



WINGSPAN

THE YALE-NUS ALUMNI NEWSLETTER
THE LAST ISSUE

ROCKING OUT

Read about the alumni
bands at Bread and Jam

**Also in
this issue:**

Our annual holiday
book roundup

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Joanne Roberts, President



Dear Alumni,

It is a bittersweet moment as I pen this, knowing it is the last issue of Wingspan. I have enjoyed following your exciting adventures as I browsed through its pages. I continue to be amazed by the initiatives that our students and alumni have created to support one another and your communities – academic and industry groups, interest groups, community service projects, identity collectives and many more. I know the drive to create and give back will not end in 2025.

As one chapter draws to a close, I know another will open. I look forward to seeing how you will continue to challenge and inspire one another, and steward the legacy of this remarkable college through the Yale-NUS Club. The Club will take over the role of helping everyone stay connected, leading us into the next chapter of the Yale-NUS story. In the meantime, you can still read stories about our alumni and community via the [Yale-NUS Stories portal](#) and reminisce about the College through the [Legacy website](#). I also hope to see you all at Reunion in 2025 – please save the date – **May 17th**. I look forward to catching up then.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature of Joanne Roberts in black ink.

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EXCO'S CORNER

Khwa Zhong Xuan, President

Hey friends!

As the penultimate semester closes, I'm sure many questions about our future come to mind. What's next for the Yale-NUS community? How will we stay in touch? Where will we go to see each other?

The Yale-NUS Club Exco has been working hard to make sure we have those answers. We recently held a retreat in New Haven, meeting with stakeholders and allies at Yale to develop our plans for 2025. It was also so wonderful to connect with alums and community members in Yale and New York, and we extend our gratitude to the College and Alumni Affairs team for planning these wonderful gatherings.

Thinking back to those gatherings, I'm reminded of the importance of face-to-face connection with the community. I hope to see many of you at the 2025 reunion - 17 May 2025, save the date! If you're interested in helping plan, reach out to the Exco as we are actively organizing the day with Alumni Affairs. For those outside Singapore, the Yale-NUS Club is committed to bringing opportunities for connection to you. Stay tuned for more details! To stay in touch with our plans, [join the Yale-NUS Club here](#).

With Love,

Xuan '20, on behalf of the Yale-NUS Club Exco.



CTRL+ALT+INNOVATE: ALUMNI IN THE AI WORLD

In this feature, we catch up with our alumni who are making waves in the artificial intelligence (AI) industry through their work and academic journeys.

By *Siddharth Mohan Roy ('25)*



Xiu Ting Fong ('21) is the Product Lead at Ask Goodnotes, an innovative feature by the popular note-taking app Goodnotes. Her work centers on answering the question: "What if you could talk to all the notes you've ever written?" By combining cutting-edge AI with the vast repositories of user-created notes, Ask Goodnotes brings this vision to life. A devoted Goodnotes user for nearly eight years, Xiu Ting credits the app for helping her navigate her college journey. In fact, she once hosted an informal note-taking workshop at Yale-NUS College, even before the company launched its Ambassador Program.

Her role at Goodnotes involves a great deal of collaboration. Following the recent Droptober launch of Ask Goodnotes, she has been working with data analysts and user researchers to analyze how users engage with the platform. Additionally, she collaborates with engineering and machine learning teams to build core features and with designers to ensure a seamless user experience. Weekly strategy meetings with the CEO and product managers round out her schedule, alongside a daily coffee ritual that's taken seriously by the Goodnotes team.

Xiu Ting's journey into artificial intelligence was inspired by an unconventional factor: the environmental cost of AI. Concerned by its resource-intensive nature, she sought to contribute to projects where

AI could have a meaningful, positive impact. At Goodnotes, she has found that impact. One memorable moment occurred at a conference in San Francisco, where her Goodnotes sweater sparked conversations with people who shared how the app helped them organize their lives. For Xiu Ting, such stories exemplify the transformative power of her work.

As a first-generation college graduate, Xiu Ting is passionate about increasing access to education. Her work at Goodnotes reflects this commitment by offering features that make studying more accessible and effective. Ask Goodnotes can summarize notes, suggest questions, explain complex diagrams, and generate quizzes — all tailored to the user's materials. This approach allows students, regardless of their financial circumstances, to have a personalized study companion. It's a mission that aligns with her belief in AI as a tool for equity in education.

Moreover, Xiu Ting envisions a future where AI reshapes education for the better. She acknowledges concerns, such as the fear of AI tools being misused for academic dishonesty, but emphasizes the importance of teaching students how to use AI responsibly.

"Just as students once learned to navigate



libraries and dictionaries, they now need to understand how to leverage AI for research and learning," she explains.

One of the most significant challenges Xiu Ting faces in the AI sector is keeping pace with rapid technological advancements. Since Goodnotes relies on external large language models, the team must adapt quickly when new developments arise. This requires balancing swift execution with strategic planning, a skill she has honed through crafting adaptable roadmaps.

Xiu Ting credits Yale-NUS College with giving her a holistic view of AI. The interdisciplinary education she received encouraged her to see AI as more than just a technological advancement; it's a force that transforms how people interact with the world and reshapes societal ecosystems. This perspective has been instrumental in her work, where understanding the broader implications of AI is as important as developing the technology itself.

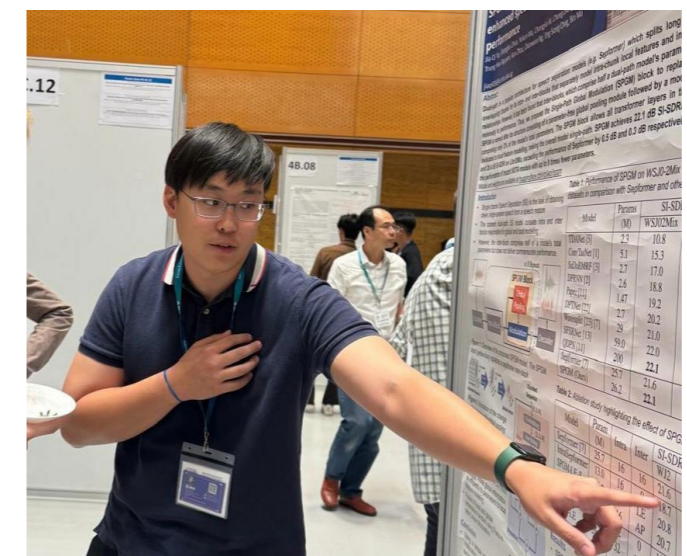
Her advice to alumni interested in AI: connect with industry professionals. While reading academic papers and articles provides a foundation, conversations with those in the field can offer invaluable insights and practical knowledge.

Yip Jia Qi ('20) is now a PhD candidate at Nanyang Technological University (NTU), exploring the intricacies of speech and audio AI. His research focuses on teaching machines to process and understand human voices, mirroring the nuances of human hearing.

His path to AI, however, wasn't linear. Majoring in physical sciences with a minor in philosophy, Jia Qi's early academic journey was grounded in the natural sciences and abstract thought. Graduating amidst the uncertainty of the pandemic, he found himself in an unexpected role—working in HR at Singapore's Prime Minister's Office.

What might seem like a detour became a learning experience. "I loved it," Jia Qi shares. "I worked on compensation and organizational design—evaluating job sizes and mapping them to appropriate salary data" Through this role, he developed a deeper understanding of the labour market and a passion for crafting policy, but he felt a pull toward something different.

Taking a part-time machine learning course at NUS while stuck at home during COVID marked the beginning of a pivotal shift. "It wasn't just about picking up a new skill," he says. "I was just following my curiosity, and it led me down this rabbit hole." A series of coincidences led him to speech separation research—a field that grapples with the "cocktail party problem," examining how



humans can isolate a single voice amid a sea of overlapping sounds. While second nature for us, this feat remains a significant hurdle for machines. "Why can humans pick out one speaker in a noisy room, but a microphone can't?" he asks, "or at least they couldn't, until about 5 years ago. Now, they are in some special cases possibly better than humans," he adds.

Jia Qi's work uses deep learning techniques to mimic this extraordinary human ability, working to advance the technology behind voice recognition systems. "It's incredible what the human brain does so effortlessly," he says, reflecting on his initial fascination with the challenge of separating overlapping voices into clear, distinct channels. While significant progress has been made, Jia Qi points out the limitations of current AI systems. "We tried to replicate the function of the brain to understand it better, but we replicated it so well, now our models are almost just as inscrutable as the brain itself," he explains, highlighting the ongoing struggle to demystify the "black box" of artificial intelligence.

The rapid pace of AI research presents its own set of challenges. Jia Qi points to the explosion of publications in his

field—from a single paper on neural audio codecs in 2021 to over 40 by 2024. “It’s overwhelming to sift through so much information,” he admits. “The noise often outweighs the signal, making it difficult to identify true breakthroughs.” The race for improvements, he notes, often shifts focus away from pure scientific exploration to navigating the demands of the system.

But for Jia Qi, AI is about more than technological advances. An internship at Singapore’s Centre for Strategic Futures in 2017 sparked his interest in the ethics and geopolitics of AI. He reflects on the growing divide between those who operate AI systems and those who live under their influence. “This gap could create a societal rift,” he warns, recalling dystopian scenarios he imagined early in his career.

Though his current work doesn’t directly address AI ethics, Jia Qi sees it as his responsibility to think critically about the societal implications of his research. “It’s not just about building smarter models,” he says. “It’s about shaping a future that integrates these technologies into society in helpful ways.”

For anyone curious about AI, Jia Qi highlights the importance of interdisciplinary thinking. “My philosophy background taught me to think critically and communicate effectively,” he shares. Whether writing research papers or navigating complex ideas, these skills have proven invaluable in his post-graduation journey.

ENCORE: YALE-NUS ALUMNI REUNITE FOR BREAD AND JAM

Celebrating the melodies, memories, and magic of Yale-NUS alumni musicians as they take the stage one final time at Bread and Jam, the College’s annual concert showcase.

By Siddharth Mohan Roy ('25)

We Talked to Sid from Bombay Sapphire...

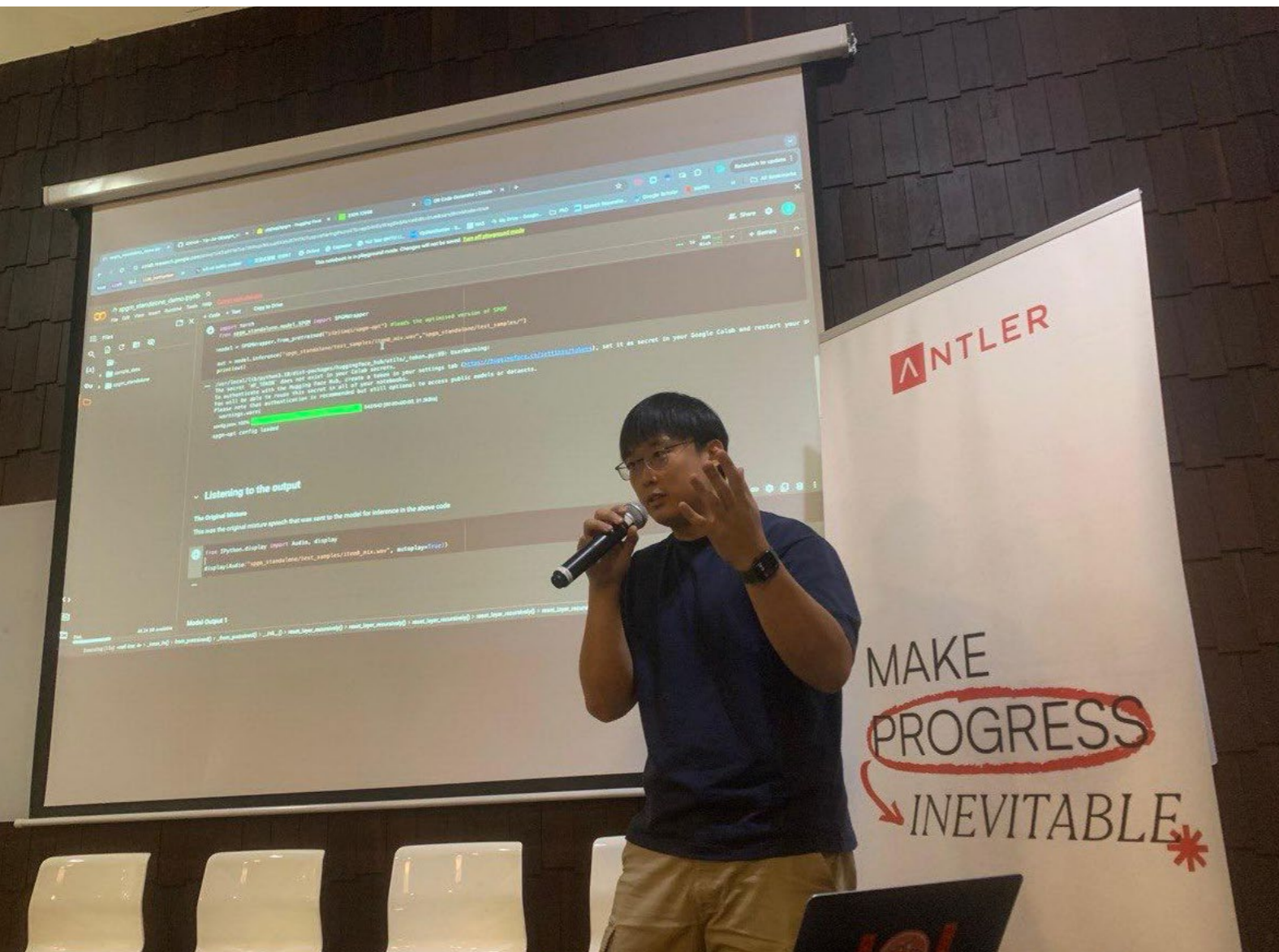
Siddharth Chatterjee ('21) is currently working at a philanthropy and impact investing network, where he facilitates workshops, conducts research, and hosts a podcast focused on philanthropy and social investing. Sid and his band, Bombay Sapphire, recently found time to reconnect with their musical side at this year’s Bread and Jam.

The event was particularly special for Sid and his bandmates. While Shanelle Samtani ('21) (drummer) and Manraaj Singh ('21) (vocalist) were regular performers at Yale-NUS events, it marked the first Bread and Jam appearance for Atharva Brahmecha ('21) (guitarist). For Sid, this was a long-

awaited opportunity to step onto the stage as a musician, having previously emceed a Tape Days concert.

Sid’s musical journey began unexpectedly during his final year at Yale-NUS in 2021. While working in the Saga Common Lounge, he found himself drawn to the grand piano, which became a frequent source of distraction. What started as a casual escape evolved into a meaningful passion. Since then, Sid has kept his connection to music alive by jamming with friends, practicing regularly, and exploring new sounds.

Preparing for Bread and Jam wasn’t





without its challenges. The band members were spread across different cities and only reunited three days before the concert. With just two rehearsals, they had to quickly find their rhythm as a group. Fortunately, everything came together during their final practice, and their performance turned out to be a highlight of the evening.

The band performed *Pichle Saat Dino Mein*, a Hindi rock anthem from the Bollywood film *Rock On!*, much to the audience's delight. Sid, reflecting on his South Asian roots, also shared a few music recommendations: Mehdi Hassan's rendition of *Ranjish Hi Sahi*, a timeless Urdu ghazal, and *Floated By* by Peter Cat Recording Co., a contemporary Indian alt-rock band. Both songs, he says, capture the depth and diversity of South Asian music.

For Sid, Bread and Jam was more than just a concert—it was a chance to revisit

the vibrant Yale-NUS community that had shaped so many of his favorite memories. As the College nears its final year, Sid's return to the stage was a heartfelt tribute to his time at Yale-NUS.



We Talked to Shani from Dabao Club...

Shanelle (Shani) Samtani ('21) currently works in advertising, balancing her professional life with her passion for music. A typical day for her involves heading to the office, clocking out right at 6 PM, and spending her evenings unwinding with friends, working out, or taking long walks. While drum practice doesn't happen as often as she'd like, teaching drums to kids aged 2-16 and taking lessons herself keeps her connected to her musical roots.

For Shani, music has always been a significant part of life at Yale-NUS. Her band, The Delivery Club, was formed during their very first PPT1 seminar in 2017. Weekly jams quickly became a cherished tradition, with the band performing at freshman and sophomore Tape Days, various campus events, and even hosting an end-of-year concert in their suite. This year's Bread and Jam marked their return as The Dabao Club, a reimagined version of the original group.

Though this was their first official Bread and Jam performance under the new name, Shani, along with bandmates Enlin Leong ('21) and Jay Wong ('21), previously performed at Bread and Jam 2019 as part of a J-Rock band, Pocari Sweat.

One of Shani's most cherished memories with the band was their impromptu Zoom concert in May 2021. With tightened COVID-19 restrictions preventing in-person celebrations, they recreated their freshman-year suite concert virtually, inviting friends to tune in from their rooms. The concert was bittersweet, marking the last time the original lineup would perform together before their singer-guitarist Gideon left for his PhD in Chicago.

Preparing for this year's Bread and Jam wasn't without its hurdles. With Gideon absent, the band recruited Jinhee as

their lead vocalist and Viv on keyboard. Scheduling rehearsals was another challenge, as everyone juggled busy work lives. Despite these obstacles, the group pulled it together with just two full-length rehearsals before the show—a testament to their commitment and shared love of music.

Even after graduation, music remains central to their lives. Jay has been leveling up their guitar skills, Viv is mastering drums alongside keyboards, Enlin continues performing while pursuing a PhD, and Jinhee made her debut as a lead vocalist at Bread and Jam. Meanwhile, Shani stays immersed in music through her teaching and personal drum practice.

The group also keeps their pre-show traditions alive. While supper sessions at Elm are no longer possible, their annual karaoke meetup with Gideon during his visits to Singapore remains a cherished ritual.

Shani recommends diving into their influences—The Strokes, Arctic Monkeys,



and Paramore, to name a few. She also highlights From Zero, Linkin Park's latest studio album, released on the same day as Bread and Jam. It's a perfect way to relive those nostalgic tween years.

We Talked to Mani Makers...

The Mani Makers, a band of five Yale-NUS alumni—Naman Kedia ('23), Neel Karve ('24), Manisha Saigal ('24), Jireh Lim ('24), and Nick Singh ('24)—continue to keep their love for music alive post-graduation.

Neel is a self-proclaimed "PowerPoint and Excel jockey," keeping music in his life to balance the grind of work. Jireh is taking a moment to savor time with family and friends before diving into his first job. Nick is all about "business, business, numbers, numbers," living for the weekends and moments spent with his bandmates. Manisha (Mani) just started as a marine and coastal environmental consultant, blending her passion for music with her love for the ocean. Naman is a management associate and remains the steady bass player who glues the band's sound together.

As Neel puts it, "Without the show, I would have gone months without seriously playing anything on my guitar." For Jireh, the opportunity to perform at Yale-NUS

again was an immediate "yes," while Nick was drawn by the chance to play live and spend time with his bandmates. Mani, ever the team player, joined the performance because, as she says, "Jireh signed us up!"

The band's performances are filled with unforgettable moments. For Jireh, playing Black Parade and Hotel California during Tape Days 2024 was a "coming-of-age moment." Nick recalls the thrill of their first live performance of Mr. Brightside. Mani looks back fondly on their 2022 Tape Days setlist, their first-ever live show after COVID, which she describes as "iconic" for the incredible response it received.

Balancing work and music is no small feat. Neel and Nick highlighted the difficulty of finding time to practice outside their demanding schedules. Another challenge? Picking songs everyone agrees on—a task that Mani says has pushed the band to get more creative, leading to mashups like Starships and R U Mine during Tape Days 2024.





The logistics may be tough, but their commitment to making it work is unwavering. As Nick says, “Getting to play with the band even after graduating helps with dealing with new pressures in life.”

The Mani Makers have grown not just as individuals but as musicians. Mani reflects on how the band has learned to let everyone shine, whether through solos, riffs, or bass lines. They’ve also collaborated with other musicians and experimented with their sound, from wacky mashups to personal reinterpretations of songs.

For Neel, music has taken on a more intentional role—he listens to whole albums now while tackling spreadsheets. Jireh, on the other hand, finds himself more relaxed, swaying to the music with his eyes closed during performances.

The band has a few quirky pre-show rituals, including mirror selfies, warm-ups, and, as Mani admits, sending five outfit options to the group chat on the day of a performance. Nick jokes about “making Mani cringe” with exaggerated praise, and Jireh swears he gets “nervous coughs” before every show.

For the Mani Makers, Bread and Jam was another milestone in a journey that started

at Yale-NUS and continues to evolve. As Mani puts it, “Playing together reminds us why we started in the first place—to have fun, to connect, and to share music that means something to us.” Whether it’s iconic mashups, heartfelt ballads, or rocking the stage with full hearts, the Mani Makers show no signs of slowing down.

When it comes to recommendations, the band says to listen to: Lang Zi Hui Tou, Sarah’s Place by Zach Bryan and Noah Kahan



We talked to Jonathan Lee (‘21)...

Jonathan Lee, a Double Degree Programme (DDP) graduate (‘21), balances a busy professional life as a public sector lawyer with his enduring passion for music. His days are typically spent reviewing cases, preparing for litigation, and working closely with various agencies in the administration of justice. But despite his demanding career, Jonathan has continued to find ways to keep music in his life—a commitment he brought to this year’s Bread and Jam.

For Jonathan, this year’s Bread and Jam was more than just another gig—it was about coming full circle and celebrating the legacy of Yale-NUS music. “Closing out Bread and Jam (and the Black Box) was something I couldn’t possibly pass up,” he shared. Jonathan has been a regular at Bread and Jam and Tape Days since his freshman year in 2017, performing with a slightly different lineup each time.

This year, his band, Suitcase, featured

members of the current graduating class, making it a collaboration and a fitting way to conclude the concert series. Reflecting on the band’s evolution, Jonathan jokingly referenced their infamous 2020 Bread and Jam performance of the SARS Rap, which may have been a little too prescient for comfort.

While it’s hard for Jonathan to pick a single favorite memory, a few performances stand out. The SARS Rap was certainly unforgettable, but so was their first alumni Tape Days in 2023, when friends packed the MPH to show their support. However, the standout was Tape Days 2024, where the band pulled off an ambitious performance of Can’t Hold Us with a horns section and a choir. “It was super fun to have friends from different classes on stage with us,” Jonathan said. “Figuring out how to fit 11 people onto the Black Box stage was a challenge, but it was worth it.”

For Jonathan, the magic of playing in a band lies in the balance of change and constancy. While the core of the group has always been his fellow Class of 2020 friends, new additions from across graduating years have brought fresh energy and countless new memories.

Since graduating, Jonathan's musical interests have shifted. The pandemic years saw him leaning into acoustic and folk styles, influenced by artists like Noah Kahan and Bon Iver. More recently, he's been exploring funk, jazz, and neo-soul.

Jonathan has stayed connected to music through Yale-NUS gigs and regular jamming sessions with a group of friends and junior college schoolmates, many of whom are also Yale-NUS alumni. Beyond performing, he stays inspired by attending live gigs, supporting friends' performances, and singing with the Yale-NUS Gospel Choir as an alumnus.

Jonathan's band doesn't have strict pre-show rituals, but they're known for their goofy photoshoots and a tradition of band names revolving around "Stacy." From Stacy's Dads to Stacy's Diner, the rotating lineups and playful naming conventions have become a hallmark of their performances. As Jonathan points out, "In Yale-NUS, if you do something more than twice, it's a tradition—so I guess our



band name and lineup changes qualify!"

One of Jonathan's all-time favorite songs is U2's Where The Streets Have No Name. "It's just so sonically expansive," he explained. "It makes my heart soar every time I give it a listen," he concludes.

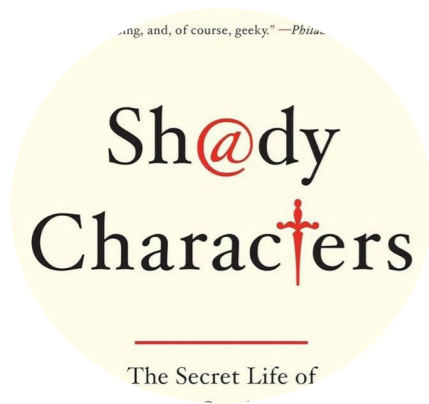


FIND YOUR NEXT GREAT READ

Looking for a good book to curl up with this holiday season? Check out Wingspan's annual holiday book list, as recommended by our staff and faculty!

By Suman Padhi('25)

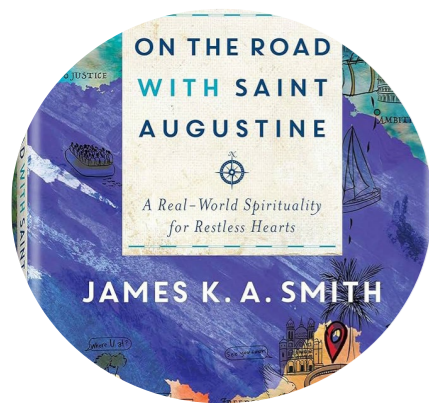




Shady Characters: The Secret Life of Punctuation, Symbols and Other Typographical Marks
Keith Houston

This was such a fun book looking at the history of various punctuation marks. It basically lends itself to random trivia about the history of asterisks, dashes, and ampersands. It may even cause you to update your phone's keyboard to use an interrobang because you now realise how awesome this symbol is!

Cory Owen
Dean of Students



On the Road with Saint Augustine: A Real World Spirituality for Restless Hearts
James K. A. Smith

[The book] traces the biography and spiritual journey of the great North African bishop through an exploration of the perennial questions of the human condition: love, friendship, sex, and death. Reading Augustine's *Confessions* in the spirit of Jack Kerouac's *On the Road*, philosophy professor James Smith shows how Augustine's struggles for love, community, and connection follow the same pattern as ours. Smith describes his book as 'a road trip with a prodigal who's already been where you think you need to go'.

Dr Paul Gallagher
Assistant Dean

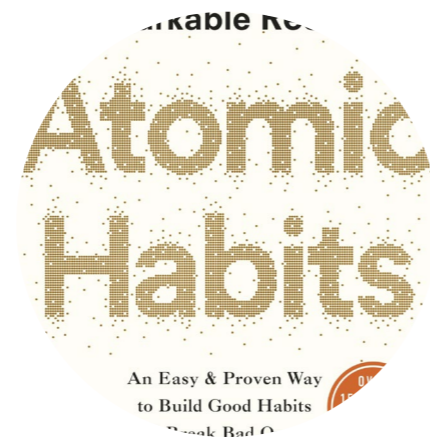


Welcome to Hyunnam-Dong Bookshop
Hwang Bo-reum

This novel is a warm, slice-of-life story about empathy, healing, courage, relationships, and the pursuit of dreams through the personal journeys of its characters. Set in a quiet Seoul bookshop, it follows a woman finding solace amid life's chaos. It beautifully explores themes of loss, hope, and connection and

embracing quiet transformations. It reminds us of the resilience we carry, the peace found in small moments of self-acceptance and the healing power of books.

Alyson Rozells
Senior Associate Director (Alumni Affairs and Strategic Events)



Atomic Habits
James Clear

The book was written by a former professional athlete and goes into lots of interesting detail about the psychological underpinnings of habit formation. But it doesn't stop there - it offers very practical tips on incorporating new habits into your existing routine so that they feel like an extension to, and not a clash with, your current way of life. December break offers just enough time to settle into a new habit, so I hope that folks will find the book useful.

Zhana Sandeva
Associate Director (Centre for International and Professional Experience)



Lies and Weddings
Kevin Kwan

This book is perfect if you're looking for a light and entertaining read from the same author as *Crazy Rich Asians*. *Lies and Weddings* is full of satirical drama, family chaos and outrageous extravagance. I love how it mixes humour with a peek into cultural traditions in a way that will keep you engaged from cover to cover.

Ashley Yong
Senior Executive (Student Affairs Office)



Julia
Sandra Newman

Julia is a re-telling of George Orwell's masterpiece, *1984*, from the perspective of Julia, who was Winston's lover in the original novel. San-

dra Newman does more than add a feminist gloss to the classic dystopian novel. She certainly draws attention to sexual assault and the absence of reproductive freedom within the Party, but the character of Julia also has a more cynical but also complicated view of totalitarianism. As a result, the novel holds out more hope than the original.

Professor Chris Howell
Associate Dean, Faculty Development



Butter
Asako Yuzuki
(2024 Translation by Polly Barton)

An interesting novel about Rika, a journalist who visits Kajii in the detention center before her second trial. This Kajii character is based on a real-life Japanese woman who was convicted for poisoning and murdering three of the men she was dating. Rika is fascinated with the case while navigating overtly misogynistic media coverage of Kajii and her large body and cooking. When she meets Kajii

in prison, she suggests to Rika to eat butter and soy sauce on rice—and this awakens something in Rika as she becomes more and more enveloped in Kajii's world and pace. The connection between eating, cooking, gender roles, and one's body image all come together in this book. The careful descriptions of food and cooking is also exquisite

Associate Professor Nozomi Naoi
Head of Studies, Arts & Humanities



The Great Reclamation
Rachel Heng

This is a fictional story about characters living in Singapore and their experiences during the transition of Singapore from colonial times to independence. Well worth reading if you are interested in a more on-the-ground perspective of that period.

Associate Professor Ng Hui Khoon
Director, Division of Science



Demon Copperhead
Barbara Kingsolver

This heart-wrenching novel shares an account of the effect of the opioid crisis on communities of Appalachia. Told with deep empathy, it reveals the humanity behind the statistics without relying on stereotypes, and forces the reader to reflect on the larger structural forces behind this ongoing tragedy.

Professor Joanne Roberts
President



The Extinction of Experience
Christine Rosen

I am by no means a Luddite! I do not hate technology – in fact, I embrace it. That is perhaps why Christine Ros-

en’s book speaks sharply to everyone like me. In the exhilarating and bewildering world of multiple media, we are induced continually into replacing the real with the virtual, and we do that without a thought to what we might be giving up. The Greeks had a word for this problem: they called it a chimera. And if we are not to perish, as the book warns, we had better learn to walk back from the chimerical into everything mundane and solidly real. A book like this can make one take notice of what is slowly going wrong with our lives, even as we sink smiling.

Professor Rajeev Patke
Director, Division of Humanities



The Magical Yet
Angela DiTerlizzi

The book is a relatable read for my six-year-old, who often feels frustrated with things he can’t do just yet—like learning to ride his bike. The book beautifully validates his experience, gently acknowledging the challenge of falling down while cycling and encourag-

ing the virtues of patience and perseverance, all with the help of a magical companion called the ‘Yet’. For adults, it’s a comforting reminder of the importance of a growth mindset, that hard work, persistence, and even occasional failures are all part of our journey toward success.

Siti Rasiqah
Manager (Public Affairs)



Mad World: The Politics of Mental Health
Micha Frazer-Carroll

Frazer-Carroll’s work redirects the discourse around mental health from a primarily personal issue to be managed towards a broader understanding of how the rise of capitalistic norms contribute to non-economically viable behaviour being considered as deviant and requiring ostracization. She pushes us to see that no personal struggle exists independent of societal influence, especially knowledge practices driven by epistemic elites. This is a great read for anyone interested in the systems and processes that inform

the workings of the mind.

Tinesh Indrajah ('17)
Vice President, Yale-NUS Club



How to Stand Up to a Dictator
Maria Ressa

Maria Ressa, the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize winner, was our first Yale-NUS President’s Speaker in 2013. Her recent memoir, *How to Stand Up to a Dictator*, delivers an urgent message about the power of journalism and the dangers of unchecked disinformation by illustrating how misinformation and propaganda tactics are used by both terrorists and authoritarian leaders. For Ressa, truth is a cornerstone of democracy and she emphasises digital responsibility. She warns of social media’s potential to ampli-

fy lies and incite division, urging readers to remain vigilant in the digital age. Her courage and insights make this memoir both a powerful personal story and a call to global action.

Associate Professor Khoo Hoon Eng
Rector



The Lantern and The Night Moths
Yilin Wang

In *The Lantern and the Night Moths*, Yilin Wang translates poems by five Chinese poets. These are accompa-

nied by Wang’s personal essays reflecting on the art, craft, and labour of poetry translation. It won the 2024 John Glassco Translation Prize, marking the first win by a translation from any Asian language. I personally resonated with Wang’s essay on the feminist revolutionary and martyr Qiu Jin, which discusses colonial institutions, gender, and the search for platonic partnership in the form of a zhiyin.

Dr Sherice Ngaserin
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