: [@rebbersome](https://twitter.com/rebbersome) [@thestudiober](https://www.instagram.com/thestudiober)
About The Human Fossil and the Studio BER: <https://thebers.org/the-human-fossil>

pivot by enrolling in the MFA program in Animation at the School of Visual Arts in New York. This transition marked the beginning of a new chapter, leading her to the city she now calls home.

Since graduation, Rebecca's most notable achievement is the creation of her debut animated short film, "The Human Fossil." The film explores an alien archaeologist's mesmerising encounter with the relics of human civilization, prompting profound questions about humanity's legacy. This



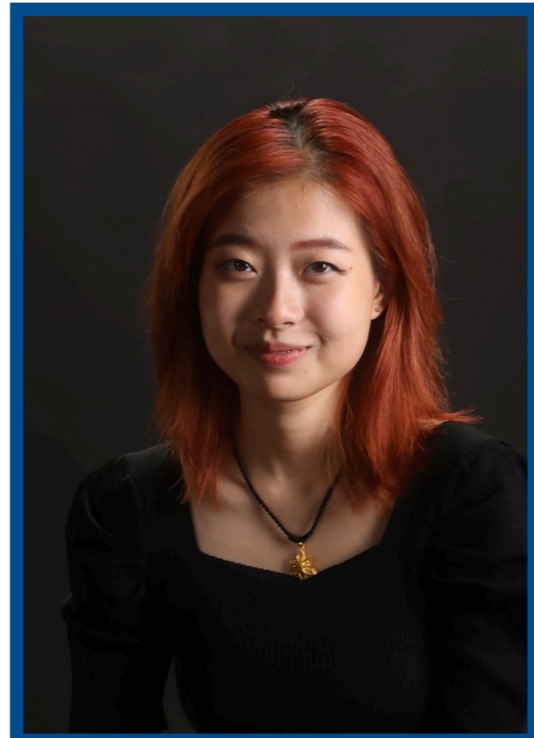
project also led to the establishment of her own animation studio, "The Studio BER." She loves her team, including her producer, composer, artists, and animators, who shared her vision and contributed their talents to bring the film to life.

Yale-NUS' common curriculum, which emphasises critical thinking and philosophical inquiry, has influenced the themes in her work. "The Human Fossil" delves into existential questions about humanity's legacy, inspired by her studies at Yale-NUS. The emphasis on research skills has also been invaluable to Rebecca, who frequently consults with Yale-NUS alumni for her projects.

Rebecca continues to maintain strong ties with her Yale-NUS classmates and professors, enjoying the camaraderie of the YNC community in New York. She attends alumni-initiated events and reunions, fondly recalling attending her suitemate Cora's wedding in Ohio, which turned into a heartwarming Yale-NUS reunion.

Advice for recent graduates:

"It's the best thing in the world to turn your passion into your job – if you really want to excel at it, you have to do it full-time. Also, It'll be hard after graduation to meet another group of friends who are so self-reflective, so open-minded, and who strive to stay true to their purpose. Keep in touch with the community!"



Aidan Sim (Class of 2020)



After completing his studies, Aidan initially ventured into the world of finance. However, his adventurous spirit soon led him to London, where he now resides. Since his move, Aidan has moved into the vibrant hospitality scene, bartending at one of the Top 50 Best Cocktail Bars, and is currently managing an innovative Chinese-inspired bar in Hackney.

Aidan's dream is still to become a full-time actor, a goal he has only recently found the courage to fully embrace. However, he acknowledges that this is a very self-serving goal, requiring a dedication to sacrifice many other parts of life to accomplish.

Aidan is still pursuing it, but he recognises that the best goals serve others. Now, he believes acting is part of a bigger picture of a life filled with loved ones all being happy together. He aspires to work hard and succeed for those he loves.

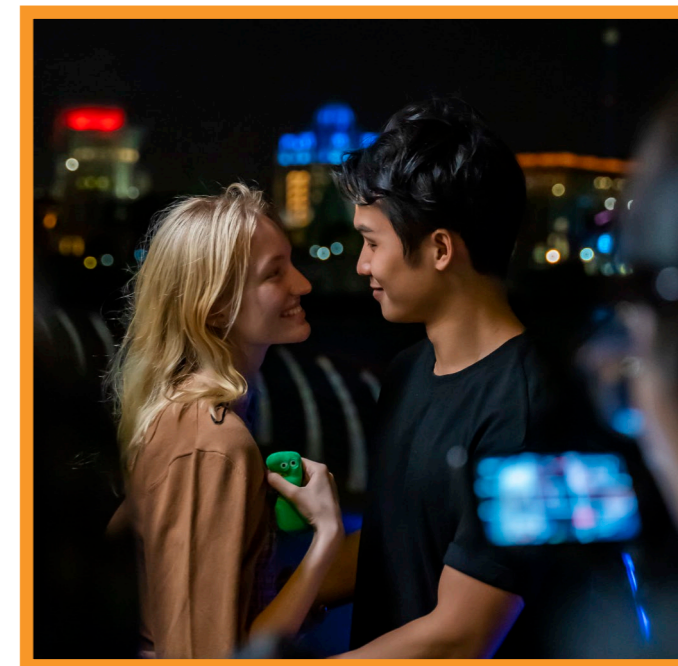
A highlight of Aidan's post-graduation journey was landing a major acting gig last year. This opportunity took him to Bulgaria for filming, where he was in the extreme cold, and worked alongside crew members who had collaborated with stars like Robert De Niro and Liam Neeson.

One of the biggest challenges Aidan has faced since leaving university is grappling with the concept of the "good life." While his philosophy classes provided a theoretical framework, real-life application has proven to be, as he describes it, "a different story."

Every day presents a series of choices, each with the potential for fulfilment or discontent. As Aidan puts it, "the struggle lies in discerning which advice to follow and which to discard."

In his post-graduate life, Aidan has embraced new passions, such as street dance. "I go to a studio in East London and dance to house music," he shares. The energetic dance forms, including shuffling and jump style, have become his preferred form of cardio, offering both a fun workout and a creative outlet.

For Aidan, Yale-NUS's undergraduate environment was a catalyst for embracing



his individuality and facing the unknown with confidence. "It taught me that it was okay (and in some ways better) to be different," he notes. This lesson has been crucial in his journey, giving him the courage to explore unconventional paths.

Though Aidan hasn't maintained extensive connections with classmates or professors, he deeply values the strong bonds formed with his suitemates. "Living together really forms those strong bonds," he acknowledges. He eagerly anticipates reuniting with them for some boxing sessions when he returns to Singapore.

Advice for recent graduates:

“Money is really important! It gives you the possibility to achieve the freedom to do things you like and to live an independent life. It’s not the only important thing— friends are too! Surround yourself with the best people and never live solely for yourself!”



Xizhe (Bob) Sim (Class of 2021)

Bob currently resides in Singapore. Shortly after graduating in 2021, he began an apprenticeship as a tattooist. The apprenticeship lasted a little over a year, with the initial five to six months serving as a rite of passage, during which Bob wasn’t allowed to use a tattoo machine. Instead, he focused on tattoo and hygiene theory, setting up and tearing down workstations, maintaining the studio (including daily cleaning duties), and developing muscle memory by tracing lines on paper for hours each day. For Bob, this period felt like a half-year unpaid internship, as he only earned from a percentage of the tattoos he completed. Now, Bob is in his third year as a tattooist.

The first year in the tattoo industry was filled with uncertainty for Bob. It was an uncharted path that required constant leaps of faith and a strong conviction.



Personal email: honestbobtattoos@gmail.com
Instagram: [@honestbobtattoos](https://www.instagram.com/honestbobtattoos)

Bob reflects, “It seemed impossible to turn this passion into a viable career.” He gave himself a two-year period to push forward with “all his might” and set aside any self-doubt. If Bob couldn’t earn a reasonable income from tattooing by then, he promised he would switch to a more



conventional career. Fortunately, things worked out, but, as Bob says, “I remain vigilant.” He added, “I’ve learned to roll with the uncertainty.”

While Bob hasn’t developed any new hobbies since graduating, he still enjoys rock climbing and bouldering, albeit less frequently than during his university days. Reading, watching TV shows and movies,

continue to stimulate his mind. Moreover, his work as a tattooist overlaps with his interests, making it feel less like a job and more like a passion.

Graduating from Yale-NUS with a major in Urban Studies and a minor in Anthropology might seem unrelated to tattooing, but the multidisciplinary environment at Yale-NUS was instrumental in shaping Bob’s path. It opened his mind to possibilities he might have otherwise dismissed. Urban Studies themes and theories often inspire his tattoo designs, and techniques learned in Historical Immersion classes enhance his drawing skills.

Although Bob is unable to meet his classmates and professors as often as he’d like, he cherishes the times spent together. Bob doesn’t use social media socially, so in-person meetings are when he catches up with friends’ lives. His friends are now scattered across the globe or in different life stages, but the shared experience at Yale-NUS remains a cherished memory.

Advice for recent graduates:

“I wouldn’t consider myself or my journey a positive role model to follow because there were sacrifices and priorities made that may not be viable for people in different circumstances. That said, all I can advise is to live as authentically as you can by figuring out what you want and what truly makes you happy, then prioritising those. Don’t listen to the noise.”



Freya Lalani (Class of 2022)

Freya works at the Alumni Affairs and Strategic Events Office at Yale-NUS College. This fall, she will start a new beginning in Baltimore, where she will pursue a Master of Science in Public Health (MSPH) in International Health (Health Systems) at Johns Hopkins University.

Transitioning from the structured environment of college to the responsibilities of adulthood has presented Freya with some unexpected challenges such as managing her meals and maintaining a social life. She fondly recalls the convenience of the dining hall at Yale-NUS, mentioning the emotional



graduate programs. Achieving her goal of getting into grad school for the fall of 2024 is a proud milestone in her journey.

While her aspirations have remained consistent since graduation, the two years she spent working have helped clarify her long-term professional goals. These experiences have influenced her choice of specialisation for her master's programme and have provided insight into the kind of work environment that brings her professional fulfilment.

Freya has embraced new hobbies that contribute to her personal growth and well-being. She has taken up aerial hoop, also known as Lyra, which has been a fun, challenging, and rewarding pursuit. This activity not only helps her develop strength and grace but also offers a platform for making new friends as an adult. Through aerial hoop, Freya has learned to appreciate her body's capabilities and has found a way to stay active.

This summer, she is looking forward to a big Europe trip with her Yale-NUS suitemates. Additionally, she keeps in touch with a broader group of Yale-NUS friends, with whom she celebrates Thanksgiving and Christmas every year. Surprisingly, Freya found that she grew closer to many of these friends after graduation. Mentorship has also played a significant role, and thanks Professors Jean Liu and Ajay Mathuru for their continued support through her job search and graduate school applications.



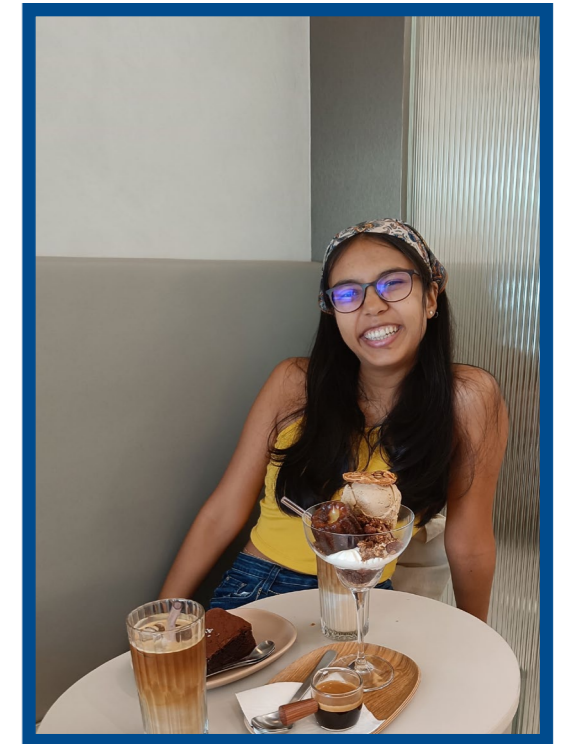
labour involved in meal planning, grocery shopping, cooking, and cleaning.

Additionally, for Freya, the social structures at Yale-NUS, from residential suites to various student organisations, made socialising effortless. In contrast, adulting requires intentional efforts to meet friends and maintain an active social life, all while balancing a budget in an expensive city like Singapore.

Freya's most significant accomplishment since graduation has been managing her personal and professional life while navigating the emotionally and mentally challenging process of applying for

Advice for recent graduates:

“Be intentional and stay curious! In university, we have many opportunities to try and learn new things, often embedded into the structure, so we don't need to seek them out intentionally. Post-graduation, I've realised the importance of being intentional about things I took for granted in college – everything from socialising to maintaining my passions. YNC provides a wonderful space for curiosity, intellectual engagement, and great conversations with peers. After graduating, make sure to intentionally create a safe space for yourself where you can continue to enjoy these things.”



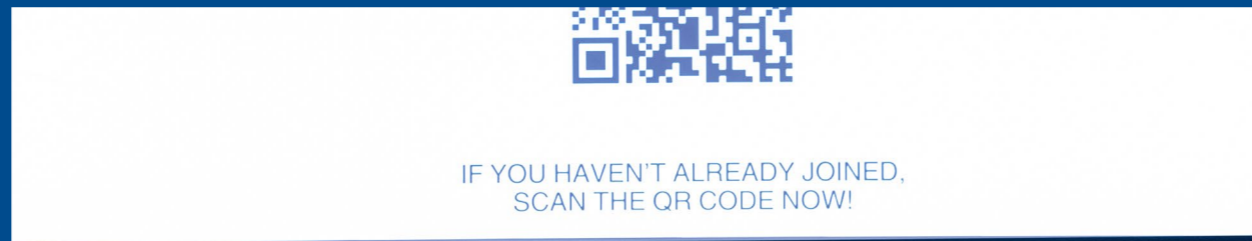
Calling all Kingfishers!

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](#)

ALUMNI REUNION IN PHOTOS

We look back at some of the highlights from Alumni Reunion 2024!



TUNES FOR THE SUMMER

Wingspan collates a summer playlist based on recommendations from alumni to see what everyone's listening to



Islands - Shakira

"It's stuck in my head! Plus it's a chill but energetic take on a lovely song." - Joshua Choo ('24)



Rush - Troye Sivan

"I FEEL THE RUSH ADDICTED 2 UR TOUCH" - Melody Madhavan ('17)



SUNRISE - Ben&Ben

"It's a hopeful, sunny song by a Filipino band!" - Betina Choa ('21)



Training Season - Dua Lipa

"Honestly isn't the entirety of Yale-NUS a long training season?" - Max Pasakorn ('24)



the boy is mine - Ariana Grande

"manifesting" - Morgane Darya Vassillisa Ropion ('22)



Location - Dave ft. Burna Boy

"Summer party vibes, also start of sem mixer by YAAAS holds a sweet memory" - Yusra Zaheer ('23)



Dance The Night - Dua Lipa

"Summer is meant for dancing the night even (even if it's just in your kitchen)!" - Freya Lalani ('22)



Is It Over Now? - Taylor Swift

"Pop perfection" - Paul Jerusalem ('19)



The Night is Still Young - Nicki Minaj

"a reminder to enjoy life and seize every day" - Amirul Hakim ('22)



Doudou - Ali Farka Touré & Toumani Diabate

"This song sits on one of my favourite playlists which I've titled 'for a lazy, sunny winter afternoon (or a tender beach day)' - and each time I listen to Doudou I feel like I'm sitting on a beach, just enjoying an eternal moment of summer." - Angad Srivastava ('21)



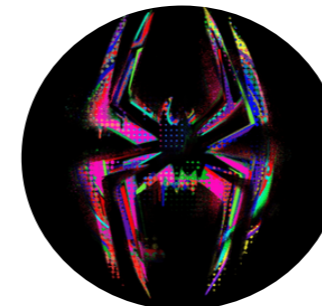
Disaster of Passion - AISHA, Arc System Works

"As the theme song of May, the peppy pirate from fighting game Guilty Gear Strive, this tune gives bouncy energetic summer vibes and never fails to make me smile." - Kyle Foo ('22)



No Tomorrow - Orson

"I have hyped myself up for many a night out using this song over the years. It just feels joyful and energetic. The way it builds up to a high of the chorus, the YOLO-ness of the lyrics, the pop rock of it, all great summer vibes." - Glen Kilian Koh Eng Kai ('18)



Am I Dreaming - Roi-see, Metro Boomin, A\$AP Rocky

"Summer is a period often looked back to as the 'good times', the song makes us aware of how good we have it right now." - Shaharaj Ahmed ('23)



Loved By You - WUNDERCHILD, Ayete, Mpiwa

"It's a vibey Afrobeat love song that gets you feeling good and ready to take on the day" - Mpiwa Gail Gwindi ('24)



Girlfriend is Better - girl in red

"It's a bop" - Cedric ('21)

listen to the wingspan

SUMMER playlist

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.

EDITORS

Alyson Rozells

EDITING, WRITING, DESIGN AND LAYOUT

Adlin Zainal ('17)

STUDENT ASSOCIATE WRITER

Siddharth Mohan Roy ('25)

STUDENT ASSOCIATE WRITER & LAYOUT

Suman Padhi ('25)